

RENTAL MARKET REPORT

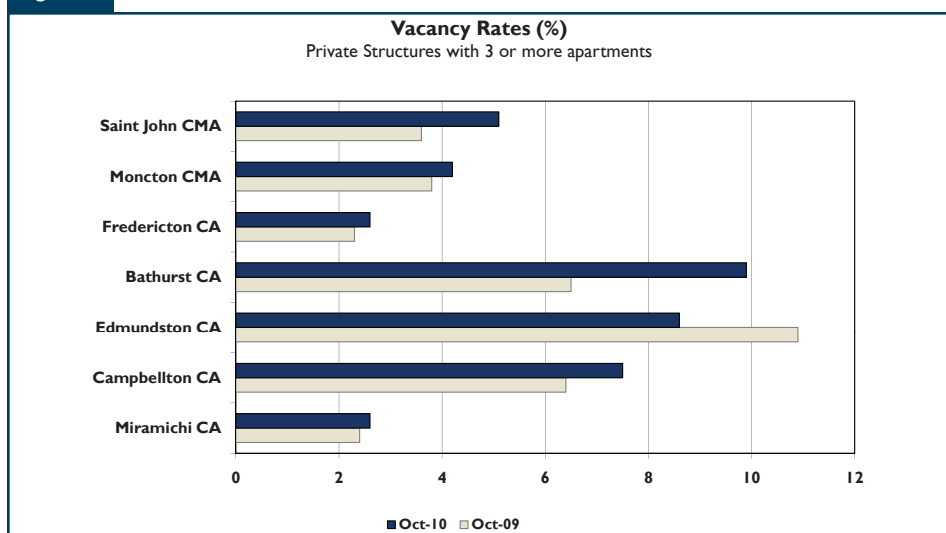
New Brunswick Highlights*



CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

Date Released: Fall 2010

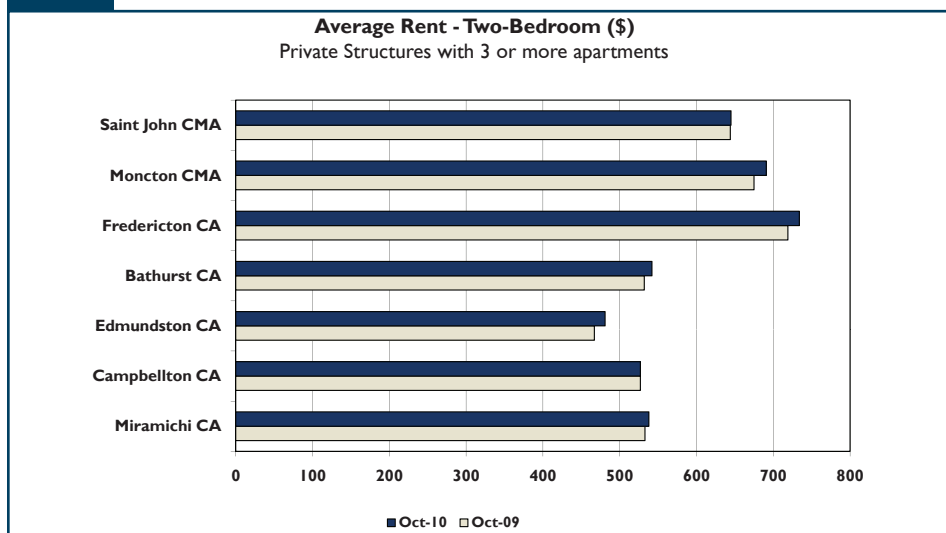
Figure 1



Vacancy Rate Higher in New Brunswick Urban Centres

- The overall vacancy rate in New Brunswick's urban centres was 4.5 per cent in October of 2010, up from last year's level of 3.8 per cent.
- The average rent increase in the province, based on structures common to both the 2009 and 2010 surveys, stood at 2.3 per cent.
- In provincial urban centres, the average rent stood at \$641 in October 2010. Fredericton posted the highest average rent in the province at \$730, while Edmundston recorded the lowest at \$459.
- The availability rate for the province's urban areas was up one percentage point to 5.2 per cent.

