

Subsection 4.—Construction of Dwelling Units

The volume of new house building was greater in 1953 than in any previous year. Total housing starts, excluding conversions, numbered 102,409, an increase of 25 p.c. over the 1952 total and 11 p.c. higher than in the earlier peak year of 1950. All regions of the country shared in the increase: in the Atlantic Provinces, housing starts rose 26 p.c. to 5,921 units; in Quebec, 15 p.c. to 30,249 units; in Ontario, 30 p.c. to 38,873 units; in the Prairies, 25 p.c. to 18,776 units; and in British Columbia, 21 p.c. to 8,590 units. The higher number of starts in 1953 was accompanied by an increase in completions, excluding conversions, from 73,087 in 1952 to 96,839 in 1953. At 59,923, the number of dwellings under construction at the end of 1953 was 7.6 p.c. higher than the year before.

Of the dwellings completed in 1953, 82 p.c. were built in urban areas—almost unchanged from the 81 p.c. of 1952. Though there was little change between 1952 and 1953 in the distribution of dwellings by area, there were changes in the distribution by type of dwelling: 20 p.c. of the dwellings completed in 1953 were apartments, compared to 15 p.c. in 1952; single-family dwellings represented 68 p.c. of the total in 1953 compared to 73 p.c. in 1952.

Tables 21, 22 and 23 summarize the results of surveys conducted by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

21.—New Dwelling Units Completed, by Type, 1950-53

(Exclusive of the Yukon and Northwest Territories)

Type	1950	1951	1952	1953
	No.	No.	No.	No.
New Construction—				
One-family detached.....	68,685	60,366	55,967	68,916
Two-family detached.....	7,376	7,568	5,314	7,714
Row or terrace.....	145	585	99	372
Apartment or flat.....	12,540	12,540	11,707	19,837
Other.....	269	251	—	—
Totals, New Construction.....	89,015	81,310	73,087	96,839
Conversions.....	2,739	3,500	3,215	3,824
Grand Totals.....	91,754	84,810	76,302	100,663

22.—New Dwelling Units Completed, by Province, 1952 and 1953

(Exclusive of Conversions)

Province	1952			1953		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Newfoundland.....	615	516	1,131	801	679	1,480
Prince Edward Island.....	42	—	42	62	120	182
Nova Scotia.....	877	934	1,811	1,638	522	2,160
New Brunswick.....	690	541	1,231	669	733	1,402
Quebec.....	17,035	5,372	22,407	25,361	4,442	29,803
Ontario.....	22,601	4,860	27,461	28,324	6,849	35,173
Manitoba.....	2,592	550	3,142	3,990	804	4,794
Saskatchewan.....	2,172	458	2,630	3,337	710	4,047
Alberta.....	5,538	666	6,204	8,343	1,511	9,854
British Columbia.....	6,756	272	7,028	7,701	243	7,944
Totals.....	58,918	14,169	73,087	80,226	16,613	96,839