

Catalogue no. 64-001-X

# Building Permits

March 2012



Statistics  
Canada

Statistique  
Canada

Canada

## How to obtain more information

For information about this product or the wide range of services and data available from Statistics Canada, visit our website at [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca), e-mail us at [infostats@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:infostats@statcan.gc.ca), or telephone us, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the following numbers:

### Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre

Toll-free telephone (Canada and the United States):

Inquiries line	1-800-263-1136
National telecommunications device for the hearing impaired	1-800-363-7629
Fax line	1-877-287-4369

Local or international calls:

Inquiries line	1-613-951-8116
Fax line	1-613-951-0581

### Depository Services Program

Inquiries line	1-800-635-7943
Fax line	1-800-565-7757

## To access this product

This product, Catalogue no. 64-001-X, is available free in electronic format. To obtain a single issue, visit our website at [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca) and browse by "Key resource" > "Publications."

## Standards of service to the public

Statistics Canada is committed to serving its clients in a prompt, reliable and courteous manner. To this end, Statistics Canada has developed *standards of service* that its employees observe. To obtain a copy of these service standards, please contact Statistics Canada toll-free at 1-800-263-1136. The service standards are also published on [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca) under "About us" > "The agency" > "Providing services to Canadians."

Statistics Canada  
Investment, Science and Technology Division  
Building Construction and Property Value Section (Unit)

# Building Permits

March 2012

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 License Agreement*.

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

May 2012

Catalogue no. 64-001-X, vol. 56, no. 3

ISSN 1480-7475

Frequency: Monthly

Ottawa

Cette publication est également disponible en français.

---

**Note of appreciation**

*Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued cooperation and goodwill.*

# User information

---

## Symbols

The following standard symbols are used in Statistics Canada publications:

- . not available for any reference period
- .. not available for a specific reference period
- ... not applicable
- 0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
- 0<sup>s</sup> value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
- P preliminary
- r revised
- x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
- E use with caution
- F too unreliable to be published
- \* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.05$ )

## Acknowledgements

This publication was prepared under the direction of:

- Greg Peterson, Director, Investment, Science and Technology Division
- M. Labonté, Chief, Building Construction and Property Value Section
- B. Oueriemmi, Unit Head, Building Construction and Property Value Section
- J. Gaudreault, Quality Control, Building Construction and Property Value Section

## Important notice

Changes in boundaries, status or names of geographical entities that occurred before January 2006, are reflected in this publication. These geographical changes may be obtained by writing to:

Statistics Canada  
Investment, Science and Technology Division  
Building Construction and Property Value Section  
Main Building, SC 1306-i  
150 Tunney's Pasture Driveway  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6  
or by telephoning: 613-951-6321

# Table of contents

---

<b>Highlights</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Analysis – March 2012</b>	<b>6</b>
Non-residential sector: Intentions up for institutional and commercial buildings	6
Residential sector: Construction intentions down for both single- and multi-family dwellings	6
Increases in most provinces	6
Higher value of permits in most metropolitan areas	7
<b>Charts</b>	
1. Total value of building permits	8
2. Residential value of building permits – Total	8
3. Number of dwelling units – Single and multiple	9
4. Non-residential value of building permits – Total	9
5. Commercial value of building permits	10
6. Industrial value of building permits	10
7. Institutional and governmental value of building permits	11
<b>Related products</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Statistical tables</b>	
1 Total value of building permits, provinces and territories, seasonally adjusted	15
2 Non-residential value of building permits, provinces and territories, seasonally adjusted	15
3 Residential value of building permits, provinces and territories, seasonally adjusted	16
4 Number of dwelling units authorized, province and territories, seasonally adjusted at annual rate	16
5 Dwelling units, value of residential and non-residential building permits, provinces and territories, seasonally adjusted, 2012	17
6 Dwelling units, value of residential and non-residential building permits, census metropolitan areas, seasonally adjusted, 2012	19
7 Dwelling units, provinces and territories, unadjusted, 2012	23
8 Dwelling units, census metropolitan areas, unadjusted, March 2012	25
9 Dwelling units, census metropolitan areas, unadjusted, cumulative, January to March 2012	26
10 Value of residential and non-residential building permits, provinces and territories, unadjusted, 2012	27
11 Value of residential and non-residential building permits, census metropolitan areas, unadjusted, March 2012	29

**Table of contents – continued**

12	Value of residential and non-residential building permits, census metropolitan areas, unadjusted, cumulative, January to March 2012	30
13	Value of the non-residential permits by type of building, provinces and territories, March 2012	31

**Data quality, concepts and methodology**

	Description – Monthly survey of building permits	32
	Data source and methodology	33
	Concepts and variables measured	35
	Building categories	36
	Geographic classification	37
	Data accuracy	38
	Comparability of data and related sources	39

**Appendix**

I	Geographical abbreviations	40
---	----------------------------	----

## Highlights

---

In March, contractors took out building permits worth \$6.8 billion, up 4.7% from February following a 7.6% increase the previous month. The gain was the result of higher construction intentions for both institutional and commercial buildings, mostly in Ontario.

## Analysis – March 2012

---

In March, contractors took out building permits worth \$6.8 billion, up 4.7% from February following a 7.6% increase the previous month. The gain was the result of higher construction intentions for both institutional and commercial buildings, mostly in Ontario.

In the non-residential sector, the value of permits rose 13.9% to \$2.9 billion, following a 37.7% increase the previous month. This was the highest level since June 2010. Increases in the institutional and commercial components more than offset declines in the industrial component. Most provinces posted advances, with Ontario accounting for most of the growth.

The value of residential permits declined 1.3% to \$3.9 billion, the third monthly decrease in a row. Decreases occurred in six provinces, led by Ontario. Alberta posted the largest increase, followed by Nova Scotia.

### Non-residential sector: Intentions up for institutional and commercial buildings

In the institutional component, construction intentions were up 88.4% to \$973 million, following a 64.6% increase the previous month. This was the highest level since October 2011. The advance was mainly the result of higher construction intentions for government buildings and medical facilities in Ontario. In New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, the increase was principally the result of higher intentions for government buildings.

The value of permits for commercial buildings rose 15.3% to \$1.5 billion, following a 5.7% increase the month before. The advance originated from higher construction intentions for a variety of structures, including retail complexes, office buildings, warehouses, hotels and restaurants, and laboratories. Increases were reported in seven provinces, led by Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador.

In the industrial component, intentions fell 42.8% to \$408 million. This decline occurred a month after the value of permits for industrial buildings more than doubled. The decline was particularly attributable to lower construction intentions for manufacturing plants in British Columbia, Quebec and Ontario, which posted increases the previous month. Decreases in the industrial component were also posted in three other provinces.

### Residential sector: Construction intentions down for both single- and multi-family dwellings

The value of single-family dwelling permits declined 1.7% to \$2.3 billion, the third consecutive monthly decrease. Gains in six provinces, led by Alberta, were not enough to offset decreases in the remaining provinces. The largest decline was recorded in Ontario, followed by Newfoundland and Labrador and New Brunswick.

The value of multi-family dwelling permits fell 0.7% to \$1.6 billion. Despite three consecutive monthly decreases, this level was 8.6% higher than the monthly average in 2011. Declines occurred in seven provinces, led by Quebec. Alberta reported the largest increase.

Municipalities across Canada issued permits for the construction of 17,650 new dwellings, up 2.1% from February. The increase came from both multi-family dwellings, which rose 2.5% to 10,594 units, and single-family dwellings, which increased 1.4% to 7,056 units.

### Increases in most provinces

In March, the value of building permits was up in eight provinces.



Ontario registered the largest increase, as a result of higher construction intentions for institutional buildings and, to a lesser extent, for commercial buildings.

Newfoundland and Labrador and Alberta posted the second- and third-highest gains, respectively. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the increase came from higher construction intentions for commercial and institutional buildings. In Alberta, the advance originated from an increase in the value of permits for residential, industrial and commercial buildings.

British Columbia posted the largest decline, as a result of lower construction intentions for industrial and commercial buildings and multi-family dwellings. Quebec reported decreases in every component except single-family dwellings.

### Higher value of permits in most metropolitan areas

The total value of permits rose in 23 of Canada's 34 census metropolitan areas.

The largest increases occurred in Toronto, Winnipeg and St. John's. The advances in both Toronto and St. John's originated from higher construction intentions for institutional and commercial buildings.

In Winnipeg, the gain came from higher construction intentions for both non-residential and residential buildings.

The largest decreases were in Montréal and Edmonton. In Montréal, the decline was mainly attributable to lower intentions for multi-family dwellings and industrial buildings.

Edmonton's decline was the result of a decrease in the value of permits for industrial and institutional buildings and multi-family dwellings.

#### 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.

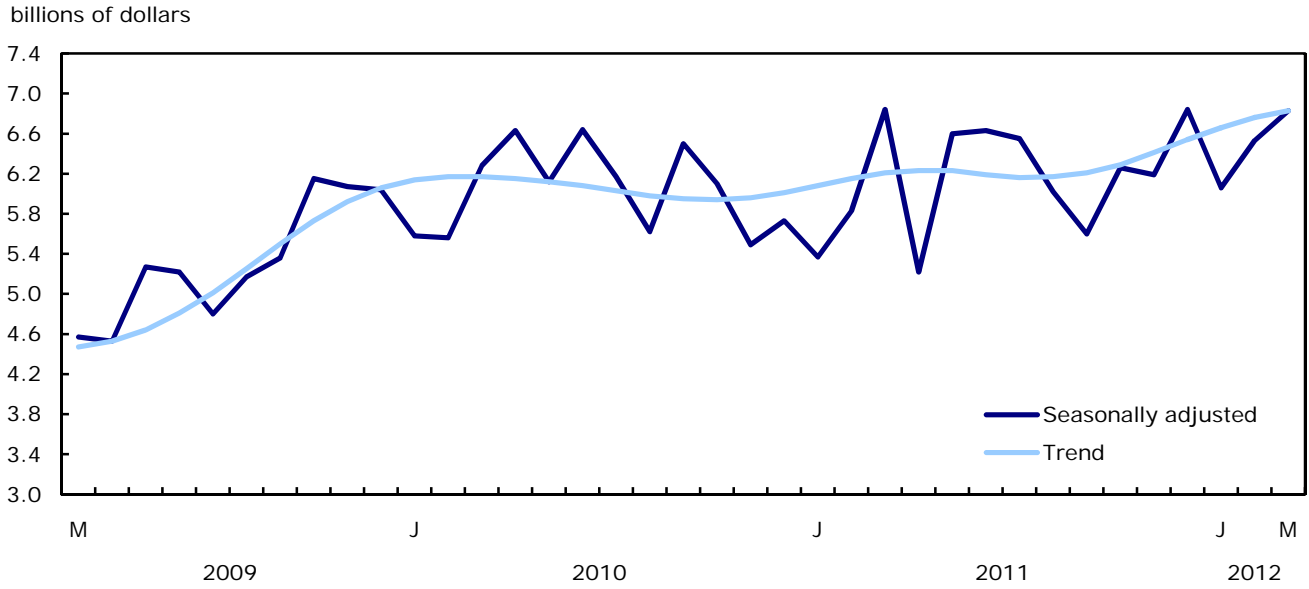
The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (for example, waterworks, sewers or culverts) and land.

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.

