



CITY OF VICTORIA 2018 Housing Report



Table of Contents

Housing Report 2018

- Introduction 3
- Key Observations 3
- Dwelling Units Approved through Building Permits Issued 4
- Secondary/Garden Suites Approved through Building Permits Issued 5
- Purpose-Built Rental Units Approved through Building Permits Issued 6
- Victoria Housing Fund 7
- Rental Market 9
- Average House Prices 10

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Introduction

The 2018 Annual Housing Report is a compilation of housing data for the City of Victoria. The data comes from monthly reports of building permit issuance, and is supplemented by data from the Victoria Real Estate Board and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). Where possible, the data is broken down by neighbourhood and/or accompanied by previous years data for comparison.

Key Observations

Residential Building Permits

In 2018, building permits for 1331 net new dwelling units were issued in the City of Victoria. Downtown, Harris Green, and James Bay neighbourhoods accounted for a combined 976 building permits for net new dwelling units, 71 percent of the citywide total.

Since 2006, building permits issued for net new dwelling units per year have ranged from 134 units in 2008 to 1,071 units in 2007, with an average of 634 units per year. The net gain in 2018 of 1331 units significantly exceeds this average.

Building permit records indicate that 50 units were lost due to demolition or alteration. The majority of the demolition permits were for detached dwellings with 32 units.

Housing Grants

As of December 31, 2018 there were two approved applications to the Housing Reserve Fund, for a total of \$630,000. One application was awarded \$30,000 to build units for low and moderate seniors, and the other application was awarded \$600,000 to build affordable apartments for low and moderate incomes.

The Secondary Suite Grant Program has been fully subscribed since 2013.

Rental Market

Building permits were issued for 582 purpose-built rental units in 2018, more than double that were issued in 2017. Building permits for 42 secondary suites and 15 garden suites were also issued in 2018, compared to 48 secondary suites and six garden suites issued in 2017.

According to CMHC, the City of Victoria has created 521 more purpose-built rental units in 2018 than 2017, a 3.1% increase, bringing the total inventory to 17,182. Compared to 2017, year-to-year average rents in the City of Victoria increased by 9.3% for a bachelor unit and 7.6% for a one-bedroom unit, and 7.3% for a two-bedroom unit. Rent increase data was not available for 3 bedroom units in 2018. Overall, average rent was 7.3% higher for all rental units in 2018 compared to 2017.

Vacancy rates in the City of Victoria increased from 0.8% in 2017 to 1.1% in 2018. Victoria CMA vacancy rates increased from 0.7% in 2017, to 1.2% in 2018. During the same period, the national vacancy rates decreased from 3.0% to 2.4%.

The secondary rental market - defined by CMHC as strata condominiums - experienced a 5.8% decrease in inventory to 3,064 units in 2018 from 3,253 units in 2017, a decrease of 189 units. However, the vacancy rate for the secondary market increased to 0.1% in 2018, from 0.0% in 2017. Of the 12,615 condominiums in Victoria, 24.3% of them are in the rental market.

Ownership Market

Average sale prices of all housing types increased over the past year. Single family dwellings increased by 5.9%, condominiums increased by 13.8%, and townhouses increased by 15.1%.

Dwelling Units Approved through Building Permits Issued

(SOURCE: CITY OF VICTORIA)

Dwelling Units Approved by Neighbourhood (2018)							
Neighbourhood	New Construction	Conversions (excluding secondary/garden suites)	Secondary Suites (including new construction and conversions)	Garden Suites (including new construction and conversions)	Total (excluding demolitions)	Demolitions	Net New Dwelling Units
Burnside	52	0	0	0	52	1	51
Downtown	264	0	0	0	264	0	264
Fairfield	98	0	10	2	110	12	98
Fernwood	154	0	6	2	162	8	154
Gonzales	4	2	7	3	18	7	11
Harris Green	316	0	0	0	316	0	316
Hillside-Quadra	2	0	7	2	11	4	7
James Bay	394	3	1	0	401	2	399
Jubilee	16	1	0	0	18	3	15
North Park	3	0	1	0	4	1	3
Oaklands	5	0	7	5	17	8	9
Rockland	7	0	2	0	9	3	6
Victoria West	2	1	1	1	6	1	5
Total	1317	7	42	15	1381	50	1331

