



PRESS RELEASE



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Housing Starts Increase in May

OTTAWA, Ontario, June 08, 2009 — The seasonally adjusted annual rate¹ of housing starts increased to 128,400 units in May from 117,600 units in April, according to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

“The increase in May is broadly based, encompassing both the singles and multiples segments,” said Bob Dugan, Chief Economist at CMHC’s Market Analysis Centre.

Housing starts are expected to improve throughout 2009 and over the next several years to gradually become more closely aligned to demographic demand, which is currently estimated at about 175,000 units per year.

The seasonally adjusted annual rate of urban starts increased 11.1 per cent to 107,800 units in May. Urban multiple starts increased 11.1 per cent to 60,900 units, while urban single starts also moved up by 11.1 per cent to 46,900 units in May.

May’s seasonally adjusted annual rate of urban starts increased 22.0 per cent in Ontario, 16.8 per cent in the Prairies, 7.3 per cent in Atlantic Canada, and 3.3 per cent in Quebec. Urban starts declined 5.0 per cent in British Columbia.

Rural starts were estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 20,600 units in May².

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.

¹ 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.

² 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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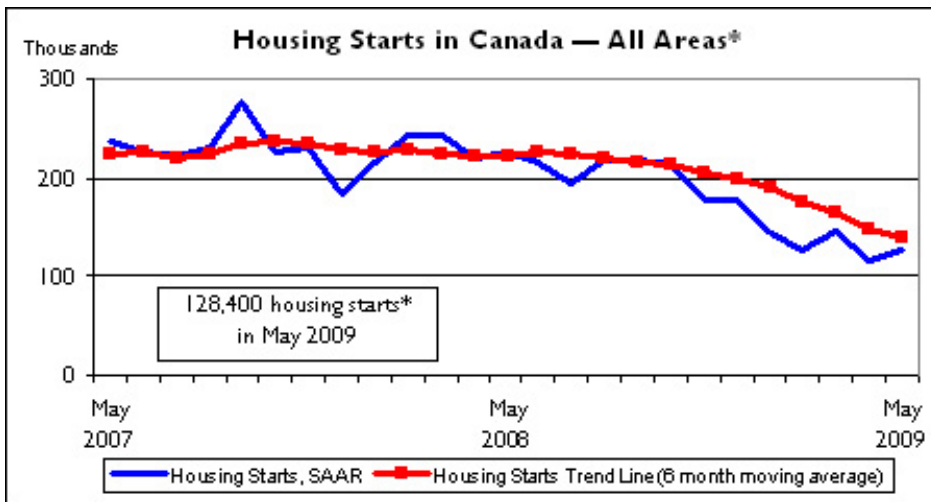
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Housing Starts, Actual and SAAR*				
	Actual		SAAR	
	May 2008	May 2009	April 2009	May 2009
	Final	Preliminary	Final	Preliminary
Canada, all areas	21,908	12,604	117,600	128,400
Canada, rural areas	2,686	2,236	20,600	20,600
Canada, urban centres**	19,222	10,368	97,000	107,800
Canada, singles, urban centres	8,568	4,939	42,200	46,900
Canada, multiples, urban centres	10,654	5,429	54,800	60,900
Atlantic region, urban centres	1,094	760	6,800	7,300

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Quebec, urban centres	4,659	3,594	33,100	34,200
Ontario, urban centres	6,570	3,665	34,100	41,600
Prairie region, urban centres	3,819	1,540	13,100	15,300
British Columbia, urban centres	3,080	809	9,900	9,400

Source: CMHC

*Seasonally adjusted annual rates

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

Detailed data available upon request.