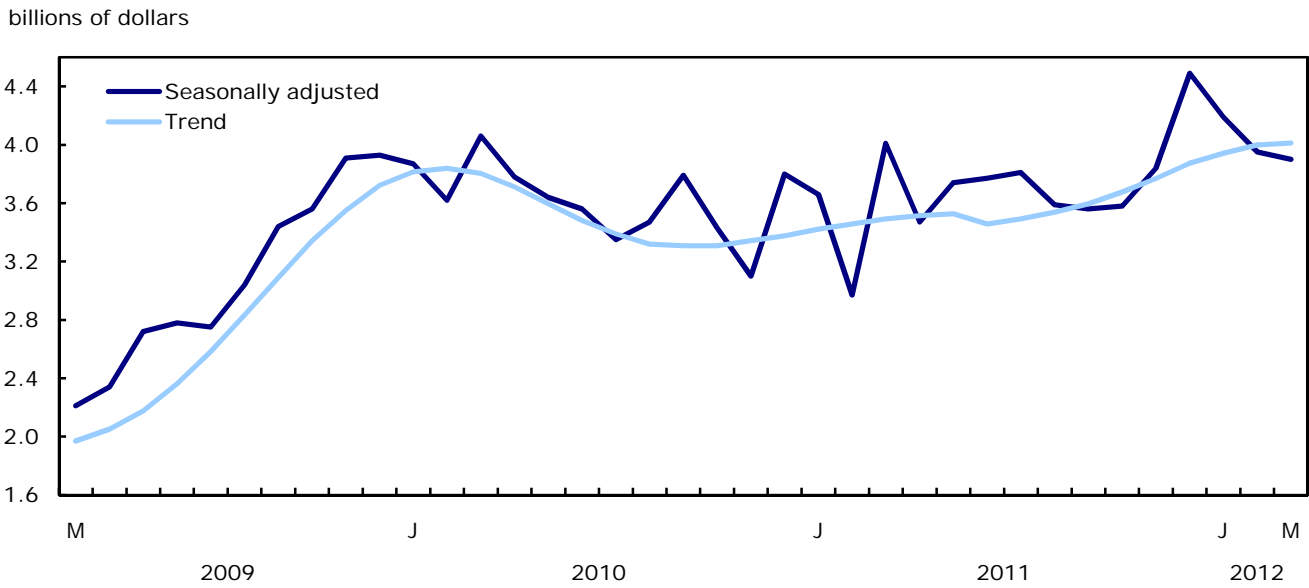
#### Revision

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

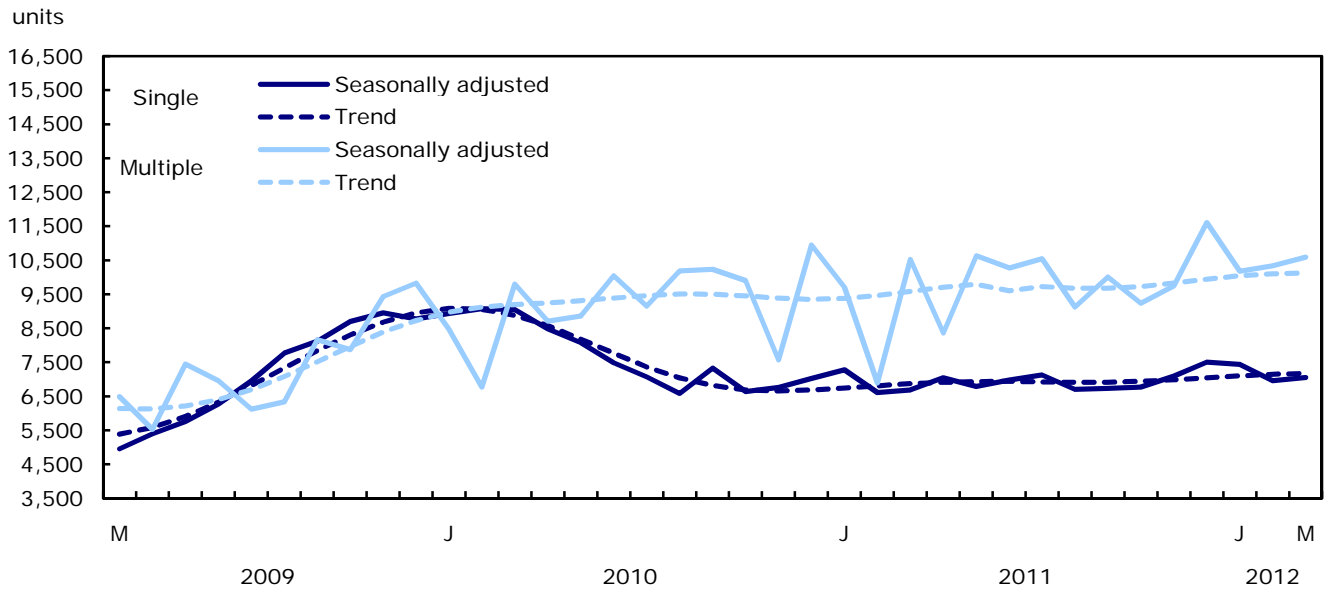
**Chart 1**  
Total value of building permits



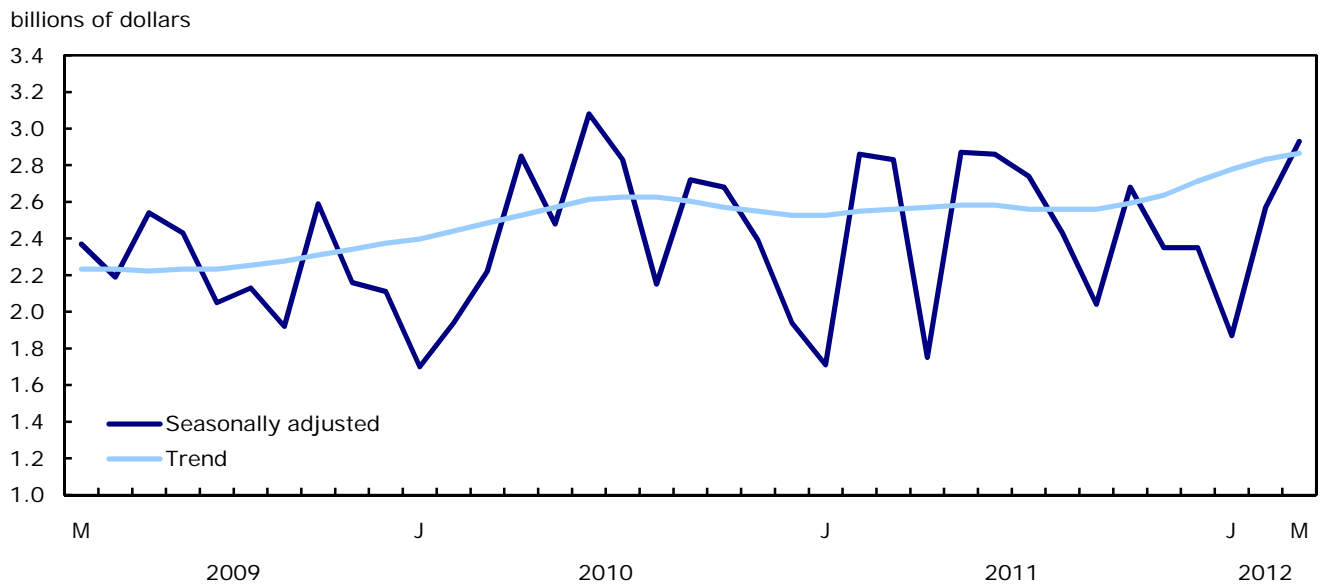
**Chart 2**  
Residential value of building permits – Total



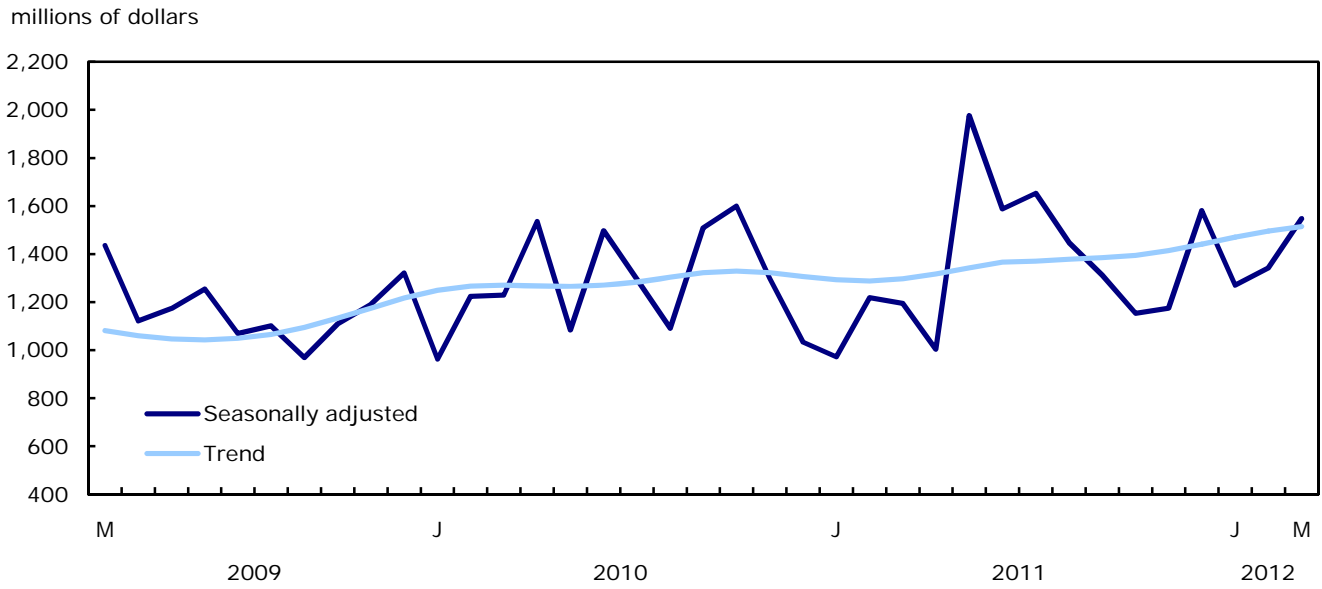
**Chart 3**  
**Number of dwelling units – Single and multiple**



