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Province of Quebec

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Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Residential construction in Quebec: pace picks up in third quarter

After posting gains of 14 per cent in the Multiples: the highlight of 2003 first guarter and 3 per cent in the second quarter, residential construction in Quebec picked up the pace in the third quarter, as it registered an increase of 33 per cent over the same period last year. In fact, during the past three months, 13,610 new dwellings were started across Quebec. For the first three quarters, residential construction is therefore up by 15 per cent in Quebec, with just over 36,000 starts throughout the province, for the highest level of activity since 1990 for this period of the year.

Residential construction in Quebec continues to benefit from a combination of factors that particularly favour demand, especially the low mortgage rates, the job creation in recent years, the low inventory levels on the resale market and the low vacancy rates on the rental market.

The strong growth in urban areas was attributable to the continued significant increase in multiple housing construction. First, condominium construction (+64 per cent) posted another major gain, notably in Montréal. In this same market segment, it should also be noted that considerable results were obtained in the Québec area, where condominium starts almost doubled over the third guarter of 2002, and the Gatineau area, which registered 71 starts from July to September, for its highest quarterly volume since 1993. And, with a hike of more than 60 per cent over the same quarter of last year, urban rental starts also increased remarkably, especially in Montréal, Québec, Joliette, Granby and Sherbrooke.

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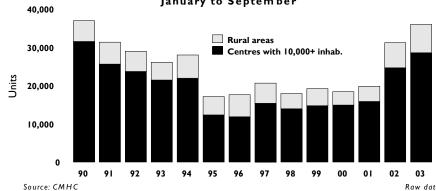
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HOUSING STARTS

Quebec Areas January to September





10,000 to 49,999 Inhabitants

HOME TO CANADIANS



Following a break in the previous two quarters, urban single-family home building posted a gain of about 12 per cent over the third quarter of 2002. In this regard, the increases recorded in Québec, Montréal, Saint-Jean-Iberville and Rivière-du-Loup were notable.

Regionally, around two thirds of Quebec's urban areas registered increases in their

starts levels compared to the third quarter of 2002. During this period, the metropolitan areas posted a gain of 33 per while the other urban agglomerations (with 10,000 to 99,999 inhabitants) recorded an even greater hike (+43 per cent). The rural areas, for their part, showed appreciable vigour, with 2,975 starts (+31 per cent).

The impact of births on future housing demand

home buyer is the thirties, while second- the current level. round home buying usually occurs in a • The baby boom echo cohort person's early forties.

major factor is immigration). Chances are will add to demand for rental housing in purchasing a first home. Let's take a look trends continue. at the implications of Canada's birth

• Post echo births pattern for different periods.

• The baby boom cohort

1959, so peak baby boom individuals are Although there was a small increase in now in their early forties and their 2001, it is still too early to conclude that incomes are already high, but continuing the trend has reversed. If not offset by to rise. They are at the age when many immigration over the next decade, the people upgrade from their first purchase.

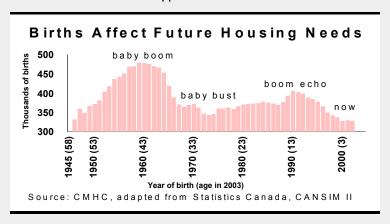
• The baby bust cohort

Canada's annual number of births dropped

The changing age structure of Canada's by 28 per cent between 1959 and 1973. population will have a major influence on The high rental vacancy rates of the 1990s how many and what types of homes will coincided with the passing of the be in demand in the future. Households baby-bust cohort through their renter usually move into rental in their earlier years. Ten years from now, persons born life-cycle stages and purchase homes after in the post-war lowest birth year of 1973 financial assets are built up, and some will be in their forties. The lower number move back into rental in their retirement of people this age may contribute to a years. The average age of a first-time reduction in upscale home purchases from

A spike in the number of births, with the Canada's birth pattern is very informative peak in 1990, followed the bust. As shown since it explains a substantial part of the in the chart, the increase in births during population's age structure and thus the echo was smaller and of shorter age-related housing demand. (The other duration than in the boom. This cohort that a person born about twenty years ago about five years and will be in full is moving into a rental today, while first-time home buyer mode in about ten someone born in the late 1960s is to fifteen years from now, if present

The number of births in Canada fell steadily through the 1990s, reaching its Post WWII births surged to a peak in lowest level in over half a century in 1999. potential birth trough will reduce rental demand in the 2020s and home buying in the 2030s and 2040s.