Figure 2



*Only centres with a population of 10,000 + are included in the survey. Detailed reports are available for CMAAs.

Overview

Results from the Fall 2010 CMHC Rental Market Survey conducted during the first two weeks of October revealed a higher vacancy rate in all three of New Brunswick's large urban centres – Fredericton, Moncton and Saint John. Throughout the year, favorable housing market conditions, mostly due to historically low mortgage rates and an ample supply of new and existing homes, continued to present various housing options to consumers. As such, current and potential renters have, in greater numbers, opted for homeownership resulting in higher vacancy rates in 2010.

Among the three major urban centres in the province, Fredericton posted the lowest vacancy rate at 2.6 per cent in October 2010 up from 2.3 per cent last year. It was also the centre with the smallest, year-over-year vacancy rate increase. These results point to stable rental unit demand in the provincial capital region. Employment through the first three quarters of 2010 remained at a record level, due mostly to the strength of the local service and public administration sectors. Strong employment can have a mixed effect on the local vacancy rate. As employment rises, some renters opt for homeownership, leading to reduced rental unit demand and a higher vacancy rate. This impact in the provincial capital has been offset by steady in-migration, as the rise in the number of households pushed down the vacancy rate, resulting in the minimal change observed in 2010.

In Greater Moncton, housing market conditions have remained favorable to potential homeowners despite a general decline in housing demand. As a result, homeownership has moved

within reach for a larger number of people in Greater Moncton, including current renters, thus reducing demand for rental units. The overall vacancy rate in the Moncton CMA was 4.2 per cent in October compared to 3.8 per cent last fall.

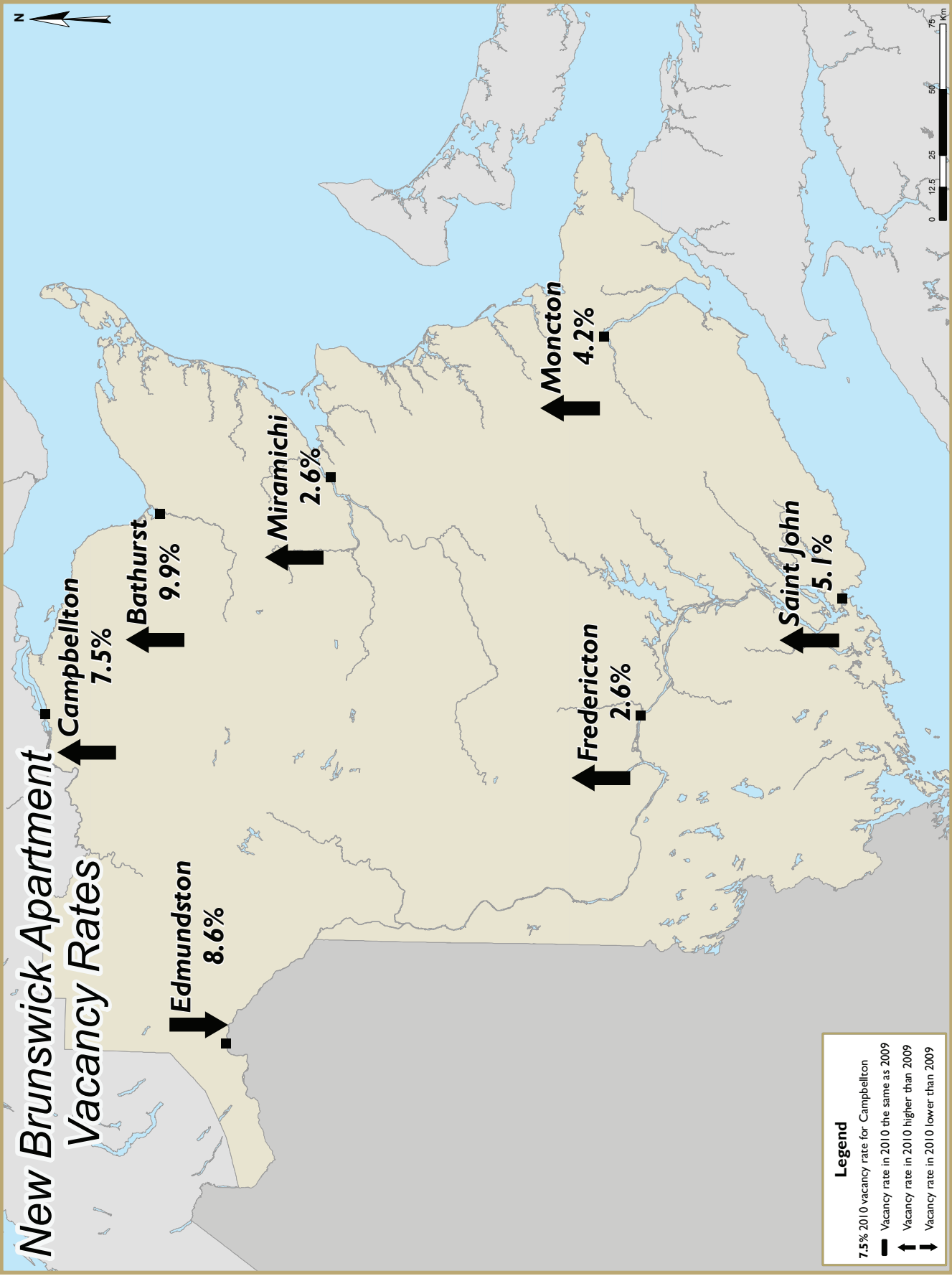
In Saint John, apartment starts have been steady in recent years. The rapid expansion of the local energy sector in recent years fuelled some speculation in the local housing market based on the anticipated rise in the demand for skilled labor. In 2010, limited new development in the energy sector has essentially reversed the positive net-migration observed in recent years. The resulting impact on rental unit demand has been a 1.5 percentage point increase in the vacancy rate to 5.1 per cent.

