

RELEASE

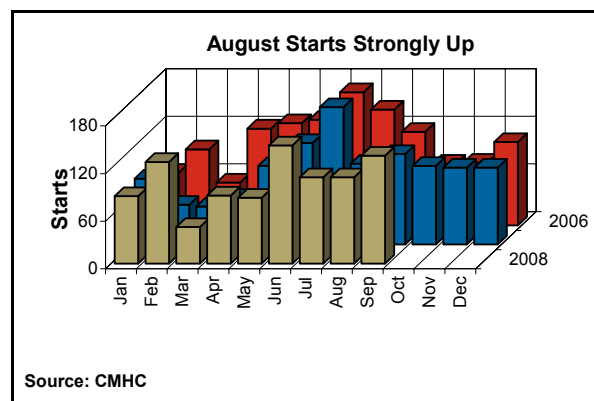
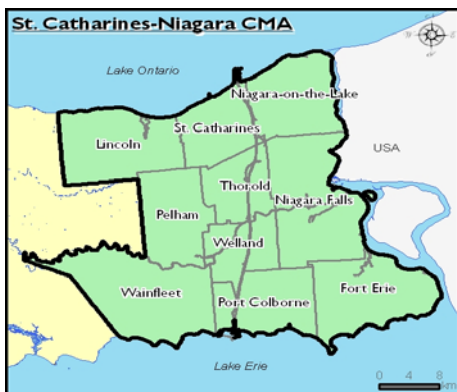
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER STARTS UP IN THE ST. CATHARINES-NIAGARA CMA¹

TORONTO, OCTOBER 8, 2008 – Preliminary housing starts data for September 2008 released today by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) for the St. Catharines-Niagara Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) report 19 per cent growth from the same month last year to 136 units.

Total starts in the St. Catharines-Niagara CMA for January-September 2008 grew nine per cent over the same period a year ago. Starts of single-detached homes on a year-to-date basis declined 14 per cent to 505 homes, but the drop was more than offset by strong expansion in starts of row houses (63 per cent) and apartments (87 per cent).

“Land supply constraints and demographic trends both support the construction of higher-density homes, adding more row houses and apartment units into the housing stock,” said Ashot Karapetyan, Market Analyst with CMHC. “The current trend to more starts of apartments and townhouses and fewer single-detached home starts is expected to continue.”



¹ Statistics Canada defines a census metropolitan area (CMA) as one or more adjacent municipalities integrated with an urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more must live in the urban core.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has been Canada's national housing agency for over 60 years. CMHC is committed to helping Canadians access a wide choice of quality, affordable homes, while making vibrant, healthy communities and cities a reality across the country.

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

TABLE 1: MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Municipality	Single-Detached			Semi-Detached			Row			Apartment			Total		
	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%
Fort Erie T	17	7	-59%	2	2	0%	0	10	*	0	0	*	19	19	0%
Port Colborne CY	6	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	6	0	*
Wainfleet TP	1	2	100%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	1	2	100%
Pelham T	3	5	67%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	3	5	67%
Welland CY	7	4	-43%	0	0	*	0	8	*	0	0	*	7	12	71%
Thorold CY	4	2	-50%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	4	2	-50%
Niagara Falls CY	19	21	11%	2	2	0%	0	0	*	0	0	*	21	23	10%
Niagara-on-the-Lake T	7	8	14%	0	4	*	12	0	*	0	0	*	19	12	-37%
St.Catharines CY	9	3	-67%	4	8	100%	13	13	0%	0	0	*	26	24	-8%
Lincoln T	8	10	25%	0	0	*	0	27	*	0	0	*	8	37	363%
St.Catharines-Niagara CMA	81	62	-23%	8	16	100%	25	58	132%	0	0	*	114	136	19%

TABLE 2: YEAR-TO-DATE (JANUARY-SEPTEMBER)

Municipality	Single-Detached			Semi-Detached			Row			Apartment			Total		
	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%
Fort Erie T	95	82	-14%	6	10	67%	8	25	213%	0	0	*	109	117	7%
Port Colborne CY	15	7	-53%	0	0	*	0	8	*	0	0	*	15	15	0%
Wainfleet TP	14	8	-43%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	14	8	-43%
Pelham T	51	47	-8%	2	0	*	22	21	-5%	0	0	*	75	68	-9%
Welland CY	52	56	8%	6	2	-67%	11	13	18%	0	72	*	69	143	107%
Thorold CY	28	18	-36%	0	0	*	0	0	*	4	3	-25%	32	21	-34%
Niagara Falls CY	138	123	-11%	8	8	0%	17	51	200%	57	39	-32%	220	221	0%
Niagara-on-the-Lake T	68	52	-24%	0	4	*	33	0	*	0	0	*	101	56	-45%
St.Catharines CY	65	56	-14%	10	22	120%	61	117	92%	0	0	*	136	195	43%
Lincoln T	64	56	-13%	10	0	*	11	31	182%	0	0	*	85	87	2%
St.Catharines-Niagara CMA	590	505	-14%	42	46	10%	163	266	63%	61	114	87%	856	931	9%

Source: CMHC

*Not Applicable

**Year-over-Year change greater than 1000 per cent

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