

Building Consents Issued: January 2014

Embargoed until 10:45am – 28 February 2014

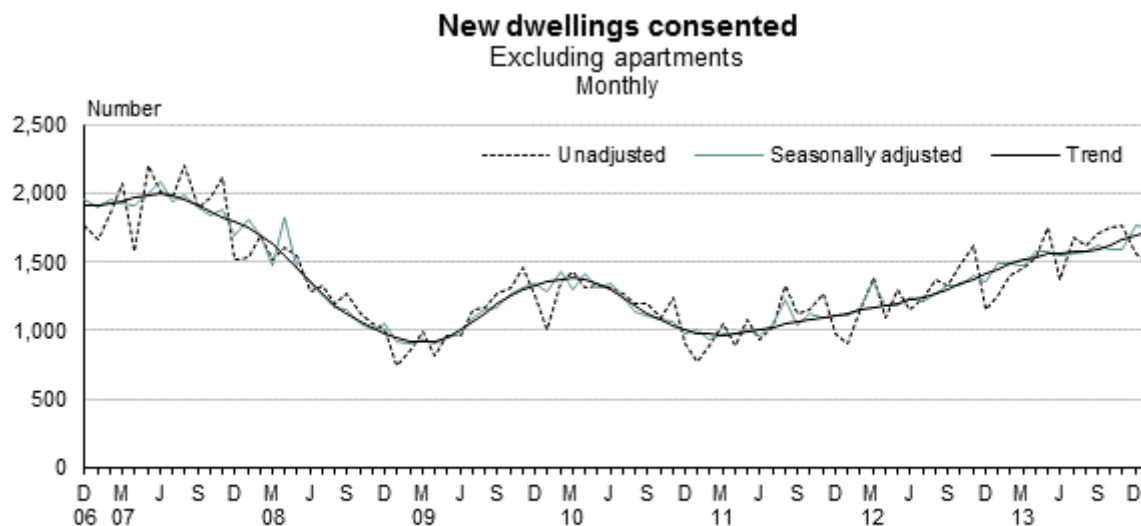
Key facts

In January 2014, building consents were issued for:

- 1,640 new dwellings, including apartments
- 154 apartments, including 88 retirement village units
- 1,486 non-apartment dwellings.

The seasonally adjusted number of new dwellings, excluding apartments, fell 1.3 percent, following a rise of 11 percent in December.

The trend for new dwellings, excluding apartments, is at its highest level since January 2008, and is 79 percent higher than the most-recent low point in March 2011. However, it is still 24 percent below the series maximum in September 2003.



Source: Statistics New Zealand

The unadjusted value of building work consented in January 2014 was \$930 million. This consisted of \$642 million of residential work and \$289 million of non-residential work.

Liz MacPherson
Government Statistician

28 February 2014
ISSN 1178-0231

Commentary

- [Apartment numbers return to lower level](#)
- [Dwelling trends continue to rise](#)
- [New dwellings up in 13 regions](#)
- [Non-residential consents valued at \\$289 million in January](#)
- [Canterbury earthquake-related consents total almost \\$1.5 billion](#)
- [Consents for all buildings valued at \\$930 million in January](#)

Figures given are not adjusted for seasonal fluctuations unless otherwise stated. Values include GST and are not adjusted for inflation.