In three of New Brunswick's four smaller urban centres, the vacancy rate increased during the past 12 months. The largest year-over-year increase occurred in Bathurst, where the vacancy rate was up 3.4 percentage points to 9.9 per cent. In Campbellton and Miramichi, the vacancy rate increased by 1.1 and 0.2 percentage points, respectively. This year, the vacancy rate in Campbellton stood at 7.5 per cent. In Miramichi, at 2.6 per cent, the vacancy rate equaled the level posted in Fredericton as the lowest in the province. Edmundston posted the only vacancy rate decline among the provincial urban centres in the fall of 2010, declining 2.3 percentage points to 8.6 per cent. Last year, Edmundston posted the highest vacancy rate in the province at 9.9 per cent.

The overall availability rate in provincial urban centres was up one percentage point to 5.2 per cent in October of 2010. The availability rate moved higher in all provincial centres

except Edmundston, where the rate was down from last fall's provincial high of 11.3 to 9.4 per cent. In New Brunswick's three large urban centres – Fredericton, Moncton and Saint John – the availability rate varied between 2.7 and 5.7 per cent.

Rent increases in New Brunswick, based on structures common to both the 2009 and 2010 surveys, were moderate in 2010 as reduced rental unit demand in most markets resulted in limited upward pressure on rent levels. Overall, average rents in all of New Brunswick's urban centres recorded a 2.3 per cent increase in 2010. The average rent increases varied from a low of 1.1 per cent in Bathurst to a high of 2.9 per cent in Saint John. The increase in overall average rents for the popular two-bedroom units was 2.2 per cent.