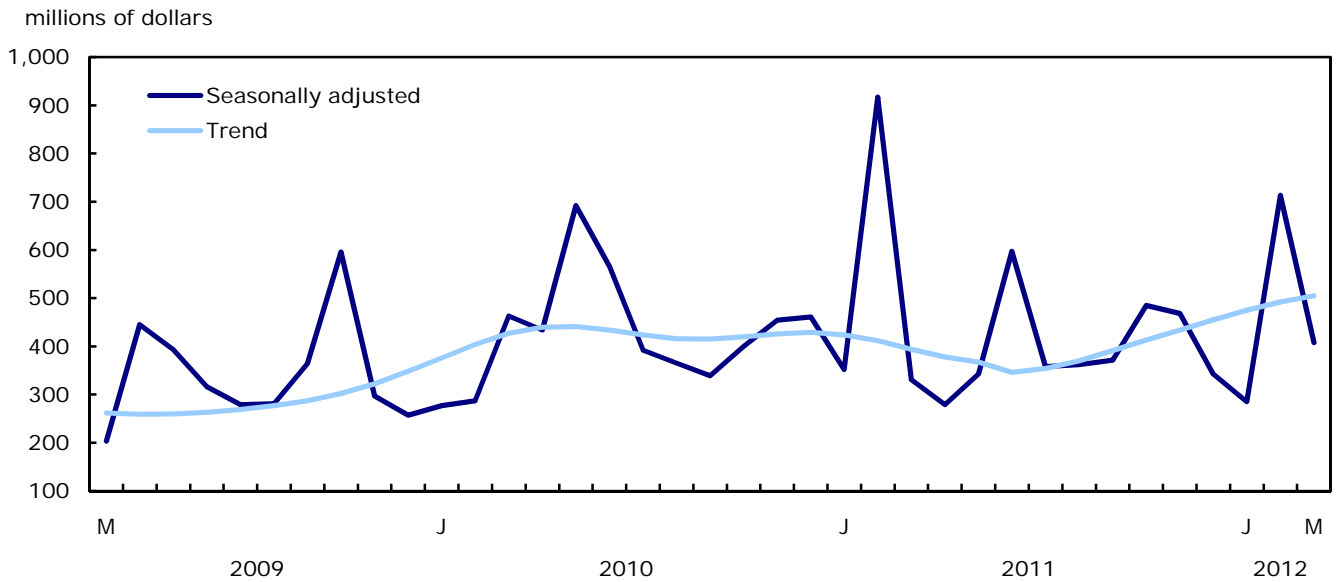
**Chart 4**  
**Non-residential value of building permits – Total**



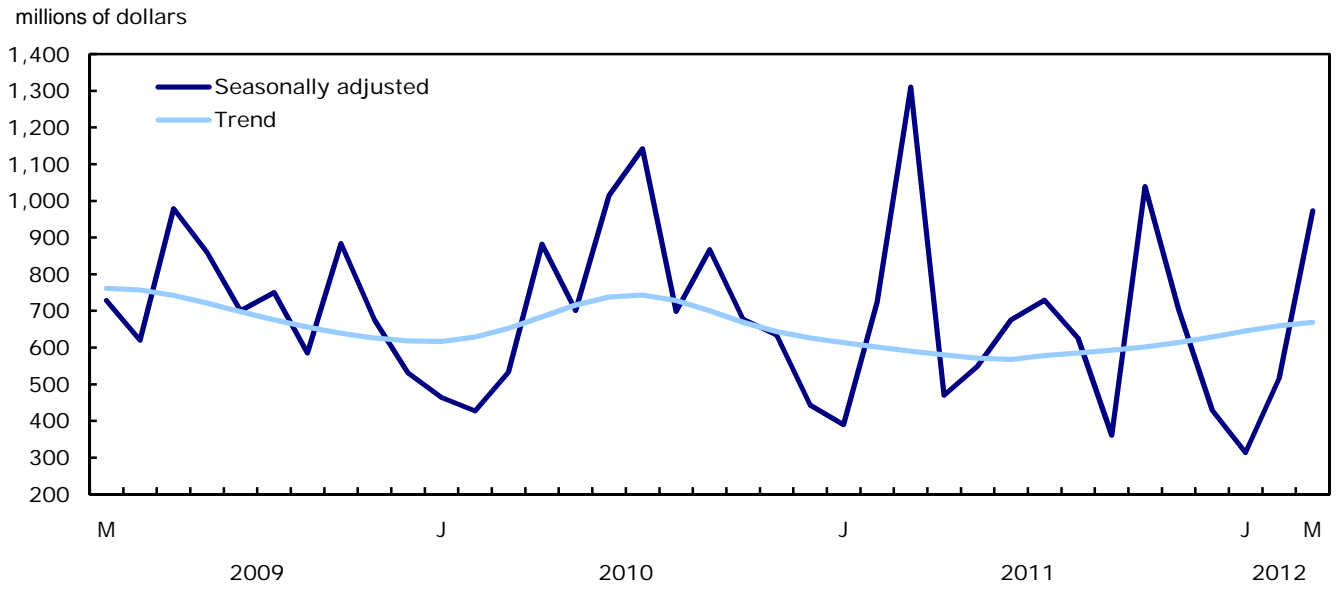
**Chart 5**  
Commercial value of building permits



**Chart 6**  
Industrial value of building permits



**Chart 7**  
**Institutional and governmental value of building permits**



## Related products

---

### Selected publications from Statistics Canada

---

61-205-X	Private and Public Investment in Canada, Intentions
62-202-X	Spending Patterns in Canada

---

### Selected technical and analytical products from Statistics Canada

---

62F0014M1996002	An Analysis of Some Construction Price Index Methodologies
-----------------	--

---

### Selected CANSIM tables from Statistics Canada

---

026-0001	Building permits, residential values and number of units, by type of dwelling, monthly
026-0002	Building permits, dwelling units by type of dwelling and area, monthly
026-0003	Building permits, values by activity sector, monthly
026-0004	Building permits, values by activity sector and area, monthly
026-0005	Building permits, non-residential values by type of structure, monthly
026-0006	Building permits, by type of structure and area, seasonally adjusted, monthly
026-0007	Building permits, dwelling units by type of structure and value and by activity sector, monthly
026-0008	Building permits, values by activity sector, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, monthly
026-0010	Building permits, residential and non-residential values by type of structure for Canada and urban centres, 10,000 and over, monthly

---

## **Selected surveys from Statistics Canada**

---

2802                      Building Permits Survey

---

## **Selected summary tables from Statistics Canada**

---

- *Value of building permits, province and territory (monthly)*
- *Value of building permits, census metropolitan area (monthly)*
- *Economic indicators, by province and territory (monthly and quarterly)*
- *Value of building permits, by province and territory*
- *Value of building permits by type*

# Statistical tables

---

---



**Table 1**  
**Total value of building permits, provinces and territories, seasonally adjusted**

	2012 March <sup>p</sup>	2012 February <sup>r</sup>	March to February	February to January	January to December	December to November	November to October	October to September
	thousands of dollars		percentage change					
<b>Canada</b>	<b>6,829,930</b>	<b>6,525,065</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>-11.4</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>11.7</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	169,557	101,683	66.8	1.2	36.5	-5.9	-35.9	63.2
Prince Edward Island	21,864	8,584	154.7	-71.1	43.7	-6.1	14.5	-5.9
Nova Scotia	141,967	128,246	10.7	25.8	-28.4	11.9	60.1	-39.5
New Brunswick	91,686	71,914	27.5	18.7	-20.0	0.5	-6.4	-7.3
Quebec	1,230,045	1,378,457	-10.8	19.1	-8.6	6.6	0.1	0.2
Ontario	2,773,647	2,254,440	23.0	-11.4	-9.7	22.9	-11.9	32.5
Manitoba	222,814	192,742	15.6	-4.8	38.5	-28.4	11.6	26.5
Saskatchewan	224,179	201,340	11.3	-2.6	18.7	-31.8	-9.0	27.1
Alberta	1,208,237	1,144,563	5.6	22.2	-28.9	34.3	0.9	-11.7
British Columbia	736,828	1,037,415	-29.0	45.1	-10.4	-15.8	34.3	7.1
Yukon	4,912	3,029	62.2	-29.4	-29.9	55.1	-79.4	75.8
Northwest Territories	1,094	2,652	-58.7	52.2	115.2	-55.8	-20.7	27.6
Nunavut	3,100	0	...	...	...	-100.0	233.4	-21.9

**Table 2**  
**Non-residential value of building permits, provinces and territories, seasonally adjusted**

	2012 March <sup>p</sup>	2012 February <sup>r</sup>	March to February	February to January	January to December	December to November	November to October	October to September
	thousands of dollars		percentage change					
<b>Canada</b>	<b>2,928,722</b>	<b>2,571,781</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>37.7</b>	<b>-20.6</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>-12.4</b>	<b>31.0</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	94,950	13,355	611.0	-17.7	58.7	-21.5	-79.5	246.6
Prince Edward Island	9,778	425	2,200.7	-96.1	57.4	-35.9	31.1	6.6
Nova Scotia	65,672	64,273	2.2	298.9	-73.0	63.8	58.7	-55.2
New Brunswick	55,385	22,825	142.7	66.8	-49.9	2.5	-20.7	-15.5
Quebec	358,802	481,781	-25.5	45.0	-18.1	1.2	0.1	2.3
Ontario	1,390,114	806,508	72.4	10.3	-8.5	-15.9	-28.8	87.2
Manitoba	122,311	95,394	28.2	45.1	59.0	-59.5	23.3	46.0
Saskatchewan	97,984	71,649	36.8	-3.5	51.6	-60.2	-4.1	4.9
Alberta	509,948	490,805	3.9	38.2	-46.6	73.4	3.8	-18.3
British Columbia	222,384	521,790	-57.4	108.1	-12.3	-3.8	36.8	18.2
Yukon	967	686	41.0	214.7	-91.9	115.4	-91.8	187.6
Northwest Territories	427	2,290	-81.4	65.7	1,101.7	-80.5	-50.7	9.9
Nunavut	0	0	...	...	...	-100.0	-2.9	-82.1

**Table 3**  
**Residential value of building permits, provinces and territories, seasonally adjusted**

	2012 March <sup>p</sup>	2012 February <sup>r</sup>	March to February	February to January	January to December	December to November	November to October	October to September
	thousands of dollars		percentage change					
<b>Canada</b>	<b>3,901,208</b>	<b>3,953,284</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>-5.7</b>	<b>-6.5</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	74,607	88,328	-15.5	4.8	32.9	-2.8	11.7	3.5
Prince Edward Island	12,086	8,159	48.1	-56.2	36.7	23.4	1.8	-13.6
Nova Scotia	76,295	63,973	19.3	-25.5	3.8	-8.9	60.6	-29.5
New Brunswick	36,301	49,089	-26.1	4.6	-3.1	-0.6	3.8	-0.3
Quebec	871,243	896,676	-2.8	8.7	-4.1	9.3	0.2	-0.8
Ontario	1,383,533	1,447,932	-4.4	-20.1	-10.2	50.3	5.8	1.4
Manitoba	100,503	97,348	3.2	-28.8	30.4	2.9	1.9	14.0
Saskatchewan	126,195	129,691	-2.7	-2.1	5.9	-5.6	-13.1	54.7
Alberta	698,289	653,758	6.8	12.4	-10.9	9.2	-0.9	-7.2
British Columbia	514,444	515,625	-0.2	11.1	-9.4	-21.3	33.2	2.8
Yukon	3,945	2,343	68.4	-42.5	19.0	27.1	-31.3	-29.9
Northwest Territories	667	362	84.3	0.3	-48.1	-44.2	11.4	54.2
Nunavut	3,100	0	...	...	...	-100.0	247.3	-2.5