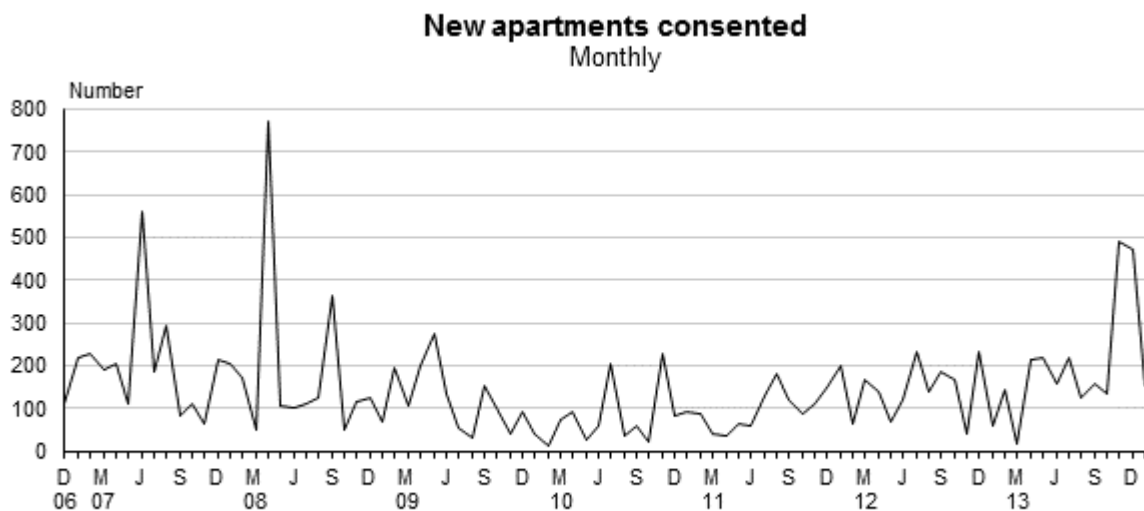
Apartment numbers return to lower level

In January 2014, a total of 1,640 new dwellings were consented. This consisted of:

- 154 apartments, including 88 retirement village units
- 1,486 non-apartment dwellings.

Apartment numbers returned to a lower level in January, after recording high numbers in November and December. This caused the seasonally adjusted number of new dwellings, including apartments, to fall 8.3 percent, following an increase of 20 percent over the previous two months.

Excluding apartments, the seasonally adjusted number of new dwellings fell only 1.3 percent in January, following a rise of 11 percent in December.



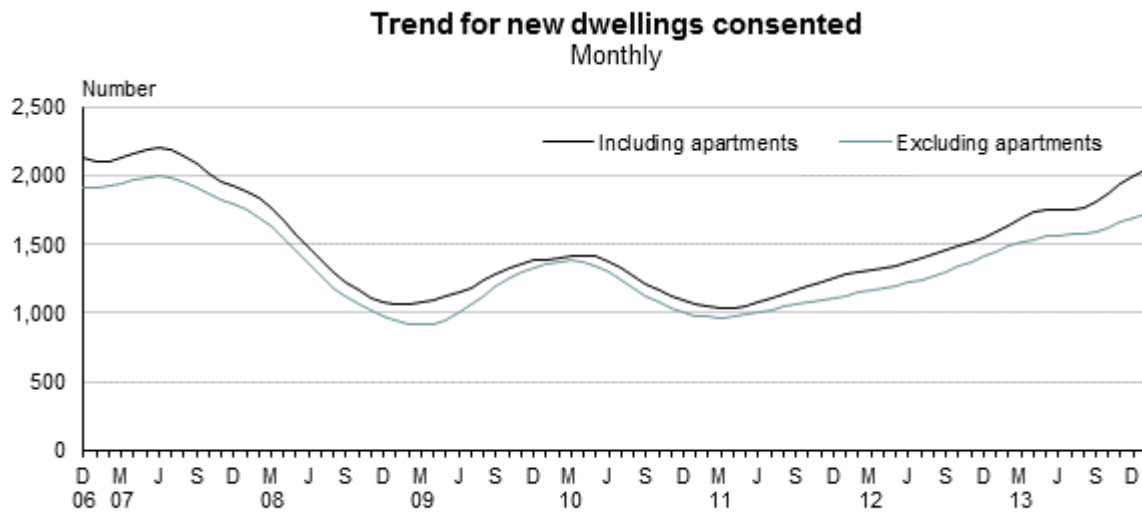
Source: Statistics New Zealand

Dwelling trends continue to rise

The trend for new dwellings, **including apartments**, is at its highest level since September 2007, and is 100 percent higher than the series minimum in March 2011. However, it is still 28 percent below the series maximum in January 2004.

