

# H

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### 13 year home starts record

#### *New home construction: going strong*

2002 was a great year for Ontario's home construction industry. Low interest rates, solid job creation and active resale markets bolstered demand for new homes, and pushed home starts to a 13 year record. Single detached home starts, which jumped 29 per cent, were responsible for the increase. Low mortgage carrying costs, increased baby boomer affluence and consumer confidence sus-

tained demand for this most expensive housing type. Multiple family home starts edged lower, pulled down by labour and capital input bottlenecks affecting condominium apartment construction (for example availability of cranes). Presold home delivery times rose. Inventories of newly completed and unoccupied multiple family homes remain low, and imply that new demand will be met with new

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FOURTH QUARTER 2002

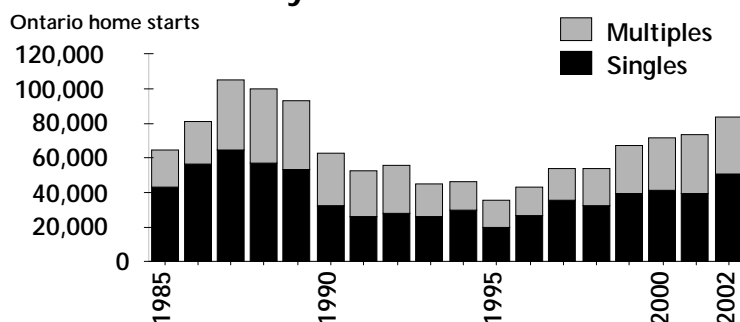
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### 13 year record



Source: CMHC

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HOME TO CANADIANS  
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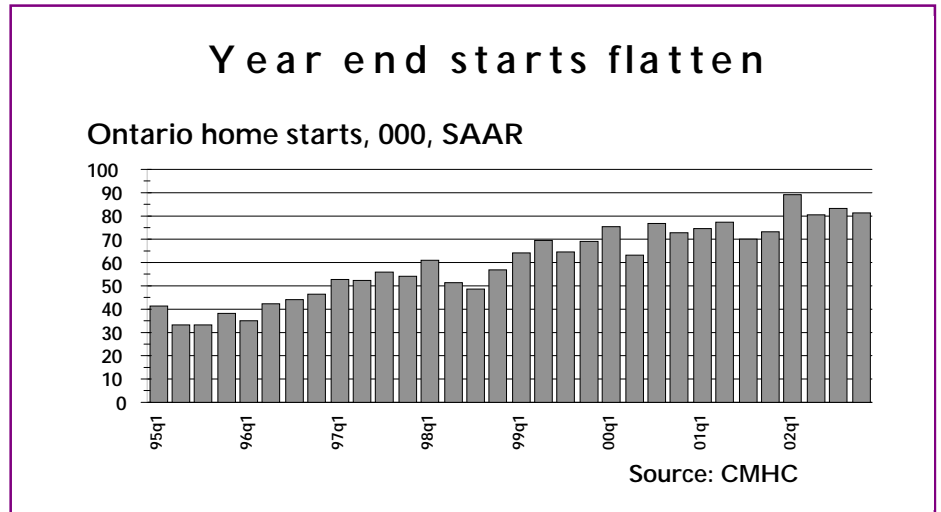
construction.

Home construction was generally strong across the province. Toronto's home starts reached their second highest level on record. Oshawa and Windsor starts were near historical highs. Starts in most other large centres were close to long term annual averages. Sudbury's and Thunder Bay's home starts picked up from low levels despite population declines due to out-migration of youth from Northern Ontario.

All of Ontario's eight New Home Prices Indexes moved up over last year. Six of these surpassed the average annual 2.2 per cent general rate of inflation. The exceptions were the Windsor and the Sudbury/Thunder Bay New House Price Indexes. Home construction costs in these centres have been stable.

**Resale Home Markets: *tight***

Home shoppers are out in force. Total 2002 sales through the



Multiple Listing Services jumped over nine per cent and set a new record. Year-end sales came down as a colder and snowier than average winter set in. From a historical perspective sales remained strong even at year-end.

