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London

YOUR LINK TO THE HOUSING MARKET

New Homes

Single-detached starts surge in 2nd Quarter

On the heels of a strong opening quarter, 714 single-detached homes were started in the 2nd quarter. This is up 33.7 per cent over last year and the highest second quarter in the London CMA (census metropolitan area) in 15 years. Construction was robust in each of London CMA's three largest markets:

London (510 singles, +39%); St. Thomas (85 singles, +47%); and, Strathroy-Caradoc (49 singles, +29%).

Driving up new home starts and sales is a strong local economy. Employment reached a new high at the end of June and the

1200

seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped sharply to 4.9%, lowest among major centres in Ontario and third lowest nationally. Five-year mortgage rates moved up one percentage point in Q2 from a low of 5.7% in March to 6.7% in June. However, 5-year rates and short term rates remain very low from a historical perspective and housing affordability continues to be favourable (see graph page 7).

London's second major rental apartment project, a 140-unit building was started in June. Private rental starts during the 1st half totalled 319 apartment units and 48 row housing units, marking the second consecutive year of above-average rental construction activity.

ISSUE 23 SECOND QUARTER 2004

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

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Row home ownership starts totalled just 65 units in the first 6 months of 2004 (down 10%) but several new developments are expected to be underway in Q3.

The average price of a new single was \$240,242 in the first half of 2004, up 6.2%. One third of new homes completed and sold in the London CMA were priced at or above \$250,000 with16% at \$300,000+.



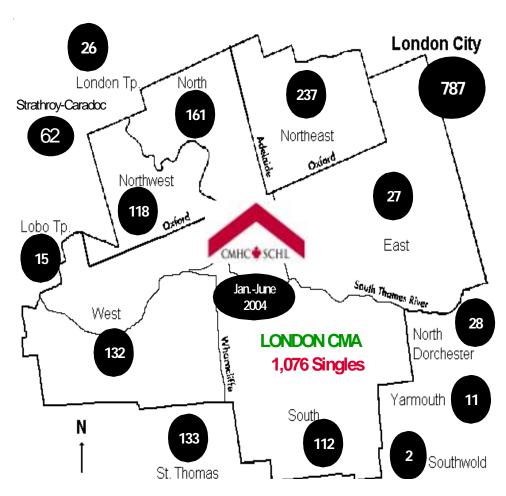
London CMA Housing Starts

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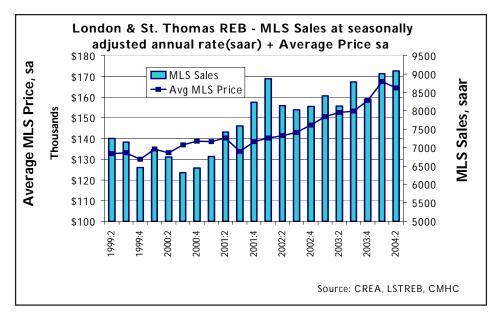
HOME TO CANADIANS

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WHERE'S THE HAMMERING BY SUB-MARKET



Source: CMHC



First half 2004 single detached home starts

The map shows the location of single-detached new home starts in the City of London and the surrounding markets which make up London CMA (census metropolitan area).

73.1% of the 1,076 single starts took place in London (787 units) and 12.4% in St. Thomas (133 units). Not shown are 4 singles in Port Stanley and 7 singles in Delaware.

2nd Quarter MLS sales on record pace

Rising employment levels and strong consumer sentiment more than offset the one percentage point rise in the five-year mortgage rate from a low of 5.7% in March to 6.7% in June. MLS home sales in the London & St. Thomas Real Estate Board were up 11 per cent in the 2nd quarter and are up 13 per cent in the first half of 2004.

The robust sales pace set in the 1st quarter enticed more sellers to list their homes in the 2nd quarter. However, Sellers' market conditions prevail with the average MLS price up 9.1 per cent in the first half of 2004 to \$166,624.



