



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, May 12, 2008

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New Housing Price Index

March 2008

Year-over-year growth in new housing prices slowed for a second consecutive month in March. This deceleration continues a downward trend that started in September 2006, due mainly to the softening market in Alberta.

Contractors' selling prices rose 6.1% between March 2007 and March 2008, a slightly slower pace than the 6.2% year-over-year increase posted in February 2008.

Nationally, prices rose 0.2% between February and March.

Regionally, for the 11th straight month, prices rose at the fastest pace in Saskatoon, with a year-over-year price increase of 46.2%, down from the record-setting pace of 58.3% in February. Saskatoon housing prices rose 2.1% from February.

In Regina, the year-over-year increase was 27.8% in March, down marginally from the annual growth rate of 28.6% recorded in February. Regina's new housing prices rose 1.7% between February and March.

In Winnipeg, prices rose 15.0% on a year-over-year basis.

In Saskatoon, Regina and Winnipeg, builders reported higher prices as a result of increased material and labour costs, as well as a strong market and high demand for new housing.

In Edmonton, the 12-month growth rate slowed to 13.5% in March, the eighth consecutive month in which the pace of growth has decelerated. On a monthly basis, new housing prices declined in Edmonton for a third consecutive month, falling 1.1% in March.

In Calgary, prices rose 5.3% between March 2007 and March 2008, slightly faster than the 5.2% increase between February 2007 and February 2008.

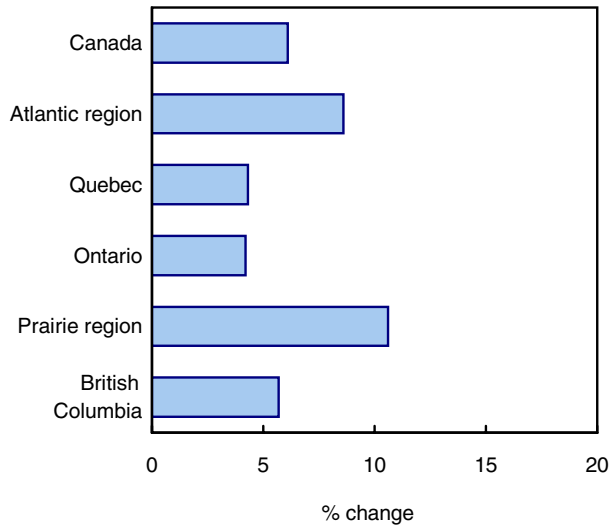
Edmonton and Calgary continued to experience slow market conditions. Builders in both cities reported lowering their prices to generate interest and stimulate sales.

A strengthening economy, coupled with increased material and labour costs, contributed to record increases in Nova Scotia. Homebuyers in Halifax saw prices rise 12.8%, up from the year-over-year increase of 11.4% in February, while buyers in St. John's saw a 12.0% gain compared with March 2007.

On the West Coast, the 12-month increase in contractors' selling prices for Vancouver was 6.1%, while in Victoria it was 1.2%, down from 1.6% in February.

Windsor recorded year-over-year deflation in March, with prices falling 0.6% from March 2007. This continues the downward trend that started 18 months ago.

Percentage change from the same month of the previous year



Elsewhere in Ontario, contractors' selling prices were 4.5% higher in Toronto and 3.1% higher in Ottawa-Gatineau compared with March 2007.

In Québec, prices increased 3.9% from the same month a year earlier. In Montréal, the 12-month growth rate slowed to 4.5%. Prices edged down 0.1% from February to March in Montréal, where increases resulting from higher labour costs were offset by competition among builders in the market.

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.

The fourth quarter 2007 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XWE, free) is available from the *Publications* module or our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; prices-prix@statcan.ca), Prices Division.