I.1.1 Private Apartment Vacancy Rates (%) by Bedroom Type New Brunswick

Centre	Bachelor		1 Bedroom		2 Bedroom		3 Bedroom +		Total	
	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-09	Oct-10
Moncton CMA	**	3.2 d	4.0 b	3.7 c	3.6 b	4.3 a	3.3 c	5.3 d	3.8 a	4.2 a
Saint John CMA	4.5 d	9.0 c	3.8 b	4.7 b	3.7 b	5.1 a	2.3 c	5.1 c	3.6 a	5.1 a
Bathurst CA	14.0 a	20.0 a	8.1 a	14.5 a	4.5 a	6.0 a	4.0 b	5.5 a	6.5 a	9.9 a
Campbellton CA	**	19.0 d	9.7 b	10.2 a	4.1 a	5.1 a	1.5 c	1.6 c	6.4 a	7.5 a
Edmundston CA	**	**	16.6 d	11.1 c	6.4 b	6.5 b	5.6 d	7.6 c	10.9 a	8.6 a
Fredericton CA	0.6 a	3.3 d	1.9 a	2.3 b	2.2 a	2.6 a	4.4 b	2.5 b	2.3 a	2.6 a
Miramichi CA	4.3 a	14.0 d	2.3 b	1.5 a	2.1 a	2.8 a	6.8 a	0.0 a	2.4 a	2.6 a
New Brunswick 10,000+	6.2 b	7.9 b	4.6 a	4.8 a	3.4 a	4.2 a	3.3 b	4.3 b	3.8 a	4.5 a

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates:

a - Excellent, b- Very good, c - Good, d - Fair (Use with Caution)

** Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data not statistically reliable.

n/u: No units exist in the universe for this category n/s: No units exist in the sample for this category n/a: Not applicable

Please click [Methodology](#) or [Data Reliability Tables Appendix](#) link for more details

I.1.2 Private Apartment Average Rents (\$) by Bedroom Type New Brunswick

Centre	Bachelor		1 Bedroom		2 Bedroom		3 Bedroom +		Total	
	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-09	Oct-10
Moncton CMA	443 a	456 a	573 a	577 a	675 a	691 a	755 a	787 a	648 a	661 a
Saint John CMA	457 a	464 a	541 a	555 a	644 a	645 a	683 a	706 a	613 a	620 a
Bathurst CA	371 a	361 a	425 a	438 a	532 a	542 a	524 a	530 a	485 a	492 a
Campbellton CA	395 a	406 a	418 a	431 a	527 a	527 a	628 a	559 b	490 a	485 a
Edmundston CA	356 a	355 a	411 a	425 a	467 a	481 a	535 a	547 a	444 a	459 a
Fredericton CA	538 a	523 a	599 a	613 a	719 a	734 a	937 a	995 a	711 a	730 a
Miramichi CA	314 c	311 b	471 a	474 a	533 a	538 a	618 b	521 a	518 a	516 a
New Brunswick 10,000+	455 a	455 a	543 a	554 a	656 a	668 a	761 a	799 a	629 a	641 a

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates (cv = coefficient of variation):

a - Excellent ($0 \leq cv \leq 2.5$), b- Very good ($2.5 < cv \leq 5$), c - Good ($5 < cv \leq 7.5$), d - Fair (Use with Caution) ($7.5 < cv \leq 10$)

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n/u: No units exist in the universe for this category n/s: No units exist in the sample for this category n/a: Not applicable

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I.1.3 Number of Private Apartment Units Vacant and Universe in October 2010 by Bedroom Type New Brunswick

Centre	Bachelor		1 Bedroom		2 Bedroom		3 Bedroom +		Total	
	Vacant	Total	Vacant	Total	Vacant	Total	Vacant	Total	Vacant	Total
Moncton CMA	10 d	301	90 c	2,416	291 a	6,739	27 d	502	417 a	9,958
Saint John CMA	35 c	395	113 b	2,412	242 a	4,787	52 c	1,025	443 a	8,619
Bathurst CA	27 a	135	49 a	341	39 a	647	6 a	109	122 a	1,232
Campbellton CA	8 d	42	32 a	313	21 a	409	1 c	65	62 a	829
Edmundston CA	**	57	50 c	453	43 b	655	7 c	90	108 a	1,255
Fredericton CA	11 d	338	35 b	1,550	113 a	4,331	21 b	846	180 a	7,065
Miramichi CA	3 d	21	3 a	206	16 a	571	0 a	40	22 a	838
New Brunswick 10,000+	102 b	1,289	373 a	7,690	765 a	18,139	114 b	2,677	1,354 a	29,796

