

Building Consents Issued: March 2017

Embargoed until 10:45am – 28 April 2017

Key facts

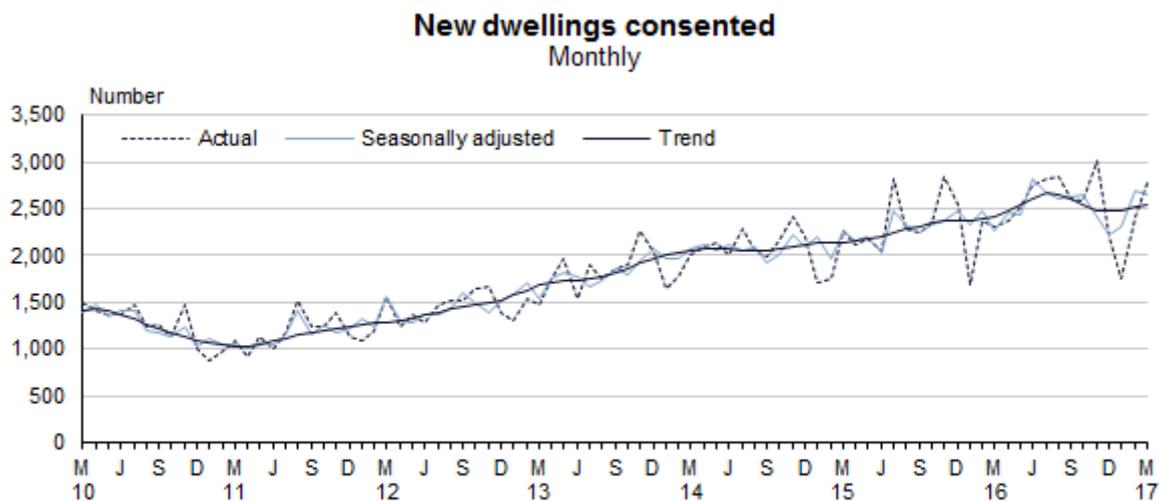
In March 2017, building consents were issued for 2,779 new dwellings:

- 1,923 houses
- 407 townhouses, flats, and units
- 252 apartments
- 197 retirement village units.

The seasonally adjusted number of new dwellings consented fell 1.8 percent, following a 17 percent rise in February.

The trend for the number of new dwellings consented is showing signs of increasing. It reached a 12-year high in mid-2016, but decreased towards the end of the year.

In the year ended March 2017, 30,626 new dwellings were consented – up 10 percent from the March 2016 year.



Source: Stats NZ

Including alterations, the value of building work consented in the March 2017 month was a record \$2.0 billion, comprising \$1.2 billion of residential work and \$837 million of non-residential work.

The main non-residential building types were:

- offices, administration, and public transport buildings – \$191 million
- hotels, motels, and other short-term accommodation – \$167 million
- hospital, nursing homes, and other health buildings – \$104 million
- shops, restaurants, and bars – \$102 million.

Liz MacPherson, Government Statistician
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28 April 2017

Commentary

- [Dwelling consents decrease slightly in March](#)
- [Over 30,000 new dwellings consented annually](#)
- [Dwellings trend shows signs of increasing](#)
- [Value of non-residential consents reaches record high](#)
- [Consents for all buildings total \\$2.0 billion in March](#)
- [Find data tables](#)

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

Dwelling consents decrease slightly in March

The seasonally adjusted number of new dwellings consented fell 1.8 percent in March, following a 17 percent rise in February.

For houses only, the seasonally adjusted number fell 5.2 percent, following a rise of 14 percent in February.

In actual terms, 2,779 new dwellings were consented in March 2017 (up 20 percent from March 2016):

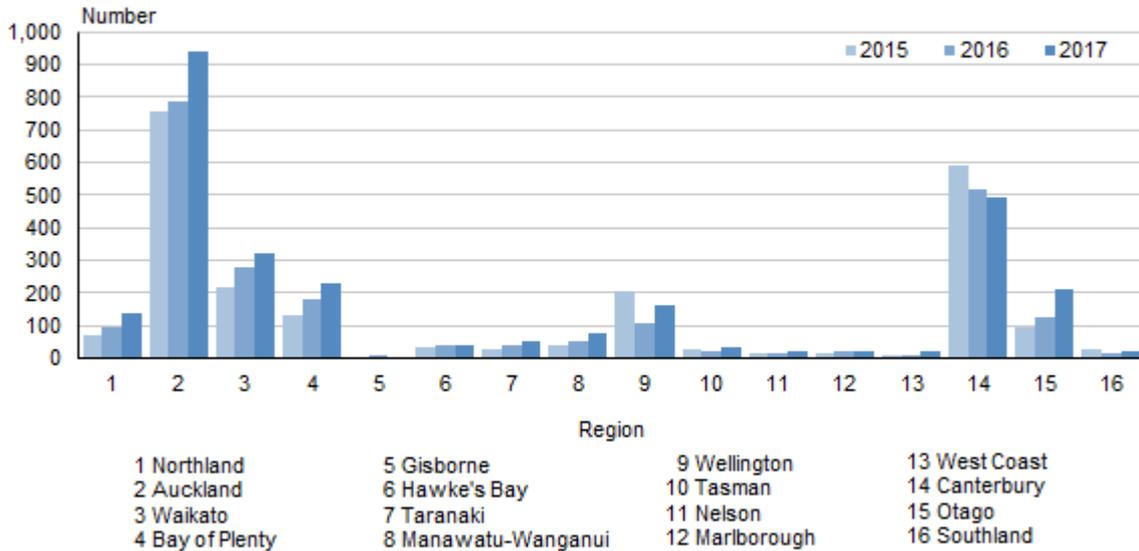
- 1,923 houses
- 407 townhouses, flats, and units
- 252 apartments
- 197 retirement village units.