**Table 4**  
**Number of dwelling units authorized, province and territories, seasonally adjusted at annual rate**

	2012 March <sup>p</sup>	2012 February <sup>r</sup>	March to February	February to January	January to December	December to November	November to October	October to September
	units		percentage change					
<b>Canada</b>	<b>211,800</b>	<b>207,468</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>-7.9</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>-4.4</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	3,852	3,540	8.8	3.5	17.3	-13.2	2.6	1.5
Prince Edward Island	1,032	432	138.9	-61.7	-12.1	52.9	-12.5	-7.0
Nova Scotia	5,316	3,036	75.1	-40.3	-16.7	-2.5	88.4	-46.9
New Brunswick	2,256	2,508	-10.0	34.0	-35.8	-6.5	-11.0	-12.6
Quebec	55,536	57,060	-2.7	16.3	-6.5	5.7	1.0	-4.0
Ontario	71,256	72,396	-1.6	-17.8	-11.6	58.0	4.1	-7.6
Manitoba	5,124	5,256	-2.5	-39.3	33.3	-25.6	46.9	14.1
Saskatchewan	6,408	6,384	0.4	-6.3	-0.2	-6.1	-15.8	64.4
Alberta	35,160	31,488	11.7	18.5	-7.8	-2.0	-5.3	-4.1
British Columbia	25,308	24,996	1.2	22.8	-5.8	-27.0	17.9	-3.4
Yukon	432	372	16.1	10.7	12.0	127.3	-68.6	-10.3
Northwest Territories	12	0	...	...	...	-100.0	0.0	300.0
Nunavut	108	0	...	...	...	-100.0	290.0	-58.3

**Table 5**  
**Dwelling units, value of residential and non-residential building permits, provinces and territories, seasonally adjusted, 2012**

	Number of dwelling units			Estimated value of construction					Total
	Singles <sup>1</sup>	Multiples	Total dwellings	Residential	Non-residential			Total	
					Industrial	Commercial	Institutional and governmental		
	units			thousands of dollars					
<b>Canada</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	6,956	10,333	17,289	3,953,284	713,318	1,342,274	516,189	2,571,781	6,525,065
March <sup>p</sup>	7,056	10,594	17,650	3,901,208	408,026	1,548,085	972,611	2,928,722	6,829,930
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	21,449	31,103	52,552	12,048,111	1,405,903	4,159,913	1,802,488	7,368,304	19,416,415
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	20,575	27,130	47,705	10,638,821	1,599,813	3,384,305	2,423,816	7,407,934	18,046,755
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	220	75	295	88,328	1,649	11,702	4	13,355	101,683
March <sup>p</sup>	225	96	321	74,607	779	87,605	6,566	94,950	169,557
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	647	254	901	247,185	2,553	113,400	8,575	124,528	371,713
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	607	103	710	173,194	925	29,450	12,128	42,503	215,697
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	33	3	36	8,159	90	335	0	425	8,584
March <sup>p</sup>	43	43	86	12,086	732	9,046	0	9,778	21,864
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	154	62	216	38,889	3,835	9,980	7,400	21,215	60,104
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	112	53	165	26,232	6,518	15,758	5,062	27,338	53,570
<b>Nova Scotia</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	230	23	253	63,973	10,321	14,019	39,933	64,273	128,246
March <sup>p</sup>	246	197	443	76,295	3,154	19,821	42,697	65,672	141,967
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	748	372	1,120	226,113	14,604	47,797	83,655	146,056	372,169
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	597	452	1,049	227,805	3,076	101,287	24,957	129,320	357,125
<b>New Brunswick</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	184	25	209	49,089	2,949	15,302	4,574	22,825	71,914
March <sup>p</sup>	139	49	188	36,301	7,946	15,422	32,017	55,385	91,686
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	464	89	553	132,314	12,406	41,487	37,997	91,890	224,204
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	412	97	509	110,268	6,306	45,024	42,543	93,873	204,141
<b>Quebec</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	1,371	3,384	4,755	896,676	102,959	217,688	161,134	481,781	1,378,457
March <sup>p</sup>	1,342	3,286	4,628	871,243	37,993	213,368	107,441	358,802	1,230,045
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	3,892	9,578	13,470	2,593,134	184,249	613,960	374,528	1,172,737	3,765,871
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	4,582	9,910	14,492	2,714,763	220,860	563,274	273,585	1,057,719	3,772,482
<b>Ontario</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	2,090	3,943	6,033	1,447,932	174,225	473,843	158,440	806,508	2,254,440
March <sup>p</sup>	2,107	3,831	5,938	1,383,533	156,288	591,022	642,804	1,390,114	2,773,647
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	7,005	12,305	19,310	4,644,779	448,193	1,564,715	914,970	2,927,878	7,572,657
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	6,802	9,394	16,196	3,957,838	510,134	1,180,870	1,695,187	3,386,191	7,344,029
<b>Manitoba</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	338	100	438	97,348	4,449	87,225	3,720	95,394	192,742
March <sup>p</sup>	348	79	427	100,503	44,076	69,405	8,830	122,311	222,814
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	1,104	482	1,586	334,560	50,970	205,013	27,481	283,464	618,024
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	886	550	1,436	279,673	18,450	67,194	45,906	131,550	411,223
<b>Saskatchewan</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	385	147	532	129,691	12,394	54,573	4,682	71,649	201,340
March <sup>p</sup>	375	159	534	126,195	8,931	68,253	20,800	97,984	224,179
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	1,150	484	1,634	388,423	35,129	178,632	30,090	243,851	632,274
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	937	348	1,285	305,268	12,110	208,097	30,265	250,472	555,740
<b>Alberta</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	1,407	1,217	2,624	653,758	93,871	306,416	90,518	490,805	1,144,563
March <sup>p</sup>	1,531	1,399	2,930	698,289	125,977	337,975	45,996	509,948	1,208,237
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	4,254	3,515	7,769	1,933,694	279,901	897,143	178,736	1,355,780	3,289,474
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	3,617	2,173	5,790	1,472,295	758,384	690,898	137,404	1,586,686	3,058,981

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 5 – continued

**Dwelling units, value of residential and non-residential building permits, provinces and territories, seasonally adjusted, 2012**

	Number of dwelling units			Estimated value of construction					
	Singles <sup>1</sup>	Multiples	Total dwellings	Residential	Non-residential			Total	
					Industrial	Commercial	Institutional and governmental		
	units			thousands of dollars					
<b>British Columbia</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	667	1,416	2,083	515,625	308,090	160,629	53,071	521,790	1,037,415
March <sup>p</sup>	667	1,442	2,109	514,444	21,843	135,675	64,866	222,384	736,828
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	1,939	3,949	5,888	1,494,170	371,355	486,531	137,049	994,935	2,489,105
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	1,955	4,024	5,979	1,347,086	61,754	478,209	154,955	694,918	2,042,004
<b>Yukon</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	31	0	31	2,343	371	202	113	686	3,029
March <sup>p</sup>	32	4	36	3,945	177	196	594	967	4,912
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	91	4	95	10,360	628	436	807	1,871	12,231
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	68	1	69	14,672	1,207	2,741	1,824	5,772	20,444
<b>Northwest Territories</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	0	0	0	362	1,950	340	0	2,290	2,652
March <sup>p</sup>	1	0	1	667	130	297	0	427	1,094
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	1	0	1	1,390	2,080	819	1,200	4,099	5,489
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	0	3	3	1,127	89	1,502	0	1,591	2,718
<b>Nunavut</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
March <sup>p</sup>	0	9	9	3,100	0	0	0	0	3,100
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	0	9	9	3,100	0	0	0	0	3,100
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	0	22	22	8,600	0	1	0	1	8,601

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

**Table 6**  
**Dwelling units, value of residential and non-residential building permits, census metropolitan areas, seasonally adjusted, 2012**

	Number of dwelling units			Estimated value of construction					Total
	Singles <sup>1</sup>	Multiples	Total dwellings	Residential	Non-residential			Total	
					Industrial	Commercial	Institutional and governmental		
	units			thousands of dollars					
<b>Abbotsford-Mission, British Columbia</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	23	6	29	5,514	975	0	12,002	12,977	18,491
March <sup>p</sup>	23	36	59	11,141	249	2,420	50	2,719	13,860
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	72	90	162	31,197	3,962	2,944	12,052	18,958	50,155
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	60	98	158	27,005	3,059	11,185	1,200	15,444	42,449
<b>Barrie, Ontario</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	20	0	20	7,217	12,050	3,935	1,503	17,488	24,705
March <sup>p</sup>	25	6	31	8,631	1,774	2,923	64	4,761	13,392
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	50	8	58	19,317	14,064	9,600	1,603	25,267	44,584
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	36	118	154	38,088	902	16,719	5,016	22,637	60,725
<b>Brantford, Ontario</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	18	9	27	3,709	1,249	293	752	2,294	6,003
March <sup>p</sup>	30	0	30	6,683	412	2,579	1,925	4,916	11,599
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	83	75	158	23,426	1,871	3,788	3,469	9,128	32,554
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	72	52	124	17,210	119	9,377	609	10,105	27,315
<b>Calgary, Alberta</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	514	493	1,007	255,228	6,496	133,209	49,651	189,356	444,584
March <sup>p</sup>	535	699	1,234	284,366	30,141	123,526	19,624	173,291	457,657
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	1,554	1,600	3,154	774,775	41,111	317,910	72,632	431,653	1,206,428
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	1,309	860	2,169	543,150	627,225	237,330	51,991	916,546	1,459,696
<b>Edmonton, Alberta</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	477	591	1,068	269,398	44,998	62,220	24,806	132,024	401,422
March <sup>p</sup>	529	517	1,046	258,923	20,626	86,865	11,067	118,558	377,481
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	1,433	1,458	2,891	733,667	78,916	227,780	57,135	363,831	1,097,498
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	1,194	931	2,125	547,684	26,649	162,643	64,098	253,390	801,074
<b>Greater Sudbury, Ontario</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	2	2	4	3,397	224	842	690	1,756	5,153
March <sup>p</sup>	8	2	10	3,287	479	2,524	1,871	4,874	8,161
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	11	5	16	8,589	959	4,551	3,657	9,167	17,756
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	13	80	93	19,542	3,356	9,228	17,308	29,892	49,434
<b>Guelph, Ontario</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	33	17	50	12,884	180	4,942	528	5,650	18,534
March <sup>p</sup>	15	77	92	17,545	2,434	977	11,144	14,555	32,100
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	68	234	302	53,684	3,129	23,152	12,682	38,963	92,647
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	97	63	160	31,539	6,108	16,136	1,060	23,304	54,843
<b>Halifax, Nova Scotia</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	79	15	94	22,901	9,625	10,534	37,430	57,589	80,490
March <sup>p</sup>	100	117	217	32,819	1,899	13,311	39,040	54,250	87,069
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	282	246	528	98,901	12,019	30,830	77,405	120,254	219,155
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	248	370	618	120,267	734	41,974	8,810	51,518	171,785
<b>Hamilton, Ontario</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	237	119	356	99,423	4,214	19,382	4,997	28,593	128,016
March <sup>p</sup>	104	113	217	58,241	1,584	96,905	2,997	101,486	159,727
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	599	398	997	278,820	7,873	129,960	45,548	183,381	462,201
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	391	397	788	188,450	10,344	78,407	39,926	128,677	317,127
<b>Kelowna, British Columbia</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	15	33	48	12,693	698	5,129	945	6,772	19,465
March <sup>p</sup>	26	19	45	14,402	4,260	16,792	800	21,852	36,254
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	57	58	115	34,262	5,035	22,500	1,999	29,534	63,796
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	103	51	154	45,259	8,591	10,675	13,929	33,195	78,454

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 6 – continued

**Dwelling units, value of residential and non-residential building permits, census metropolitan areas, seasonally adjusted, 2012**