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates:

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Please click [Methodology](#) or [Data Reliability Tables Appendix](#) link for more details

I.1.4 Private Apartment Availability Rates (%) by Bedroom Type New Brunswick

Centre	Bachelor		1 Bedroom		2 Bedroom		3 Bedroom +		Total	
	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-09	Oct-10
Moncton CMA	**	3.6 d	4.3 b	5.5 b	4.2 a	5.5 a	3.7 c	6.7 c	4.3 a	5.5 a
Saint John CMA	6.1 c	9.0 c	4.2 b	5.3 b	4.2 b	5.7 a	2.7 b	5.7 c	4.1 a	5.7 a
Bathurst CA	14.0 a	20.0 a	8.1 a	15.4 a	4.6 a	6.0 a	4.0 b	5.5 a	6.6 a	10.1 a
Campbellton CA	**	19.0 d	9.7 b	10.9 a	4.3 a	5.1 a	1.5 c	1.6 c	6.5 a	7.7 a
Edmundston CA	**	**	16.8 d	11.4 c	6.7 b	7.6 b	**	7.6 c	11.3 a	9.4 a
Fredericton CA	0.6 a	3.6 d	2.0 a	2.4 b	2.2 a	2.7 a	4.4 b	2.5 b	2.4 a	2.7 a
Miramichi CA	4.3 a	**	3.2 c	1.9 a	2.6 a	3.3 a	6.8 a	0.0 a	3.0 a	3.2 a
New Brunswick 10,000+	6.7 b	8.3 b	4.9 a	5.7 a	3.8 a	4.9 a	3.6 b	4.7 b	4.2 a	5.2 a

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates:

a - Excellent, b- Very good, c - Good, d - Fair (Use with Caution)

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I.1.5 Private Apartment Estimate of Percentage Change (%) of Average Rent¹ by Bedroom Type New Brunswick

Centre	Bachelor		1 Bedroom		2 Bedroom		3 Bedroom +		Total	
	Oct-08 to Oct-09	Oct-09 to Oct-10	Oct-08 to Oct-09	Oct-09 to Oct-10	Oct-08 to Oct-09	Oct-09 to Oct-10	Oct-08 to Oct-09	Oct-09 to Oct-10	Oct-08 to Oct-09	Oct-09 to Oct-10
Moncton CMA	2.1 b	2.0 b	2.7 a	1.6 b	2.0 a	2.0 a	1.1 a	++	2.5 a	1.9 a
Saint John CMA	4.5 c	2.1 c	3.7 b	3.2 c	4.5 b	2.6 a	3.6 c	3.3 c	4.2 b	2.9 a
Bathurst CA	7.1 c	-4.2 c	1.3 a	1.5 a	1.9 b	0.6 a	3.1 d	1.4 a	2.5 a	1.1 a
Campbellton CA	2.5 c	++	1.3 a	3.1 b	2.6 a	1.0 a	7.2 b	**	2.9 a	1.9 a
Edmundston CA	++	**	1.3 d	**	2.6 c	**	**	++	2.1 c	**
Fredericton CA	3.2 d	3.0 b	2.4 a	3.0 b	2.6 a	2.4 a	++	1.7 c	2.4 a	2.5 a
Miramichi CA	**	++	9.4 b	++	6.0 a	1.0 a	5.3 d	-5.2 b	5.6 a	1.3 a
New Brunswick 10,000+	3.6 b	2.1 b	3.0 a	2.5 a	3.0 a	2.2 a	2.0 b	1.8 b	3.1 a	2.3 a

¹The Percentage Change of Average Rent is a measure of the market movement, and is based on those structures that were common to the survey sample for both years.