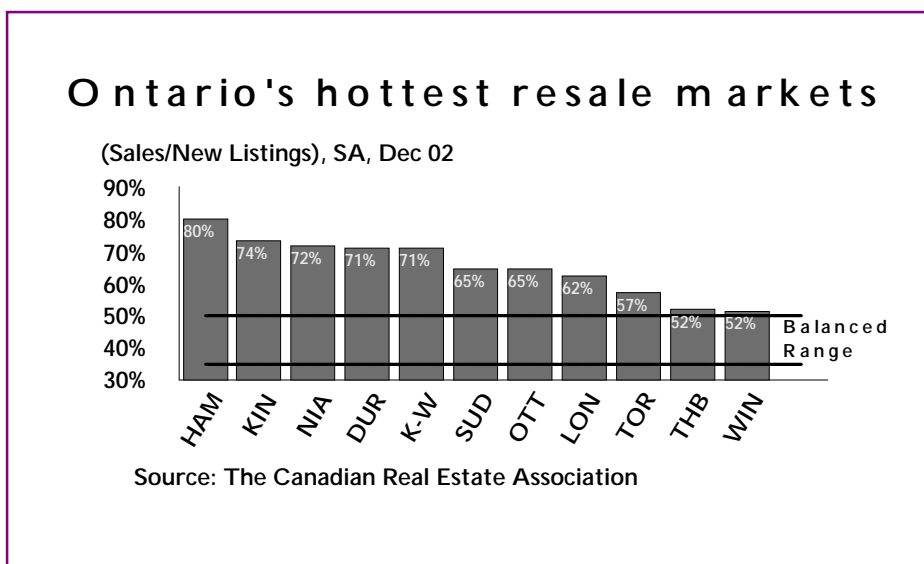
Ontario's average annual resale home price jumped by nine per cent in 2002— four times the general rate of inflation. Rising home prices have been encouraging increases in the supply of new Multiple Listings Services listings since the outset of this millennium. Resale home markets,

however, remained tight throughout the 2000s. The province's sales to new listings ratio has remained above 60 per cent all of 2002, a range that implies that home prices will rise further.

**Rental Market: *vacancies up***

Ontario's 2002 average vacancy rate jumped on the tail of a modest increase in 2001 and four consecutive years of declines prior to that. The province's average vacancy rate in structures of 3 units and over moved up to 2.7 per cent in October 2002 from 1.7 per cent a year ago. Ontario's average two bedroom apartment rent rose by 2.3 per cent, which was commensurate with the general Consumer Price Index inflation rate.

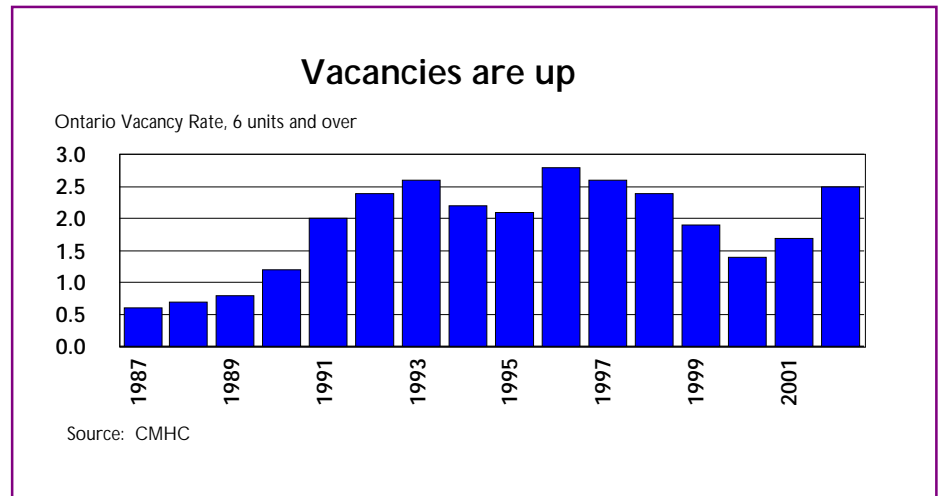
Three factors were responsible for the dip in rental demand: the 2001 job lull with losses in the younger renter aged population, lower net migration to the province and shifts to home-ownership induced by affordable mortgage rates.