Definitions and Concepts

Intended Markets - There are three: the Freehold market refers to Single-Family Houses (Detached, Semi-Detached and Row) owned under freehold tenure; the condominium segment comprises houses and apartments held under divided co-ownership; and finally the rental market encompasses apartment dwellings.

Housing Starts - refer to the beginning of construction work on a building, usually when the concrete has been laid for the entire footing around the structure, or at an equivalent stage where a basement will not be a part of the structure.

Under Construction - units that have been started but that are not completed. The number of units under construction at the end of a period may take into account certain adjustments that took place, for various reasons, after the starts were reported.

Completions - units where all proposed construction work has been performed or, in some cases, where ninety percent of all construction work is completed and the structure is fit for occupancy.

Unoccupied Units - new completed units that have remained unoccupied.

Total Medium-Term Supply - total supply of new units including units under construction, units that are completed but not occupied and permits issued but not started.

Absorptions - newly completed units that have been sold or rented. The number of absorptions is obtained from a survey initiated when the structure is completed. Units presold or pre-leased are not included until the completion stage. The number of absorbed units is the number of completed and unoccupied units from the previous quarter plus completions for the current month minus completed and unoccupied units for the current month.

Duration of Inventory - period necessary for the absorption of unoccupied units, i.e. the ratio between unoccupied units and absorbed units (average for the last twelve months). This figure is expressed in months.

Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rates (SAAR) - raw monthly figures, adjusted to remove normal seasonal variation and multiplied by 12.

Table I								
Summary of Activity by Intended Market Province of Quebec								
			Quebec		-			
		ership						
Activity / Area	(Freehold* &	Condominium)	Rei	ntal	Total			
	3rd Q rt 2003	3rd Qrt 2002	3rd Q rt 2003	3rd Q rt 2002	3rd Q rt 2003	3rd Q rt 2002		
Housing Starts								
Metropolitan Areas (1)	6,822	5,494	2,475	1,505	9,297	6,999		
Urban Areas (2)	894	682	444	253	1,338	935		
Rural Areas (3)	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,975	2,272		
Total Province of Québec	NA	NA	NA	NA	13,610	10,206		
Completions		· -	· · · · · ·	-	-	-		
Metropolitan Areas (1)	8,335	7,664	1,846	1,190	10,181	8,854		
Urban Areas (2)	1,036	941	517	526	1,553	1,467		
Rural Areas (3)	NA	NA	NA	NA	3,441	4,200		
Total Province of Québec	NA	NA	NA	NA	15,175	14,521		
Under construction (4))							
Metropolitan Areas (1)	10,807	8,532	4,626	3,356	15,433	11,888		
Urban Areas (2)	909	644	537	409	1,446	1,053		
Rural Areas (3)	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,915	2,484		

NA

NA

Source: CMHC

NA

Total Province of Québec

(2) Population between 10,000 and 99,999.
(3) Population of 9,999 and less.

19,794

NA

(4) At the end of the period.