□

New housing price indexes

	March 2008 (1997=100)	March 2007 to March 2008 % change	February to March 2008
Canada total	158.4	6.1	0.2
House only	168.3	5.7	0.1
Land only	139.2	6.9	0.4
St. John's	148.8	12.0	0.2
Halifax	148.2	12.8	1.2
Charlottetown	119.3	1.4	-1.1
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton	115.8	2.4	0.3
Québec	152.4	3.9	0.0
Montréal	159.4	4.5	-0.1
Ottawa-Gatineau	166.3	3.1	0.0
Toronto and Oshawa	145.7	4.5	0.3
Hamilton	153.1	3.9	0.8
St. Catharines-Niagara	156.2	4.3	0.6
Kitchener	141.9	3.4	0.6
London	140.8	4.0	0.3
Windsor	103.4	-0.6	-0.2
Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay	110.8	6.3	0.3
Winnipeg	174.3	15.0	1.0
Regina	222.5	27.8	1.7
Saskatoon	240.7	46.2	2.1
Calgary	252.9	5.3	0.6
Edmonton	242.9	13.5	-1.1
Vancouver	124.6	6.1	0.6
Victoria	119.3	1.2	0.0

Note: View the census subdivisions that comprise the metropolitan areas online.

Surveying and mapping services

2006

The surveying and mapping services industry continued to benefit from the substantial and continuous growth of the resource sector in 2006. The industry experienced strong growth in 2006, as its operating revenues climbed 18.1% to \$2.7 billion. This strong growth in the surveying and mapping services industry is especially significant because it follows an almost equally strong increase of 16.9% in 2005.

Growth in operating revenues was especially strong in Western Canada. Increases of over 20% compared with 2005 levels were posted in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. In comparison, growth reported in Central Canada, especially in Ontario, was substantially less.

The Canadian surveying and mapping industry is dominated by Alberta, whose firms generated almost two-thirds of national operating revenues in 2006. Alberta saw its share rise rapidly, from 61% in 2004 to 65% in 2006. During this same period, Quebec's and Ontario's shares dropped significantly, whereas British Columbia's share was up.

In 2006, industry operating expenses increased less than its operating revenues, resulting in a rise in its

operating profit margin from 10.3% in 2005 to 11.6%. The industry's profit margin has risen every year since 2002. Salaries, wages and benefits accounted for 45% of operating expenses in 2006.

Note: Businesses providing surveying services gather, interpret and map geophysical data. These businesses often specialize in locating and measuring the extent of subsurface resources, such as oil, gas and minerals. The other businesses in the industry provide surveying and mapping services on the surface of the earth, including the sea floor.

Available on CANSIM: table 360-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4715.

Data from the Annual Survey of Service Industries: Surveying and Mapping are now available for 2006.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Luc Provençal (613-951-1960; fax: 613-951-6696; luc.provençal@statcan.ca), Service Industries Division.

Natural gas transportation and distribution

October to December 2007

Data on natural gas transportation and distribution are now available for October to December.

Available on CANSIM: tables 129-0001 to 129-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.

For more information, to order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Domestic travel

First quarter 2007 (preliminary)

The preliminary estimates of domestic travel from the Travel Survey of Residents of Canada for the first quarter of 2007 are now available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3810.

For general information or to obtain data, contact Client Services (613-951-9169;

toll-free 1-800-307-3382; fax: 613-951-2909; cult.tourstats@statcan.ca), Culture Tourism, and the Centre for Education Statistics. To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lizette Gervais-Simard (613-951-1672; fax: 613-951-2909; gervliz@statcan.ca), Tourism Statistics Program. ■

Intellectual property management in federal science-based departments

2005/2006

Results from the intellectual property management annex to the Survey on Federal Science Expenditures and Personnel are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 358-0026.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4212.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marc Nadeau (613-951-2541; fax: 613-951-9920; marc.nadeau@statcan.ca), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

New products

Report on Energy Supply-demand in Canada, 2005
Catalogue number 57-003-XWE
 (free).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.

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Thursday, June 3, 1997
 For release at 9:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Changes in expenditures on taking urban transit; Canadians are riding it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 4.5 hrs on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted Index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **522 producer, April 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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