

## OUSING NOW

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Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

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#### **New Homes**

## Single-detached starts ease slightly in the first quarter of 2005

Solid local employment conditions and low mortgage rates continued to support a high level of demand for housing in the opening quarter of 2005. In the London metro region, there were 332 single-detached new homes started in the first quarter, an 8 per cent decrease from the 362 units underway during the same period in 2004.

Sales of existing homes and new home starts on singles are both expected to pullback from the record-breaking levels reached in 2004. Counter to this downward trend is the increase in townhouse condominium starts. There are a

number of new developments in London and St. Thomas which together with single-detached condos will target the traditional empty nester segment as well as younger families. In the first quarter, 44 townhouse condominium units were started, up from 16 units in 2004. There were 24 single detached condos started in 2005:Q1

Rental apartment construction is also expected to grow in 2005. Two projects totalling 249 units have been started. These include a luxury 159-unit high-rise in Northwest London and a 90-unit development in downtown London under the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program. Higher multiple housing starts in the first quarter has limited

#### ISSUE 26 FIRST QUARTER 2005

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6 MLS sales decrease in Q1

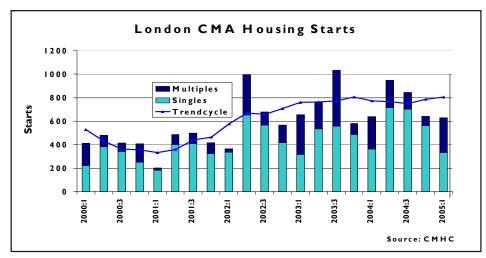
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7 Employment turns up

the decrease in total starts (629 units) to just two per cent.

Northeast London retained its status as the most active sub-market in London for single-detached homes with 68 starts. However, starts were down 19 per cent compared to last year. Sub-markets recording first quarter gains were Northwest London (58 units) and West London (49 units).

The average sale price for completed and sold singles in the London CMA, was \$260,521 in 2005: Q1, an 8.9% or \$20,000 increase. One in five of these absorbed units had a sales price of at least \$300,000. In London City almost one-quarter of single absorptions were at the high end of the price range.



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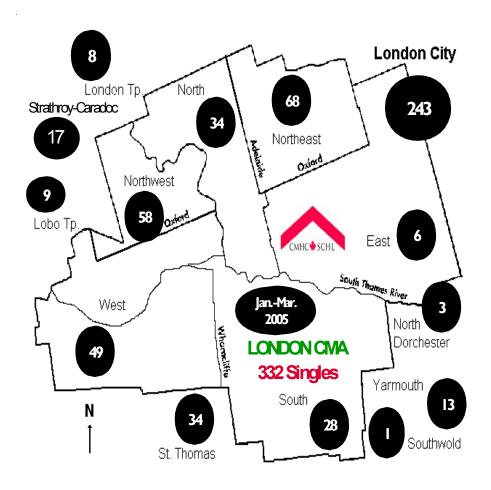
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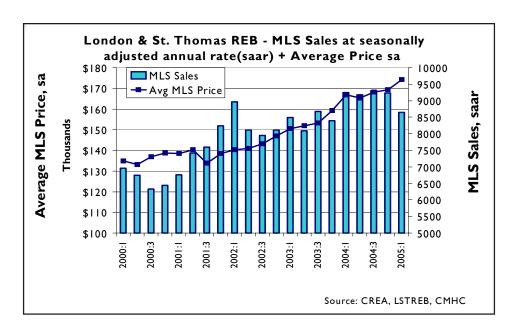




# WHERE'S THE HAMMERING BY SUB-MARKET



Source: CMHC



## London metro's 2005:QI single-detached starts

The adjacent 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% or 243 of the 332 single starts were in London and 10% in St. Thomas (34 units). Not shown on the map are 4 units started in Port Stanley. There were no starts in Delaware or West Nissouri.

## MLS Sales down in 2005: Q1 from record

MLS home sales in the London & St. Thomas Real Estate area have been on the decline since January, posting an 11.5 per cent decrease in the first quarter with 1,940 units sold. Sales are still very high but below the peak level set in 2004, the 4th consecutive year of record sales.

Although sales are off to a slightly slower start in 2005, the average MLS price is up 5.8 per cent to almost \$175,000 in the first quarter compared to \$166,800 at this time last year.

New listings posted year-overyear increases in January and February but were down sharply in March. The sales-to-new listings ratio remained above 60% in the first quarter, an indicator of a Sellers' market.