15,425

Table 2 Economic Overview Province of Quebec								
	2003	2002	2002	2002	2002			
	3rd Quarter	2nd Quarter	Ist Quarter	4th Quarter	3rd Quarter			
Gross Domestic Product (%)	1.4	2.3	3.2	4.8	4.5			
Employment Level Total* (000)	3,628.2	3,644.0	3,645.5	3,633.7	3,600.4			
Employment Rate* (%)	59.6	60.0	60.1	60.0	59.6			
Unemployment Rate* (%)	9.6	9.1	8.6	8.4	8.5			
Inflation Rate (%)	0.2	-1.7	6.3	2.3	4.6			
Net Migration	N A	8,759	7,579	1,129	8,832			
Mortgage Rates (%) - Canada			-	•				
I-year	4.6	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.3			
5-year	6.3	6.2	6.6	6.8	6.9			
Resale Market (MLS Sales)								
Total Residential Units	N A	19,734	20,034	15,413	12,917			
Consumer Confidence								
Index* (1991=100)	124.5	127.3	125.8	127.9	129.6			

Sources: Statistics Canada, Conference Board of Canada, Canadian Real Estate Association

 $^{(*) \ \} Refers \ to \ Single-Family \ \ Houses \ (Single-Detached \ and \ \ Row \ \ Houses) \ \ owned \ under \ freehold \ tenure.$

⁽¹⁾ Population of 100,000 or more.

^{*} Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rates

Table 3
Housing Starts by Metropolitan Area and by Intended Market
Province of Quebec

	Ow	n e r sh i p		
Area / Period	Freehold	Condominiums	Rental	Total
				•
Saguenay		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Third Quarter 2003	96	0	16	112
Third Quarter 2002	99	0	136	235
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	236	0	I 47	383
Year-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	228	0	174	402
Gatineau				
Third Quarter 2003	458	71	182	711
Third Quarter 2002	558	3	218	779
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	1,300	71	574	1,945
Year-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	1,441	3	502	1,946
V 1-7	·			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Montréal				_
Third Quarter 2003	2,752	2,214	1,515	6,481
Third Quarter 2002	2,507	1,372	915	4,794
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	8,781	5,525	2,991	17,297
Year-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	8,896	4,151	2,179	15,226
Québec				
Third Quarter 2003	754	253	608	1,615
Third Quarter 2002	567	133	139	839
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	2,400	736	1,214	4,350
Year-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	2,081	318	747	3,146
9 1 7	,			,
Sherbrooke				
Third Quarter 2003	115	4	90	209
Third Quarter 2002	124	47	47	218
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	398	24	326	748
Year-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	366	47	271	684
Trois-Rivières				
Third Quarter 2003	105	0	64	169
Third Quarter 2003 Third Quarter 2002	84	0	50	134
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	323	0	119	442
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	235	0	212	447
Tear-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	233	U	<u> </u>	1 77/
TOTAL METROPOLIT	AN AREAS			
Third Quarter 2003	4,280	2,542	2,475	9,297
Third Quarter 2002	3,939	1,555	1,505	6,999
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	13,438	6,356	5,371	25,165
Year-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	13,247	4,519	4,085	21,851

Source: CMHC

Table 4 Under Construction and Completions by Metropolitan Area and by Intended Market Province of Quebec

	(Under con	struction	*		Comple	tions	
Area / Period	Own	ership			Owne	Ownership		
	Freehold	Condomi- niums	Rental	Total	Freehold	Condomi- niums	Rental	Total
Saguenay								
Third Quarter 2003	86	0	83	169	94	0	43	137
Third Quarter 2002	88	0	143	231	124	0	2	126
Gatineau								
Third Quarter 2003	547	71	381	999	731	27	379	1,137
Third Quarter 2002	1,000	3	461	1,464	427	0	83	510
Montréal								
Third Quarter 2003	3,930	5,203	3,338	12,471	3,992	1,820	828	6,640
Third Quarter 2002	3,577	3,130	1,999	8,706	3,803	1,731	616	6,150
Québec								
Third Quarter 2003	446	411	719	1,576	997	362	356	1,715
Third Quarter 2002	480	109	532	1,121	1,027	259	241	1,527
Sherbrooke								
Third Quarter 2003	79	0	73	152	159	35	150	344
Third Quarter 2002	80	47	39	166	196	0	222	418
Trois-Rivières								
Third Quarter 2003	34	0	32	66	118	0	90	208
Third Quarter 2002	18	0	182	200	97	0	26	123
TOTAL METRO	POLITA	N AREA	1S					
Third Quarter 2003	5,122	5,685	4,626	15,433	6,091	2,244	1,846	10,181
Third Quarter 2002	5,243	3,289	3,356	11,888	5,674	1,990	1,190	8,854

* Note: As at the end of the period shown.

