

## RELEASE

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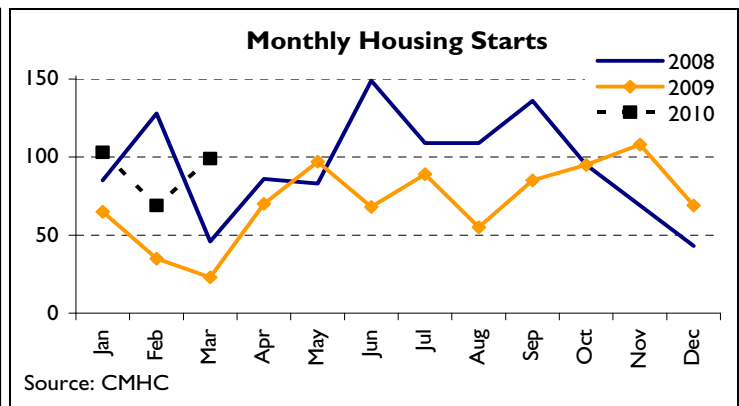
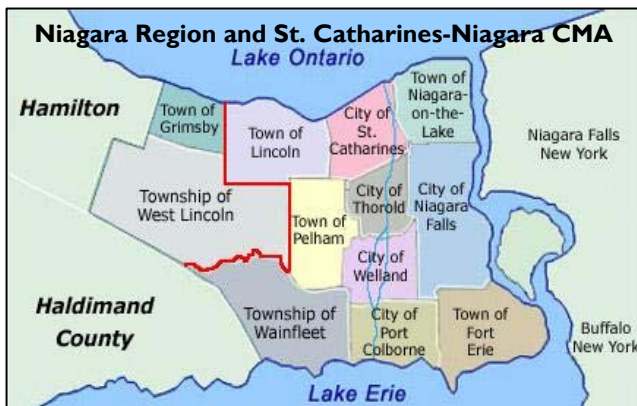
## MARCH HOUSING STARTS HIGHER IN ST. CATHARINES-NIAGARA

**TORONTO, APRIL 12, 2010** – Preliminary data for March 2010 released today by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) for the St. Catharines-Niagara Census Metropolitan Area<sup>1</sup> (CMA) show an increase in housing starts to 99 units.

March was another month of strong housing starts which contrasted with unusually low starts in the same month a year ago. In March 2010, new home construction advanced for all four housing types. Largely on the strength of townhouse construction, this marked the firmest first quarter for total starts since 2004. First quarter Niagara Region starts were up strongly, due to a high level of activity in both Grimsby and West Lincoln. Starts also advanced in most other municipalities, particularly in St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Lincoln.

“Demand for new homes remains high given that mortgage rates are expected to head north later in the year,” said Ashot Karapetyan, Market Analyst with CMHC. “Despite still weak employment, there has been enough good news about the economy to stimulate demand for both segments of the housing market – new and existing homes,” added Karapetyan.

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada defines a census metropolitan area (CMA) as one or more adjacent municipalities integrated with an urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more must live in the urban core.

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.

For more information, please visit [www.cmhc.ca](http://www.cmhc.ca) or call 1-800-668-2642.

**TABLE 1: MONTH OF MARCH**

Municipality	Single-Detached			Semi-Detached			Row			Apartment			Total		
	2009	2010	%	2009	2010	%	2009	2010	%	2009	2010	%	2009	2010	%
Fort Erie	4	8	100%	0	2	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	4	10	150%
Port Colborne	1	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	1	0	*
Wainfleet	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*
Pelham	0	2	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	2	*
Welland	1	1	0%	0	0	*	0	3	*	0	0	*	1	4	300%
Thorold	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*
Niagara Falls	3	12	300%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	3	12	300%
Niagara-on-the-Lake	0	2	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	2	*
St.Catharines	1	6	500%	0	2	*	5	28	460%	0	3	*	6	39	550%
Lincoln	4	7	75%	0	0	*	4	23	475%	0	0	*	8	30	275%
<b>St.Catharines-Niagara CMA</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>171%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>500%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>330%</b>
Grimsby	6	9	50%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	6	9	50%
West Lincoln <sup>1</sup>	2	10	400%	0	6	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	2	16	700%
<b>Niagara Region<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>22</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>159%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>500%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>300%</b>

**TABLE 2: YEAR-TO-DATE (JANUARY-MARCH)**

Municipality	Single-Detached			Semi-Detached			Row			Apartment			Total		
	2009	2010	%	2009	2010	%	2009	2010	%	2009	2010	%	2009	2010	%
Fort Erie	14	16	14%	0	2	*	0	7	*	0	0	*	14	25	79%
Port Colborne	2	1	-50%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	2	1	-50%
Wainfleet	0	2	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	2	*
Pelham	2	9	350%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	2	9	350%
Welland	5	15	200%	0	0	*	10	3	-70%	0	0	*	15	18	20%
Thorold	1	6	500%	2	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	3	6	100%
Niagara Falls	11	44	300%	0	2	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	11	46	318%
Niagara-on-the-Lake	2	12	500%	0	0	*	18	0	*	0	0	*	20	12	-40%
St.Catharines	6	12	100%	2	6	200%	25	64	156%	0	3	*	33	85	158%
Lincoln	9	18	100%	0	0	*	14	49	250%	0	0	*	23	67	191%
<b>St.Catharines-Niagara CMA</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>160%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>150%</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>120%</b>
Grimsby	12	42	250%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	12	42	250%
West Lincoln <sup>1</sup>	2	10	400%	0	6	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	2	16	700%
<b>Niagara Region<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>66</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>183%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>300%</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>140%</b>

Source: CMHC

\*Not applicable

\*\*Year-over-year change greater than 1000 per cent

<sup>1</sup>Housing starts data for West Lincoln are collected and reported only on a quarterly basis (in March, June, September, December)

<sup>2</sup>Housing starts data for Niagara Region are accurate at each end-of-quarter month and understated in other months due to reporting conventions used for West Lincoln as described in the note (1) above

Aussi disponible en français

**For additional information please contact / Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec:**

Local: Ashot Karapetyan, (416) 250-3234 or [akarapet@cmhc.ca](mailto:akarapet@cmhc.ca)

En français: David Lan, (519) 873-2426 ou [dlan@cmhc.ca](mailto:dlan@cmhc.ca)

Ontario: Ted Tsiakopoulos, (416) 218-3407 or [ttsiakop@cmhc.ca](mailto:ttsiakop@cmhc.ca)

Canada: Charles Sauriol, (613) 748-2799 or [csauriol@cmhc.ca](mailto:csauriol@cmhc.ca)