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Lower Mainland-Southwest permits up in June on strength of commercial permits

Non-residential permits rise while residential permits decrease

VANCOUVER, August 7, 2013 – Total building permit values in the Lower Mainland-Southwest region rose six per cent in June 2013 from May 2013 on the strength of commercial permit activity, according to Vancouver Regional Construction Association’s analysis of today’s Statistics Canada Building Permit Report.

“Building permits values in the Lower Mainland-Southwest region saw a rise this month, mainly due to commercial permits for office buildings in Metro Vancouver,” said Jan Robinson, interim president of the Vancouver Regional Construction Association (VRCA). “Interest in new office construction has risen, with notable developments underway and proposed for the Vancouver downtown market.”

Total permit values in June 2013 rose to \$675.7 million compared to \$639.8 million in May 2013. Non-residential permits jumped 48 per cent to \$212.8 million in June from \$144.2 million in May. Commercial permits were up 117 per cent to \$171.3 million from \$79.1 million, while institutional-government permits fell 20 per cent to \$31.8 million, and industrial permits dropped 62 per cent to \$9.7 million from \$25.3 million in May. Residential permit values decreased seven per cent to \$462.9 million from \$495.6 million during the same period.

Total building permit values were six per cent lower at \$3.488 billion from \$3.71 billion in the first six months of this year compared to the same period last year.

VRCA’s 2013 forecast for total building permits is likely a decline from 2012 led by fewer residential and government permits. Commercial and industrial permits may provide some offset since market conditions are generally favourable.

Regional Building Permit Highlights:

- Total permit values in June 2013 rose six per cent to \$675.7 million compared to \$639.8 million in May 2013.
 - Total non-residential permit values increased 48 per cent in June 2013 to \$212.8 million compared to \$144.2 million in May 2013.
 - Commercial permits jumped 117 per cent to \$171.3 million in June.
 - Institutional-government permits declined 20 per cent to \$31.8 million in June.
 - Industrial permits dropped 62 per cent to \$9.7 million in June.
 - Residential permit values were down seven per cent \$462.9 million in June 2013 compared to \$495.6 million in May 2013.
- Total building permit values were down seven per cent to \$675.7 million from \$730.3 million year over year in June 2013 compared to June 2012.
 - Total non-residential permits were up 20 per cent to \$212.8 million from \$177.3 million last year.
 - Residential permit values were 16 per cent lower than last year at \$462.9 million compared to \$553 million.

With close to 700 members, VRCA is British Columbia’s largest and most inclusive regional construction association, representing union and non-union, general and trade contracting companies, manufacturers, suppliers and other professionals throughout the Lower Mainland from Hope to Whistler.