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates:

a - Excellent, b- Very good, c - Good, d - Fair (Use with Caution)

** Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data not statistically reliable.

++ Change in rent is not statistically significant. This means that the change in rent is not statistically different than zero (0).

n/u: No units exist in the universe for this category n/s: No units exist in the sample for this category n/a: Not applicable

Please click [Methodology](#) or [Data Reliability Tables Appendix](#) link for more details

TECHNICAL NOTE:

Difference between Percentage Change of Average Rents (Existing and New Structures) AND Percentage Change of Average Rents from Fixed Sample (Existing Structures Only):

Percentage Change of Average Rents (New and Existing Structures): The increase/decrease obtained from the calculation of percentage change of average rents between two years (example: \$500 in the previous year vs. \$550 in current survey represents an increase of 10 percent) is impacted by changes in the composition of the rental universe (e.g. the inclusion of newly built luxury rental buildings in the survey, rental units renovated/upgraded or changing tenants could put upward pressure on average rents in comparison to the previous year) as well as by the rent level movement (e.g. increase/decrease in the level of rents that landlords charge their tenants).

Percentage Change of Average Rents from Fixed Sample (Existing Structures Only): This is a measure that estimates the rent level movement. The estimate is based on structures that were common to the survey sample for both the previous year and the current October Rental Market Surveys. However, some composition effects still remain e.g. rental units renovated/upgraded or changing tenants because the survey does not collect data to such level of details.

METHODOLOGY FOR RENTAL MARKET SURVEY

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) conducts the **Rental Market Survey (RMS)** every year in April and October to estimate the relative strengths in the rental market. The survey is conducted on a sample basis in all urban areas with populations of 10,000 and more. The survey targets only privately initiated structures with at least three rental units, which have been on the market for at least three months. The survey collects market rent, available and vacant unit data from sampled structures. Most RMS data contained in this publication refer to privately initiated apartment structures.

The survey is conducted by a combination of telephone interviews and site visits, and information is obtained from the owner, manager, or building superintendent. The survey is conducted during the first two weeks of April/October, and the results reflect market conditions at that time.

CMHC's Rental Market Survey provides a snapshot of vacancy and availability rates, and average rents in both new and existing structures. In October 2006, CMHC has introduced a new measure for the change in rent that is calculated based on existing structures only. This estimate is based on structures that were common to the survey sample the previous year and the current year of the Rental Market Survey. The change in rent in existing structures is an estimate of the change in rent that the landlords charge and removes compositional effects on the rent level movement due to new buildings, conversions, and survey sample rotation. The estimate of per cent change in rent is available in the Rental Market Report – Canada Highlights, Provincial Highlights, and the local Rental Market Reports. The rent levels in new and existing structures are also published. While the per cent change in rents in existing structures published in the reports are statistically significant, changes in rents that one might calculate based on rent levels in new and existing structures may or may not be statistically significant.

METHODOLOGY FOR SECONDARY RENTAL MARKET SURVEY

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) conducts a survey of the **Secondary Rental Market (SRMS)** in September and October to estimate the relative strengths in the secondary rental market which is defined as those dwellings not covered by the regular RMS. CMHC has identified the following dwelling components to be included in SRMS:

- Rented single-detached houses.
- Rented double (semi-detached) houses (i.e.. Two units of approximate equal size and under one roof that are situated either side-by-side or front-to-back).
- Rented freehold row/town homes.
- Rented duplex apartments (i.e.. one-above-other).
- Rented accessory apartments (separate dwelling units that are located within the structure of another dwelling type).
- Rented condominiums (can be any dwelling type but are primarily apartments).
- One or two apartments which are part of a commercial or other type of structure.

The SRMS has three components which are conducted in selected CMAs:

- A Household Rent Survey of all households to collect information about rents.
- A Condominium Apartment Rent Survey of households living in condominium apartments to collect information about rents.
- A Condominium Apartment Vacancy Survey of condominium apartment owners to collect vacancy information.

