



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, May 30, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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The international travel deficit fell to \$172 million in the first quarter of 2000, mostly attributable to record spending by foreigners in Canada.
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Canada hosted more than 19.4 million overnight international travellers in 1999, the highest annual level in the 25 years that international travel data have been collected. Travel from overseas nations increased for the first time since 1996.
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### Innovation analysis bulletin

May 2000

The *Innovation analysis bulletin* focuses on trends in science, technology, and the information society. It includes updates on government science and technology activities, industrial research and development, intellectual property commercialization, advanced technologies and innovation, biotechnology, connectedness, telecommunications and broadcasting, and electronic commerce.

The May 2000 issue contains articles on innovation in service industries, the deployment of science and technology skills, and research and development tax incentives.

The *Innovation analysis bulletin* (88-003-XIE, free) is now available at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca) under Products and services, Downloadable publications (free).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Michael Bordt (613-951-8585; fax: 613-951-9920; [michael.bordt@statcan.ca](mailto:michael.bordt@statcan.ca)), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division.



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## MAJOR RELEASES

### International travel account

First quarter 2000 (preliminary)

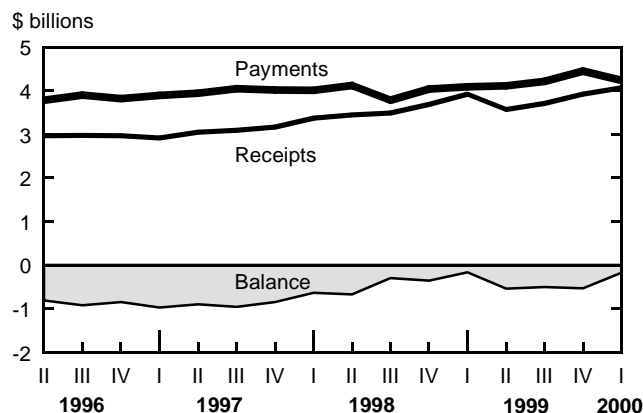
The international travel deficit — the difference between what Canadians spend abroad and what foreigners spend in Canada — posted its second lowest result in 10 years during the first quarter.

The deficit was \$172 million, second only to the 10-year low of \$167 million set in the first quarter of 1999 and mostly attributable to record spending by foreign travellers to Canada.

Foreign travellers injected a record \$4.1 billion into the economy during the first quarter of 2000, up 3.7% from the fourth quarter of 1999. At the same time, spending by Canadians abroad declined 4.9% to \$4.2 billion.

Foreigners made 5.1 million overnight trips to Canada, up 1.6% from the fourth quarter of 1999, while the 4.8 million overnight trips by Canadians abroad was practically unchanged.

Travel deficit at its lowest level since first quarter of 1999



### Travel account surplus with overseas countries

Canada's travel account with countries other than the United States posted a surplus in the first quarter of 2000. Overseas residents spent \$58 million more in Canada than Canadians did overseas.

Despite making 1.6% fewer overnight trips to Canada, residents of foreign countries other than the

#### Note to readers

*This international travel account analysis is based on preliminary quarterly data that are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise stated. Amounts are in Canadian dollars and are not adjusted for inflation.*

*Receipts represent spending by foreigners travelling in Canada, including education-related spending and medical-related spending. Payments represent spending by Canadians travelling abroad, including education-related spending and medical-related spending. Overseas countries are countries other than the United States.*

United States spent 6.1% more than in the fourth quarter of 1999, a record \$1.6 billion.

Canadians spent and travelled less in overseas countries in the first quarter of 2000 than they did in the fourth quarter of 1999. Canadians made 1.1 million overnight trips to overseas destinations, down 2.1% from the previous quarter. Their spending on those trips fell 5.9% to \$1.5 billion.

### Record spending by Americans

Overnight travel and spending by Americans in Canada rose in the first quarter 2000. Americans took nearly 4.0 million overnight trips north of the border, 2.5% more than in the fourth quarter of 1999. In the first quarter of 2000, Americans increased their spending in Canada by 2.3% from the previous quarter to a record \$2.5 billion.

Spending by Canadians south of the border declined 4.3% to just under \$2.7 billion. This occurred despite a 1.3% gain of the Canadian dollar over the American and an increase of 1.0% in the number of overnight trips from Canada to the United States. The Canadian dollar increased from an average US\$0.68 in the fourth quarter of 1999 to an average US\$0.69 in the first quarter of 2000.

Consequently, the travel deficit with the United States decreased for the second consecutive quarter to \$230 million, down from a revised \$404 million in the fourth quarter 1999.

