

OUSING NOW

St. Catharines/Niagara

YOUR LINK TO THE HOUSING MARKET

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Single Starts end year on a 13-year high

Housing Starts

- Total housing starts in the St. Catharines-Niagara CMA increased on an annual basis by close to 10 per cent from 1317 units in 2002 to 1444 units in 2003. The main contributor to this increase was the number of single detached starts, which made up close to 80 per cent of all housing starts. The number of single detached units totalled 1154, eclipsing a 13-year old record set in 1990.
- Mutliples on the other hand only experienced a small rise from 2002 figures with an increase of 1.8 per cent from 285 units in 2002 to 290 units in 2003. However, on an annual basis, mutliples starts are

currently sitting at their highest level since 1999.

- Fourth quarter housing starts for St. Catharines-Niagara CMA are off last years' pace by 7.5 per cent. This decline is a result of a 38.3 per cent drop in multiples from 2002 Q4 to 2003 Q4. Most pronounced was the decline in semidetached starts. Semi-detached starts fell by more than 50 per cent from this time last year. Row condominium starts also fell by 43 per cent. However, strong housing starts activity in the first 3 quarters of 2003 ensured that 2003 would be a banner year.
- In the St. Catharines-Niagara



In this issue

- I Single Starts End Year on 13-Year High
- 2 Resale Market remains hot
- 3 Activity Summary by Municipality
- 4 Starts by Zone and Intended Market
- 5 Singles Absorption by Price Range
- 6 Resale Housing Activity by District
- 7 Economic Indicators

CMA Thorold city experienced the largest year-over-year percentage change in singles starts, more than doubling from 28 units in 2002 to 70 units in 2003. Significant singles starts were also noted in Niagara-on-the-Lake, St. Catharines, and Niagara Falls, which experienced 40.9 per cent, 15.7 per cent and 13.7 per cent increases respectively.

• On the whole, housing starts in the St. Catharines-Niagara CMA reached a record level in 2003. This impressive performance was largely



St. Catharines-Niagara CMA Housing Starts

Source: CMHC

CMHC Market Analysis
Direct Line: (416) 218 3424 * Fax: (416) 218-3314
mgnjec@cmhc-schl.gc.ca * www.cmhc.ca

HOME TO CANADIANS

Canada

the result of the single detached sector. Expansion of this sector was fuelled by a low interest rate environment, strong job growth and stable migration into the area. The limited availability of resale units coupled with continued strong growth of new home prices also contributed to continued stimulus for single detached construction.

• Although housing starts are at record levels, the trend appears to be easing somewhat. Housing starts on the whole appear to have reached a peak in 2003 and will ease slightly in 2004.

Average Price of New Homes on the Rise

- The average price of a new single detached home increased by 19.3 per cent from the fourth quarter of last year. For the year, the average price of a single detached home increased by 11.4 per cent to finish the year at \$254,362. The largest price appreciations were observed in the Township of Wainfleet, Lincoln Town, and Thorold city with annual increases well above 20 per cent.
- On an annual basis, all submarkets, excluding Port Colborne city, experienced increases in the average price of new detached homes. This appreciation is mainly

the result of two factors. The first is related to higher labour and material costs, which continue to push average prices higher. The second is related to new home sizes. Low mortgage rates increased the purchasing power of consumers making higher priced homes more affordable. This is evident in the annual increase in the number of new homes priced above \$200,000. In 2003, 69 per cent of homes sold for over \$200,000 compared with 48 per cent in 2002.

Solid Economic Conditions

- Low mortgage rates, a low unemployment rate and steady net migration into the area have all contributed to positive macroeconomic conditions that continue to provide a supportive framework for housing activity.
- The St. Catharines-Niagara CMA job market continues to improve. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 6.7 per cent in December from to 7 per cent in November.

Resale Market Remains Hot

• Total sales for St. Catharines-Niagara CMA were up 4.8 per cent from 2002 Q4. The number of new listings grew by 4.2 per cent. Subsequently, the sales-to-new listing ratio dipped slightly from 71 per cent in 2002 Q4 to 70.6 per cent in 2003 Q4. The average price of a home was higher by 5.5 per cent in 2003 Q4.