The trend for new dwellings, **excluding apartments**, is at its highest level since January 2008, and is 79 percent higher than the most-recent low point in March 2011. However, it is still 24 percent below the series maximum in September 2003.

Note: Seasonally adjusted and trend figures, particularly for the latest periods, may be revised whenever a new month is added to the series.



Source: Statistics New Zealand

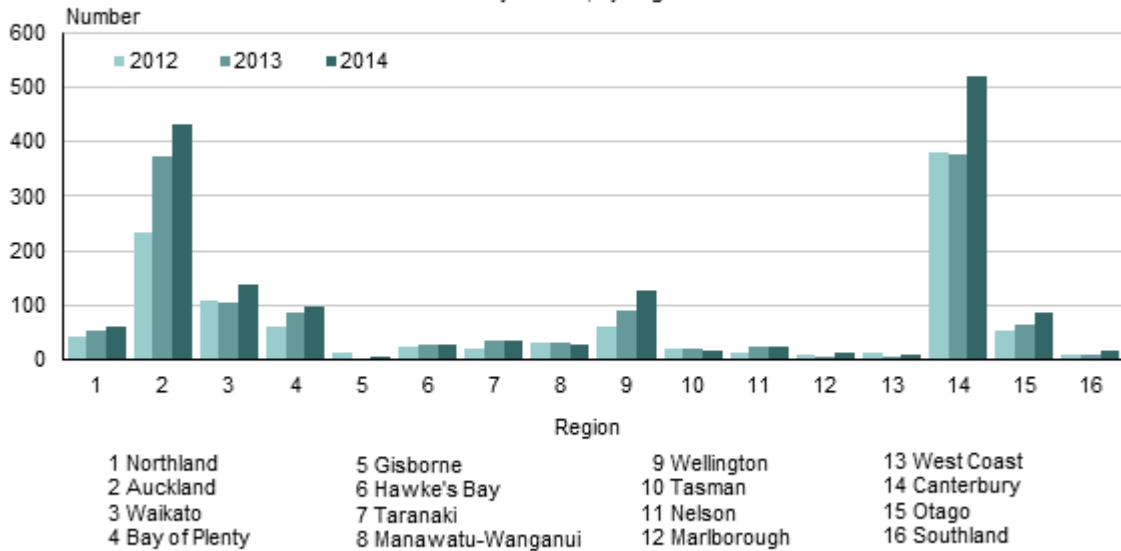
New dwellings up in 13 regions

Including apartments, 13 of the 16 regions consented more new dwellings in January 2014 than in January 2013.

The regions with the greatest increases were:

- Canterbury – up 142, to 520 (including 27 apartments)
- Auckland – up 61, to 433 (including 68 apartments)
- Wellington – up 35, to 127 (including 59 apartments)
- Waikato – up 33, to 137.