Table 1: Housing Activity Summary for London CMA

		OV	VNERSHIP			RENTA	L	
		REEHOLD		CONDOMI	MUIV			GRAND
	*SINGLE	*SEMI	ROW	ROW	APT	ROW	APT	TOTAL
STARTS								
Q2 2004	714	2	0	49	0	41	144	950
Q2 2003	534	2	14	53	0	0	156	759
% Change	33.7%	0.0%	-100.0%	-7.5%	NA	NA	-7.7%	25.2%
Year-to-date 2004	1,076	2	0	65	80	48	319	1,590
Year-to-date 2003	849	4	31	72	0	0	457	1,413
% Change	26.7%	-50.0%	-100.0%	-9.7%	NA	NA	-30.2%	12.5%
UNDER CONSTRUC	CTION							
June 2004	806	2	15	187	80	50	836	1,976
June 2003	618	8	38	168	0	0	733	1,565
COMPLETIONS								
Q2 2004	473	2	7	41	0	37	533	1,093
Q2 2003	405	2	6	52	0	0	22	487
% Change	16.8%	0.0%	16.7%	-21.2%	NA	NA	**	124.4%
Year-to-date 2004	866	16	19	62	0	37	533	1,533
Year-to-date 2003	749	10	15	118	0	0	22	914
% Change	15.6%	60.0%	26.7%	-47.5%	NA	NA	**	67.7%
COMPLETE & NOT	ABSORBED							
June 2004	66	0	2	33	0	30	327	458
June 2003	69	1	6	45	0	0	1	122
ABSORPTIONS								
Q2 2004	482	5	11	45	0	7	207	757
Q2 2003	401	2	8	63	0	0	24	498
% Change	20.2%	150.0%	37.5%	-28.6%	NA	NA	**	52.0%
Year-to-date 2004	864	16	22	65	0	7	207	1,181
Year-to-date 2003	745	9	13	117	0	0	26	910
% Change	16.0%	77.8%	69.2%	-44.4%	NA	NA	**	29.8%

^{*} Includes all market types

Source: CMHC

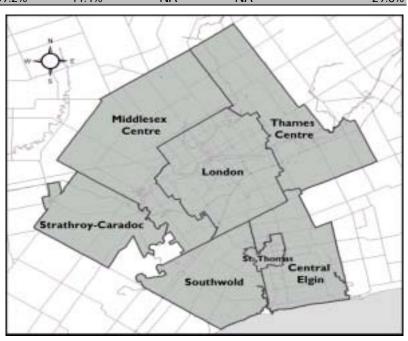
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^{**} Year-over-year change greater than 200 per cent.

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

Sub Market		SINGLES	j		MULTIPLES			TOTAL	
Area	Q2 2003	Q2 2004	% change	Q2 2003	Q2 2004	% change	Q2 2003	Q2 2004	% change
London CMA	534	714	33.7%	225	236	4.9%	759	950	25.2%
London City	366	510	39.3%	213	221	3.8%	579	731	26.3%
St. Thomas City	58	85	46.6%	0	0	NA	58	85	46.6%
Central Elgin	10	14	40.0%	3	0	-100.0%	13	14	7.7%
Middlesex Centre	30	35	16.7%	7	0	-100.0%	37	35	-5.4%
Southwold Twp.	5	2	-60.0%	0	0	NA	5	2	-60.0%
Strathroy-Caradoc Twp.	38	49	28.9%	2	2	0.0%	40	51	27.5%
Thames Centre	27	19	-29.6%	0	13	NA	27	32	18.5%

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

				<i>J</i>					
Sub Market	SINGLES				MULTIPLES		TOTAL		
Area	YTD 2003	YTD 2004	% change	YTD 2003	YTD 2004	% change	YTD 2003	YTD 2004	% change
London CMA	849	1,076	26.7%	564	514	-8.9%	1,413	1,590	12.5%
London City	601	787	30.9%	552	499	-9.6%	1,153	1,286	11.5%
St. Thomas City	95	133	40.0%	0	0	NA	95	133	40.0%
Central Elgin	14	15	7.1%	3	0	-100.0%	17	15	-11.8%
Middlesex Centre	49	48	-2.0%	7	0	-100.0%	56	48	-14.3%
Southwold Twp.	6	2	-66.7%	0	0	NA	6	2	-66.7%
Strathroy-Caradoc Twp.	49	62	26.5%	2	2	0.0%	51	64	25.5%
Thames Centre	35	29	-17.1%	0	13	NA	35	42	20.0%