## Economy: jobs take off

The province's economic picture supports housing market strength. Resumption of economic expansion in 2002 created a whopping 196,000 jobs between January and December which added to housing demand. Mixed economic indicators are generally in support of continued employment growth. Retail sales are high. Large ticket item sales are strong. Ontario's Help Wanted Index, however, plummeted on concerns of a continued US economic lull.

Net migration to Ontario has been exceptional over the last couple of years and has now edged down. Demographic de-



mand for housing will continue to be solid for a while, since new arrivals to the province take several years to become established and purchase a home. Immigration will increase along with Canada's rising immigration

target levels. Most immigrants choose Toronto for its established social and ethnic networks. Job seekers from other parts of Canada dwindled as employment prospects elsewhere grew.

TABLE 1: ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Date	Ontario emp. (000)	Ontario CPI inflation	\$ U.S. Spot	Bank rate	One yr. mtg.	Three yr. mtg.	Five yr. mtg.	Monthly P. & I. per \$1,000 @ 5 yr. rate*
1990	5,192	4.8	1.17	13.06	13.40	13.38	13.35	11.28
1991	5,016	4.7	1.15	8.98	10.08	10.90	11.13	9.72
1992	4,949	1.0	1.21	6.84	7.87	8.95	9.51	8.62
1993	4,974	1.8	1.29	5.09	6.91	8.10	8.78	8.13
1994	5,037	0.0	1.37	5.79	7.83	8.99	9.53	8.64
1995	5,131	2.5	1.37	7.14	8.38	8.82	9.16	8.39
1996	5,181	1.5	1.36	4.53	6.19	7.33	7.93	7.59
1997	5,313	1.9	1.38	3.52	5.54	6.56	7.07	7.05
1998	5,490	0.9	1.48	5.10	6.50	6.77	6.93	6.96
1999	5,688	1.9	1.49	4.94	6.80	7.37	7.56	7.36
2000	5,872	2.9	1.49	5.77	7.85	8.17	8.35	7.86
2001	5,962	3.1	1.55	4.31	6.14	6.88	7.40	7.26
2002	6,067	2.0	1.57	2.71	5.17	6.28	7.02	7.02
2002:01	5,981	1.2	1.60	2.25	4.55	6.05	7.00	7.00
2002:02	5,997	1.4	1.60	2.25	4.55	5.75	6.85	6.91
2002:03	6,014	1.9	1.59	2.25	5.30	6.60	7.30	7.19
2002:04	6,014	1.4	1.58	2.50	5.40	6.75	7.45	7.28
2002:05	6,031	0.8	1.55	2.50	5.55	6.75	7.40	7.25
2002:06	6,039	1.2	1.53	2.75	5.55	6.60	7.25	7.16
2002:07	6,052	2.1	1.55	3.00	5.35	6.40	7.05	7.04
2002:08	6,094	2.9	1.57	3.00	5.35	6.15	6.80	6.88
2002:09	6,124	2.3	1.58	3.00	5.30	6.05	6.70	6.82
2002:10	6,142	2.8	1.58	3.00	5.30	6.20	7.00	7.00
2002:11	6,156	3.8	1.57	3.00	4.90	6.00	6.70	6.82
2002:12	6,166	2.8	1.56	3.00	4.90	6.00	6.70	6.82

Sources: Statistics Canada and Bank of Canada.

\* Monthly P. & I. per \$1,000 of mortgage, amortized over 25 years at the 5 year rate.

