



Highlights

- Higher permits issued in residential and non-residential sectors in July
- Record-breaking permits issued in industrial sector

Ontario building permits rise in July

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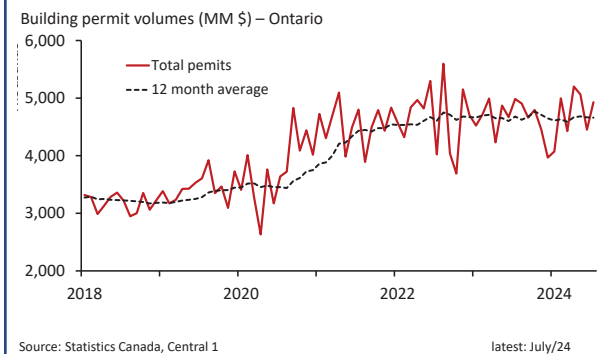
Canadian building permits rebounded in July after two consecutive months of declining values. Permit values increased by 22.1 per cent to \$12.4 billion during the month, following a 13.0 per cent drop in the previous month. This gain was due to higher permits issued in both residential and non-residential categories. 20,700 new multi-family units and 4,100 single-family units were approved across the country in July.

Ontario experienced significant gains in permit values in July, with monthly permits increasing by 10.7 per cent to \$4.9 billion. This growth was driven by higher permits issued in the residential sector, with even larger increases in the non-residential sector. Unadjusted for seasonality, year-to-date total permits were up by 3.5 per cent.

Monthly permit numbers tend to vary widely, and the 12-month moving average has remained flat for several months, as high construction and borrowing costs continue to weigh on sector activity. Further rate cuts are needed to see a sustained growth in activity in the sector.

The residential sector saw a 1.9 per cent increase in permit values during the month, reaching \$2.7 billion. In the multi-family sub-category, permits rose by 7.7 per cent, however this gain was slightly offset by the 6.7 per cent dip in single-family unit permits.

Building permits in Ontario up in July



The non-residential sector recorded a 23.8 per cent jump in permits issued, bringing the total to \$2.2 billion in July. The industrial subcategory was twice the value from June, reaching an all-time high of \$678.3 million. Commercial permits also increased by 18.3 per cent, however, institutional and governmental permit issuances declined by 8.0 per cent.

Many of Ontario's census metropolitan areas saw increased permit values in July. In Toronto, permit values rose 8.8 per cent monthly and 7.4 per cent year-over-year. Other notable monthly increments were in St Catharines-Niagara (72.1 per cent), Peterborough (64.6 per cent), London (32.0 per cent) and Ottawa (7.3 per cent). That said, permit declines were recorded in Brantford (-39.8 per cent), Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo (-46.1 per cent), Oshawa (-29.2 per cent) and Hamilton (-9.1 per cent).

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