Table 1: Housing Activity Summary for London CMA

	OWNERSHI			<i>'</i>		RENTAL		
		EEHOLD		CONDOMINI	UM			GRAND
	*SINGLE	*SEMI	ROW	ROW	APT	ROW	APT	TOTAL
STARTS								
QI 2005	332	4	0	44	0	0	249	629
QI 2004	362	0	0	16	80	7	175	640
% Change	-8.3	NA	NA	175.0	-100.0	-100.0	42.3	-1.7
Year-to-date 2005	332	4	0	44	0	0	249	629
Year-to-date 2004	362	0	0	16	80	7	175	640
% Change	-8.3	NA	NA	175.0	-100.0	-100.0	42.3	-1.7
UNDER CONSTRUCT	ION							
March 2005	591	22	6	187	80	16	578	1,480
March 2004	564	2	22	187	80	46	1,216	2,117
COMPLETIONS								
Q1 2005	430	2	6	41	0	6	229	714
QI 2004	393	14	12	21	0	0	0	440
% Change	9.4	-85.7	-50.0	95.2	NA	NA	NA	62.3
Year-to-date 2005	430	2	6	41	0	6	229	714
Year-to-date 2004	393	14	12	21	0	0	0	440
% Change	9.4	-85.7	-50.0	95.2	NA	NA	NA	62.3
COMPLETE & NOT A	BSORBED							
March 2005	111	0	6	65	0	7	461	650
March 2004	72	3	6	37	0	0	I	119
ABSORPTIONS								
QI 2005	425	2	0	29	0	П	53	520
QI 2004	382	П	П	20	0	0	0	424
% Change	11.3	-81.8	-100.0	45.0	NA	NA	NA	22.6
Year-to-date 2005	425	2	0	29	0	П	53	520
Year-to-date 2004	382	П	П	20	0	0	0	424
% Change	11.3	-81.8	-100.0	45.0	NA	NA	NA	22.6

<sup>\*</sup> Includes all market types

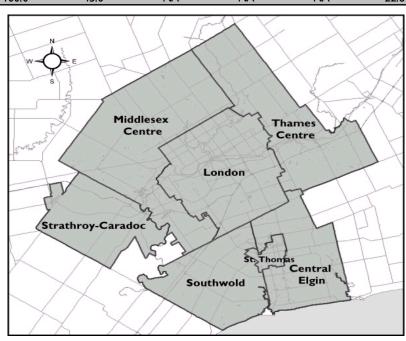
#### Source: CMHC

#### Mark your Calendar

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CMHC's 10th Annual **London Metro Housing Outlook Conference** 

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<sup>\*\*</sup> Year-over-year change greater than 200 per cent.

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

		25 5 / / 1.	ou und	of meerided riarrest Garrent Caurer							
Sub Market		SINGLES			MULTIPLES		TOTAL				
Area	QI 2004	QI 2005	% change	Q1 2004	QI 2005	% change	Q1 2004	Q1 2005	% change		
London CMA	362	332	-8.3	278	297	6.8	640	629	-1.7		
London City	277	243	-12.3	278	293	5.4	555	536	-3.4		
St. Thomas City	48	34	-29.2	0	4	NA	48	38	-20.8		
Central Elgin	I	17	**	0	0	NA	I	17	**		
Middlesex Centre	13	17	30.8	0	0	NA	13	17	30.8		
Southwold Twp.	0	I	NA	0	0	NA	0	l	NA		
Strathroy-Caradoc Twp.	13	17	30.8	0	0	NA	13	17	30.8		
Thames Centre	10	3	-70.0	0	0	NA	10	3	-70.0		

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

Table 2B. Sail & By Table 1 The Table 1 Car to Bate										
Sub Market		SINGLES			MULTIPLES			TOTAL		
Area	YTD 2004	YTD 2005	% change	YTD 2004	YTD 2005	% change	YTD 2004	YTD 2005	% change	
London CMA	362	332	-8.3	278	297	6.8	640	629	-1.7	
London City	277	243	-12.3	278	293	5.4	555	536	-3.4	
St. Thomas City	48	34	-29.2	0	4	NA	48	38	-20.8	
Central Elgin	I	17	**	0	0	NA	I	17	**	
Middlesex Centre	13	17	30.8	0	0	NA	13	17	30.8	
Southwold Twp.	0	1	NA	0	0	NA	0	I	NA	
Strathroy-Caradoc Twp.	13	17	30.8	0	0	NA	13	17	30.8	
Thames Centre	10	3	-70.0	0	0	NA	10	3	-70.0	

Table 3: Average Price of Completed and Absorbed Single-Detached Dwellings (\$)

				0	•	• ( ' /
Sub Market Area	QI 2004	QI 2005	% Change	YTD 2004	YTD 2005	% Change
London CMA	236,247	260,281	10.2	231,237	246,948	6.8
London City	248,022	268,765	8.4	240,688	253,763	5.4
St. Thomas City	195,494	205,785	5.3	188,247	188,298	0.0
Central Elgin	205,846	233,350	13.4	216,563	243,302	12.3
Middlesex Centre	264,118	310,723	17.6	261,960	291,862	11.4
Southwold Twp.	260,000	303,750	4	224,522	294,000	30.9
Strathroy-Caradoc Twp.	203, 179	253,273	24.7	182,959	215,868	18.0
Thames Centre	245,794	284,000	15.5	244,837	316,086	29.1

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 were based on results from Statistics Canada - 2001 Census of Canada.