- on a seasonally adjusted basis sales grew by 2.1 per cent and listings decreased by 1.4 per cent from 2003Q3 to 2003Q4. The seasonally adjusted sales-to-new listings ratio (a measure of market tightness) hit 67 per cent in 2003Q4, up from 65 per cent in the last quarter. This would suggest that the resale market still remains in favour of the seller. With a sales-to-new listing ratio well above the 55 per cent mark in all three districts, the resale market remains in seller's territory.
- In particular the St.

 Catharines district remains very hot.

 Sales grew by 6.3 per cent while
 new listings increased by 1.4 per
 cent from 2002 Q4. With a smaller
 increase in new listings the sales-tonew listings ratio increased to 75
 per cent, up from 71 per cent. With
 new listings remaining in short
 supply relative to sales activity,
 average prices increased by 6.6 per
 cent.
- In the Niagara Falls-Fort Erie district sales grew by 3 per cent while listings increased by 6.5 per cent. As a result, the sales-to-new listing ration dropped from 71 per cent in 2002 Q4 to 68 per cent in 2003 Q4. Nevertheless, price still increased by 4.9 per cent year-over-year, reflecting market tightness.
- In the Welland district sales grew by 3.9 per cent while new listings increased by 7.2 per cent. The sales-to-new listings ratio decreased to 69 per cent. The average price of a home increased by 2.9 per cent from 2002 Q4.

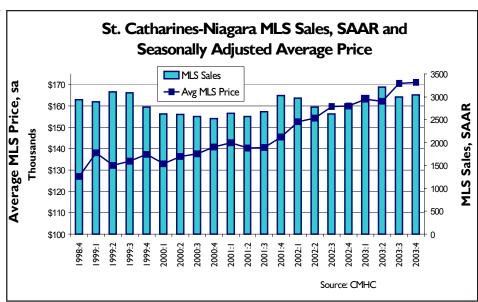


Table I: Housing Activity Summary for St. Catharines-Niagara CMA

	OWNERSHIP RENTAL								
		FREEHOLD		CONDO				GRAND	
	*SINGLE	*SEMI	ROW	ROW	APT	ROW	APT	**TOTAL	
STARTS									
Q4 2003	288	12	30	16	0	0	0	346	
Q4 2002	280	26	40	28	0	0	0	374	
% Change	2.9%	-53.8%	-25.0%	-42.9%	NA	NA	NA	-7.5%	
Year-to-date 2003	1,154	56	146	70	П	0	7	1,444	
Year-to-date 2002	1,032	88	126	63	0	0	8	1,317	
% Change	11.8%	-36.4%	15.9%	11.1%	NA	NA	-12.5%	9.6%	
UNDER CONSTRU	JCTION								
December 2003	469	30	119	134	0	0	3	755	
December 2002	413	44	110	59	0	0	0	634	
COMPLETIONS									
Q4 2003	297	24	36	13	0	0	0	370	
Q4 2002	284	28	45	14	0	0	0	371	
% Change	4.6%	-14.3%	-20.0%	-7.1%	NA	NA	NA	-0.3%	
Year-to-date 2003	1,096	72	118	33	0	0	4	1,323	
Year-to-date 2002	962	86	129	55	0	0	30	1,262	
% Change	13.9%	-16.3%	-8.5%	-40.0%	NA	NA	-86.7%	4.8%	
COMPLETE & NO	T ABSORBE	D							
December 2003	68	6	6	6	0	0	0	86	
December 2002	78	22	9	- 11	0	0	0	120	
ABSORPTIONS									
Q4 2003	301	28	38	13	0	0	0	380	
Q4 2002	276	21	44	15	2	0	2	360	
% Change	9.1%	33.3%	-13.6%	-13.3%	-100.0%	NA	-100.0%	5.6%	
Year-to-date 2003	1,105	88	121	38	0	0	4	1,356	
Year-to-date 2002	966	80	125	57	4	0	33	1,265	
% Change	14.4%	10.0%	-3.2%	-33.3%	NA	NA	-87.9%	7.2%	