Source: CMHC

NOTE TO READERS: Prior to July 2002, the CMHC Starts and Completions Survey consisted of a monthly enumeration of new housing activity in urban centres with a population of 10,000 persons and over. As of July 2002, the survey will be conducted monthly in urban centres with a population of 50,000 persons and over and quarterly in urban centres with a population of 10,000 to 49,999 persons. Statistical models will be used to estimate provincial and national

housing starts in urban centres with a population of 10,000 persons and over, on a monthly basis. The methodology is unchanged for estimating housing starts in rural areas (areas other than urban centres with a population of 10,000 persons and over). In these areas, a sample survey is used on a quarterly basis. As was the case in the past, statistical models continue to be used to estimate national housing starts in all areas on a monthly basis.

For more information about this publication, please contact our:

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		Table 5						
Housing Starts for centres of population 50,000 to 99,999 Inhabitants Province of Quebec								
	Ow	n e r s h i p	-	-				
Centre / Period	Freehold	Condominiums	Rental	Total				
Drum mondville								
Third Quarter 2003	87	0	2.5	112				
Third Quarter 2002	4 6	0	7 3	119				
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	265	0	114	379				
Year-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	167	3	263	4 3 3				
Granby								
Third Quarter 2003	111	0	69	180				
Third Quarter 2002	103	0	4	107				
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	253	6	122	381				
Year-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	261	3	5 7	3 2 1				
Saint-lean-sur-Richel	lie u							
Third Quarter 2003	164	4	48	216				
Third Quarter 2002	97	0	19	116				
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	485	4	192	681				
Year-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	409	4	99	5 2				
Shawinigan								
Third Quarter 2003	17	0	0	17				
Third Quarter 2002	3 I	0	0	3				
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	6 6	0	4	7 0				
Year-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	7 I	0	0	7 1				

Source: CM H C

		Table 6						
Housing Starts for centres of population 10,000 to 49,999 Inhabitants Province of Quebec								
	O w	n e rsh i þ	.	-				
Centre / Period	Freehold	Condominiums	Rental	Total				
Alm a								
Third Quarter 2003	19	0	3 5	5 4				
Third Quarter 2002	I 3	0	13	26				
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	5 2	0	46	98				
Year-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	4 5	0	16	6 I				
Baie-Comeau								
Third Quarter 2003	0	0	0	0				
Third Quarter 2002	2	0	0	2				
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	0	0	0	0				
Year-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	4	0	0	4				
Cowansville								
Third Quarter 2003	11	0	0	11				
Third Quarter 2002	9	0	0	9				
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	l 7	0	4	2				
Year-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	I 9	0	0	I 9				
Dolbeau								
Third Quarter 2003	14	0	0	I 4				
Third Quarter 2002	15	0	0	I 5				
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	3 3	0	0	3 3				
Year-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	26	0	0	26				

Table 6 (cont.) Housing Starts for centres of population 10,000 to 49,999 Inhabitants Province of Quebec