The regions consenting the most new dwellings were:

- Auckland – 942 (up 20 percent from March 2016 due to an increase for apartments)
- Canterbury – 491 (down 5.6 percent)
- Waikato – 319 (up 16 percent).

New dwellings consented

By region
March month



Source: Stats NZ

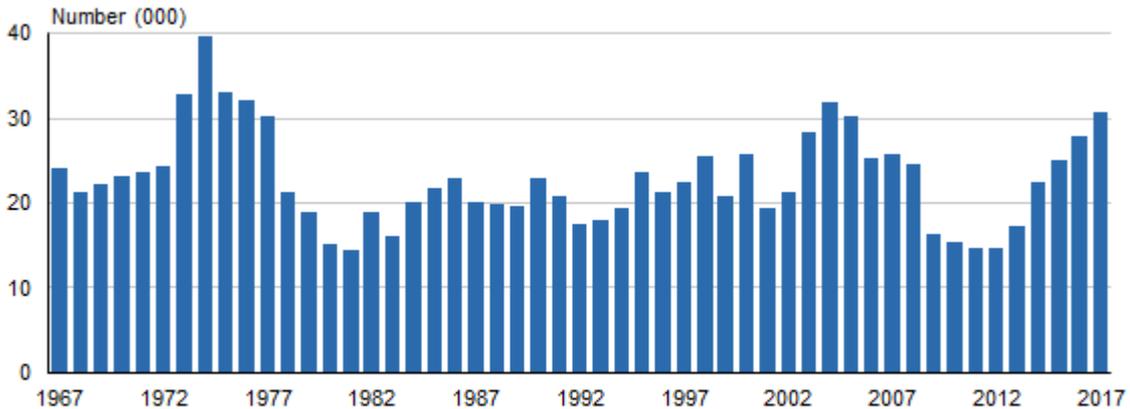
Over 30,000 new dwellings consented annually

In the year ended March 2017, 30,626 new dwellings were consented – the most for a March year since 2004. However, this is still well below the all-time high of 40,025 new dwellings consented in the year ended February 1974.

In the March 2017 year, Auckland consented 10,199 new dwellings – the most for a March year since 2005.