New dwellings consented
Including apartments
January month, by region



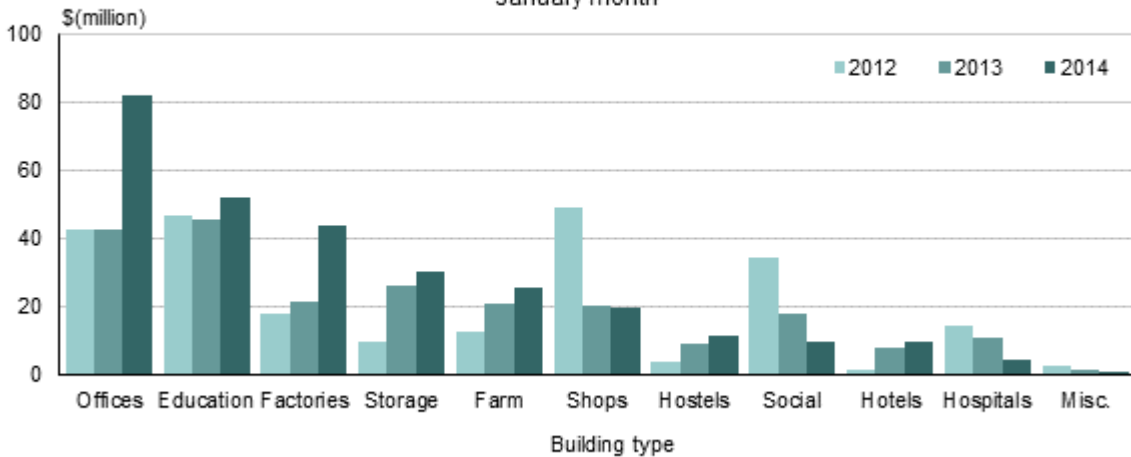
Source: Statistics New Zealand

Non-residential consents valued at \$289 million in January

The value of non-residential building work consented in January 2014 was \$289 million. The largest contributors, by value, were:

- offices and administration buildings (28 percent of all non-residential buildings)
- education buildings (18 percent)
- factories and industrial buildings (15 percent).

Value of non-residential buildings consented
By building type (including alterations and additions)
January month



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Canterbury earthquake-related consents total almost \$1.5 billion

Since 4 September 2010, \$1,497 million of building consents have been identified as earthquake-related. This includes consents for 1,425 new dwellings.

Not all earthquake-related consents can be identified. For example, if a new house (to replace a damaged house) is built at a different site, the new house might not be identified as earthquake-related.

For comparison, the total value of building consents in Canterbury from September 2010 to January 2014 is \$7,478 million. The total number of new dwellings consented in Canterbury over this period is 13,584.

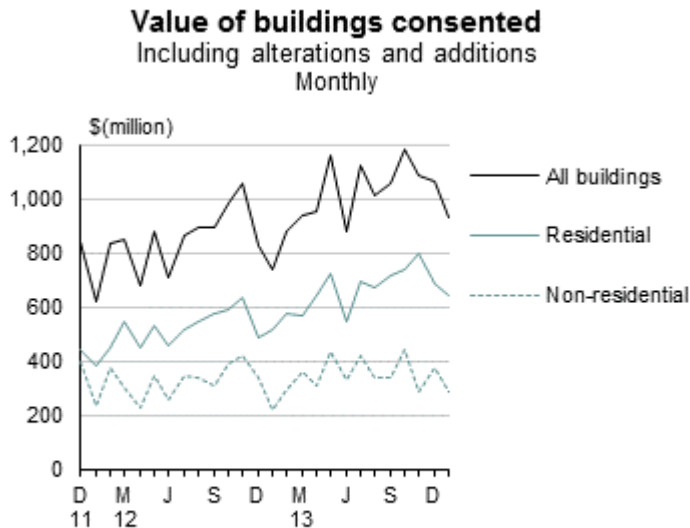
In January 2014, the value of building consents identified as earthquake-related in Canterbury was \$56 million (of a total of \$261 million for Canterbury in January). This included:

- 105 new dwellings (of 520)
- \$54 million for residential building work (of \$197 million)
- \$2 million for non-residential building work (of \$62 million).

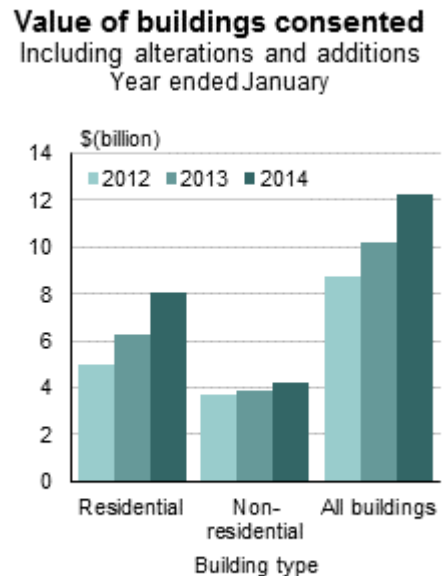
[See more about earthquake-related building consents in Canterbury](#)

Consents for all buildings valued at \$930 million in January

The total value of building work consented in January 2014 was \$930 million.