^{*}Includes all market types

Source: CMHC

^{**}Year-over-year change greater than 200 per cent

Table 2A: Starts by Area and by Intended Market - Current Quarter

Sub Market	ĺ	SINGLES			MULTIPLES			TOTAL	
Area	Q4 2002	Q4 2003	% change	Q4 2002	Q4 2003	% change	Q4 2002	Q4 2003	% change
St. Catharines-Niagara CMA	280	288	2.9%	94	58	-38.3%	374	346	-7.5%
St. Catharines City	57	51	-10.5%	17	18	5.9%	74	69	-6.8%
Niagara Falls	62	49	-21.0%	24	0	NA	86	49	-43.0%
Welland	39	33	-15.4%	14	14	0.0%	53	47	-11.3%
Lincoln Town	23	19	-17.4%	4	4	0.0%	27	23	-14.8%
Fort Erie	33	30	-9.1%	6	2	-66.7%	39	32	-17.9%
Niagara-on-the-Lake	28	52	85.7%	15	12	-20.0%	43	64	48.8%
Pelham	16	25	56.3%	0	0	NA	16	25	56.3%
Port Colborne City	5	8	60.0%	5	6	20.0%	10	14	40.0%
Thorold City	10	15	50.0%	9	2	-77.8%	19	17	-10.5%
Wainfleet TWP.	7	6	-14.3%	0	0	NA	7	6	-14.3%

Table 2B: Starts by Area and by Intended Market - Year-to-Date

	<u>u. 65 5 / </u>	/ u ca ai	14 0/ 11	10011000	ı ıaı ice			400	
Sub Market		SINGLES			MULTIPLES			TOTAL	
Area	YTD 2002	YTD 2003	% change	YTD 2002	YTD 2003	% change	YTD 2002	YTD 2003	% change
St. Catharines-Niagara CMA	1,032	1,154	11.8%	285	290	1.8%	1,317	1,444	9.6%
St. Catharines City	217	251	15.7%	72	62	-13.9%	289	313	8.3%
Niagara Falls	227	258	13.7%	37	46	24.3%	264	304	15.2%
Welland	138	133	-3.6%	48	93	93.8%	186	226	21.5%
Lincoln Town	110	72	-34.5%	46	7	-84.8%	156	79	-49.4%
Fort Erie	119	116	-2.5%	6	31	**	125	147	17.6%
Niagara-on-the-Lake	88	124	40.9%	43	23	-46.5%	131	147	12.2%
Pelham	60	75	25.0%	0	0	NA	60	75	25.0%
Port Colborne City	19	29	52.6%	14	14	0.0%	33	43	30.3%
Thorold City	28	70	150.0%	19	14	-26.3%	47	84	78.7%
Wainfleet TWP.	26	26	0.0%	0	0	NA	26	26	0.0%

Table 3: Average Price of Completed and Absorbed Single-Detached Dwellings

1 4313 31 7 17 31 463		J 3	a	J J L J		· , , o00
Sub Market Area	Q4 2002	Q4 2003	% Change	YTD 2002	YTD 2003	% Change
St. Catharines-Niagara CMA	\$228,022	\$271,926	19.3%	\$228,244	\$254,362	11.4%
St. Catharines City	\$252,699	\$284,360	12.5%	\$249,911	\$262,441	5.0%
Niagara Falls	\$203,228	\$265,036	30.4%	\$210,603	\$241,810	14.8%
Welland	\$184,948	\$199,829	8.0%	\$179,308	\$191,510	6.8%
Lincoln Town	\$248,463	\$380,137	53.0%	\$236,867	\$299,313	26.4%
Fort Erie	\$218,608	\$202,627	-7.3%	\$204,447	\$224,190	9.7%
Niagara-on-the-Lake	\$283,491	\$360,336	27.1%	\$315,109	\$344,862	9.4%
Pelham	\$287,833	\$323,164	12.3%	\$291,368	\$304,250	4.4%
Port Colborne City	\$208,822	\$198,271	-5.1%	\$198,516	\$191,832	-3.4%
Thorold City	\$179,319	\$236,244	31.7%	\$188,759	\$228,957	21.3%
Wainfleet TWP.	\$174,722	\$272,000	55.7%	\$178,554	\$225,900	26.5%

