



# Press release

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## ***Far fewer residential building permits issued***

The latest figures released by Statistics Netherlands show that more than 37 thousand residential building permits were issued in the first six months of 2007, a decrease by 24 percent relative to the first half of 2006.

### ***Sustained decline***

From the fourth quarter of 2006 onwards, the number of residential building permits has always been lower than in the same quarter one year previously. The 24 percent decline in the first six months of 2007 almost exclusively concerns private property. The decline is considerable, partly because in the first six months of 2006 the amount of permits issued was relatively large. Nevertheless, the number of permits issued in the first six months of this year grew 2 percent relative to the first half of 2005. A few small municipalities failed to submit data over the first half of 2007.

### ***Most substantial decline in Utrecht***

Over the first two quarters of 2007, the decline in the number of residential building permits was most substantial in Utrecht. In the provinces of North Brabant, Zeeland, Groningen and Gelderland, more permits were issued than in the same period last year.

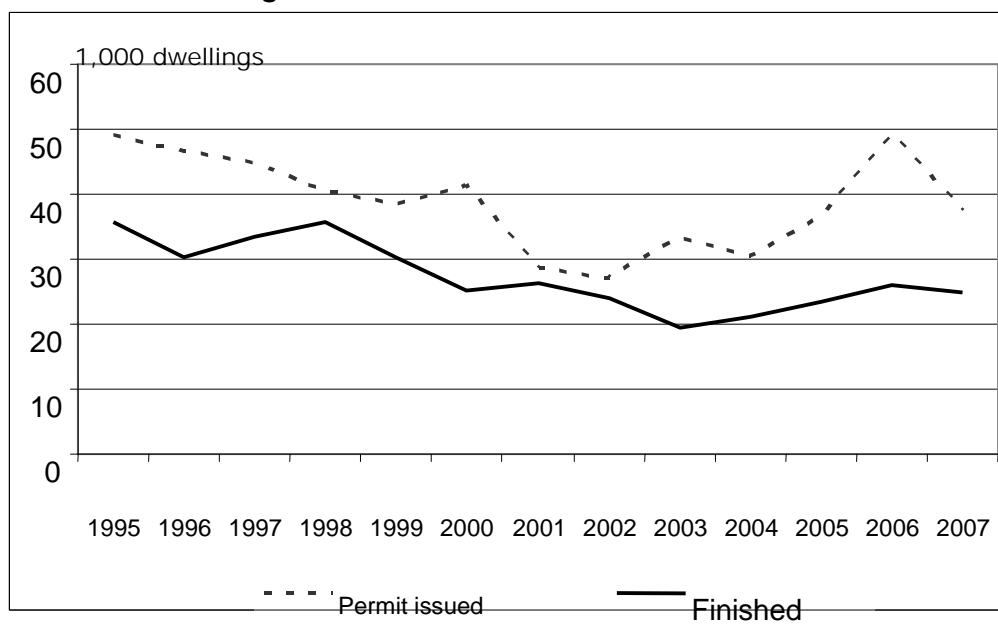
### ***Amount of dwellings completed hardly changed***

The number of dwellings completed is based on data supplied by municipal authorities. Several large municipalities failed to submit the relevant data over the first half of this year in time, resulting in an incomplete picture of the number of dwellings completed in this period. If the figures are adjusted for this deficiency, the amount of houses completed would probably be more or less the same as in the first half of 2006.

### ***Dwelling stock growing***

In the first six months of 2007, nearly 27 thousand houses were added to the national dwelling stock: 25 thousand newly finished and 2 thousand renovated dwellings. Conversely, nearly 10 thousand dwellings were withdrawn from the stock, mainly to be demolished. The net increase of the dwelling stock amounts to approximately 17 thousand units. By the end of June, the overall dwelling stock had not yet crossed the 7 million boundary.

### ***Residential building in the first six months***



***Source: Statistics Netherlands.***

**Table 1. Residential building**

Period	Building permits issued		Dwellings completed <sup>1)</sup>	
	Total	rented	Total	rented
2003 1 <sup>st</sup> half	33 569	7 520	19 452	4 349
2003	72 454	15 848	59 629	12 974
2004 1 <sup>st</sup> half	30 664	7 242	21 037	3 966
2004	76 180	17 300	65 314	14 140
2005 1 <sup>st</sup> half	36 587	8 215	23 311	5 637
2005	83 273	18 637	67 016	16 900
2006 1 <sup>st</sup> half	49 157	10 794	26 063	6 546
2006	96 447	23 917	72 382	20 216
2007 1 <sup>st</sup> half	37 404	10 425	24 858	6 106

1) Data referring to the first six months of 2007 are incomplete due to the fact that several large municipalities failed to submit the relevant data.

**Source: Statistics Netherlands.**

**Table 2. Residential building permits issued per province**

	2005	2006	1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2006	1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2007	Change
					%
Netherlands	83 273	96 447	49 157	37 404	-24
Groningen	2 924	3 634	1 423	1 482	4
Friesland	2 891	3 679	2 144	1 355	-37
Drenthe	2 837	3 156	1 736	870	-50
Overijssel	7 073	7 859	4 665	2 791	-40
Flevoland	2 590	2 903	1 640	1 067	-35
Gelderland	7 394	10 311	4 898	4 929	1
Utrecht	7 029	7 397	4 787	1 480	-69
North Holland	14 049	16 163	8 999	7 170	-20
South Holland	15 906	21 969	10 204	7 481	-27
Zeeland	1 599	2 070	892	968	9
North Brabant	13 602	11 904	5 142	6 079	18
Limburg	5 379	5 402	2 627	1 732	-34

**Source: Statistics Netherlands.**

**Table 3. Dwellings completed per province**

	2005	2006	1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2006	1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2007 <sup>1)</sup>	Change  %
Netherlands	67 016	72 382	26 063	24 858	-5
Groningen	2 041	2 166	669	632	-6
Friesland	2 387	2 732	902	1 030	14
Drenthe	2 077	2 266	718	907	26
Overijssel	4 968	5 486	1 631	2 216	36
Flevoland	1 786	2 095	547	674	23
Gelderland	7 413	8 323	3 027	2 724	-10
Utrecht	6 587	5 652	2 207	1 873	-15
North Holland	10 749	11 716	4 091	3 104	-24
South Holland	15 749	15 670	6 759	6 100	-10
Zeeland	1 676	1 686	504	486	-4
North Brabant	8 133	10 925	3 694	3 969	7
Limburg	3 450	3 665	1 314	1 143	-13

1) Incomplete due to the fact that several large municipalities failed to submit data.

**Source: Statistics Netherlands**

**Table 4. Dwelling stock**

	Initial stock	Increase	Decrease	Final stock
2000	6 590	75	14	6 651
2001	6 651	78	16	6 710
2002	6 710	71	16	6 764
2003	6 764	65	18	6 810
2004	6 810	72	19	6 859
2005	6 859	74	19	6 912
2006	6 912	80	22	6 970
2007 1 <sup>st</sup> six months	6 970	27	10	6.987

**Source: Statistics Netherlands**