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

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Sub Market Area	O2 2003	O2 2004	% Change	YTD 2003	YTD 2004	% Change
London CMA	\$227,428	\$241,023	6.0%	\$226,146	\$240,242	6.2%
London City	\$233,329	\$247,495	6.1%	\$235,005	\$243,931	3.8%
St. Thomas City	\$192,002	\$172,788	-10.0%	\$186,615	\$177,226	-5.0%
Central Elgin	\$246,667	\$317,727	28.8%	\$240,500	\$259,840	8.0%
Middlesex Centre	\$249,342	\$282,494	13.3%	\$241,263	\$285,358	18.3%
Southwold Twp.	\$153,000	NA	NA	\$224,917	\$287,500	NA
Strathroy-Caradoc Twp.	\$197,158	\$214,813	9.0%	\$178,219	\$198,444	11.3%
Thames Centre	\$258,614	\$291,133	12.6%	\$255,965	\$323,745	26.5%
-						

Note: NA may appear where CMHC data suppression rules apply

Source: CMHC

Note: Municipal amalgamations resulted in the creation of the Municipality of Central Elgin (formerly Belmont, Port Stanley and Yarmouth Township); the Municipality of Thames Centre (formerly the Townships of North Dorchester and West Nissouri); and, the Township of Middlesex Centre (formerly the Townships of Delaware, Lobo, and London). The amalgamated centre of Strathroy-Caradoc Township was first surveyed as component of the London Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) in 2002. The change in the components of the London CMA was based on the results of the 2001 Census of Canada.

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

1 4010 11	PRICE RANGES											
	<\$	149,999	\$150 -	\$174,999		249,999		299,999	\$	300,000+		
AREA	Units	Share (%)	Units		Units	Share (%)	Units	Share (%)		Share (%)	TOTAL	
London CIMA		Ì										
O2 2004	16	3%	76	16%	234	49%	69	15%	80	17%	475	
O2 2003	37	9%	51	13%	209	52%	56	14%	48	12%	401	
YTD 2004	32	4%	140	16%	413	48%	136	16%	136	16%	857	
YTD 2003	70	9%	126	17%	364	49%	106	14%	79	11%	745	
London City												
O2 2004	4	1%	42	12%	188	54%	55	16%	59	17%	348	
O2 2003	25	9%	30	11%	143	52%	44	16%	35	13%	277	
YTD 2004	10	2%	85	14%	307	51%	105	17%	97	16%	604	
YTD 2003	44	9%	71	14%	250	49%	84	17%	60	12%	509	
St. Thomas City												
O2 2004	11	17%	28	42%	26	39%	1	2%	0	0%	66	
O2 2003	11	20%	12	22%	24	44%	4	7%	4	7%	55	
YTD 2004	18	17%	42	40%	41	39%	5	5%	0	0%	106	
YTD 2003	15	17%	24	27%	40	45%	4	5%	5	6%	88	
Central Elgin												
O2 2004	0	0%	2	18%	1	9%	1	9%	7	64%	11	
O2 2003	0	0%	0	0%	4	67%	1	17%	1	17%	6	
YTD 2004	0	0%	3	12%	11	44%	2	8%	9	36%	25	
YTD 2003	0	0%	0	0%	6	60%	3	30%	1	10%	10	
Middlesex Centre	_											
O2 2004	0	0%	0	0%	5	31%	5	31%	6	38%	16	
O2 2003	0	0%	0	0%	12	63%	4	21%	3	16%	19	
YTD 2004	0	0%	1	3%	13	33%	10	26%	15	38%	39	
YTD 2003	0	0%	0	0%	23	70%	6	18%	4	12%	33	
Southwold Twp.												
O2 2004	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3	100%	3	
O2 2003	1	25%	1	25%	2	50%	0	0%	0	0%	4	
YTD 2004	0	0%	2	33%	0	0%	1	17%	3	50%	6	
YTD 2003	6	50%	1	8%	3	25%	0	0%	2	17%	12	
Strathroy-Caradoc Twp.												
O2 2004	1	6%	4	25%	8	50%	1	6%	2	13%	16	
O2 2003	0	0%	7	37%	10	53%	0	0%	2	11%	19	
YTD 2004	4	11%	7	19%	21	58%	2	6%	2	6%	36	
YTD 2003	5	9%	29	51%	20	35%	1	2%	2	4%	57	
Thames Centre												
O2 2004	0	0%	0	0%	6	40%	6	40%	3	20%	15	
O2 2003	0	0%	1	5%	14	67%	3	14%	3	14%	21	
YTD 2004	0	0%	0	0%	20	49%	11	27%	10	24%	41	
YTD 2003	0	0%	1	3%	22	61%	8	22%	5	14%	36	

Note: N/A may appear where CMHC data suppression rules apply.