TABLE 2: COMPARISON OF 2001 AND 2002 URBAN STARTS

	SINGLE DETACHED			ALL OTHER TYPES			TOTAL		
	2001	2002	%	2001	2002	%	2001	2002	%
<b>CENSUS MET. AREAS</b>									
HAMILTON	1,842	2,259	23%	1,523	1,544	1%	3,365	3,803	13%
KINGSTON	537	775	44%	170	35	-79%	707	810	15%
KITCHENER	2,197	3,007	37%	1,340	1,123	-16%	3,537	4,130	17%
LONDON	1,317	1,969	50%	290	635	119%	1,607	2,604	62%
OSHAWA	2,038	2,955	45%	523	535	2%	2,561	3,490	36%
OTTAWA (ONT)	3,502	3,807	9%	2,749	3,989	45%	6,251	7,796	25%
ST.CATHARINES	916	1,032	13%	218	285	31%	1,134	1,317	16%
SUDBURY	191	292	53%	0	6	NA	191	298	56%
THUNDER BAY	163	193	18%	48	4	-92%	211	197	-7%
TORONTO	16,844	22,115	31%	24,173	21,690	-10%	41,017	43,805	7%
WINDSOR	1,605	1,726	8%	552	764	38%	2,157	2,490	15%
<b>CMA TOTAL</b>	<b>31,152</b>	<b>40,130</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>31,586</b>	<b>30,610</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>62,738</b>	<b>70,740</b>	<b>13%</b>
OTHER URBAN	5,584	7,097	27%	1,940	1,778	-8%	7,524	8,875	18%
<b>URBAN ONTARIO *</b>	<b>36,736</b>	<b>47,227</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>33,526</b>	<b>32,388</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>70,262</b>	<b>79,615</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>URBAN CANADA *</b>	<b>78,233</b>	<b>103,162</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>64,117</b>	<b>76,227</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>142,350</b>	<b>179,389</b>	<b>26%</b>

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**TABLE 3: ONTARIO HOUSING STARTS BY TENURE BY YEAR**

Year	Multiple housing starts Centers 10,000 population and over							All Area Multiples	All Area Singles	All Area Total
	Rental/Coop		Total Rental	Condo	Other Freehold*	Total 10,000+	Other Areas			
	Private	Assisted								
1992	2,273	15,667	17,940	2,772	5,410	26,122	1,782	27,904	27,868	55,772
1993	2,023	7,195	9,218	3,268	5,240	17,726	1,174	18,900	26,240	45,140
1994	1,368	3,805	5,173	3,809	7,156	16,138	471	16,609	30,036	46,645
1995	550	2,945	3,495	5,713	6,147	15,355	339	15,694	20,124	35,818
1996	931	794	1,725	6,034	8,101	15,860	183	16,043	27,019	43,062
1997	773	0	773	8,138	9,512	18,423	248	18,671	35,401	54,072
1998	1,174	0	1,174	9,080	10,740	20,994	99	21,093	32,737	53,830
1999	1,313	0	1,313	13,184	13,190	27,687	127	27,814	39,421	67,235
2000	2,147	0	2,147	13,176	15,055	30,378	56	30,434	41,087	71,521
2001	2,627	89	2,716	16,653	14,157	33,526	124	33,650	39,632	73,282
2002	3,883	0	3,883	13,070	15,435	32,388	95	32,483	51,114	83,597
01-02 %	48%	-100%	43%	-22%	9%	-3%	-23%	-3%	29%	14%