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

		PRICE RANGES										
	<\$150,000		\$150 -\$174,999		\$175-\$249,999		\$250-\$299,999		\$300,000+			
AREA	Units	Share (%)	Units	Share (%)	Units	Share (%)	Units	Share (%)	Units	Share (%)	TOTAL	
London CMA								· · · · · · · ·				
QI 2005	3	0.7	42	9.9	223	52.7	68	16.1	87	20.6	423	
QI 2004	16	4.2	64	16.8	179	46.9	67	17.5	56	14.7	382	
YTD 2005	3	0.7	42	9.9	223	52.7	68	16.1	87	20.6	423	
YTD 2004	16	4.2	64	16.8	179	46.9	67	17.5	56	14.7	382	
London City												
QI 2005	0	0.0	18	6.4	146	51.8	50	17.7	68	24.1	282	
QI 2004	6	2.3	43	16.8	119	46.5	50	19.5	38	14.8	256	
YTD 2005	0	0.0	18	6.4	146	51.8	50	17.7	68	24.1	282	
YTD 2004	6	2.3	43	16.8	119	46.5	50	19.5	38	14.8	256	
St. Thomas City												
QI 2005	3	5.6	16	29.6	27	50.0	6	11.1	2	3.7	54	
QI 2004	_ 7	17.5	14	35.0	15	37.5	4	10.0	0	0.0	40	
YTD 2005	3	5.6	16	29.6	27	50.0	6	11.1	2	3.7	54	
YTD 2004	7	17.5	14	35.0	15	37.5	4	10.0	0	0.0	40	
Central Elgin												
QI 2005	0	0.0	4	16.0	18	72.0	0	0.0	3	12.0	25	
QI 2004	0	0.0	I	<b>7.</b> I	10	71.4	I	7.1	2	14.3	14	
YTD 2005	0	0.0	4	16.0	18	72.0	0	0.0	3	120	25	
YTD 2004	0	0.0	I	<b>7.</b> I	10	71.4	I	7.1	2	14.3	14	
Middlesex Centre												
QI 2005	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	30.4	7	30.4	9	39. I	23	
QI 2004	0	0.0	I	4.3	8	34.8	5	21.7	9	39. I	23	
YTD 2005	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	30.4	7	30.4	9	39. I	23	
YTD 2004	0	0.0	I	4.3	8	34.8	5	21.7	9	39. I	23	
Southwold Twp.												
QI 2005	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	
QI 2004	0	0.0	2	66.7	0	0.0	l	33.3	0	0.0	3	
YTD 2005	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	
YTD 2004	0	0.0	2	66.7	0	0.0	I	33.3	0	0.0	3	
Strathroy-Caradoc Twp.												
QI 2005	0	0.0	4	129	22	71.0	2	6.5	3	9.7	31	
QI 2004	3	15.0	3	15.0	13	65.0	ı	5.0	0	0.0	20	
YTD 2005	0	0.0	4	129	22	71.0	2	6.5	3	9.7	31	
YTD 2004	3	15.0	3	15.0	13	65.0		5.0	0	0.0	20	
Thames Centre												
QI 2005	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	37.5	3	37.5	2	25.0	8	
QI 2004	0	0.0	0	0.0	14	53.8	5	19.2	7	26.9	26	
YTD 2005	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	37.5	3	37.5	2	25.0	8	
YTD 2004	0	0.0	0	0.0	14	53.8	5	19.2	7	26.9	26	