	Number of dwelling units			Estimated value of construction					
	Singles <sup>1</sup>	Multiples	Total dwellings	Residential	Non-residential			Total	
					Industrial	Commercial	Institutional and governmental		
	units			thousands of dollars					
<b>Kingston, Ontario</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	26	2	28	6,231	430	6,037	885	7,352	13,583
March <sup>p</sup>	27	15	42	7,465	5,217	2,709	1,380	9,306	16,771
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	73	17	90	19,017	6,068	12,464	3,190	21,722	40,739
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	92	44	136	22,873	1,093	3,831	1,466	6,390	29,263
<b>Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo, Ontario</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	108	98	206	58,925	465	25,217	6,673	32,355	91,280
March <sup>p</sup>	52	239	291	52,471	42,657	17,076	21,503	81,236	133,707
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	264	371	635	150,173	43,965	63,116	33,346	140,427	290,600
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	321	327	648	141,846	175,697	67,453	152,221	395,371	537,217
<b>London, Ontario</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	141	6	147	46,073	2,928	7,738	3,178	13,844	59,917
March <sup>p</sup>	90	18	108	36,112	1,560	34,116	4,150	39,826	75,938
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	329	66	395	122,927	5,635	53,567	7,823	67,025	189,952
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	267	129	396	101,058	6,624	24,277	131,722	162,623	263,681
<b>Moncton, New Brunswick</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	24	20	44	11,001	65	2,795	190	3,050	14,051
March <sup>p</sup>	38	26	64	11,618	739	5,036	5,165	10,940	22,558
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	96	51	147	39,019	1,621	10,910	5,743	18,274	57,293
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	47	56	103	16,032	1,313	9,795	34,829	45,937	61,969
<b>Montréal, Quebec</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	365	1,796	2,161	426,607	22,897	117,856	45,221	185,974	612,581
March <sup>p</sup>	358	1,442	1,800	364,186	16,752	122,270	44,284	183,306	547,492
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	1,152	4,448	5,600	1,159,874	51,592	356,096	131,619	539,307	1,699,181
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	1,531	5,960	7,491	1,416,650	90,075	269,539	121,780	481,394	1,898,044
<b>Oshawa, Ontario</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	58	145	203	46,402	20	2,446	595	3,061	49,463
March <sup>p</sup>	73	22	95	35,956	40	2,965	276	3,281	39,237
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	225	179	404	124,321	2,253	8,447	1,226	11,926	136,247
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	259	95	354	114,073	877	15,138	25,579	41,594	155,667
<b>Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario part, Ontario/Quebec</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	51	156	207	53,213	280	81,650	36,846	118,776	171,989
March <sup>p</sup>	167	414	581	93,269	899	55,579	10,104	66,582	159,851
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	404	925	1,329	229,771	3,342	258,969	70,967	333,278	563,049
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	532	1,237	1,769	254,921	3,395	130,321	75,557	209,273	464,194
<b>Ottawa-Gatineau, Quebec part, Ontario/Quebec</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	39	118	157	25,181	73	22,496	8,323	30,892	56,073
March <sup>p</sup>	32	160	192	31,602	213	5,510	1,177	6,900	38,502
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	128	420	548	91,592	298	30,627	10,077	41,002	132,594
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	192	730	922	115,704	3,877	18,413	11,438	33,728	149,432
<b>Peterborough, Ontario</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	7	3	10	4,279	1,170	2,383	0	3,553	7,832
March <sup>p</sup>	19	19	38	9,416	700	5,684	265	6,649	16,065
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	42	29	71	19,008	2,448	9,865	275	12,588	31,596
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	39	11	50	15,490	3,003	5,686	50	8,739	24,229
<b>Québec, Quebec</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	129	659	788	116,801	1,141	11,905	17,646	30,692	147,493
March <sup>p</sup>	137	694	831	138,733	1,789	18,797	16,768	37,354	176,087
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	355	2,046	2,401	374,261	4,675	47,245	42,352	94,272	468,533
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	408	1,002	1,410	274,912	4,082	76,820	21,563	102,465	377,377

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 6 – continued

**Dwelling units, value of residential and non-residential building permits, census metropolitan areas, seasonally adjusted, 2012**

	Number of dwelling units			Estimated value of construction					Total
	Singles <sup>1</sup>	Multiples	Total dwellings	Residential	Non-residential			Total	
					Industrial	Commercial	Institutional and governmental		
	units			thousands of dollars					
<b>Regina, Saskatchewan</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	98	25	123	27,704	4,838	17,780	2,406	25,024	52,728
March <sup>p</sup>	100	88	188	32,142	2,669	23,694	0	26,363	58,505
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	315	219	534	100,770	15,411	54,076	2,860	72,347	173,117
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	248	159	407	75,509	2,933	105,157	18,417	126,507	202,016
<b>Saguenay, Quebec</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	15	42	57	10,477	394	636	1,428	2,458	12,935
March <sup>p</sup>	59	90	149	25,325	668	4,281	13,613	18,562	43,887
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	85	161	246	42,515	1,770	5,850	23,982	31,602	74,117
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	109	65	174	34,574	3,829	7,777	17,616	29,222	63,796
<b>Saint John, New Brunswick</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	37	4	41	10,495	0	958	1,350	2,308	12,803
March <sup>p</sup>	13	2	15	3,851	6,905	2,103	4,736	13,744	17,595
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	71	8	79	25,922	7,065	6,152	6,886	20,103	46,025
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	90	22	112	24,173	1,450	8,044	1,907	11,401	35,574
<b>Saskatoon, Saskatchewan</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	189	73	262	67,865	5,571	22,510	1,939	30,020	97,885
March <sup>p</sup>	172	53	225	60,887	5,079	17,347	6,799	29,225	90,112
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	553	179	732	192,439	14,809	67,580	10,019	92,408	284,847
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	435	122	557	156,613	7,776	26,604	4,528	38,908	195,521
<b>Sherbrooke, Quebec</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	86	79	165	31,436	295	8,698	25,441	34,434	65,870
March <sup>p</sup>	40	157	197	29,306	671	14,958	4,283	19,912	49,218
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	161	360	521	86,734	968	30,853	31,860	63,681	150,415
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	261	349	610	90,419	2,091	6,569	22,896	31,556	121,975
<b>St. Catharines-Niagara, Ontario</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	37	32	69	17,741	4,446	5,078	1,024	10,548	28,289
March <sup>p</sup>	41	31	72	19,844	6,908	8,155	3,201	18,264	38,108
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	161	84	245	64,207	14,221	19,618	4,289	38,128	102,335
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	169	190	359	71,610	5,620	63,711	2,585	71,916	143,526
<b>St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	134	63	197	61,033	1,437	10,031	3	11,471	72,504
March <sup>p</sup>	143	67	210	50,946	548	84,367	6,544	91,459	142,405
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	406	155	561	172,872	1,985	106,084	7,847	115,916	288,788
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	322	93	415	107,016	279	16,505	11,680	28,464	135,480
<b>Thunder Bay, Ontario</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	16	0	16	3,551	38	1,678	322	2,038	5,589
March <sup>p</sup>	16	8	24	4,592	295	1,681	1,583	3,559	8,151
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	37	8	45	9,936	371	4,915	2,328	7,614	17,550
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	26	20	46	7,259	3,690	7,002	8,761	19,453	26,712
<b>Toronto, Ontario</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	776	3,143	3,919	875,399	109,784	269,476	50,835	430,095	1,305,494
March <sup>p</sup>	814	2,677	3,491	794,543	19,816	308,631	521,751	850,198	1,644,741
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	2,773	9,271	12,044	2,833,026	180,300	830,003	602,556	1,612,859	4,445,885
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	2,671	5,882	8,553	2,283,816	94,318	538,613	1,171,707	1,804,638	4,088,454
<b>Trois-Rivières, Quebec</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	14	22	36	6,489	15	12,798	4,598	17,411	23,900
March <sup>p</sup>	31	111	142	22,754	15	2,785	3,424	6,224	28,978
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	54	183	237	38,210	50	19,086	13,412	32,548	70,758
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	58	135	193	36,972	4,398	7,501	1,779	13,678	50,650

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 6 – continued

**Dwelling units, value of residential and non-residential building permits, census metropolitan areas, seasonally adjusted, 2012**

	Number of dwelling units			Residential	Estimated value of construction				Total
	Singles <sup>1</sup>	Multiples	Total dwellings		Non-residential			Total	
					Industrial	Commercial	Institutional and governmental		
	units			thousands of dollars					
<b>Vancouver, British Columbia</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	349	984	1,333	332,990	12,732	122,620	20,802	156,154	489,144
March <sup>p</sup>	325	1,091	1,416	347,356	8,744	76,721	49,246	134,711	482,067
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	949	2,721	3,670	943,477	54,250	341,974	79,593	475,817	1,419,294
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	890	3,167	4,057	866,623	23,786	375,837	52,852	452,475	1,319,098
<b>Victoria, British Columbia</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	42	266	308	60,327	521	5,255	1,555	7,331	67,658
March <sup>p</sup>	57	170	227	40,659	1,230	9,823	1,677	12,730	53,389
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	156	580	736	136,960	2,705	18,228	3,317	24,250	161,210
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	162	309	471	105,243	2,764	20,950	4,718	28,432	133,675
<b>Windsor, Ontario</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	46	8	54	16,231	1,485	2,965	29,408	33,858	50,089
March <sup>p</sup>	44	4	48	15,360	1,146	1,628	47,793	50,567	65,927
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	140	50	190	52,158	3,742	5,385	78,120	87,247	139,405
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	80	25	105	28,040	8,556	8,663	2,994	20,213	48,253
<b>Winnipeg, Manitoba</b>									
February <sup>r</sup>	192	38	230	57,251	3,608	17,806	3,685	25,099	82,350
March <sup>p</sup>	214	54	268	67,972	37,711	63,840	7,807	109,358	177,330
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	629	379	1,008	207,004	41,850	98,677	25,877	166,404	373,408
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	563	516	1,079	197,976	13,653	40,481	30,969	85,103	283,079

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



**Table 7**  
**Dwelling units, provinces and territories, unadjusted, 2012**

	Singles, includes mobile homes	Cottages	Doubles	Rows	Apartments	Conversions	Total dwellings
number of dwelling units							
<b>Canada</b>							
February <sup>r</sup>	4,435	10	710	1,137	7,093	786	14,171
March <sup>p</sup>	7,256	24	972	2,390	6,762	865	18,269
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	16,063	44	2,450	5,348	19,725	2,111	45,741
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	15,455	39	2,093	4,300	17,005	2,275	41,167
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b>							
February <sup>r</sup>	79	0	2	8	54	11	154
March <sup>p</sup>	140	1	8	0	76	12	237
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	303	2	10	8	211	25	559
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	222	1	1	28	56	18	326
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>							
February <sup>r</sup>	8	1	2	0	0	1	12
March <sup>p</sup>	29	0	2	5	36	0	72
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	54	1	4	5	40	13	117
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	37	0	0	0	53	0	90
<b>Nova Scotia</b>							
February <sup>r</sup>	108	1	2	5	8	8	132
March <sup>p</sup>	197	9	16	0	147	34	403
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	426	13	24	5	262	84	814
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	340	5	36	13	302	104	800
<b>New Brunswick</b>							
February <sup>r</sup>	40	2	16	0	2	8	68
March <sup>p</sup>	88	0	10	4	22	15	139
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	153	2	30	4	26	32	247
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	161	2	12	7	62	16	260
<b>Quebec</b>							
February <sup>r</sup>	1,044	2	246	78	2,135	400	3,905
March <sup>p</sup>	1,700	6	478	205	2,472	585	5,446
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	3,256	11	890	381	5,929	1,115	11,582
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	3,703	22	816	335	6,434	1,091	12,401
<b>Ontario</b>							
February <sup>r</sup>	1,070	3	97	477	3,172	112	4,931
March <sup>p</sup>	2,185	3	145	1,441	2,099	83	5,956
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	5,115	7	664	3,242	7,912	270	17,210
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	5,147	3	554	2,471	5,612	529	14,316
<b>Manitoba</b>							
February <sup>r</sup>	183	0	4	0	73	23	283
March <sup>p</sup>	351	2	4	2	71	2	432
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	774	4	10	2	362	109	1,261
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	655	1	12	84	444	11	1,207
<b>Saskatchewan</b>							
February <sup>r</sup>	262	0	12	5	116	14	409
March <sup>p</sup>	374	0	29	24	98	8	533
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	848	0	47	43	367	27	1,332
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	672	1	21	70	222	35	1,021
<b>Alberta</b>							
February <sup>r</sup>	1,059	0	242	178	701	96	2,276
March <sup>p</sup>	1,485	0	242	401	698	58	2,884
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	3,457	0	620	766	1,927	202	6,972
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	2,847	4	534	436	1,090	114	5,025
<b>British Columbia</b>							
February <sup>r</sup>	575	1	87	386	832	113	1,994
March <sup>p</sup>	698	2	36	297	1,043	68	2,144
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	1,658	3	149	881	2,689	234	5,614
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	1,656	0	105	856	2,707	356	5,680