Province of Quebec						
	_	n e rsh ip				
Centre / Period	Freehold	Condominiums	Rental	Total		
oliette						
Third Quarter 2003	2.4	0	113	137		
Third Quarter 2002	3 9	0	33	72		
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	117	5	190	3 2		
	131	5	94	230		
Year-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	131	3	7 4	230		
Lachute						
hird Quarter 2003	6	0	0	6		
hird Quarter 2002	2	0	10	12		
ear-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	I 8	0	0	18		
'ear-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	10	0	Ι 0	20		
_						
La Tuque						
Third Quarter 2003	6	0	0	6		
Third Quarter 2002	1	0	0			
(ear-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	9	0	0	9		
'ear-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	6	0	0	6		
Magog						
Third Quarter 2003	46	12	I 2	70		
hird Quarter 2002	4 3	8	2	7 2		
'ear-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	108	45	29	182		
'ear-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	104	8	75	187		
				•		
Matane						
Third Quarter 2003	8	0	0	8		
Third Quarter 2002	3	0	0	3		
(ear-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	I 4	0	0	14		
Year-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	9	0	0	9		
D:						
Rimouski Third Quarter 2003	3 9	0	0	3 9		
•	35	0	0	35		
Third Quarter 2002						
(ear-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	8 4	0	16	100		
'ear-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	8 0	0	2	8 2		
Rivière-du-Loup						
hird Quarter 2003	4 5	0	3 0	7 5		
hird Quarter 2002	16	0	3 4	5 0		
ear-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	77	0	5 4	131		
'ear-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	3 7	0	3 4	7		
Dauva Naranda						
Rouyn-Noranda Third Quarter 2003	I 3	0	0	13		
hird Quarter 2003 Third Quarter 2002		0	3			
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1			4		
(ear-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	2	0	0	21		
'ear-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	l 7	0	3	2 0		
Saint-Georges						
hird Quarter 2003	47	0	5 0	97		
Third Quarter 2002	3 7	0	2 4	61		
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	142	6	93	241		
(ear-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	143	0	5 9	202		
Q F - 7				Continued on next pa		

Continued on next page

Table 6 (cont.) Housing Starts for centres of population 10,000 to 49,999 Inhabitants Province of Quebec

I	O w	n e r s h i p	_	
Centre / Period	Freehold	Condominiums	Rental	Total
	1100110		n c n cu i	
Saint-Hyacinthe				
Third Quarter 2003	26	0	3 0	5 6
Third Quarter 2002	3 3	0	3	3 6
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	7 4	I 2	126	2 2
Year-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	107	0	3 4	141
Salaberry-de-Valleyfield				
Third Quarter 2003	8	0	0	8
Third Quarter 2002	0	0	0	0
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	3 4	8	0	4 2
Year-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	2	8	Ī	3 0
- :		•		•
Sept-Îles			0	1
Third Quarter 2003	0	0	0	0
Third Quarter 2002	8	0	0	8
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	3	0	4 0	4 3
Year-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	11	0	0	11
Sorel				
Third Quarter 2003	3 7	0	0	3 7
Third Quarter 2002	28	0	0	2.8
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	7 3	0	3	7 6
Year-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	6 6	0	0	6 6
Thetford-Mines				
Third Quarter 2003	10	0	0	10
Third Quarter 2002	17	0	6	2 3
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	12	0	0	12
Year-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	2	0	6	27
				· ·
Val d'Or				
Third Quarter 2003	5	0	0	5
Third Quarter 2002	4	0	0	4
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	I 2	0	0	I 2
Year-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	7	0	0	7
Victoriaville				
Third Quarter 2003	63	8	4	7.5
Third Quarter 2002	4 9	0	0	4 9
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	192	8	47	2 4 7
Year-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	131	0	11	142
0.11.11.11.11				
O ther Urban Centers * Third Quarter 2003	6.4	0	2 8	9 2
Third Quarter 2003 Third Quarter 2002	6 4 4 2	0		5 2
	42		10	
Year-to-date 2003 (JanSept.)	124	3 0	28	182
Year-to-date 2002 (JanSept.)	100	0	3 3	133

Source: CM H C

*Amos, Gaspé, Montmagny, Roberval, Sainte-Marie, Saint-Félicien, Saint-Lin (2003) and Hawkesbury (Quebec Part)
*Saint-Lin is now included in the urban center since 2003. No datas are available for 2002.

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