Market shares by price range rounded to nearest whole number

Source: CMHC

Table 5: Resale Housing Activity for London & St. Thomas Real Estate Board

	Table 5.	Resale n	ousii iy <i>F</i>	- Clivity	TOI LOIK	JUII & 31.	. 111011185	Real Esta	le duai	u
		Number of Sales	Yr/Yr %	Sales SAAR	Number of New Listings	New Listings SAAR	Sales-to-New Listings SA	Average Price (\$)	Yr/Yr %	Average Price (\$) SA
2003	January	504	-1.8%	9,200	1,013	12,000	76.3	\$147,527	10.8%	\$150,218
	February	641	-12.4%	7,900	1,020	11,900	66.3	\$148,486	1.9%	\$148,365
	March	749	-3.9%	8,100	1,242	12,900	62.7	\$153,924	12.1%	\$152,734
	April	888	-7.1%	7,900	1,303	12,500	63.4	\$150,488	5.8%	\$151,494
	May	859	-1.5%	8,000	1,378	13,200	61.0	\$156,732	6.3%	\$151,847
	June	853	9.5%	8,400	1,153	12,800	66.0	\$156,328	10.1%	\$153,979
	July	920	21.2%	9,300	1,350	14,200	65.6	\$153,509	5.9%	\$148,856
	August	700	-1.4%	8,400	970	12,700	65.8	\$155,500	9.6%	\$157,421
	September	694	14.7%	8,600	1,142	13,300	64.8	\$153,267	5.3%	\$153,922
	October	644	4.4%	8,700	934	12,800	68.2	\$156,331	8.3%	\$156,279
	November	556	-3.6%	8,400	773	12,600	66.8	\$151,770	7.5%	\$157,205
	December	404	3.3%	7,900	567	13,100	60.0	\$159,529	9.5%	\$162,069
2004	January	443	-12.1%	8,200	1,010	12,200	67.1	\$167,090	13.3%	\$169,375
	February	701	9.4%	8,500	1,024	12,300	68.5	\$163,715	10.3%	\$171,767
	March	1049	40.1%	10,400	1,519	14,200	72.9	\$165,469	7.5%	\$162,686
	April	963	8.4%	8,900	1,517	14,100	63.3	\$169,899	12.9%	\$169,439
	May	1002	16.6%	9,900	1,476	14,300	68.9	\$168,836	7.7%	\$158,436
	June	921	8.0%	8,400	1,433	14,900	56.5	\$164,097	5.0%	\$165,737
	July									
	August									
	September									
	October									
	November									
	December				_					-
	C)2 2003	2,600	-0.3%	8,100	3,834	12,800	63.4	\$154,467	7.4%	\$152,471
	<u>O2 2004</u>	2,886	11.0%	9,100	4,426	14,500	62.8	\$167,678	8.6%	\$164,308
	YTD 2003	4,494	-3.0%		7,109			\$152,745	7.7%	
	YTD 2004	5,079	13.0%		7,979			\$166,624	9.1%	

	Annual		Annual		Annual		
	Sales	Yr/Yr %	New Listings	Yr/Yr %	Average Price	Yr/Yr %	
1994	5,954	-0.2%	16,107	3.8%	\$135,597	0.0%	
1995	5,510	-7.5%	15,843	-1.6%	\$128,643	-5.1%	
1996	6,906	25.3%	16,421	3.6%	\$129,338	0.5%	
1997	6,454	-6.5%	15,784	-3.9%	\$131,382	1.6%	
1998	6,562	1.7%	15,258	-3.3%	\$131,299	-0.1%	
1999	6,864	4.6%	13,661	-10.5%	\$131,254	0.0%	
2000	6,616	-3.6%	13,598	-0.5%	\$135,857	3.5%	
2001	7,503	13.4%	13,434	-1.2%	\$137,717	1.4%	
2002	8,290	10.5%	12,907	-3.9%	\$142,745	3.7%	
2003	8,412	1.5%	12,845	-0.5%	\$153,637	7.6%	