**TABLE 4: ONTARIO HOUSING STARTS, COMPLETIONS & UNDER CONSTRUCTION BY TYPE & TENURE**

STARTS	2001					2002					PER CENT CHANGE				
	SINGLE	SEMI	ROW	APT	TOTAL	SINGLE	SEMI	ROW	APT	TOTAL	SINGLE	SEMI	ROW	APT	TOTAL
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>															
HOMEOWNER	10,247	1,416	1,915	3	13,581	12,037	1,543	1,909	21	15,510	17%	9%	-0%	600%	14%
RENTAL	0	0	224	335	559	0	0	189	953	1,142	NA	ERR	-16%	184%	104%
CONDOMINIUM	37	50	617	3,367	4,071	63	0	889	2,690	3,642	70%	-100%	44%	-20%	-11%
COOPERATIVE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
UNKNOWN	4	0	31	103	138	3	0	39	74	116	NA	NA	26%	-28%	-16%
TOTAL URBAN ONT	10,288	1,466	2,787	3,808	18,349	12,103	1,543	3,026	3,738	20,410	18%	5%	9%	-2%	11%
<b>YTD DECEMBER</b>															
HOMEOWNER	36,568	6,931	6,941	34	50,474	47,034	6,795	8,413	63	62,305	29%	-2%	21%	85%	23%
RENTAL	1	10	423	2,283	2,717	3	24	573	3,286	3,886	200%	140%	35%	44%	43%
CONDOMINIUM	162	82	2,764	13,807	16,815	174	18	2,744	10,308	13,244	7%	-78%	-1%	-25%	-21%
COOPERATIVE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
UNKNOWN	5	0	115	136	256	16	0	86	78	180	220%	NA	-25%	-43%	-30%
TOTAL URBAN ONT	36,736	7,023	10,243	16,260	70,262	47,227	6,837	11,816	13,735	79,615	29%	-3%	15%	-16%	13%
<b>COMPLETIONS</b>															
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>															
HOMEOWNER	10,806	2,242	1,981	0	15,029	12,561	1,866	2,185	12	16,624	16%	-17%	10%	NA	11%
RENTAL	1	14	79	274	368	0	4	58	263	325	-100%	-71%	-27%	-4%	-12%
CONDOMINIUM	59	4	841	1,406	2,310	54	10	979	4,875	5,918	-8%	150%	16%	247%	156%
COOPERATIVE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
UNKNOWN	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
TOTAL URBAN ONT	10,866	2,260	2,901	1,680	17,707	12,616	1,880	3,222	5,150	22,868	16%	-17%	11%	207%	29%
<b>YTD DECEMBER</b>															
HOMEOWNER	38,141	8,085	8,562	23	54,811	43,648	7,001	7,490	32	58,171	14%	-13%	-13%	39%	6%
RENTAL	1	26	325	1,650	2,002	4	30	602	2,083	2,719	300%	15%	85%	26%	36%
CONDOMINIUM	164	40	2,773	5,721	8,698	171	92	2,949	13,790	17,002	4%	130%	6%	141%	95%
COOPERATIVE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
UNKNOWN	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
TOTAL URBAN ONT	38,306	8,151	11,660	7,394	65,511	43,824	7,123	11,041	15,905	77,893	14%	-13%	-5%	115%	19%
<b>UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF DECEMBER</b>															
HOMEOWNER	16,005	2,909	3,655	46	22,615	19,377	2,717	4,641	2	26,737	21%	-7%	27%	-96%	18%
RENTAL	1	6	366	2,556	2,929	0	4	339	4,015	4,358	-100%	-33%	-7%	57%	49%
CONDOMINIUM	80	82	1,806	21,026	22,994	92	12	1,607	17,730	19,441	15%	-85%	-11%	-16%	-15%
COOPERATIVE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
UNKNOWN	3	0	47	103	153	2	0	70	0	72	-33%	NA	49%	-100%	-53%
TOTAL URBAN ONT	16,089	2,997	5,874	23,731	48,691	19,471	2,733	6,657	21,747	50,608	21%	-9%	13%	-8%	4%

Note: Rental includes private rental assisted rental and registered condominiums marketed to investors and offered as rental units

**TABLE 5: CURRENT QUARTER'S STARTS, COMPLETIONS AND UNDER CONSTRUCTION BY TYPE FOR ONTARIO'S CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREAS**