Dwelling Units Approved by Year													
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Annual Average 2007 - 2018
New Construction	844	116	161	274	142	820	278	182	936	661	791	1317	544
Conversions (excluding secondary/garden suites)	263	14	238	85	21	113	156	145	56	24	8	7	94
Secondary/Garden Suites (including new construction and conversions)	25	31	44	49	32	43	37	34	40	48	54	57	41
Demolitions	-61	-27	-28	-39	-22	-36	-48	-55	-54	-43	-62	-50	-44
Total	1071	134	415	369	173	940	423	306	978	690	775	1331	634

Secondary/Garden Suites Approved through Building Permits Issued

(SOURCE: CITY OF VICTORIA)

Secondary/Garden Suites Approved by Year

Neighbourhood	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Average per year 2007–2018
Burnside	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	1
Downtown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fairfield	3	5	8	12	2	9	5	5	11	9	8	12	7
Fernwood	4	3	3	8	6	5	3	3	6	6	7	8	5
Gonzales	8	6	10	7	7	6	8	10	5	5	5	10	7
Harris Green	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hillside Quadra	1	4	3	5	3	6	4	4	3	4	3	9	4
James Bay	3	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	1	4	6	1	3
Jubilee	2	1	0	2	1	3	1	4	4	4	8	0	3
North Park	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	1
Oaklands	0	5	10	5	6	8	5	1	4	8	11	12	6
Rockland	1	0	1	3	0	2	5	1	2	2	4	2	2
Victoria West	3	3	5	2	1	2	1	1	4	4	2	2	3
Total	25	31	44	49	32	45	37	34	40	48	54	57	41

Note: In 2007 the City amended its zoning regulations to enable easier installation of secondary suites in existing homes. The program was piloted in the Gonzales neighbourhood starting in 2005.

Purpose-Built Rental Units Approved through Building Permits Issued

(SOURCE: CITY OF VICTORIA)

Purpose-Built Rental Units Approved by Neighbourhood (2018)

Neighbourhood	Purpose-built rental
Burnside	52
Downtown	31
Fairfield	33
Fernwood	0
Gonzales	0
Harris Green	59
Hillside Quadra	0
James Bay	392
Jubilee	14
North Park	0
Oaklands	0
Rockland	1
Victoria West	0
Total	582

Note: Purpose-Built Rental Units do not include secondary or garden suites.

Victoria Housing Fund

(SOURCE: CITY OF VICTORIA)

The Victoria Housing Fund was established for the purpose of providing grants for capital funding to:

- assist in the development and retention of housing for households with very, low or median incomes;
- support community diversity and infrastructure; and
- facilitate the development of affordable housing.

Housing Fund Activity						
Year	Agency	Address	Amount	Units	Type of units	Neighbourhood
2018	North Park Manor Society	875 North Park	\$30,000	3	Low and median Income for Seniors	North Park
2018	Victoria Cool Aid Society	210 Gorge Road East	\$600,000	60	Affordable apartments for low and moderate incomes	Burnside Gorge
2017	Pacific Housing Advisory Association	1601 - 1609 Douglas St	\$500,000	62	No/Low Income Housing	Downtown
2015	Victoria Cool Aid Society	3211-3223 Quadra St	\$112,000	45	Supportive Housing	Saanich
2015	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	4351 West Saanich Rd	\$297,000	42	Low Income & Supportive Housing	Saanich
2015	Victoria Native Friendship Centre	120 Gorge Rd	\$20,000	2	Low Income & Supportive Housing	Burnside
2014	Greater Victoria Rental Housing Society	1950 Blanshard St	\$543,725	65	Affordable rental	Burnside
2013	Pacifica Housing Advisory Association	105 Wilson Street	\$840,000	84	Affordable Rental	Victoria West
2012	Gr. Victoria Housing Society	35 – 39 Gorge Rd	\$680,000	68	Affordable rental units	Burnside Gorge
2011	City of Victoria	710 Queens Ave	\$360,000	36	Low income supported housing	Burnside Gorge
2011	City of Victoria	120 Gorge Rd	\$390,000	39	Low income aboriginal housing	Burnside Gorge
2010	Gr. Victoria Housing Society	575 Pembroke	\$250,000	25	Low income single rental	Downtown
2010	Gr. Victoria Housing Society	15/21 Gorge Rd	\$370,000	37	Low income family rental	Burnside Gorge
2009	Pacifica Housing	105 Wilson St	\$510,000	51	Affordable rental units	Victoria West
2009	Cool Aid Society	525 Ellice St	\$296,341	104	80 emergency shelter beds and 24 supported housing units	Burnside Gorge
2009	Capital Region Housing Corp	Dockside Green	\$460,000	46	Affordable rental	Victoria West