Source: CMHC

Note: NA may appear where CMHC data suppression rules apply

4 St. Catharines-Niagara Housing Now, Fourth Quarter 2003

Table 4: Completed and Absorbed Single-Detached Units by Price Range

		<u> </u>	picu		7030		_	-Detau				i Valigo	<u> </u>
						PRICE R							
	<\$149,999		\$150,000	1-\$199,999	\$200,000)-\$249,999	\$250,	000-\$299,999	\$30	0,000-\$449,999	\$450	+000	
AREA	Units S	Share (%)	Units	Share (%)	Units	Share (%)	Units	Share (%)	Units	Share (%)	Units	Share (%)	TOTAL
St. Catharin	es-Niagara O	MA											
Q4 2003	14	4.7%	64	21.3%	81	26.9%	52	17.3%	75	24.9%	15	5.0%	301
Q4 2002	17	6.2%	112	40.6%	69	25.0%	35	12.7%	38	13.8%	5	1.8%	276
YTD 2003	48	4.3%	297	26.9%	320	29.0%	187	16.9%	214	19.4%	39	3.5%	1105
YTD 2002	70	7.2%	434	44.6%	216	22.2%	107	11.0%	123	12.6%	24	2.5%	974
St. Catharines	Gtv												
Q4 2003	0	0.0%	10	15.6%	25	39.1%	16	25.0%	8	12.5%	5	7.8%	64
Q4 2002	ı	1.7%	14	23.7%	21	35.6%	12	20.3%	Ш	18.6%	0	0.0%	59
YTD 2003	0	0.0%	42	18.1%	93	40.1%	55	23.7%	34	14.7%	8	3.4%	232
YTD 2002	7	3.4%	59	28.9%	56	27.5%	40	19.6%	41	20.1%	ī	0.5%	204
Niagara Falls								11,070			-		
Q4 2003	0	0.0%	13	22.0%	22	37.3%	12	20.3%	8	13.6%	4	6.8%	59
Q1 2002	0	0.0%	32	69.6%	11	23.9%	12	2.2%	1	2.2%	i	2.2%	46
YTD 2003	6	2.5%	<u>78</u>	32.8%	76	31.9%	43	18.1%	27	11.3%	8	3.4%	238
YTD 2002	<u> </u>	0.4%	157	70.4%	43	19.3%	7	3.1%	7	3.1%	8	3.6%	223
		U.T/6	13/	70.7/0	73	17.3/0		J. 1 /0		3.1/6	-	3.0/6	
Welland		2.00/	10	E4 20/		2F 70/	4	11.40/		F 70/		0.00/	25
Q4 2003	<u> </u>	29%	19	54.3%	9	25.7%	4	11.4%	2	5.7%	0	0.0%	35
Q4 2002	7	16.3%	20	46.5%	11	25.6%	4	9.3%	<u> </u>	2.3%	0	0.0%	43
YTD 2003	6	4.5%	71	53.8%	42	31.8%	10	7.6%	3	2.3%	0	0.0%	132
YTD 2002	25	19.7%	63	49.6%	30	23.6%	8	6.3%	<u> </u>	0.8%	0	0.0%	127
Lincoln Town													
Q4 2003		5.3%	ı	5.3%	4	21.1%	3	15.8%	6	31.6%	4	21.1%	19
Q4 2002	0	0.0%	13	40.6%	Ш	34.4%	2	6.3%	4	12.5%	2	6.3%	32
YTD 2003		1.1%	15	16.5%	33	36.3%	12	13.2%	22	24.2%	8	8.8%	91
YTD 2002	0	0.0%	44	48.4%	23	25.3%	7	7.7%	15	16.5%	2	2.2%	91
Fort Erie													
Q4 2003	9	23.7%	16	42.1%	5	13.2%	3	7.9%	5	13.2%	0	0.0%	38
Q4 2002	7	19.4%	17	47.2%	4	11.1%	2	5.6%	4	11.1%	2	5.6%	36
YTD 2003	24	18.5%	55	42.3%	18	13.8%	10	7.7%	17	13.1%	6	4.6%	130
YTD 2002	30	24.6%	60	49.2%	12	9.8%	6	4.9%	9	7.4%	5	4.1%	122
Nagara-on-th	e-Lake												
Q4 2003	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.6%	5	12.8%	31	79.5%	2	5.1%	39
Q4 2002	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	6	27.3%	7	31.8%	9	40.9%	0	0.0%	22
YTD 2003	0	0.0%	ī	0.9%	21	18.9%	13	11.7%	70	63.1%	6	5.4%	
YTD 2002	0	0.0%	4	5.2%	21	27.3%	23	29.9%	23	29.9%	6	7.8%	77
Pelham		0.070		<u> </u>		27.070							
Q4 2003	0	0.0%		9.1%	1	9.1%	0	0.0%	9	81.8%	0	0.0%	
Q4 2002	0	0.0%	<u>'</u> 	6.7%	3	20.0%	5	33.3%	6	40.0%	0	0.0%	 15
YTD 2003	0		2		8					52.5%	- ' -	1.7%	59
YTD 2002	0	0.0%	5	3.4% 8.1%	<u>2</u> I	13.6% 33.9%	17 10	28.8% 16.1%	31 24	38.7%	2	3.2%	62
		0.0%	3	0.1/6	ZI	33.7/0	10	10.1/6	24	30.7 /o		3.2/0	- 62
Port Colborn	e Cuty	1.4.20/		42.00/		20.40/		0.00/	<u> </u>	1.4.70/		0.00/	
Q4 2003	1	14.3%	3	42.9%	2	28.6%	0	0.0%	1	14.3%	0	0.0%	7
Q4 2002	2	22.2%	3	33.3%	<u> </u>	11.1%	<u> </u>	11.1%	2	22.2%	0	0.0%	9
YTD 2003	2	9.1%	14	63.6%	4	18.2%	0	0.0%	2	9.1%	0	0.0%	22
YTD 2002	3	15.0%		55.0%	I	5.0%	2	10.0%	3	15.0%	0	0.0%	20
Thorold City													
Q4 2003	2	9.1%	I	4.5%	9	40.9%	7	31.8%	3	13.6%	0	0.0%	22
Q4 2002	0	0.0%	4	80.0%	I	20.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5
YTD 2003	9	14.5%	8	12.9%	19	30.6%	20	32.3%	4	6.5%	2	3.2%	62
YTD 2002	3	13.6%	П	50.0%	6	27.3%	2	9.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	22
Wainfleet TV	vP.												
Q4 2003	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	42.9%	2	28.6%	2	28.6%	0	0.0%	7
Q4 2002	0	0.0%	8	88.9%	0	0.0%	ī	11.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	9
YTD 2003	0	0.0%	II	39.3%	6	21.4%	7	25.0%	4	14.3%	0	0.0%	28
YTD 2002	l I	3.8%	20	76.9%	3	11.5%	2	7.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	26
2002	•	3.370		. 5.7/0						0.070			20