Table 7 – continued

**Dwelling units, provinces and territories, unadjusted, 2012**

	Singles, includes mobile homes	Cottages	Doubles	Rows	Apartments	Conversions	Total dwellings
	number of dwelling units						
<b>Yukon</b>							
February r	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
March p	8	1	0	4	0	0	13
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	18	1	0	4	0	0	23
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	15	0	0	0	1	0	16
<b>Northwest Territories</b>							
February r	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
March p	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
<b>Nunavut</b>							
February r	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
March p	0	0	2	7	0	0	9
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	0	0	2	7	0	0	9
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	0	0	2	0	20	0	22

**Table 8**  
**Dwelling units, census metropolitan areas, unadjusted, March 2012**

	Singles, includes mobile homes	Cottages	Doubles	Rows	Apartments	Conversions	Total dwellings
number of dwelling units							
Abbotsford-Mission, British Columbia	24	0	0	0	35	1	60
Barrie, Ontario	28	0	0	6	0	0	34
Brantford, Ontario	33	1	0	0	0	0	34
Calgary, Alberta	523	0	54	240	404	1	1,222
Edmonton, Alberta	517	0	178	97	216	26	1,034
Greater Sudbury, Ontario	9	0	0	0	0	2	11
Guelph, Ontario	17	0	18	19	32	8	94
Halifax, Nova Scotia	102	0	2	0	83	32	219
Hamilton, Ontario	116	0	4	107	0	2	229
Kelowna, British Columbia	27	0	0	7	10	2	46
Kingston, Ontario	30	0	0	12	0	3	45
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo, Ontario	58	0	0	40	193	6	297
London, Ontario	100	0	0	14	2	2	118
Moncton, New Brunswick	29	0	6	0	20	0	55
Montréal, Quebec	478	0	91	79	925	472	2,045
Oshawa, Ontario	82	0	2	19	0	1	104
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	229	0	82	247	249	10	817
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario part, Ontario/Quebec	186	0	24	200	183	7	600
Ottawa-Gatineau, Quebec part, Ontario/Quebec	43	0	58	47	66	3	217
Peterborough, Ontario	21	0	0	0	19	0	40
Québec, Quebec	184	0	69	26	645	14	938
Regina, Saskatchewan	104	0	5	6	77	0	192
Saguenay, Quebec	79	0	0	0	91	7	177
Saint John, New Brunswick	10	0	0	0	2	0	12
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan	180	0	20	12	14	7	233
Sherbrooke, Quebec	53	0	32	23	112	4	224
St. Catharines-Niagara, Ontario	46	0	2	27	0	2	77
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador	104	0	8	0	52	7	171
Thunder Bay, Ontario	18	0	0	5	0	3	26
Toronto, Ontario	909	0	56	936	1,647	38	3,586
Trois-Rivières, Quebec	41	0	43	3	65	10	162
Vancouver, British Columbia	338	0	16	247	793	35	1,429
Victoria, British Columbia	56	2	8	17	135	11	229
Windsor, Ontario	49	0	4	0	0	0	53
Winnipeg, Manitoba	227	0	0	2	51	1	281

**Table 9**  
**Dwelling units, census metropolitan areas, unadjusted, cumulative, January to March 2012**

	Singles, includes mobile homes	Cottages	Doubles	Rows	Apartments	Conversions	Total dwellings
number of dwelling units							
Abbotsford-Mission, British Columbia	63	0	0	46	43	1	153
Barrie, Ontario	43	0	0	6	2	0	51
Brantford, Ontario	69	1	6	9	60	0	145
Calgary, Alberta	1,353	0	153	448	996	3	2,953
Edmonton, Alberta	1,254	0	423	204	695	136	2,712
Greater Sudbury, Ontario	11	0	0	0	0	5	16
Guelph, Ontario	50	0	28	69	123	14	284
Halifax, Nova Scotia	204	0	6	5	186	50	451
Hamilton, Ontario	439	0	30	324	0	44	837
Kelowna, British Columbia	52	0	0	29	16	13	110
Kingston, Ontario	59	0	0	12	2	3	76
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo, Ontario	195	0	2	80	269	20	566
London, Ontario	250	0	2	55	6	3	316
Moncton, New Brunswick	44	0	22	0	24	5	95
Montréal, Quebec	1,043	0	197	184	2,700	835	4,959
Oshawa, Ontario	184	0	7	27	139	6	363
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	461	1	129	644	474	49	1,758
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario part, Ontario/Quebec	352	0	44	587	264	31	1,278
Ottawa-Gatineau, Quebec part, Ontario/Quebec	109	1	85	57	210	18	480
Peterborough, Ontario	37	0	0	7	19	3	66
Québec, Quebec	351	0	160	33	1,548	38	2,130
Regina, Saskatchewan	259	0	9	6	203	1	478
Saguenay, Quebec	98	0	5	3	129	17	252
Saint John, New Brunswick	25	0	4	0	2	3	34
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan	458	0	34	12	112	21	637
Sherbrooke, Quebec	150	0	80	38	187	17	472
St. Catharines-Niagara, Ontario	128	0	6	66	0	12	212
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador	228	0	10	8	124	13	383
Thunder Bay, Ontario	30	1	0	5	0	3	39
Toronto, Ontario	2,217	0	450	1,826	6,909	86	11,488
Trois-Rivières, Quebec	58	0	49	3	88	34	232
Vancouver, British Columbia	852	0	96	684	1,823	119	3,574
Victoria, British Columbia	134	2	14	31	477	59	717
Windsor, Ontario	111	0	4	46	0	0	161
Winnipeg, Manitoba	543	0	6	2	267	105	923

**Table 10**  
**Value of residential and non-residential building permits, provinces and territories, unadjusted, 2012**

	Value of construction				Total
	Residential	Non-residential			
		Industrial	Commercial	Institutional and governmental	
thousands of dollars					
<b>Canada</b>					
February r	2,921,197	643,492	1,092,533	472,235	5,129,457
March p	3,947,149	386,398	1,599,722	970,055	6,903,324
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	9,762,698	1,270,181	3,743,353	1,697,166	16,473,398
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	8,558,664	1,461,899	2,936,197	2,308,253	15,265,013
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b>					
February r	32,546	1,649	11,702	4	45,901
March p	46,307	779	87,605	6,566	141,257
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	111,356	2,553	113,400	8,575	235,884
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	69,604	925	29,450	12,128	112,107
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>					
February r	2,409	90	335	0	2,834
March p	8,846	732	9,046	0	18,624
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	16,591	3,835	9,980	7,400	37,806
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	12,607	6,518	15,758	5,062	39,945
<b>Nova Scotia</b>					
February r	29,301	10,321	14,019	39,933	93,574
March p	65,707	3,154	19,821	42,697	131,379
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	144,014	14,604	47,797	83,655	290,070
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	152,333	3,076	101,287	24,957	281,653
<b>New Brunswick</b>					
February r	11,078	2,949	10,072	4,574	28,673
March p	23,269	7,946	11,538	32,017	74,770
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	41,882	12,406	29,618	37,997	121,903
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	41,708	6,306	31,461	42,543	122,018
<b>Quebec</b>					
February r	666,027	50,970	158,086	117,180	992,263
March p	989,838	35,996	188,409	104,885	1,319,128
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	2,044,961	112,536	449,170	269,206	2,875,873
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	2,082,411	174,504	385,306	158,022	2,800,243
<b>Ontario</b>					
February r	1,047,645	156,388	369,722	158,440	1,732,195
March p	1,367,946	136,657	680,503	642,804	2,827,910
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	3,853,905	384,184	1,471,224	914,970	6,624,283
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	3,295,210	418,576	1,016,027	1,695,187	6,425,000
<b>Manitoba</b>					
February r	64,273	4,449	36,381	3,720	108,823
March p	105,025	44,076	68,199	8,830	226,130
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	256,802	50,970	136,137	27,481	471,390
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	213,014	18,450	57,273	45,906	334,643
<b>Saskatchewan</b>					
February r	90,001	12,394	54,573	4,682	161,650
March p	121,605	8,931	68,253	20,800	219,589
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	287,313	35,129	178,632	30,090	531,164
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	224,578	12,110	208,097	30,265	475,050
<b>Alberta</b>					
February r	514,858	93,871	276,472	90,518	975,719
March p	696,432	125,977	330,180	45,996	1,198,585
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	1,641,703	279,901	819,609	178,736	2,919,949
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	1,220,163	758,384	609,085	137,404	2,725,036
<b>British Columbia</b>					
February r	461,908	308,090	160,629	53,071	983,698
March p	516,040	21,843	135,675	64,866	738,424
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	1,355,772	371,355	486,531	137,049	2,350,707
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	1,232,842	61,754	478,209	154,955	1,927,760

Table 10 – continued

## Value of residential and non-residential building permits, provinces and territories, unadjusted, 2012

	Value of construction				Total
	Residential	Non-residential			
		Industrial	Commercial	Institutional and governmental	
	thousands of dollars				
<b>Yukon</b>					
February r	789	371	202	113	1,475
March p	2,367	177	196	594	3,334
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	3,909	628	436	807	5,780
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	4,467	1,207	2,741	1,824	10,239
<b>Northwest Territories</b>					
February r	362	1,950	340	0	2,652
March p	667	130	297	0	1,094
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	1,390	2,080	819	1,200	5,489
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	1,127	89	1,502	0	2,718
<b>Nunavut</b>					
February r	0	0	0	0	0
March p	3,100	0	0	0	3,100
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2012	3,100	0	0	0	3,100
Cumulative Jan. to Mar. 2011	8,600	0	1	0	8,601

**Table 11**  
**Value of residential and non-residential building permits, census metropolitan areas, unadjusted, March 2012**