Source: Statistics New Zealand



Source: Statistics New Zealand

For the year ended January 2014, compared with the year ended January 2013, the value of building consents increased for:

- all buildings – up \$2,063 million (20 percent) to \$12,266 million
- residential buildings – up \$1,717 million (27 percent) to \$8,025 million
- non-residential buildings – up \$346 million (8.9 percent) to \$4,241 million.

Data for building consents is obtained from all territorial authorities in New Zealand.

For more detailed data, see the Excel tables in the 'Downloads' box.

Definitions

About Building Consents Issued

Building Consents Issued contains statistics on the number, value, and floor areas of residential dwellings and the value of non-residential buildings by region and building type. Values include goods and services tax and are not inflation adjusted. Buildings are classified according to their main intended function or functions. Subsequent changes in function will be recorded in the statistics if new consents are issued.

More definitions

Domestic outbuildings: includes new construction, alterations, and additions to garages, glasshouses, and sheds on residential sections.

Earthquake-related building consents in Canterbury: building consents issued in the Canterbury region and identified (primarily by the issuing authorities) as being earthquake-related.

Not all earthquake-related consents can be identified. For example, if a new house (to replace a damaged house) is built at a different site, the new house might not be identified as being earthquake-related.

Note: Excludes seismic strengthening work and demolitions.

Non-residential buildings: includes new construction, alterations, and additions to industrial, commercial, and other non-residential buildings such as schools, hospitals, and libraries. Barracks, hostels, prisons, serviced apartments, workers' quarters, and other accommodation buildings are included.

Residential buildings: includes new construction, alterations, and additions to dwellings (houses, flats, and apartments) and domestic outbuildings.

Territorial authorities: are defined under the Local Government Act 2002 and related amendments. There are 67 territorial authorities – 13 cities, 53 districts, and 1 territory.

Related links

Upcoming releases

Building Consents Issued: February 2014 will be released on 31 March 2014.

[Subscribe to information releases](#), including this one, by completing the online subscription form.

[The release calendar](#) lists all our upcoming information releases by date of release.

Past releases

[Building Consents Issued](#) has links to past releases.

Related information

[Earthquake-related building consents in Canterbury](#) summarises Canterbury consents identified as earthquake-related. This table is updated monthly.

[Value of building work put in place](#) statistics estimate the actual dollar value of work put in place on construction jobs within New Zealand (quarterly). It includes information by building type, and deflated values.

Data quality

This section contains information that does not change between releases.

- [Data source](#)
- [Survey errors](#)
- [Coverage](#)
- [Interpreting the data](#)
- [More information](#)

Data source

Data for building consents is obtained each month from all accredited building consent authorities (ie territorial authorities). Statistics NZ compiles information from all building consents issued each month if:

- they are valued at \$5,000 or more
- they are not predominantly for demolition work.

Survey errors

Sample errors

Because the survey has 100 percent coverage of the target population, there is no sample error.

Non-sample errors

These errors can occur when there is incomplete or incorrect information on consent forms, or when information is incorrectly delivered, interpreted, or classified. While much effort is made to minimise these errors, they will still occur, and it is not possible to quantify their effect.

Coverage

Scope

Only construction work that requires a building consent is included in these statistics. Some civil engineering works, such as roads, require resource consents but not building consents, so are excluded.