Victoria Housing Fund, continued

(SOURCE: CITY OF VICTORIA)

Housing Fund Activity						
Year	Agency	Address	Amount	Units	Type of units	Neighbourhood
2009	Beacon Community Services	834 Johnson St	\$120,000	12	Affordable rental for adults with disabilities	Downtown
2009	BC Housing	950 Humboldt	\$236,681	44	Supportive housing units	Fairfield
2009	BC Housing	469 Swift St/ 1634 Store St	\$16,705	26	Supportive housing units	Downtown
2008	Cridge Centre for the Family	confidential	\$80,000	8	Transition homes for women	confidential
2007	Victoria Native Friendship Centre	1250 Balmoral St	\$300,000	6	Transitional youth housing	Fernwood
2007	Roofs & Roots Housing Co-operative	1511 Bank St	\$50,000	5	Low income single parent families	South Jubilee
2007	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	1222 Yukon St	\$60,000	6	Homeless and underhoused families	Fernwood
2007	Capital Region Housing Corp and Beckley Farm Lodge	408 Parry St	\$55,000	22	Frail seniors	James Bay
2006	Our Place	919 Pandora St	\$50,000	45	Supportive housing for homeless at-risk single adults	Harris Green
2005	Pacifica Housing	2821 Irma St (The Georgian Apts)	\$50,000	5	Homeless families and low income empty nesters	Burnside Gorge
2005	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	1301 Gladstone (The Cornerstone)	\$50,000	4	Homeless and underhoused families	Fernwood

Secondary Suite Grant Program

The Secondary Suite Grant program was established to help facilitate the development of secondary suites in the City of Victoria. The program had a total budget of \$250,000, and was fully subscribed in 2013.

Secondary Suite Grants	
Total Number of grants committed overall	50
Number of grants committed in 2018	0

Rental Market Statistics - Victoria City 2018

(SOURCE: CMHC 2018 FALL RENTAL MARKET REPORT)

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation publishes an annual Rental Housing Report for Greater Victoria. The summary tables below highlight the rental inventory for the City of Victoria.

Primary Rental Market (Purpose built rental buildings with 3+ units per building)								
Number units	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Bachelor	2,159	2,221	2,246	2,279	2,349	2,349	2,346	2,449
1 bedroom	9,415	9,510	9,492	9,567	9,649	9,615	9,858	10,082
2 bedroom	4,094	4,160	4,167	4,234	4,265	4,238	4,268	4,446
3 bedroom	185	154	150	190	205	189	189	205
Total	15,853	16,045	16,055	16,270	16,468	16,310	16,661	17,182

Average Rent								
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Bachelor	\$679	\$700	\$715	\$731	\$749	\$795	\$855	\$935
1 bedroom	\$830	\$839	\$844	\$861	\$879	\$928	\$991	\$1,086
2 bedroom	\$1,064	\$1,082	\$1,094	\$1,121	\$1,157	\$1,224	\$1,323	\$1,438
3 bedroom	\$1,350	\$1,464	\$1,505	\$1,451	\$1,472	\$1,620	\$1,718	\$1,766

