



PRESS RELEASE



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Starts Bounce Back in August

OTTAWA, Ontario, September 11, 2001 — The seasonally adjusted annual rate* of housing starts in Canada increased by 11.6 per cent in August to 169,200 units compared with 151,600 units in July, according to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

Urban single starts rose by 9.2 per cent to an annual rate of 79,600 from 72,900 units in July. Urban multiple starts also rose by 19.4 per cent to an annual rate of 67,100 units compared with 56,200. The estimate for starts in rural areas is unchanged at an annual rate of 22,500 units.

"Ontario has been the main contributor for this month's solid performance. In fact, the annual rate of total starts were up 37.3 per cent in Ontario with singles up 20.2 per cent and multiples 58.5 per cent," said Philippe Le Goff, senior economist at CMHC's Market Analysis Centre. "Across Canada, many urban centres are currently affected by a low inventory of unoccupied houses and a low vacancy rate in the rental market. This partly explains why the housing market is still in good shape even though the economy has slowed."

From January to August of this year, the actual number of housing starts (92,035 units) is 9 per cent higher than the same period in 2000 (84,650 units). The single detached market has increased but the main source of strength this year is the multiple market.

CMHC is Canada's national housing agency. We help Canadians purchase their own homes, help create affordable housing, research housing issues and share our knowledge with all Canadians and promote Canada's world-leading housing industry in other countries. Our Market Analysis Centre (MAC) is the leading unbiased, comprehensive source for national, regional and local housing market information. Contact the CMHC business office nearest you to find out more about MAC and other CMHC knowledge products, or visit our Web site.

*Most starts figures in this release are seasonally adjusted annual rates (SAAR), that is, actual monthly figures adjusted to remove normal seasonal variation and multiplied by 12 to reflect an annual pace.

Information:

Philippe Le Goff

CMHC

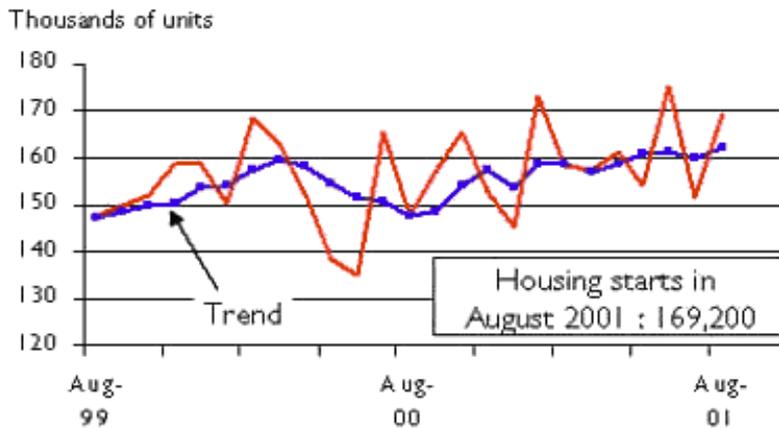
(613) 748-2933

plegoff@cmhc-schl.gc.ca

**HOUSING STARTS
ACTUAL AND SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ANNUAL DATA**

PROVINCE	JULY 2001 FINAL		AUGUST 2001 PRELIMINARY	
	ACTUAL	SAAR	ACTUAL	SAAR
NEWFOUNDLAND	158	1,100	134	1,100
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	75	600	29	200
NOVA SCOTIA	399	2,900	319	2,800
NEW BRUNSWICK	283	1,800	239	2,300
QUEBEC	1,765	22,000	1,443	21,500
ONTARIO	5,153	58,200	7,434	79,900
MANITOBA	255	2,300	160	1,700
SASKATCHEWAN	245	2,400	109	1,100
ALBERTA	2,176	22,000	2,205	23,600
BRITISH COLUMBIA	1,500	15,800	1,152	12,500
TOTAL (+10,000 pop.)	12,009	129,100	13,224	146,700
OTHER AREA ESTIMATES (Less than 10,000 pop.)	2,346	22,500	2,387	22,500
CANADA	14,355	151,600	15,611	169,200

**Housing starts in Canada
all areas. *saar**



Source: CMHC Housing facts
*Seasonally adjusted annual rate