

## RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Housing starts in Edmonton decrease in May**

**Edmonton, June 8, 2009** – According to preliminary figures released today by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), housing starts in the Edmonton Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) totalled 346 units in May compared with 586 units in May 2008. After five months of activity so far this year, total housing starts have reached 1,462 units across the Capital region, down from 3,584 units tallied from January to May of 2008.

Home builders started work on 242 single-detached homes in May, representing a 12 per cent decrease from the 275 units started in May 2008. To the end of May, builders poured foundations for 849 single-detached homes across Greater Edmonton, down 23.5 per cent from the 1,110 units started during the first five months of 2008. “Activity levels so far this year are in line with CMHC’s forecast for single-detached starts during 2009,” noted Richard Goatcher, CMHC’s Senior Market Analyst based in Edmonton.

Multiple dwelling starts, which consist of semi-detached, row, and apartment units, continued to moderate in May. Total multi-unit starts amounted to 104 units last month, 67 per cent lower than the 311 units started in May of last year. All of May’s multiple starts were destined for the homeowner or condominium markets. Multiple starts have totalled 613 units across Metro so far this year, representing a 75 per cent decrease from 2,474 starts reported in the first five months of 2008. “CMHC’s current forecast calls for 1,250 multi-family starts in 2009 compared to 4,002 units in 2008 reflecting developer concerns over unsold condominium inventories and rising rental apartment vacancies,” added Goatcher.

Housing starts in Alberta’s seven largest cities totalled 962 units in May, representing a decrease of 61 per cent from 2,472 units in May 2008.

As Canada’s national housing agency, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (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, visit [www.cmhc.ca](http://www.cmhc.ca) or call 1-800-668-2642.

CMHC Market Analysis standard reports are also available free for download at <http://www.cmhc.ca/housingmarketinformation>.

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**Preliminary Housing Starts in Alberta  
May 2009**

	Single-Detached			Multiple-Family			Total		
	2009	2008	%	2009	2008	%	2009	2008	%
Calgary CMA	382	475	-19.6	98	1,013	-90.3	480	1,488	-67.7
Calgary City	282	351	-19.7	80	700	-88.6	362	1,051	-65.6
Edmonton CMA	242	275	-12.0	104	311	-66.6	346	586	-41.0
Edmonton City	120	118	1.7	57	181	-68.5	177	299	-40.8
Wood Buffalo CA	23	41	-43.9	4	40	-90.0	27	81	-66.7
Grande Prairie CA	20	57	-64.9	2	0	--	22	57	-61.4
Lethbridge CA	34	53	-35.8	6	6	0.0	40	59	-32.2
Medicine Hat CA	17	49	-65.3	8	8	0.0	25	57	-56.1
Red Deer CA	14	40	-65.0	8	104	-92.3	22	144	-84.7
<b>Total*</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>-26.1</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>1,482</b>	<b>-84.5</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>2,472</b>	<b>-61.1</b>

Source: Market Analysis Centre, C.M.H.C.

-- % change equals or exceeds +/- 100%

\*Total consists of Calgary CMA, Edmonton CMA and the five CAs

**January to May 2009**

	Single-Detached			Multiple-Family			Total		
	2009	2008	%	2009	2008	%	2009	2008	%
Calgary CMA	1,175	1,878	-37.4	372	5,362	-93.1	1,547	7,240	-78.6
Calgary City	869	1,378	-36.9	250	4,841	-94.8	1,119	6,219	-82.0
Edmonton CMA	849	1,110	-23.5	613	2,474	-75.2	1,462	3,584	-59.2
Edmonton City	435	549	-20.8	361	1,705	-78.8	796	2,254	-64.7
Wood Buffalo CA	156	332	-53.0	86	240	-64.2	242	572	-57.7
Grande Prairie CA	95	129	-26.4	20	50	-60.0	115	179	-35.8
Lethbridge CA	162	356	-54.5	24	63	-61.9	186	419	-55.6
Medicine Hat CA	55	185	-70.3	69	120	-42.5	124	305	-59.3
Red Deer CA	77	156	-50.6	18	134	-86.6	95	290	-67.2
<b>Total*</b>	<b>2,569</b>	<b>4,146</b>	<b>-38.0</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>8,443</b>	<b>-85.8</b>	<b>3,771</b>	<b>12,589</b>	<b>-70.0</b>

Source: Market Analysis Centre, C.M.H.C.

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\*Total consists of Calgary CMA, Edmonton CMA and the five CAs

**Canada**