Table 5: Resale Housing Activity for St. Catharines-Niagara CMA

i abic 3.	itesaie i i	ousing Ac	civity ioi	St. Cathai	iiics-i tiag	
	Number of		Number of	Sales-to-New	Average	
	Sales	Yr/Yr %	New Listings	Listings	Price (\$)	Yr/Yr %
All districts						
	 					
Q4 2002	1,218	3.6%	1,715	71.0	\$150,738	11.1%
Q4 2003	1,276	4.8%	1,787	70.6	\$159,046	5.5%
YTD 2002	5,951	8.4%	8,828		\$144,720	8.2%
YTD 2003	6,176	3.8%	9,270		\$154,548	6.8%
St. Catharines	s district					
Q4 2002	590	-3.8%	828	71.3	\$161,775	9.7%
Q4 2003	627	6.3%	840	74.6	\$172,470	6.6%
YTD 2002	2,803	2.7%	4,132		\$156,605	9.9%
YTD 2003	3,069	9.5%	4,366		\$166,739	6.5%
Niagara Falls-	Fort Erie					
Q4 2002	371	20.5%	526	70.5	\$140,321	14.3%
Q4 2003	382	3.0%	560	68.2	\$147,193	4.9%
YTD 2002	1,818	16.5%	2,650		\$133,155	6.8%
YTD 2003	1,789	-1.6%	2,876		\$143,839	8.0%
Welland distr	rict					
Q4 2002	257	0.8%	361	71.2	\$140,438	14.4%
Q4 2003	267	3.9%	387	69.0	\$144,479	2.9%
YTD 2002	1,330	10.8%	2,046		\$135,480	7.8%
YTD 2003	1,318	-0.9%	2,028		\$140,699	3.9%

