

## RELEASE

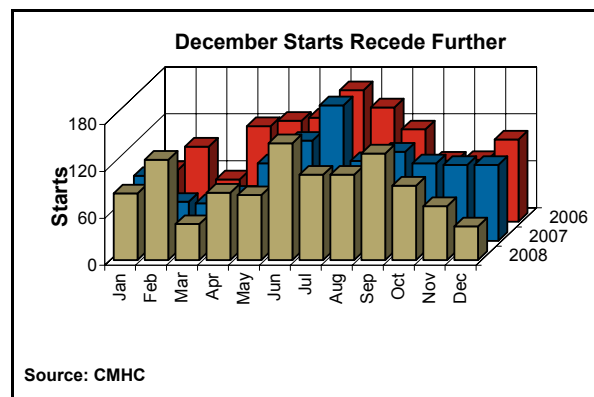
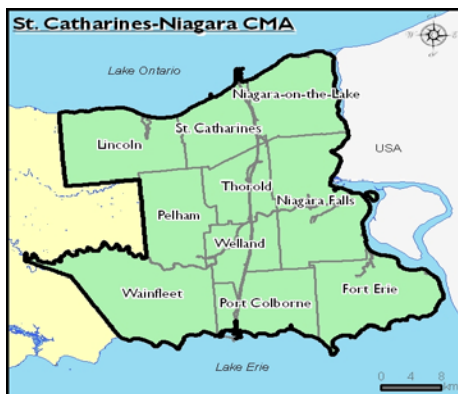
## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**2008 HOME STARTS SLIGHTLY LOWER IN THE ST. CATHARINES-NIAGARA CMA**

**TORONTO, JANUARY 9, 2009** – Preliminary housing starts data for December 2008 released today by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) for the St. Catharines-Niagara Census Metropolitan Area<sup>1</sup> (CMA) report a 56 per cent decline from the same month last year to 43 units.

In 2008, builders started 1,138 housing units in the St. Catharines-Niagara CMA. This number is down one per cent compared to the previous year. Starts of single-detached and semi-detached homes declined 15 per cent to 680 homes and 7 per cent to 56 homes respectively. Conversely, new home construction of townhouses advanced 39 per cent and construction of apartments posted strong 36 per cent growth in 2008.

“The fourth quarter’s retreat in new home construction reversed the pattern of a very strong performance throughout most of the year” said Ashot Karapetyan, Market Analyst with CMHC. “Weak December starts brought the 2008 total slightly below the 2007 level. Interestingly, the actual number of starts in 2008 was only two units shy of the CMHC forecast of 1,140 units.”



<sup>1</sup> 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.

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, please visit [www.cmhc.ca](http://www.cmhc.ca) or call 1-800-668-2642.

**TABLE 1: MONTH OF DECEMBER**

Municipality	Single-Detached			Semi-Detached			Row			Apartment			Total		
	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%
Fort Erie, Town	12	4	-67%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	12	4	-67%
Port Colborne, City	2	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	2	0	*
Wainfleet, Township	1	2	100%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	1	2	100%
Pelham, Town	4	1	-75%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	4	1	-75%
Welland, City	9	6	-33%	2	0	*	0	0	*	3	0	*	14	6	-57%
Thorold, City	3	1	-67%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	3	1	-67%
Niagara Falls, City	23	11	-52%	4	0	*	0	4	*	0	0	*	27	15	-44%
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Town	12	5	-58%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	12	5	-58%
St.Catharines, City	8	7	-13%	4	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	12	7	-42%
Lincoln, Town	10	2	-80%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	10	2	-80%
<b>St.Catharines-Niagara CMA</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>-54%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>-56%</b>

**TABLE 2: YEAR-TO-DATE (JANUARY-DECEMBER)**

Municipality	Single-Detached			Semi-Detached			Row			Apartment			Total		
	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%
Fort Erie, Town	135	106	-21%	6	10	67%	12	25	108%	0	0	*	153	141	-8%
Port Colborne, City	21	10	-52%	0	0	*	0	8	*	0	0	*	21	18	-14%
Wainfleet, Township	16	14	-13%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	16	14	-13%
Pelham, Town	71	58	-18%	2	0	*	30	21	-30%	0	0	*	103	79	-23%
Welland, City	76	83	9%	10	4	-60%	11	13	18%	3	72	*	100	172	72%
Thorold, City	38	22	-42%	0	2	*	0	0	*	4	3	-25%	42	27	-36%
Niagara Falls, City	185	166	-10%	14	12	-14%	17	55	224%	77	39	-49%	293	272	-7%
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Town	89	73	-18%	0	4	*	33	0	*	0	0	*	122	77	-37%
St.Catharines, City	88	72	-18%	14	24	71%	93	125	34%	0	0	*	195	221	13%
Lincoln, Town	79	76	-4%	14	0	*	11	41	273%	0	0	*	104	117	13%
<b>St.Catharines-Niagara CMA</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>-15%</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>1,138</b>	<b>-1%</b>

Source: CMHC

\*Not Applicable

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

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