STARTS	4TH QUARTER 2001					4TH QUARTER 2002					PER CENT CHANGE				
	SINGLE	SEMI	ROW	APT	TOTAL	SINGLE	SEMI	ROW	APT	TOTAL	SINGLE	SEMI	ROW	APT	TOTAL
HAMILTON CMA	533	42	156	8	739	551	17	427	98	1,093	3	-60	174	1,125	48
KINGSTON CMA	157	4	0	3	164	207	6	0	0	213	32	50	NA	-100	30
KITCHENER CMA	588	32	138	273	1,031	652	22	172	99	945	11	-31	25	-64	-8
LONDON CMA	323	2	45	48	418	416	2	72	78	568	29	0	60	63	36
OSHAWA CMA	638	16	150	0	804	705	24	86	0	815	11	50	-43	NA	1
OTTAWA CMA	626	46	446	36	1,154	831	82	445	457	1,815	33	78	-0	1,169	57
ST. CATHARINES CMA	249	28	4	0	281	280	26	68	0	374	12	-7	1,600	NA	33
SUDBURY CMA	42	0	0	0	42	83	0	0	0	83	98	NA	NA	NA	98
THUNDER BAY CMA	53	2	0	38	93	51	2	0	0	53	-4	0	NA	-100	-43
TORONTO CMA TOTAL	5,173	1,136	1,506	3,289	11,104	5,929	1,106	1,423	2,754	11,212	15	-3	-6	-16	1
METRO TORONTO	300	150	233	3,116	3,799	496	190	180	1,926	2,792	65	27	-23	-38	-27
YORK REGION	2,069	284	505	0	2,858	1,927	218	628	68	2,841	-7	-23	24	NA	-1
PEEL REGION	1,817	554	412	173	2,956	2,080	590	305	636	3,611	14	6	-26	268	22
OTHER AREAS	987	148	356	0	1,491	1,426	108	310	124	1,968	44	-27	-13	NA	32
WINDSOR CMA	428	64	64	87	643	450	154	83	142	829	5	141	30	63	29
<b>COMPLETIONS</b>															
HAMILTON CMA	588	24	219	96	927	523	34	360	154	1,071	-11	42	64	60	16
KINGSTON CMA	175	0	22	0	197	229	10	0	0	239	31	NA	-100	NA	21
KITCHENER CMA	653	36	141	6	836	807	48	132	5	992	24	33	-6	-17	19
LONDON CMA	410	2	105	2	519	570	4	25	4	603	39	100	-76	100	16
OSHAWA CMA	483	46	103	0	632	802	2	66	0	870	66	-96	-36	NA	38
OTTAWA CMA	1,116	88	482	205	1,891	1,192	114	534	181	2,021	7	30	11	-12	7
ST. CATHARINES CMA	260	22	22	30	334	284	28	59	0	371	9	27	168	-100	11
SUDBURY CMA	62	0	0	0	62	106	0	0	4	110	71	NA	NA	NA	77
THUNDER BAY CMA	68	4	0	0	72	50	0	0	0	50	-26	-100	NA	NA	-31
TORONTO CMA TOTAL	5,131	1,836	1,414	1,260	9,641	5,742	1,422	1,723	4,695	13,582	12	-23	22	273	41
METRO TORONTO	304	262	373	483	1,422	295	108	357	4,370	5,130	-3	-59	-4	805	261
YORK REGION	1,692	524	367	392	2,975	2,227	364	466	269	3,326	32	-31	27	-31	12
PEEL REGION	2,344	968	442	253	4,007	2,086	800	500	0	3,386	-11	-17	13	-100	-15
OTHER AREAS	791	82	232	132	1,237	1,134	150	400	56	1,740	43	83	72	-58	41
WINDSOR CMA	477	68	59	8	612	490	88	66	91	735	3	29	12	1,038	20
<b>UNDER CONSTRUCTION</b>															
AT END OF DECEMBER 2001															
AT END OF DECEMBER 2002															
HAMILTON CMA	671	86	446	423	1,626	902	43	715	165	1,825	34	-50	60	-61	12
KINGSTON CMA	190	4	0	128	322	277	8	0	0	285	46	100	NA	-100	-11
KITCHENER CMA	600	48	347	1,026	2,021	866	38	392	1,375	2,671	44	-21	13	34	32
LONDON CMA	333	10	118	50	511	518	14	236	298	1,066	56	40	100	496	109
OSHAWA CMA	1,065	46	241	128	1,480	1,374	28	163	90	1,655	29	-39	-32	-30	12
OTTAWA CMA	1,243	134	819	402	2,598	1,600	130	920	1,396	4,046	29	-3	12	247	56
ST. CATHARINES CMA	349	38	169	22	578	413	44	177	0	634	18	16	5	-100	10
SUDBURY CMA	58	0	0	0	58	92	0	0	0	92	59	NA	NA	NA	59
THUNDER BAY CMA	77	2	0	42	121	102	2	0	44	148	32	0	NA	5	22
TORONTO CMA TOTAL	7,888	2,384	3,139	20,894	34,305	9,764	2,132	3,410	17,788	33,094	24	-11	9	-15	-4
METRO TORONTO	743	306	790	18,630	20,469	1,251	528	748	15,935	18,462	68	73	-5	-14	-10
YORK REGION	4,288	902	1,210	741	7,141	4,021	594	1,439	620	6,674	-6	-34	19	-16	-7
PEEL REGION	1,424	916	706	1,523	4,569	2,193	796	624	997	4,610	54	-13	-12	-35	1
OTHER AREAS	1,433	260	433	0	2,126	2,299	214	599	236	3,348	60	-18	38	NA	57
WINDSOR CMA	481	72	79	207	839	466	156	88	175	885	-3	117	11	-15	5