	Annual		Annual		Annual	
	Sales	Yr/Yr %	New Listings	Yr/Yr %	Average Price	Yr/Yr %
1994	5,036	15.2%	13,259	-3.9%	\$117,406	0.7%
1995	4,609	-8.5%	11,983	-9.6%	\$114,252	-2.7%
1996	5,457	18.4%	11,873	-0.9%	\$114,072	-0.2%
1997	5,509	1.0%	11,154	-6.1%	\$117,778	3.2%
998	5,794	5.2%	11,354	1.8%	\$121,981	3.6%
999	5,863	1.2%	9,982	-12.1%	\$126,155	3.4%
2000	5,207	-11.2%	9,310	-6.7%	\$129,390	2.6%
2001	5,488	5.4%	9,221	-1.0%	\$133,715	3.3%
2002	5,951	8.4%	8,828	-4.3%	\$144,720	8.2%
2003	6,176	3.8%	9,270	5.0%	\$154,548	6.8%

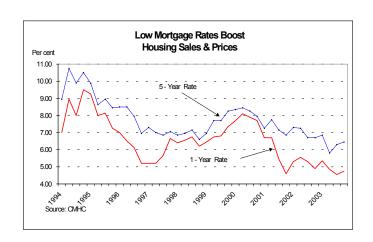
Source: Canadian Real Estate Association

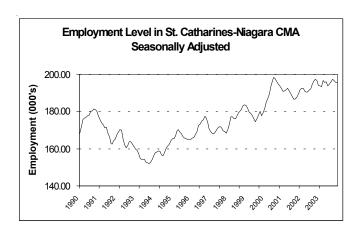
Table 6: Economic Indicators

		Int	erest and Excha	nge Rat	es			St. Catharines-Niagara CMA			
						Inflation Rate	NHPI*** % chg.	L	abour Marke	t	
		D 0 154	Mortgage	Mortgage Rate			St. Catharines-			Unemployment	
		P & I*			Exch. Rate	Ontario	Niagara CMA	Employment	Employment		
		Per \$100,000	I Yr. Term 5 Yı		(\$US/\$Cdn)	1996=100	1997=100	SA** (,000)	SA m/m (%)	Rate (%) SA	
2002	January	\$700.42	4.6%	7.0%	0.630	1.2%	3.1%	192.6	0.4%	6.6%	
	February	\$691.18	4.6%	6.9%	0.624	1.4%	2.0%	192.5	-0.1%	7.1%	
	March	\$719.04	5.3%	7.3%	0.627	1.9%	1.3%	190.9	-0.8%	7.4%	
	April	\$728.42	5.4%	7.5%	0.638	1.4%	2.2%	190.7	-0.1%	7.7%	
	May	\$725.28	5.6%	7.4%	0.654	0.8%	1.9%	190.4	-0.2%	7.7%	
	June	\$715.92	5.6%	7.3%	0.660	1.2%	1.9%	191.4	0.5%	7.1%	
	July	\$703.51	5.4%	7.1%	0.632	2.1%	1.7%	192.2	0.4%	6.8%	
	August	\$688.11	5.4%	6.8%	0.642	2.9%	1.9%	194.6	1.2%	6.4%	
	September	\$681.99	5.3%	6.7%	0.630	2.3%	0.9%	196.4	0.9%	6.7%	
	October	\$700.42	5.3%	7.0%	0.642	2.8%	1.9%	197.4	0.5%	6.7%	
	November	\$681.99	4.9%	6.7%	0.639	3.8%	1.9%	196.7	-0.4%	6.9%	
	December	\$681.99	4.9%	6.7%	0.634	2.8%	2.6%	194.0	-1.4%	7.5%	
2003	January	\$666.80	4.9%	6.5%	0.657	4.3%	3.1%	193.7	-0.2%	7.5%	
	February	\$675.90	4.9%	6.6%	0.674	4.4%	3.3%	193.5	-0.1%	7.6%	
	March	\$691.18	5.4%	6.9%	0.681	3.3%	3.5%	196.7	1.7%	6.6%	
	April	\$678.94	5.4%	6.7%	0.698	2.3%	3.1%	195.9	-0.4%	6.5%	
	May	\$648.75	5.1%	6.2%	0.731	2.7%	4.3%	196.1	0.1%	6.1%	
	lune	\$627.97	4.9%	5.8%	0.742	2.5%	5.0%	193.7	-1.2%	6.7%	
	July	\$651.74	4.6%	6.2%	0.712	1.9%	5.3%	194.8	0.6%	6.8%	
	August	\$660.76	4.6%	6.4%	0.722	1.7%	5.4%	196.0	0.6%	6.9%	
	September		4.6%	6.3%	0.741	2.2%	6.2%	197.3	0.7%	6.8%	
	October	\$663.77	4.6%	6.4%	0.758	1.7%	5.8%	196.9	-0.2%	6.9%	
	November		4.8%	6.5%	0.770	1.7%	7.5%	195.7	-0.6%	7.0%	
	December		4.8%	6.5%	0.771	3.0%		195.7	0.0%	6.7%	
		Ψ000.00	1.070	0.570	0., 7 1	2.070		.,,,,	3.070	0.7	