	Value of construction				Total
	Residential	Non-residential			
		Industrial	Commercial	Institutional and governmental	
	thousands of dollars				
Abbotsford-Mission, British Columbia	11,130	249	2,420	50	13,849
Barrie, Ontario	9,062	1,774	3,412	64	14,312
Brantford, Ontario	7,011	412	3,011	1,925	12,359
Calgary, Alberta	286,214	30,141	123,526	19,624	459,505
Edmonton, Alberta	261,019	20,626	86,865	11,067	379,577
Greater Sudbury, Ontario	3,446	479	2,947	1,871	8,743
Guelph, Ontario	17,833	2,434	1,140	11,144	32,551
Halifax, Nova Scotia	33,233	1,899	13,311	39,040	87,483
Hamilton, Ontario	60,261	1,584	113,129	2,997	177,971
Kelowna, British Columbia	14,379	4,260	16,792	800	36,231
Kingston, Ontario	7,790	5,217	3,162	1,380	17,549
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo, Ontario	53,700	42,657	19,935	21,503	137,795
London, Ontario	37,805	1,560	39,828	4,150	83,343
Moncton, New Brunswick	9,224	739	5,036	5,165	20,164
Montréal, Quebec	406,781	16,752	107,994	47,089	578,616
Oshawa, Ontario	37,600	40	3,461	276	41,377
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	130,975	1,112	69,751	11,356	213,194
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario part, Ontario/Quebec	95,713	899	64,884	10,104	171,600
Ottawa-Gatineau, Quebec part, Ontario/Quebec	35,262	213	4,867	1,252	41,594
Peterborough, Ontario	9,763	700	6,636	265	17,364
Québec, Quebec	153,872	1,789	16,602	17,830	190,093
Regina, Saskatchewan	31,411	2,669	23,694	0	57,774
Saguenay, Quebec	29,019	668	3,781	14,475	47,943
Saint John, New Brunswick	2,726	6,905	2,103	4,736	16,470
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan	59,467	5,079	17,347	6,799	88,692
Sherbrooke, Quebec	32,922	671	13,212	4,554	51,359
St. Catharines-Niagara, Ontario	20,656	6,908	9,520	3,201	40,285
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador	34,779	548	84,367	6,544	126,238
Thunder Bay, Ontario	4,806	295	1,963	1,583	8,647
Toronto, Ontario	812,132	19,816	360,303	521,751	1,714,002
Trois-Rivières, Quebec	25,420	15	2,460	3,641	31,536
Vancouver, British Columbia	347,058	8,744	76,721	49,246	481,769
Victoria, British Columbia	40,619	1,230	9,823	1,677	53,349
Windsor, Ontario	16,192	1,146	1,900	47,793	67,031
Winnipeg, Manitoba	75,122	37,711	63,840	7,807	184,480

**Table 12**  
**Value of residential and non-residential building permits, census metropolitan areas, unadjusted, cumulative, January to March 2012**

	Value of construction				Total
	Residential	Non-residential			
		Industrial	Commercial	Institutional and governmental	
thousands of dollars					
Abbotsford-Mission, British Columbia	29,573	3,962	2,944	12,052	48,531
Barrie, Ontario	15,505	14,064	8,954	1,603	40,126
Brantford, Ontario	20,737	1,871	4,041	3,469	30,118
Calgary, Alberta	697,298	41,111	317,910	72,632	1,128,951
Edmonton, Alberta	657,860	78,916	227,780	57,135	1,021,691
Greater Sudbury, Ontario	7,151	959	4,652	3,657	16,419
Guelph, Ontario	47,514	3,129	20,073	12,682	83,398
Halifax, Nova Scotia	77,918	12,019	30,830	77,405	198,172
Hamilton, Ontario	218,892	7,873	140,570	45,548	412,883
Kelowna, British Columbia	32,391	5,035	22,500	1,999	61,925
Kingston, Ontario	15,119	6,068	11,239	3,190	35,616
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo, Ontario	123,268	43,965	58,271	33,346	258,850
London, Ontario	94,949	5,635	56,214	7,823	164,621
Moncton, New Brunswick	15,266	1,621	10,910	5,743	33,540
Montréal, Quebec	950,076	51,592	270,463	90,465	1,362,596
Oshawa, Ontario	102,820	2,253	8,062	1,226	114,361
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	286,768	3,640	260,359	77,220	627,987
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario part, Ontario/Quebec	212,719	3,342	236,175	70,967	523,203
Ottawa-Gatineau, Quebec part, Ontario/Quebec	74,049	298	24,184	6,253	104,784
Peterborough, Ontario	16,428	2,448	10,111	275	29,262
Québec, Quebec	313,578	4,675	35,907	31,224	385,384
Regina, Saskatchewan	80,320	15,411	54,076	2,860	152,667
Saguenay, Quebec	41,031	1,770	4,842	19,009	66,652
Saint John, New Brunswick	7,610	7,065	6,152	6,886	27,713
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan	155,160	14,809	67,580	10,019	247,568
Sherbrooke, Quebec	72,139	968	24,386	19,995	117,488
St. Catharines-Niagara, Ontario	52,000	14,221	19,143	4,289	89,653
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador	83,511	1,985	106,084	7,847	199,427
Thunder Bay, Ontario	8,030	371	4,662	2,328	15,391
Toronto, Ontario	2,532,590	180,300	795,479	602,556	4,110,925
Trois-Rivières, Quebec	35,500	50	14,655	8,512	58,717
Vancouver, British Columbia	902,798	54,250	341,974	79,593	1,378,615
Victoria, British Columbia	131,060	2,705	18,228	3,317	155,310
Windsor, Ontario	41,795	3,742	4,970	78,120	128,627
Winnipeg, Manitoba	193,219	41,850	98,677	25,877	359,623



**Table 13**  
**Value of the non-residential permits by type of building, provinces and territories, March 2012**

	Canada	Newfoundland and Labrador	Prince Edward Island	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Quebec	Ontario
thousands of dollars							
<b>Total non-residential</b>	<b>2,956,175</b>	<b>94,950</b>	<b>9,778</b>	<b>65,672</b>	<b>51,501</b>	<b>329,290</b>	<b>1,459,964</b>
<b>Industrial</b>	<b>386,398</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>3,154</b>	<b>7,946</b>	<b>35,996</b>	<b>136,657</b>
Factories, plants	166,513	286	600	595	760	19,015	65,135
Transportation, utilities	132,577	250	0	0	6,107	2,860	28,439
Mining and agriculture	29,382	0	0	1,730	0	3,750	17,693
Minor industrial projects, new and improvements <sup>1</sup>	57,926	243	132	829	1,079	10,371	25,390
<b>Commercial</b>	<b>1,599,722</b>	<b>87,605</b>	<b>9,046</b>	<b>19,821</b>	<b>11,538</b>	<b>188,409</b>	<b>680,503</b>
Trade and services	523,869	800	0	4,361	3,398	78,584	307,514
Warehouses	159,743	0	2,500	2,300	0	12,147	59,360
Service stations	12,241	0	0	650	0	1,465	1,300
Office buildings	349,799	81,552	0	4,872	2,313	43,295	122,118
Recreation	150,141	500	416	0	0	6,170	40,625
Hotels, restaurants	205,854	900	0	2,007	2,814	15,481	64,231
Laboratories	29,939	0	5,771	0	0	0	23,130
Minor commercial projects, new and improvements <sup>1</sup>	168,136	3,853	359	5,631	3,013	31,267	62,225
<b>Institutional and governmental</b>	<b>970,055</b>	<b>6,566</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42,697</b>	<b>32,017</b>	<b>104,885</b>	<b>642,804</b>
Schools, education	207,965	4,200	0	39,300	5,705	54,347	49,442
Hospitals, medical	156,663	0	0	0	0	17,392	127,236
Welfare, home	63,936	2,240	0	0	2,478	19,669	31,095
Churches, religion	32,815	0	0	0	0	288	29,752
Government buildings	472,485	0	0	3,000	23,223	3,886	389,766
Minor institutional and governmental projects, new and improvements <sup>1</sup>	36,191	126	0	397	611	9,303	15,513
thousands of dollars							
	Manitoba	Saskat- chewan	Alberta	British Columbia	Yukon	Northwest Territories	Nunavut
<b>Total non-residential</b>	<b>121,105</b>	<b>97,984</b>	<b>502,153</b>	<b>222,384</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Industrial</b>	<b>44,076</b>	<b>8,931</b>	<b>125,977</b>	<b>21,843</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>0</b>
Factories, plants	21,251	4,981	47,781	6,109	0	0	0
Transportation, utilities	20,686	2,500	66,435	5,300	0	0	0
Mining and agriculture	600	0	1,613	3,996	0	0	0
Minor industrial projects, new and improvements <sup>1</sup>	1,539	1,450	10,148	6,438	177	130	0
<b>Commercial</b>	<b>68,199</b>	<b>68,253</b>	<b>330,180</b>	<b>135,675</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>0</b>
Trade and services	16,830	15,371	49,764	47,247	0	0	0
Warehouses	1,263	16,780	55,034	10,359	0	0	0
Service stations	750	2,815	0	5,261	0	0	0
Office buildings	3,584	16,185	56,281	19,599	0	0	0
Recreation	36,000	300	59,822	6,308	0	0	0
Hotels, restaurants	3,737	12,616	83,468	20,600	0	0	0
Laboratories	0	270	506	262	0	0	0
Minor commercial projects, new and improvements <sup>1</sup>	6,035	3,916	25,305	26,039	196	297	0
<b>Institutional and governmental</b>	<b>8,830</b>	<b>20,800</b>	<b>45,996</b>	<b>64,866</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Schools, education	5,650	1,162	24,381	23,778	0	0	0
Hospitals, medical	1,210	819	4,878	4,834	294	0	0
Welfare, home	0	2,000	1,409	5,045	0	0	0
Churches, religion	0	550	2,225	0	0	0	0
Government buildings	1,270	15,793	7,782	27,765	0	0	0
Minor institutional and governmental projects, new and improvements <sup>1</sup>	700	476	5,321	3,444	300	0	0

1. Refer to projects valued at less than \$250,000 for which the breakdown by type of building is not available.

## Description – Monthly survey of building permits

---

The following information should be used to ensure a clear understanding of the basic concepts that define the data provided in this product, of the underlying methodology of the survey, and of key aspects of the data quality. This information will provide you with a better understanding of the strengths and limitations of the data, and of how they can be effectively used and analysed. The information may be of particular importance to you when making comparisons with data from other surveys or sources of information, and in drawing conclusions regarding change over time.

## Data source and methodology

---

The purpose of the **Monthly Survey of Building Permits** issued by Canadian municipalities is to collect data on construction intentions. The results of this survey are used by C.M.H.C. (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation) as a reference base for conducting a monthly survey of housing starts and completions in accordance with its mandate. The statistics on building permits are also essential for the computation of capital expenditures. Furthermore, since the issuance of a building permit is one of the first steps in the construction process, these statistics are widely used as a leading indicator of building activity.

**General methodology:** The Building Permits Survey covers all Canadian municipalities that issue permits. The number of Canadian municipalities currently surveyed approximately 2,400, representing all the provinces and territories. They account for 95% of the Canadian population. Participation in the survey is mandatory; the survey does not use a predetermined sample of municipalities. The communities representing the other 5% of the population are very small, and their level of building activity have little impact on the total. In practice, all urban agglomerations are represented in the survey, as well as a fair percentage of rural municipalities. With certain exceptions, the minimum coverage corresponds to the municipalities already included in the Housing Starts and Completions C.M.H.C.'s Survey. Non-responding municipalities that issue permits are urged on a regular basis to respond to the Building Permit Survey. Therefore, the number of municipalities covered is increasing continually.

