

RELEASE

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St. John's Area August Housing Starts

ST. JOHN'S, September 9, 2009 – Urban housing starts decreased during the month of August, according to preliminary data¹ released today by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). August's housing starts totaled 151 throughout the St. John's area versus 249 starts in August of 2008. An additional 18 starts were recorded in other urban areas across the province, for a total of 169 provincial starts compared to 316 the previous August. For the January to August 2009 period, the St. John's area posted 1,026 housing starts versus 1,079 starts during the same period last year, while provincial starts totaled 1,180 compared to 1,312 a year ago.

"Despite August's decline, the local residential construction sector has posted solid year-to-date results," said Chris Janes, senior market analyst with CMHC in Newfoundland and Labrador. "Employment and population growth throughout the St. John's area this year continues to bode well for residential construction activity," added Janes.

For Canada's urban centres, total housing starts fell 27 per cent with 12,187 recorded in August compared to 16,807 during August of 2008. Single-detached starts decreased 26 per cent to 5,211, while multiple starts of 6,976 represent a 28 per cent decline from a year ago. Throughout Atlantic Canada, there were 835 urban housing starts posted versus 879 the previous August, a decline of 5 per cent.

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. CMHC also provides reliable, impartial and up-to-date housing market reports, analysis and knowledge to support and assist consumers and the housing industry in making vital decisions.

1 Figures for the most recent month are preliminary and subject to revisions due to corrections or updates from quarterly enumeration or sampling results.

For more information, visit www.cmhc.ca or call 1-800-668-2642.

PRELIMINARY URBAN MONTHLY HOUSING STARTS NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR SUMMARY						
	2009	2008	% Change	YEAR-TO-DATE		% Change
	AUG	AUG		2009	2008	
ALL URBAN CENTRES WITH POPULATIONS > 50,000						
ST. JOHN'S CMA						
Single	128	183	-30.1%	864	867	-0.3%
Multiple	23	66	-65.2%	162	212	-23.6%
TOTAL	151	249	-39.4%	1,026	1,079	-4.9%
ALL URBAN CENTRES WITH POPULATION > 10,000						
ALL CENTRES*						
Single	145	234	-38.0%	992	1,044	-5.0%
Multiple	24	82	-70.7%	188	268	-29.9%
TOTAL	169	316	-46.5%	1,180	1,312	-10.1%

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* Includes all centres with a total population of more than 10,000 (St. John's CMA, Corner Brook CA, Gander CA, Grand Falls/Windsor CA, Bay Roberts CA and Labrador City CA)

Indicates changes in excess of 100% which are not reported due to volatility resulting from small absolute numbers.

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