**TABLE 7: ONTARIO HOUSING STARTS FROM 1980 TO 2002 AND 2002 SAARs**

Year	Urban centres 10,000 plus			All areas		
	Singles	Multiples	Total	Singles	Multiples	Total
1986	48,147	23,766	71,913	56,448	25,022	81,470
1987	55,022	38,878	93,900	64,929	40,284	105,213
1988	46,843	40,101	86,944	57,099	42,825	99,924
1989	43,841	37,185	81,026	53,511	39,826	93,337
1990	24,076	29,265	53,341	32,425	30,224	62,649
1991	21,224	24,899	46,123	26,290	26,504	52,794
1992	22,571	24,122	46,693	27,868	27,904	55,772
1993	21,121	17,726	38,847	26,240	18,900	45,140
1994	25,422	16,138	41,560	30,036	16,609	46,645
1995	16,593	15,300	31,893	20,124	15,694	35,818
1996	23,652	15,860	39,512	27,019	16,043	43,062
1997	31,549	18,423	49,972	35,401	18,671	54,072
1998	29,094	20,994	50,088	32,737	21,093	53,830
1999	35,238	27,687	62,925	39,421	27,814	67,235
2000	37,045	30,378	67,423	41,087	30,434	71,521
2001	36,736	33,526	70,262	39,632	33,650	73,282
2002	47,227	32,388	79,615	51,114	32,483	83,597
2002	<b>Seasonally Adjusted Annualized Rates</b>					
02 Q1	45,400	39,100	84,500	NA	NA	89,400
02 Q2	47,500	30,000	77,500	NA	NA	80,600
02 Q3	48,500	30,800	79,300	NA	NA	83,600
02 Q4	46,300	30,600	76,900	NA	NA	81,400
02 Jan	42,700	54,300	97,000	NA	NA	101,900
Feb	45,200	30,500	75,700	NA	NA	80,600
Mar	48,300	32,600	80,900	NA	NA	85,800
Apr	43,200	28,800	72,000	NA	NA	75,100
May	50,900	32,500	83,400	NA	NA	86,500
Jun	48,300	28,800	77,100	NA	NA	80,200
Jul	49,300	38,200	87,500	NA	NA	91,800
Aug	48,500	28,900	77,400	NA	NA	81,700
Sep	47,900	25,200	73,100	NA	NA	77,400
Oct	50,700	32,500	83,200	NA	NA	87,700
Nov	43,100	34,300	77,400	NA	NA	81,900
Dec	45,200	24,900	70,100	NA	NA	74,600

**TABLE 8: AVERAGE AND MEDIAN PRICE OF ABSORBED SINGLES BY CMA**

CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREA	4TH QUARTER 2001		4TH QUARTER 2002		% CHANGE AVG PRICE
	# OF UNITS	AVG PRICE (\$'000's)	# OF UNITS	AVG PRICE (\$'000's)	
HAMILTON	481	254	627	263	4%
KINGSTON	177	167	224	201	20%
KITCHENER	640	235	819	233	-1%
LONDON	401	214	576	222	4%
OSHAWA	478	225	795	239	6%
OTTAWA	1121	266	1204	286	8%
ST. CATHARINES	274	232	276	228	-2%
SUDBURY	58	198	107	216	9%
THUNDER BAY	68	175	48	185	6%
TORONTO	5,202	297	5,666	314	6%
WINDSOR	468	192	495	198	3%

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