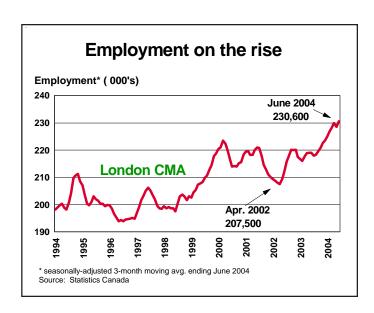
Source: Canadian Real Estate Association

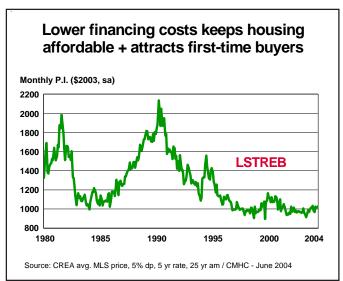
Table 6: Economic Indicators

		1	15		i di di a					
	P & I*	Mortga	ge Rate	Exch. Rate	Ontario	London CMA	Employment	Employment	Unemployment	
	Per \$100,000	1 Yr. Term	5 Yr. Term	(\$US/\$Cdn)	1996=100	1997=100	SA** (,000)	SA m/m (%)	Rate (%) SA	
January	\$666.80	4.9%	6.5%	0.657	4.3%	2.6%	216.7	-0.4%	6.7%	
February	\$675.90	4.9%	6.6%	0.674	4.4%	3.3%	216.1	-0.3%	6.8%	
March	\$691.18	5.4%	6.9%	0.681	3.3%	4.7%	217.8	0.8%	6.7%	
April	\$678.94	5.4%	6.7%	0.698	2.3%	5.0%	218.8	0.5%	6.8%	
May	\$648.75	5.1%	6.2%	0.731	2.7%	5.5%	219.1	0.1%	6.9%	
June	\$627.97	4.9%	5.8%	0.742	2.5%	4.9%	219.0	0.0%	6.7%	
July	\$651.74	4.6%	6.2%	0.712	1.9%	5.3%	218.0	-0.5%	6.3%	
August	\$660.76	4.6%	6.4%	0.722	1.7%	5.1%	218.3	0.1%	6.6%	
September	\$657.75	4.6%	6.3%	0.741	2.2%	4.9%	219.7	0.6%	7.1%	
October	\$663.77	4.6%	6.4%	0.758	1.7%	3.6%	220.8	0.5%	7.7%	
November	\$669.82	4.8%	6.5%	0.770	1.7%	5.4%	222.7	0.9%	7.4%	
December	\$666.80	4.8%	6.5%	0.771	3.0%	6.2%	223.5	0.4%	7.2%	
January	\$642.78	4.3%	6.1%	0.755	1.5%	5.0%	225.1	0.7%	7.0%	
February	\$627.97	4.3%	5.8%	0.749	0.8%	6.1%	226.8	0.8%	7.0%	
March	\$622.08	4.3%	5.7%	0.763	1.1%	5.2%	228.3	0.7%	6.3%	
April	\$648.75	4.5%	6.2%	0.729	2.3%	4.3%	230.0	0.7%	5.9%	
May	\$669.82	4.6%	6.5%	0.733	2.8%	4.3%	228.5	-0.7%	5.3%	
June	\$681.99	4.7%	6.7%	0.750	2.4%		230.6	0.9%	4.9%	
July										
August										
September										
October										
November										
December										
	February March April May June July August September October November December January February March April May June July August September October November	P & I* Per \$100,000 January \$6666.80 February \$675.90 March \$691.18 April \$678.94 May \$648.75 June \$627.97 July \$651.74 August \$660.76 September \$657.75 October \$663.77 November \$669.82 December \$666.80 January \$642.78 February \$627.97 March \$622.08 April \$648.75 May \$669.82 June \$681.99 July August September October November	P & I* Mortgal Per \$100,000 1 Yr. Term \$6666.80 4.9% February \$675.90 4.9% March \$691.18 5.4% April \$678.94 5.4% May \$648.75 5.1% June \$627.97 4.9% July \$651.74 4.6% August \$660.76 4.6% September \$663.77 4.6% November \$669.82 4.8% December \$666.80 4.8% January \$642.78 4.3% February \$627.97 4.3% March \$622.08 4.3% April \$648.75 4.5% May \$669.82 4.6% June \$681.99 4.7% July August September October November October	P & I* Per \$100,000	Per \$100,000 1 Yr. Term 5 Yr. Term (\$US/\$Cdn) January \$666.80 4.9% 6.5% 0.657 February \$675.90 4.9% 6.6% 0.674 March \$691.18 