



## PRESS RELEASE



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### **Housing Starts Move up in March**

**OTTAWA, Ontario, April 08, 2009** — The seasonally adjusted annual rate<sup>1</sup> of housing starts increased to 154,700 units in March from 136,100 units in February, according to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

“Higher multiple starts in Ontario and Quebec were the main contributors to the rise in new construction activity in March,” said Bob Dugan, Chief Economist at CMHC’s Market Analysis Centre. “While the multiples segment experienced the largest increase, the overall boost in starts was broad based, encompassing the singles segment as well.”

The seasonally adjusted annual rate of urban starts increased 17 per cent to 127,900 units in March. Urban multiple starts increased 28.3 per cent to 81,500 units, while urban single starts moved up by 1.3 per cent to 46,400 units in March.

March’s seasonally adjusted annual rate of urban starts increased by 35 per cent in Ontario and by 23.3 per cent in Quebec. Urban starts declined by 17.3 per cent in British Columbia, by 7.9 per cent in Atlantic Canada, and by 7.5 per cent in the Prairies.

Rural starts were estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 26,800 units in March<sup>2</sup>.

New home construction is now at a more sustainable level after having been exceptionally strong over the past 7 years, exceeding 200,000 units per year.

As Canada’s national housing agency, CMHC draws on more than 60 years of experience to help Canadians access a variety of quality, environmentally sustainable, and affordable homes — homes that will continue to create vibrant and healthy communities and cities across the country.

For more information, call 1-800-668-2642.

<sup>1</sup> All starts figures in this release, other than actual starts, are seasonally adjusted annual rates (SAAR) — that is, monthly figures adjusted to remove normal seasonal variation and multiplied by 12 to reflect annual levels.

<sup>2</sup> CMHC estimates the level of rural starts for each of the three months of the quarter, at the beginning of each quarter. During the last month of the quarter, CMHC conducts the survey in rural areas and revises the estimate.

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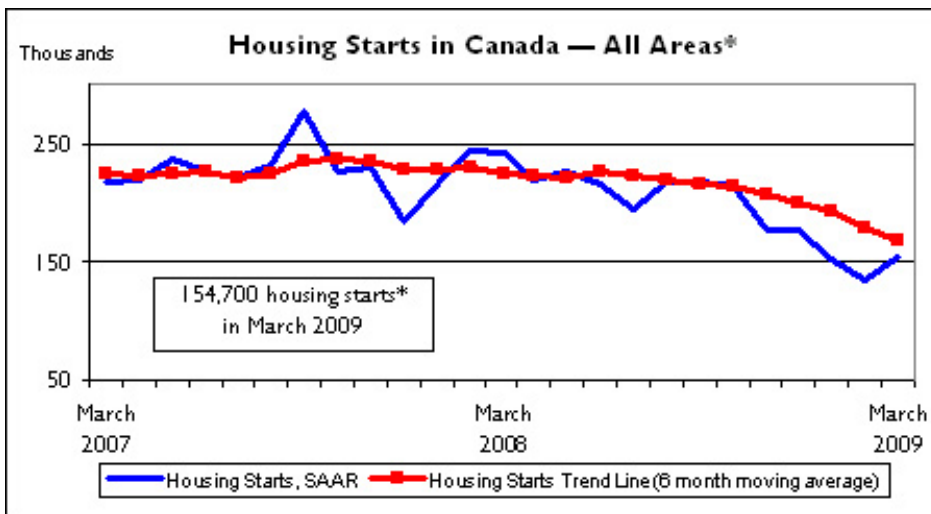
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**Housing Starts, Actual and SAAR\***

	Actual		SAAR	
	March 2008	March 2009	February 2009	March 2009
	Final	Preliminary	Final	Preliminary
<b>Canada, all areas</b>	16,423	9,728	136,100	154,700
Canada, rural areas	807	1,099	26,800	26,800
Canada, urban centres**	15,616	8,629	109,300	127,900
Canada, singles, urban centres	4,749	2,566	45,800	46,400
Canada, multiples, urban centres	10,867	6,063	63,500	81,500

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Atlantic region, urban centres	522	244	8,800	8,100
Quebec, urban centres	2,968	2,561	28,700	35,400
Ontario, urban centres	4,987	4,113	45,100	60,900
Prairie region, urban centres	4,768	967	14,600	13,500
British Columbia, urban centres	2,371	744	12,100	10,000

Source: CMHC

\*Seasonally adjusted annual rates

\*\* Urban centres with a population of 10,000 and over.

Detailed data available upon request.