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

Source: CMHC

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

	Table 5:	Resale	⊓ousing	3 ACTIVI	ty for Lor	Idon & 3	t. Thomas	Real Estat	е воаго	
		Number of		Sales	Number of	New Listings	Sales-to-New	Average		Average
		Sales	Yr/Yr %	SAAR	New Listings	SAAR	Listings SA	Price (\$)	Yr/Yr %	Price (\$) SA
2004	January	443	-12.1	8,500	1,010	12,600	67.7	167,090	13.3	168,066
	February	701	9.4	8,900	1,024	12,400	71.2	163,715	10.3	166,069
	March	1,049	40. I	10,400	1,519	14,500	71.7	165,469	7.5	166,371
	April	963	8.4	9,100	1,517	14,500	62.8	169,899	12.9	167,428
	May	1,002	16.6	9,800	1,476	14,500	67.6	168,836	7.7	164,445
	June	921	8.0	8,600	1,433	15,100	57.2	164,097	5.0	163,548
	July	901	-2. I	9,500	1,327	14,600	65. I	170,651	11.2	164,862
	August	801	14.4	9,200	1,140	14,300	64.4	167,489	7.7	168,758
	September	712	2.6	9,200	1,192	14,600	62.5	170,580	11.3	170,747
	October	698	8.4	9,800	1,071	15,300	64.4	171,633	9.8	174,193
	November	639	14.9	9,000	947	14,500	62.5	163,030	7.4	169,281
	December	408	1.0	8,800	527	13,300	66.3	162,496	1.9	163,953
2005	January	456	2.9	9,200	1,071	14,200	64.8	165,342	-1.0	168,315
	February	688	-1.9	8,700	1,143	14,000	62.2	179,395	9.6	178,659
	March	796	-24. I	8,000	1,247	12,300	65.3	176,439	6.6	176,401
	April									
	May									
	June									
	July									
	August									
	September									
	October									
	November									
	December									
	QI 2004	2,193	15.8	9,200	3,553	13,200	70.3	165,236	9.9	166,795
	QI 2005	1,940	-11.5	8,600	3,461	13,500	64.1	174,879	5.8	174,286
	YTD 2004	2,193	15.8		3,553			165,236	9.9%	
	YTD 2005	1,940	-11.5		3,461			174,879	5.8%	

	Annual		Annual		Annual		
	Sales	Yr/Yr %	New Listings	Yr/Yr %	Average Price (\$)	Yr/Yr %	
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. I	
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	
2004	9,238	9.8	14,183	10.4	167,344	8.9	

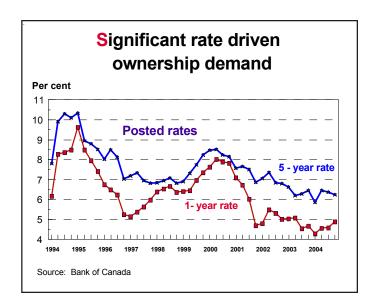
Source: Canadian Real Estate Association

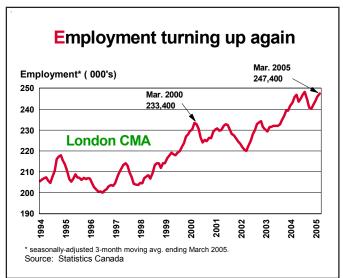
Table 6: Economic Indicators

	Table 6. Leonorile indicators										
			nterest and	Exchange R	ates	Inflation Rate (%)	NHPI*** % chg.	CMA Labour I	CMA Labour Market		
		P & I*	Mortgage	Rate (%)	Exch. Rate	Ontario	London CMA	Employment	Employment	Unemployment	
		Per \$100,000	I Yr. Term	5 Yr. Term	(\$US/\$Cdn)	1996=100	1997=100	SA** (,000)	SA m/m (%)	Rate (%) SA	
2004	January	642.78	4.3	6. l	0.755	1.5	5.0	241.5	0.9	6.4	
	February	627.97	4.3	5.8	0.749	0.8	6. l	243.2	0.7	6.6	
	March	622.08	4.3	5.7	0.763	1.1	5.2	245.9	1.1	6.0	
	April	648.75	4.5	6.2	0.729	2.3	4.3	246.8	0.4	5.8	
	May	669.82	4.6	6.5	0.733	2.8	4.3	243.6	-1.3	5.5	
	June	681.99	4.7	6.7	0.750	2.4	4.7	245.0	0.6	5.0	
	July	672.86	4.6	6.6	0.752	2.4	4.7	246.9	0.8	4.9	
	August	657.75	4.4	6.3	0.762	1.5	4.8	248.3	0.6	5.0	
	September	657.75	4.8	6.3	0.793	1.5	4.8	244.7	-1.4	5.7	
	October	663.77	4.9	6.4	0.821	2.1	5.1	240.8	-1.6	6.3	
	November	657.75	5.0	6.3	0.843	2.2	4.3	240. I	-0.3	6.8	
	December	642.78	4.8	6.1	0.832	1.9	4.0	242.0	0.8	6.7	
2005	January	642.78	4.8	6.1	0.806	1.6	4.9	243.7	0.7	6.4	
	February	642.78	4.8	6.1	0.811	2.2	3.2	246.0	0.9	6.0	
	March	654.74	5.1	6.3	0.827			247.4	0.6	6.4	
	April										
	May										
	June										
	July										
	August										
	September										
	October										
	November										
	December										

<sup>\*</sup> Principal and Interest Payment assumes a five year mortgage rate and 25 year amortization period.

Sources: CMHC, Statistics Canada, Bank of Canada





<sup>\*\*</sup> Seasonally Adjusted

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> 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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