st Payment and Interest, 5yr mortgage rate, 25yr amortization

Source: CMHC, Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey





^{**} Seasonally Adjusted

^{***} New Housing Price Index

Definitions

- **1. Starts:** refers to units where construction has advanced to a stage where full (100%) footings are in place. For multiple dwellings (semi-detached, row housing and apartments) the definition of a start applies to the structure or block of row units rather than to the project as a whole.
- 2. Under Construction: those units which have been started but which are not complete.
- **3. Completions Single-detached/semi-detached units:** this generally is the stage at which all proposed construction work is complete. A unit may be completed at the 90% stage where the remaining work is largely cosmetic. **Row housing/ Apartment:** completions means that 90% or more of the dwelling units within a block of row units or an apartment structure are completed and ready for occupancy
- **4. Completed and Not Absorbed**: all completed units of new construction (excluding model homes not available for sale) which have never been sold or leased.
- 5. Absorptions: the number of completed units (excluding model homes) that have been sold or leased.
- 6. Seasonally Adjusted (SA): Actual monthly (or quarterly) figures adjusted to remove normal seasonal variation.
- 7. Seasonally Adjust Annual Rates (SAAR): Seasonally adjusted monthly figures multiplied by 12 (or quarterly figures multiplied by 4) to reflect annualized levels of activity.
- 8. Definitions for CMA, NHPI, CPI, and Inflation Rate can be found in the Statistics Canada website http://www.statcan.ca

Your Guide to Renting a Home – CMHC's new, online guide for tenants, landlords, and property managers

CMHC is breaking new ground with the introduction of "Your Guide to Renting a Home". A comprehensive rental guide, developed by the Research and Information Transfer team, this free, online tool launched this spring. It will help the estimated four million Canadian households in rental accommodation, as well as landlords and property managers, to find plain language information on tenant and landlord rights and rental practices across the country.

"Your Guide to Renting a Home" is located on the CMHC Web site at www.cmhc.ca. From the left-hand menu, you can select "Buying or Renting a Home" and click on "Renting a Home".

Are you looking to pass on valuable information to your clients that will assist them in operating and maintain their homes? If yes, consider using Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's free **About Your House** series as a resource. Easy to read and understand, **About Your House** fact sheets provide homeowners with information on common housing questions, issues and problems. To download the series or order them on-line click on www.cmhc.ca.

For more information, or to order by phone, call 1-800-668-2642.

Housing Now is published four times a year. An annual subscription to the St. Catharines-Niagara Housing Now is \$55 plus GST. The subscription also includes a 4-page Forecast Summary report as a supplement with the 1st and 3rd quarter Housing Now reports. For more information and to order; please call Ontario Market Analysis customer service at 1-800-493-0059.