Secondary Rental Market								
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total number of condominium	11,176	11,452	11,437	11,730	12,327	12,553	12,693	12,615
Number of rental units	2,671	2,743	2,790	2,844	2,906	3,195	3,253	3,064
% units in rental market	23.9%	24.0%	24.4%	24.2%	23.6%	25.5%	25.6%	24.3%

Overall Vacancy Rates								
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Victoria	1.8%	2.3%	2.4%	1.3%	0.6%	0.5%	0.8%	1.1%
Victoria CMA	2.1%	2.7%	2.8%	1.5%	0.6%	0.5%	0.7%	1.2%
National (10,000+)	2.2%	2.6%	2.7%	2.9%	3.5%	3.7%	3.0%	2.4%

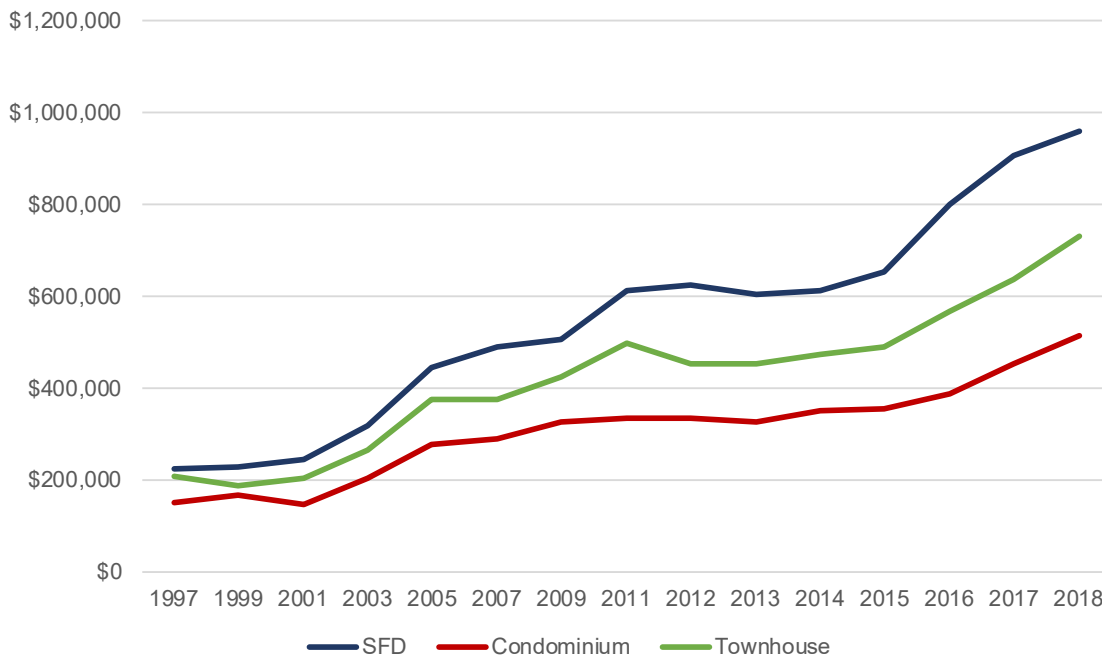
Average House Prices

(SOURCE: VICTORIA REAL ESTATE BOARD MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE)

The average price is the total dollar value of all properties sold divided by the number of sales.

1997 - 2016 Average Sale Prices			
	SFD	Condominium	Townhouse
1997	\$223,504	\$151,952	\$208,072
1999	\$227,309	\$168,989	\$186,864
2001	\$243,445	\$145,131	\$204,144
2003	\$317,540	\$205,379	\$264,941
2005	\$445,017	\$278,782	\$376,789
2007	\$490,000	\$288,850	\$374,900
2009	\$505,000	\$327,500	\$425,000
2011	\$611,312	\$332,638	\$498,232
2012	\$623,775	\$335,629	\$454,150
2013	\$603,477	\$325,260	\$454,556
2014	\$612,784	\$349,324	\$473,938
2015	\$651,810	\$353,409	\$488,861
2016	\$801,513	\$387,262	\$568,094
2017	\$905,556	\$452,732	\$636,456
2018	\$959,059	\$515,107	\$732,831

Average Housing Sale Prices - Victoria - 1997-2018





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