New dwellings consented

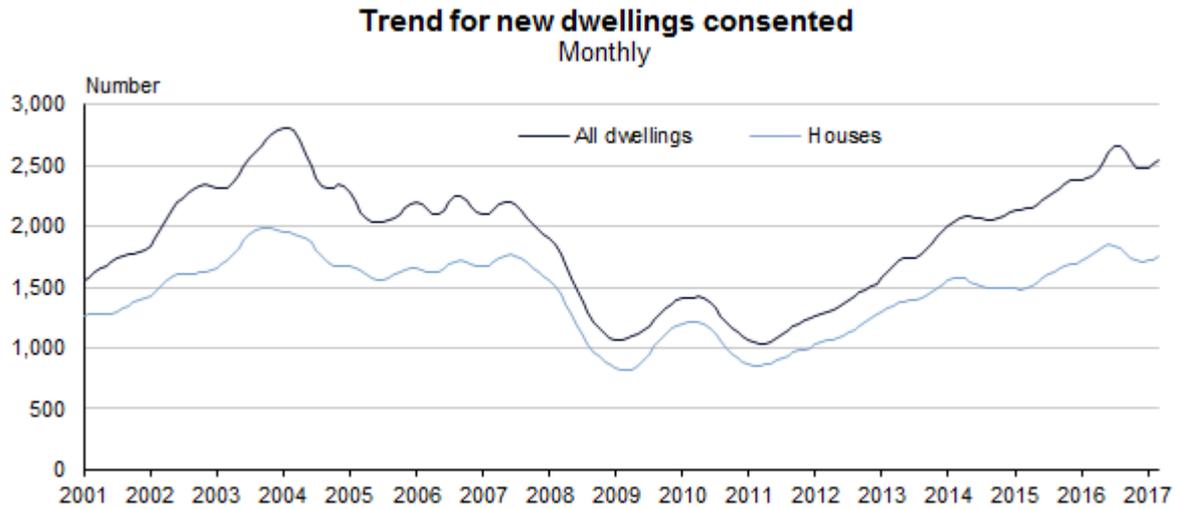
Year ended March



Source: Stats NZ

Dwellings trend shows signs of increasing

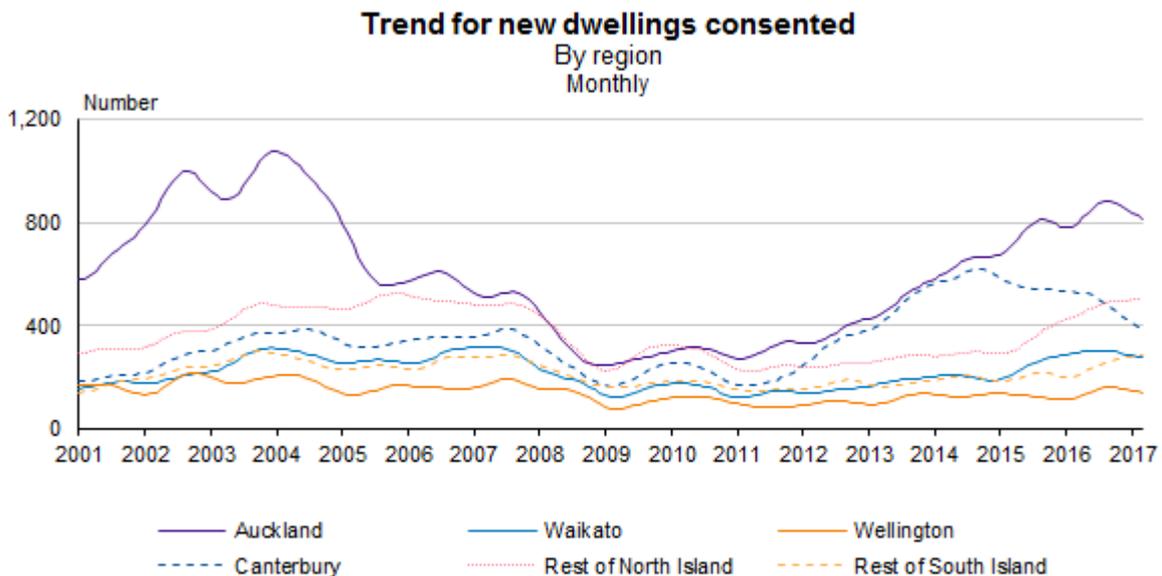
The trend for the number of new dwellings consented is showing signs of increasing. It reached a 12-year high in mid-2016, but decreased towards the end of the year.



Source: Stats NZ

Four of the six regional trends appear to be decreasing. However, these regional trends are quite volatile, and are revised each month.

In Canterbury, the trend has fallen 38 percent since the series peak in late 2014 as the post-earthquake residential rebuild winds down.



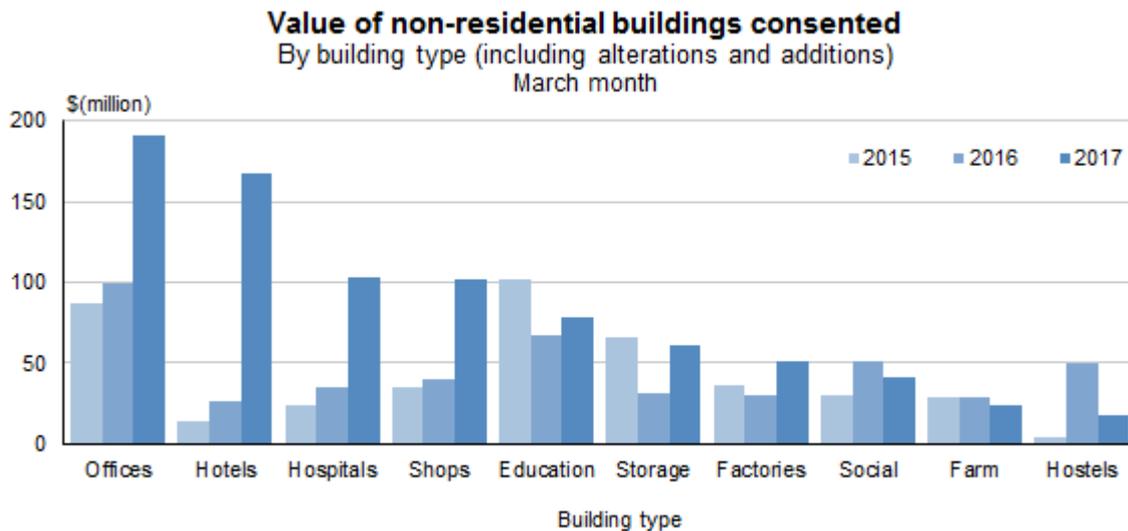
Source: Stats NZ

Value of non-residential consents reaches record high

The total value of non-residential building consents issued in March 2017 was \$837 million – a record high (up \$377 million from March 2016).