5.4% 6.9% 0.681 April \$678.94 5.4% 6.7% 0.698 May \$648.75 5.1% 6.2% 0.731 June \$627.97 4.9% 5.8% 0.742 July \$651.74 4.6% 6.2% 0.712 August \$660.76 4.6% 6.4% 0.722 September \$657.75 4.6% 6.3% 0.741 October \$663.77 4.6% 6.4% 0.758 November \$669.82 4.8% 6.5% 0.770 December \$666.80 4.8% 6.5% 0.771 January \$642.78 4.3% 6.1% 0.755 February \$627.97 4.3% 5.8% 0.749 March \$622.08 4.3% 5.7% 0.763 April \$648.75 4.5% 6.2% 0.729 May \$669.82 4.6% 6.5% 0.733 June \$681.99 4.7% 6.7% 0.750 July August September October November	P & I* Mortgage Rate Exch. Rate Per \$100,000 1 Yr. Term 5 Yr. Term (\$US/\$Cdn) 1996=100	P & I* Mortgage Rate Exch. Rate (SUS/\$Cdn) Ontario 1996=100 London CMA 1997=100 January \$666.80 4.9% 6.5% 0.657 4.3% 2.6% February \$675.90 4.9% 6.6% 0.674 4.4% 3.3% March \$691.18 5.4% 6.9% 0.681 3.3% 4.7% April \$678.94 5.4% 6.7% 0.698 2.3% 5.0% May \$648.75 5.1% 6.2% 0.731 2.7% 5.5% June \$627.97 4.9% 5.8% 0.742 2.5% 4.9% July \$651.74 4.6% 6.2% 0.712 1.9% 5.3% August \$660.76 4.6% 6.4% 0.722 1.7% 5.1% September \$657.75 4.6% 6.3% 0.741 2.2% 4.9% October \$663.77 4.6% 6.4% 0.758 1.7% 3.6% November \$666.80 <td< td=""><td>Image: Per \$100,000 Mortgage Rate Per \$100,000 Exch. Rate (SUS/\$Cdn) Ontario 1996=100 London CIMA 1997=100 Employment SA** (000) January \$666.80 4.9% 6.5% 0.657 4.3% 2.6% 216.7 February \$675.90 4.9% 6.6% 0.674 4.4% 3.3% 216.1 March \$691.18 5.4% 6.9% 0.681 3.3% 4.7% 217.8 April \$678.94 5.4% 6.7% 0.698 2.3% 5.0% 218.8 May \$648.75 5.1% 6.2% 0.731 2.7% 5.5% 219.1 June \$627.97 4.9% 5.8% 0.742 2.5% 4.9% 219.0 July \$651.74 4.6% 6.2% 0.712 1.9% 5.3% 218.0 August \$660.76 4.6% 6.4% 0.722 1.7% 5.1% 220.3 September \$657.75 4.6% 6.3% 0.741 2.2% 4.9% <td< td=""><td> P & I</td></td<></td></td<>	Image: Per \$100,000 Mortgage Rate Per \$100,000 Exch. Rate (SUS/\$Cdn) Ontario 1996=100 London CIMA 1997=100 Employment SA** (000) January \$666.80 4.9% 6.5% 0.657 4.3% 2.6% 216.7 February \$675.90 4.9% 6.6% 0.674 4.4% 3.3% 216.1 March \$691.18 5.4% 6.9% 0.681 3.3% 4.7% 217.8 April \$678.94 5.4% 6.7% 0.698 2.3% 5.0% 218.8 May \$648.75 5.1% 6.2% 0.731 2.7% 5.5% 219.1 June \$627.97 4.9% 5.8% 0.742 2.5% 4.9% 219.0 July \$651.74 4.6% 6.2% 0.712 1.9% 5.3% 218.0 August \$660.76 4.6% 6.4% 0.722 1.7% 5.1% 220.3 September \$657.75 4.6% 6.3% 0.741 2.2% 4.9% <td< td=""><td> P & I</td></td<>	P & I	

^{*} Principal and Interest Payment assumes a five year mortgage rate and 25 year amortization period.

Sources: CMHC, Statistics Canada, Bank of Canada





^{**} 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

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