All three surveys are conducted by telephone interviews. For the condominium apartment vacancy survey, information is obtained from the owner, manager, or building superintendent and can be supplemented by site visits if no telephone contact is made. For the other two surveys, information is collected from an adult living in the household. All surveys are conducted in September and October, and the results reflect market conditions at that time.

CMHC publishes the number of units rented and vacancy rates for the condominium vacancy survey. For the condominium rent and household rent surveys, the average rent is published. A letter code representing the statistical reliability (i.e., the coefficient of variation (CV)) for each estimate is provided to indicate the data reliability. Rented condominium apartments were surveyed in the following CMAs: Vancouver, Victoria, Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Saskatoon, Toronto, Ottawa, Montréal and Québec (NOTE: condo rent data was not collected for Regina and Saskatoon). Other secondary rental market units were surveyed in Abbotsford, Barrie, Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec, St. John's, Toronto, Regina, Saskatoon, Kelowna, Vancouver and Victoria.

DEFINITIONS

Availability: A rental unit is considered available if the existing tenant has given, or has received, notice to move, and a new tenant has not signed a lease; or the unit is vacant (see definition of vacancy below).

Rent: The rent refers to the actual amount tenants pay for their unit. No adjustments are made for the inclusion or exclusion of amenities and services such as heat, hydro, parking, and hot water. For available and vacant units, the rent is the amount the owner is asking for the unit.

It should be noted that the average rents reported in this publication provide a sound indication of the amounts paid by unit size and geographical sector. Utilities such as heating, electricity and hot water may or may not be included in the rent.

Rental Apartment Structure: Any building containing three or more rental units, of which at least one unit is not ground oriented. Owner-occupied units are not included in the rental building unit count.

Rental Row (Townhouse) Structure: Any building containing three or more rental units, all of which are ground oriented with vertical divisions. Owner-occupied units are not included in the rental building unit count. These row units in some centres are commonly referred to as townhouses.

Vacancy: A unit is considered vacant if, at the time of the survey, it is physically unoccupied and available for immediate rental.

Definitions of Census Areas referred to in this publication are as follows:

A census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a large urban area (known as the urban core). The census population count of the urban core is at least 10,000 to form a census agglomeration and at least 100,000 to form a census metropolitan area. To be included in the CMA or CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census place of work data. CMAs and CAs contain whole municipalities or Census Subdivisions.

All data presented in this publication is based on Statistics Canada's 2001 and 2006 Census area definitions.

Acknowledgement

The Rental Market Survey and the Secondary Rental Market Survey could not have been conducted without the cooperation of the rental property owners, managers, building superintendents and household members throughout Canada. CMHC acknowledges their hard work and assistance in providing timely and accurate information. As a result of their contribution, CMHC is able to provide information that benefits the entire housing industry.

Rental Affordability Indicator

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation has developed a new rental affordability indicator to gauge how affordable a rental market is for those households which rent within that market. The level of income required for a household to rent a median priced two-bedroom apartment, using 30 per cent of its income, is calculated. The three-year moving average of median income of renters' households in a centre is then divided by this required income. The resulting number is then multiplied by 100 to form the indicator. A value above 100 indicates that less than 30 per cent of the median income is required to rent a two-bedroom apartment, conversely, a value below 100 indicates that more than 30 per cent of the median income is required to rent the same unit. In general, as the indicator increases, the market becomes more affordable; as the indicator declines, the market becomes less affordable.

Median renter household income estimates used in the calculation of the rental affordability indicator are based on results of Statistics Canada's Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics. Results for this survey are available from 1994 to 2005. CMHC has developed forecasts of median renter household income since 2006.

CMHC—HOME TO CANADIANS

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Together with other housing stakeholders, we help ensure that the Canadian housing system remains one of the best in the world. We are committed to helping Canadians access a wide choice 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 our website at www.cmhc.ca

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