The scope of work requiring a building consent is determined by the Building Act 2004. Its main parts came into force in 2005, replacing the Building Act 2001. The new act introduced measures to provide greater assurances to consumers, such as registration of building consent authorities, and the licensing of building practitioners. The act was reviewed in 2009. The review broadened the scope of work that may proceed without a building consent (see [Schedule 1 exemptions](#) for changes to the Building Act 2004, on the Department of Building and Housing's website, effective from 23 December 2010).

The Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority has legislative powers to undertake work without a building consent. For example, demolition work and temporary repairs.

Statistics NZ excludes consents that are predominantly for demolition work, and consents valued below \$5,000.

Changes in coverage

The building consents included in this release have changed over time. The list below highlights the key changes.

1996 From the June 1996 month, consent values for multi-purpose buildings are coded to one or more of the most appropriate building types. Before this date, multi-purpose buildings were classified separately.

1993 From the January 1993 month, building authorisations have been applied for under the building consents system administered by territorial authorities. Before this date, applications were made under the building permits system. The building consents system has wider coverage than the building permits system. The additional coverage includes some government building (particularly work on education buildings), and on-site drainage and reticulation work.

1989 From the September 1989 month, consents below \$5,000 are excluded.

Boundary changes

2011 From 1 November 2010, part of the former Franklin district moved from the Auckland region to the Waikato region. This change is included in building consents data from January 2011.

2010 On 1 November 2010, the new Auckland Council came into being from seven former cities and districts (see table 4). Before November 2010, the Auckland region (see table 3) can be used to approximate the new Auckland Council.

Seasonally adjusted series

Seasonal adjustment removes the estimated impact of regular seasonal events, such as summer holidays and pre-Christmas purchasing, from statistical series. This makes figures for adjacent periods more comparable.

The seasonally adjusted series are re-estimated monthly when each new month's data becomes available. Figures are therefore subject to revision, with the largest changes normally occurring in the latest months.

The X-12-ARIMA seasonal adjustment program, developed at the U.S. Census Bureau, is used to produce the seasonally adjusted and trend estimates.

Trend estimates

Trend estimation removes the estimated impact of regular seasonal events and irregular short-term variation from statistical series. This reveals turning points and the underlying direction of movement over time.

The trend series are re-estimated monthly when each new month's data becomes available. Figures are therefore subject to revision, with the largest changes normally occurring in the latest months. Revisions can be large if values are initially treated as outliers but are later found to be part of the underlying trend.

The X-12-ARIMA seasonal adjustment program is used to produce the seasonally adjusted and trend estimates. Irregular short-term variation is removed by smoothing the seasonally adjusted series using optimal weighted moving averages.

To reduce distortions, the monthly trend series for the value of non-residential buildings is estimated after removal of consent values of \$25 million or more between January 1990 and December 2005, and of \$50 million or more from January 2006. However, non-residential building consent values are still volatile with no stable seasonal pattern, and therefore a stable trend for this series is slow to emerge.

[Seasonal adjustment in Statistics New Zealand](#) has more information.

Interpreting the data

Figures for new apartments are compiled from consents that have 10 or more new attached dwellings (flats or apartments). If there are fewer than 10 flats or apartments on a consent, they are treated as being dwellings other than apartments. Apartment numbers often show large fluctuations from month to month and, unless removed from dwelling figures, can mask underlying movements.

Values for new buildings include conversion costs. For example, if a hotel is converted to apartments, these are treated as new dwellings in the statistics. Consent values for new buildings sometimes include the cost of demolishing or removing the previous buildings.

Some consents, particularly for large projects, are issued in stages across more than one month. Value data is collected at each stage but floor areas and dwelling or building counts are normally recorded at the first large stage of the project. This difference in timing can affect calculations of average prices.

Trading day adjustments

An aim of time series analysis is to identify movements that are due to actual changes. Seasonal adjustment is done to remove systematic calendar-related variation. Specific adjustments can be made to remove variations due to trading day differences and moving holidays, such as Easter, which are not accounted for in a standard seasonal adjustment.

