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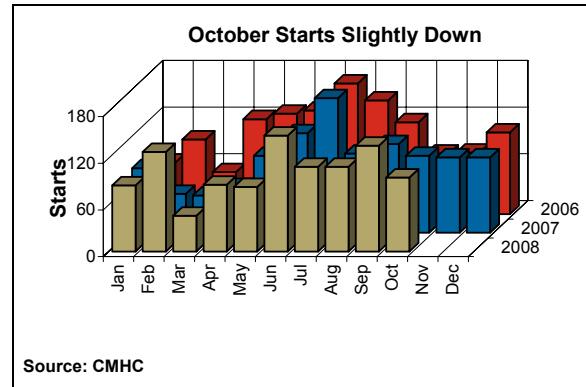
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER STARTS LOWER IN THE ST. CATHARINES-NIAGARA CMA¹

TORONTO, NOVEMBER 10, 2008 – Preliminary housing starts data for October 2008 released today by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) for the St. Catharines-Niagara Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) report a 4 per cent decline from the same month last year to 95 units.

Total starts in the St. Catharines-Niagara CMA for January-October 2008 were up seven per cent over the same period a year ago. Starts of single-detached homes on a year-to-date basis declined 13 per cent to 576 homes, but the drop was more than offset by a higher number of starts in all other housing types – semi-detached homes (13 per cent), townhouses (54 per cent) and apartments (87 per cent).

“Despite the contraction in new single-detached home construction, overall housing starts continue to post strong gains thanks to a resilient job market,” said Ashot Karapetyan, Market Analyst with CMHC. “However, the growth is concentrated in only three submarkets, St. Catharines, Welland, and Lincoln.”



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 OCTOBER

Municipality	Single-Detached			Semi-Detached			Row			Apartment			Total		
	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%
Fort Erie T	17	13	-24%	0	0	*	4	0	*	0	0	*	21	13	-38%
Port Colborne CY	2	1	-50%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	2	1	-50%
Wainfleet TP	1	4	300%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	1	4	300%
Pelham T	12	3	-75%	0	0	*	8	0	*	0	0	*	20	3	-85%
Welland CY	8	5	-38%	2	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	10	5	-50%
Thorold CY	5	3	-40%	0	2	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	5	5	0%
Niagara Falls CY	15	19	27%	0	2	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	15	21	40%
Niagara-on-the-Lake T	6	5	-17%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	6	5	-17%
St.Catharines CY	4	5	25%	0	2	*	10	8	-20%	0	0	*	14	15	7%
Lincoln T	3	13	333%	2	0	*	0	10	*	0	0	*	5	23	360%
St.Catharines-Niagara CMA	73	71	-3%	4	6	50%	22	18	-18%	0	0	*	99	95	-4%

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

Municipality	Single-Detached			Semi-Detached			Row			Apartment			Total		
	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%
Fort Erie T	112	95	-15%	6	10	67%	12	25	108%	0	0	*	130	130	0%
Port Colborne CY	17	8	-53%	0	0	*	0	8	*	0	0	*	17	16	-6%
Wainfleet TP	15	12	-20%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	15	12	-20%
Pelham T	63	50	-21%	2	0	*	30	21	-30%	0	0	*	95	71	-25%
Welland CY	60	61	2%	8	2	-75%	11	13	18%	0	72	*	79	148	87%
Thorold CY	33	21	-36%	0	2	*	0	0	*	4	3	-25%	37	26	-30%
Niagara Falls CY	153	142	-7%	8	10	25%	17	51	200%	57	39	-32%	235	242	3%
Niagara-on-the-Lake T	74	57	-23%	0	4	*	33	0	*	0	0	*	107	61	-43%
St.Catharines CY	69	61	-12%	10	24	140%	71	125	76%	0	0	*	150	210	40%
Lincoln T	67	69	3%	12	0	*	11	41	273%	0	0	*	90	110	22%
St.Catharines-Niagara CMA	663	576	-13%	46	52	13%	185	284	54%	61	114	87%	955	1026	7%

Source: CMHC

*Not Applicable

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

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