The main contributing building types were:

- offices, administration, and public transport buildings – \$191 million (up \$92 million from March 2016)
- hotels, motels, and other short-term accommodation – \$167 million (up \$141 million, boosted by a consent for the Park Hyatt Hotel in Auckland)
- hospital, nursing homes, and other health buildings – \$104 million (up \$68 million)
- shops, restaurants, and bars – \$102 million (up \$61 million).



Source: Stats NZ

The main contributing regions were:

- Auckland – \$379 million
- Canterbury – \$187 million
- Wellington – \$72 million
- Waikato – \$48 million.

Consents for all buildings total \$2.0 billion in March

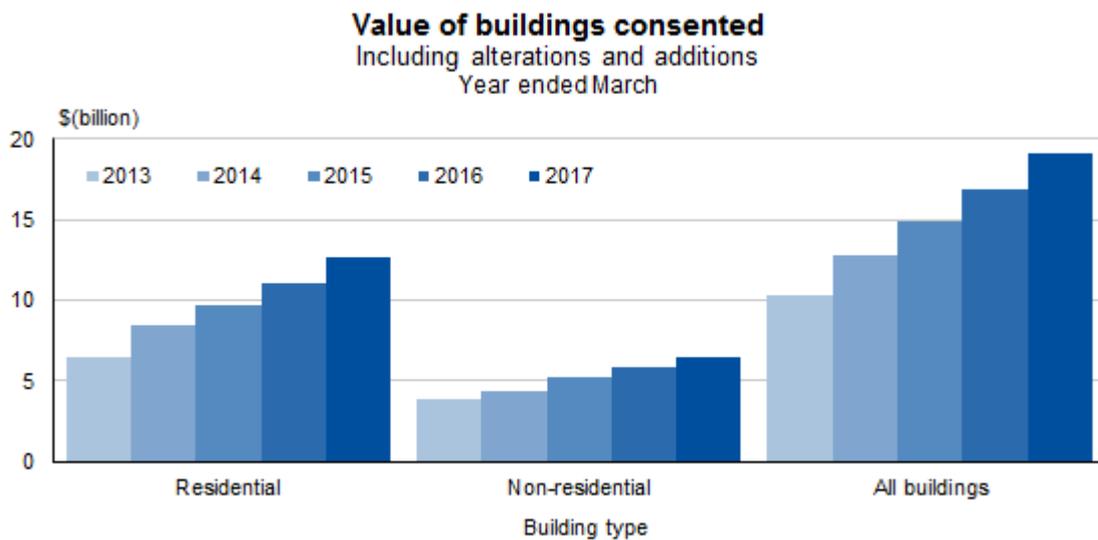
Including alterations, consents for all buildings totalled \$2.0 billion in March 2017:

- \$1.2 billion for residential buildings
- \$837 million for non-residential buildings.

All of these values were record highs, however, they are not adjusted for inflation.

In the year ended March 2017, consents for all buildings totalled \$19.1 billion (up 14 percent from the March 2016 year):

- \$12.7 billion for residential buildings (up 15 percent)
- \$6.5 billion for non-residential buildings (up 11 percent).



Source: Stats NZ

Find data tables

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

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Building Consents Issued – DataInfo+

General methodology used to produce building consent statistics from March 2015 onwards.

Building Consents Issued concepts from March 2015 onwards – DataInfo+

Definitions of terms used in this release.

Principles and protocols for producers of Tier 1 statistics

Statistics in this release have been produced in accordance with the Official Statistics System principles and protocols for producers of Tier 1 statistics for quality. They conform to the Statistics NZ Methodological Standard for Reporting of Data Quality.

Related information

Building plans put to work

Looks at the relationship between two key Stats NZ construction information releases and what they tell us about building activity in New Zealand.

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 – information releases

Statistics that 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.

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1. Building consents issued
2. Number of new dwellings consented
3. Number and value of new dwellings consented, by region
4. Number of new dwellings consented, trend for selected regions
5. Number of new dwellings consented, by selected territorial authority and Auckland wards
6. Value of building consents issued, actual and trend values
7. Number of new dwellings consented – quarterly
8. Value of building consents issued, quarterly actual and trend values

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