Some of the apparent movement in building consent figures is due to trading day differences between months. For example, a month with four weekends will have more trading or working days than a comparable month with five weekends. This can affect monthly figures, even though there may be no difference in the length of the month or difference in the rate at which consents are issued. Trading day effects, when estimated to be statistically significant, are quantified and removed. This is trading day adjustment.

Since 1998, trading day adjustments have been made to the building consents series during the seasonal adjustment process. Since May 2004, an improved method has been used. At present, there is no adjustment to remove the effect of moving holidays such as Easter.

Trend estimates versus month-on-month comparisons

Trend estimates reveal the underlying direction of movement in statistical series. In contrast, comparisons of unadjusted data between one month and the same month in the previous year/s do not take account of data recorded for the intervening months, and are subject to one-off fluctuations. Reasons for fluctuations include changes in legislation, economic variables such as interest rates, and trading day composition of months.

More information

[See more information about Building Consents Issued](#)

Liability

While all care and diligence has been used in processing, analysing, and extracting data and information in this publication, Statistics NZ gives no warranty it is error-free and will not be liable for any loss or damage suffered by the use directly, or indirectly, of the information in this publication.

Timing

Our information releases are delivered electronically by third parties. Delivery may be delayed by circumstances outside our control. Statistics NZ accepts no responsibility for any such delay.

Crown copyright©



This work is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand](#) licence. You are free to copy, distribute, and adapt the work, as long as you attribute the work to Statistics NZ and abide by the other licence terms. Please note you may not use any departmental or governmental emblem, logo, or coat of arms in any way that infringes any provision of the [Flags, Emblems, and Names Protection Act 1981](#). Use the wording 'Statistics New Zealand' in your attribution, not the Statistics NZ logo.

Revisions

The data for building consents issued in Christchurch city and Grey district in August 2013 has been revised downwards. Some of the affected series are shown below.

Revised number of new dwellings for August 2013			
Geographic area	Series reference: BLDM.	Number	
		Published on 30 September 2013	Published on 28 February 2014
Grey district	SAC11KA	12	3
Christchurch city	SAC11KM	181	178
New Zealand	SHA11RZ	1,760	1,748

Revised value of all buildings (including alterations and additions) for August 2013			
Geographic area	Series reference: BLDM.	Value	
		Published on 30 September 2013	Published on 28 February 2014
Grey district	SAR32KA	\$4 million	\$2 million
Christchurch city	SAR32KM	\$133 million	\$130 million
New Zealand	SDP92MZ	\$1,016 million	\$1,010 million

Contacts

For media enquiries contact:

Blair Cardno

Christchurch 03 964 8700

Email: info@stats.govt.nz

For technical information contact:

Mark Darbyshire or Danielle Barwick

Christchurch 03 964 8700

Email: info@stats.govt.nz

For general enquiries contact our Information Centre:

Phone: 0508 525 525 (toll-free in New Zealand)

+64 4 931 4600 (outside New Zealand)

Email: info@stats.govt.nz

Subscription service:

Subscribe to information releases, including this one, by completing the online subscription form.

Correction notifications:

Subscribe to receive an email if a correction notice is published for Building Consents Issued.

Unsubscribe to correction notifications for Building Consents Issued.

Subscribe to all to receive an email if a correction notice is published for any of our information releases.

Unsubscribe to all if you change your mind.

Tables

The following tables are available in Excel format from the 'Downloads' box. If you have problems viewing the files, see [opening files and PDFs](#).

1. Building consents issued – January
2. Number of new dwellings consented
3. Number and value of new dwellings consented, by region
4. Number of new dwellings consented, by selected territorial authority area
5. Value of building consents issued, unadjusted and trend values

Access more data on Infoshare

Infoshare allows you to organise data in the way that best meets your needs. You can view the resulting tables onscreen or download them.

Use Infoshare

For this release, select the following category from the Infoshare homepage:

Subject category: **Industry sectors**

Group: **Building Consents - BLD**