

RELEASE

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April Housing Starts in St. John's Area

ST. JOHN'S, May 10, 2010 – Urban housing starts increased during the month of April, according to preliminary data¹ released today by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). April's housing starts totaled 129 throughout the St. John's area versus 87 starts in April of 2009. There were four additional starts recorded outside the St. John's area, for a total of 133 provincial urban starts compared to 106 last April.

"April's brisk new home construction activity positioned the market 48 per cent ahead of the same month last year and 25 per cent year-to-date," said Chris Janes, senior market analyst with CMHC in Newfoundland and Labrador. "Continued growth in local employment, income and population combined with low mortgage rates has supported residential construction activity during the first four months of 2010," added Janes.

In urban centres across Canada, total housing starts increased 79 per cent with 14,995 recorded in April compared to 8,387 during April of 2009. Throughout Atlantic Canada, there were 573 urban housing starts posted versus 419 the previous April, an increase of 37 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						
	2010	2009	% Change	YEAR-TO-DATE		% Change
	APR	APR		2010	2009	
ALL URBAN CENTRES WITH POPULATIONS > 50,000						
ST. JOHN'S CMA						
Single	115	83	38.6%	314	249	26.1%
Multiple	14	4	##	61	52	17.3%
TOTAL	129	87	48.3%	375	301	24.6%
ALL URBAN CENTRES WITH POPULATION > 10,000						
ALL CENTRES*						
Single	119	100	19.0%	322	274	17.5%
Multiple	14	6	##	73	56	30.4%
TOTAL	133	106	25.5%	395	330	19.7%
Figures for the most recent month are preliminary and subject to revisions due to corrections or updates from quarterly						
* Includes all centres with a total population of more than 10,000 (St. John's CMA, Bay Roberts CA, Corner Brook CA, Gander CA, Grand Falls/Windsor CA)						
## Indicates changes in excess of 100% which are not reported due to volatility resulting from small absolute numbers.						

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