The survey is usually conducted by mail, although certain municipalities choose to respond by telephone. The municipal officer responsible for issuing permits is asked to fill out a form each month describing all major construction projects.

The municipalities forward a copy of their completed report to Statistics Canada Head Office and another copy to the local office of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (C.M.H.C.). To reduce their overhead, an increasing number of respondents are producing a computerized report. Only those municipalities that are late in reporting and that are included in the above-mentioned C.M.H.C. survey are subject to follow-up by telephone.

The reports received at Statistics Canada Head Office are verified, coded and processed.

Strict quality control procedures are applied to ensure that collection, coding and data processing are as accurate as possible. Checks are also performed on totals and the magnitude of data. Reports that fail to meet the quality standards are subject to verification and are corrected as required.

Imputations are required for each characteristic for which no report has been received. These are calculated automatically, subject to certain constraints, by applying to previously used values, the month-to-month and year-to-year changes in similar values of responding municipalities and the historical pattern of the missing municipalities. No estimation is done for lack of coverage, concealment or the underevaluation of permits issued. For this reason, the sampling error cannot be computed.

The monthly statistics are not corrected for cancelled or expired permits. According to the municipal officers, the proportion of cancelled and unused permits is below 5%.

**Reference period:** The reference period for data collection purposes is the calendar month. Reports from municipalities which are part of a census metropolitan area or a census agglomeration must be received within 20 days following the month of reference. The other municipalities have 30 days to produce their reports. Results are released between 35 and 40 days after the end of the reference month. Annual data for the preceding calendar year are released with the data for the January survey month.

**Revisions:** Two types of revisions can affect the results of the Building Permits Survey:

**Revisions due to the correction of coding errors**

These types of revisions are done on a monthly basis only to the data pertaining to the month preceding the reference period.

**Revisions due to the addition of late reports**

Late reports for the month preceding the reference period are incorporated into the survey results on a continuing basis. However, reports received after the two-month deadline following the reference month are introduced only at the end of the year. As a result, the data for the last twelve months are subject to revision.

**Seasonal adjustment:** Seasonal changes cause predictable fluctuations in the data. The data series disseminated includes both seasonally adjusted (i.e., excludes predictable annual influences) and the unadjusted data. Seasonally adjusted data for the total number of housing units as well as for the aggregate value of building permits are obtained indirectly, i.e., by adding their seasonally adjusted components. The total number of dwelling units is obtained by summing the seasonally adjusted data for single-family and multiple-use units; the total value of building permits is obtained by summing the following elements: single-family and multiple-family dwellings, industrial, commercial and institutional. Some series contain no apparent seasonality. In these cases, unadjusted values have been tabulated and aggregated to the adjusted values of the other series. At the end of the year, the chronological series adjusted for seasonality are revised to take into account the most recent seasonal fluctuations. Generally, these revisions apply only to the last three years in the series. The revised data are introduced into the CANSIM databank.

## Concepts and variables measured

---

The statistical data presented in this product refers to the number of dwelling units authorized and the **value of building permits**. The value of the permits reported includes the following expenditures: materials, labour, profit and overhead. The cost of land is never included in the estimated value of the permit while acquisition costs (legal fees, surveying fees and accrued interest) may be included at times.

The classification used in this publication deals strictly with structures for which a building permit was issued. Permits are generally issued for the following: construction of new buildings, alterations, additions, renovations, etc. Minor repair jobs such as painting, tiling, roofing, etc., for which no permit is required, and engineering work (such as dams, roads, pipelines, etc.), which, by definition, is not a building, are not included in the building permit series. Estimates of such work may be obtained on Cansim, tables 029-0039 to 029-0040 for the «Capital expenditures by type of asset» and tables 029-0005 to 029-0024 and 032-0001 to 032-0002 for the «Private and Public Investment in Canada Intentions» (cat. no. 61-205-X).

The description given by the municipalities as to the type of building (box #6 of Section A on the form) and the type of work involved (box #7 of Section A on the form) forms the basis for classification. The classification of buildings into major groups and subgroups is based on the following: intended use in the case of new buildings; present or intended use of buildings to which improvements are to be made; present use of the existing structure where the proposed construction is intended to provide additional facilities; principal use of the structure where the proposed construction has more than one intended use; however, where the building contains dwellings, the value of the construction is divided between residential and non-residential use.

## Building categories

---

This publication, uses the following classification for the **value of permits issued** for construction of new buildings or for improvements: residential, industrial, commercial, institutional and government.

**Residential:** Includes all buildings intended for private occupancy whether on a permanent basis or not. Dwellings are divided into the following types: single-family, mobile, cottage, semi-detached, row house and apartment building.

**Industrial:** Includes all buildings used for manufacturing and processing; transportation, communication and other utilities, and agriculture, forestry and mining.

**Commercial:** Includes all buildings used to house activities related to the tertiary sector, such as stores, warehouses, garages, office buildings, theatres, hotels, funeral parlours and beauty salons.

**Institutional and Government:** Includes expenditures made by the community, public and government for buildings and structures like schools, universities, hospitals, clinics, churches, homes for the aged.

The **number of dwelling units** indicates the number of self contained dwelling units created. This should not be confused with the number of structures. For example, an apartment building containing six dwellings will be shown as six dwelling units. When an existing structure is converted into additional housing units, the number of units added is included. This publication uses the following classification for dwelling units:

**Single-family:** Refers to dwellings commonly called "**single house**". It includes single dwellings that are completely isolated on all sides, including single dwellings linked to other dwellings below ground. Included are bungalows, split levels, two-storey single-family homes built by conventional methods or prefabricated.

**Mobile homes:** Refers to houses designed and constructed to be transported on their own chassis and for easy moving.

**Cottage:** Refers to dwellings that cannot be occupied year-round or on a permanent basis because the facilities required for comfort are inadequate.

**Double or Semi-detached:** Refers to dwellings in which each of the two dwellings are side by side and joined by a common wall or garage, but not attached to any other building and surrounded by open space.

**Row Dwellings:** Refers to a row of three or more dwellings attached to each other without dwellings above or below.

**Apartment Building:** Includes dwellings in a variety of buildings such as duplexes, semi-detached duplexes, triplexes, row duplexes, apartments as such and dwellings adjacent to non-residential structures.

**Conversion:** Refers to the number of dwellings added by conversion of existing structures.

## Geographic classification

---

Geographic entities are classified according to Standard Geographical Classification (SGC) used by Statistics Canada. Each reporting entity is assigned a twelve-digit SGC code for identification according to the following geographic levels:

**Province and territory (PR):** There are ten provinces and three territories.

**Economic region (ER):** Refers to intraprovincial regions established by the Standards Division of Statistics Canada. There are seventy-six ERs.

**Census division (CD):** Refers to a group of census subdivisions established by provincial law. There are two hundred and eighty-eight CDs (data on this geographic group is available on request).

**Census metropolitan area (CMA):** Its delineation corresponds to the 2006 Census definition. The term CMA refers to the main labour market area of an urban area (the urbanized core) of at least 100,000 population, based on the Census population figures. The thirty-three CMAs are shown in this publication. Although the 2006 Census defines the Ottawa-Gatineau area as a single CMA, the area is shown in this publication as two separate entities since it is located in two different provinces.

**Census agglomeration (CA):** Refers to the smaller labour market area of an urbanized core of at least 10,000 population, as defined by the 2006 Census. There are one hundred and eleven CAs in Canada. When a CA overlaps the boundaries of two provinces, it is shown partly in each province. The Lloydminster agglomeration is an exception to this rule. It is treated as if it was totally located in Alberta.

**Other municipalities of at least 10,000 population:** Refers to municipalities not included in census agglomerations but with populations of at least 10,000 inhabitants. The distinction is made between these municipalities and CAs in order to permit comparison between the Building Permits Survey and the Housing Starts and Completions Survey which refers to this geographical concept.

**Rural area:** Refers to all geographic entities not included in a CMA or CA and not identified as an urban centre by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

**Census subdivision (CSD):** Refers to the general term applying to municipalities, Indian reserves, Indian settlements and unorganized territories. However, since Indian reserves and settlements do not issue building permits, they are not included in this publication.

**Non-standard geographic unit:** The geographic units shown in this publication do not all satisfy the above definition of census subdivision. Some provincial or municipal administrations producing monthly reports do not correspond to the official geographic entities; they are nevertheless shown in this publication under the geographic entity used by these administrations. These so-called non-standard geographic units are few in number and are mostly concentrated in the Maritime provinces.

### Territorial revisions

Territorial boundaries were established according to the 2006 Census definitions. Changes in boundaries, status or name of census subdivisions between censuses are introduced in this publication on a yearly basis. Changes affecting the other geographic units (CMAs, CAs, CDs and ERs) are introduced every five years, eighteen months following the census.

## Data accuracy

---

Since the building permit data are extracted from municipal administrative documents, two types of response errors are possible: errors attributable to the permit applicant and errors in transcription by the responding municipality. However, experience has shown that transcription errors are not very common and the increasing number of municipalities producing computerized reports tends to reduce the frequency of this type of error. Errors attributable to an understatement of the cost of construction are more probable. Since permit fees are in most cases based on the value of the construction, this leads unquestionably to under-estimation of project values.

The other source of error are the processing error and the non-response error. In 2011, more than 98% of the municipalities covered by the survey sent their monthly Building Permits reports.



## Comparability of data and related sources

---

Comparison of data must be done with reservation considering that the methods of issuing permits and the methods of estimating building values can differ from one municipality to another. Also, comparisons involving different periods must take into account the constant increase in the number of municipalities participating in the survey.

This publication contains only part of the data produced on building permits. However, you may order unpublished tables or address special requests, to the Building Construction and Property Value Section (613-951-6321 or 1-800-579-8533). The series presented here is also available on CANSIM: Tables 026-0001 to 026-0008 and 026-0010.

# Appendix I

---

## Geographical abbreviations

C	Cité / City
CC	Chartered community
CÉ	Cité
CG	Community government
CM	County (municipality)
CN	Colonie de la couronne / Crown colony
COM	Community
CT	Canton (municipalité de)
CU	Cantons unis (municipalité de)
CY	City
DM	District municipality
HAM	Hamlet
ID	Improvement district
IGD	Indian government district
IM	Island municipality
IRI	Réserve indienne / Indian reserve
LGD	Local government district
LOT	Township and royalty
M	Municipalité / Municipality
MD	Municipal district
MÉ	Municipalité
MU	Municipality
NH	Northern hamlet
NL	Nisgaa land
NO	Non organisé / Unorganized
NV	Northern village
NVL	Nisgaa village
P	Paroisse (municipalité de) / Parish
PE	Paroisse (municipalité de)
RCR	Communauté rurale / Rural community
RDA	Regional district electoral area
RG	Region
RGM	Regional municipality
RM	Rural municipality
RV	Resort village
S-É	Établissement indien / Indian settlement
SA	Special area
SC	Subdivision municipalité de comté / Subdivision of county municipality
SÉ	Établissement / Settlement
SET	Settlement
SM	Specialized municipality
SNO	Subdivision non organisée / Subdivision of unorganized
SV	Summer village
T	Town

TC	Terres réservées aux Cris
TI	Terre inuite
TK	Terres réservées aux Naskapis
TL	Teslin land
TP	Township
TV	Ville / Town
V	Ville
VC	Village cri
VK	Village naskapi
VL	Village
VN	Village nordique