## International travel account receipts and payments

	First quarter 1999 <sup>r</sup>	Fourth quarter 1999 <sup>r</sup>	First quarter 2000 <sup>p</sup>
	seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>		
	\$ millions		
<b>United States</b>			
Receipts	2,431	2,403	2,458
Payments	2,493	2,807	2,687
Balance	-62	-404	-230
<b>All other countries</b>			
Receipts	1,489	1,513	1,606
Payments	1,594	1,644	1,548
Balance	-105	-131	58
<b>Total</b>			
Receipts	3,920	3,917	4,063
Payments	4,087	4,451	4,235
Balance	-167	-534	-172

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

<sup>1</sup> Data may not add to totals due to rounding.

For data requests, contact Michel Campbell (613-951-9169; fax: 613-951-2909; [michel.campbell@statcan.ca](mailto:michel.campbell@statcan.ca)). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sylvie Bonhomme (613-951-5366; fax: 613-951-2909, [sylvie.bonhomme@statcan.ca](mailto:sylvie.bonhomme@statcan.ca)), Tourism Statistics Program. ■

## Characteristics of international travellers

1999

Canada hosted more than 19.4 million overnight international travellers in 1999, the highest annual level in the 25 years that international travel data have been collected.

About 4.2 million tourists came from overseas countries in 1999, up 6.4% from 1998 and the first increase since 1996. Recovering Asian markets spurred much of this growth; the number of travellers from Asia rose 9.5% to 1.2 million.

The majority of tourists, about 15.2 million, or 78%, came from the United States, a 1.9% increase from the previous year after an 11.1% increase in 1998.

### American visits hit record in Atlantic Canada

A record 1.1 million Americans made overnight visits to the Atlantic provinces in 1999, up 8.7% over 1998. This strong growth made up for gains of only 2.4% in Atlantic Canada in 1998, while the rest of Canada was enjoying double-digit increases.

American visits to Quebec rose 5.6% in 1999, the second highest regional increase. Visits to Ontario dipped slightly (-0.8%), following a 12.4% jump in 1998. All provinces west of Ontario saw fewer American travellers except British Columbia, where the number of American visits rose 2.0%.

The majority of American travellers, 1.9 million or 12.6%, came from New York state. However, Texans took 13.2% more overnight trips to Canada in 1999, the largest increase among the top 10 states of origin. Texas has increased in importance as a tourist market for Canada over the last decade, as increased flights between Canada and that state have made travel easier.

Massachusetts reported an 8.6% increase in travellers to Canada, and 4.7% more came from California. Ohio was the only state in the top 10 that reported fewer travellers to Canada. Visits from New York, Michigan and Minnesota were relatively flat.

The vast majority of Americans travelled to Canada for a vacation. In 1999, they made a record 8.7 million such trips, up 1.5% from 1998. Americans took 2.7 million trips to see friends or relatives living in Canada, up 3.1%. Business travel remained relatively flat.

The rate of increase in American trips by air again exceeded the growth rate in auto travel. In 1999, Americans took 3.8 million overnight trips by plane, up 3.8% from 1998 and up 58.6% from 1990. In

contrast, auto overnight travel increased only 2.2% from 1999 and 14.6% from 1990. The signing of the Open Skies Agreement between Canada and the United States in 1995 has contributed to the acceleration in air travel.

### Travel from overseas: Asian market recovers

Travel from Asian markets rebounded in 1999, led by increases from South Korea (+52.3%) and Taiwan (+26.0%). In contrast, European markets expanded just 4.9% in 1999, following a slight dip in 1998.

Among Canada's top ten overseas tourist markets, Hong Kong was the only one to produce fewer travellers to Canada in 1999 than in 1998. As a result, Taiwan replaced Hong Kong as the fifth largest overseas tourist market; Hong Kong fell to seventh place.

### Canada's top ten major overseas tourist markets

	1998	1999	1998 to 1999 % change
	'000		
United Kingdom	747	780	4.4
Japan	484	516	6.6
France	402	414	3.0
Germany	379	392	3.4
Taiwan	123	155	26.0
Australia	145	152	4.8
Hong Kong	148	134	-9.5
Mexico	112	127	13.4
Netherlands	110	121	10.0
Italy	101	111	9.9

Almost 400,000 overseas travellers flocked to Atlantic Canada, a 29.3% jump from 1998 and the highest increase among the regions. The majority of this rise came from European markets, the traditional source of overseas travellers for this region.

Overseas visits to Manitoba and Saskatchewan increased 20.9% over 1998, the second highest increase across the country. Visits from overseas dipped slightly in Quebec and remained flat in Ontario, largely due to low numbers from European countries.

### Canadian travel to United States rebounds

Canadians made 14.1 million overnight trips to the United States in 1999, up 5.1% compared with 1998. This halted the slide in Canadian outbound travel to the United States, which had plummeted 11.2% in 1998 to its lowest level on record. The improvement in the value of the Canadian dollar has been influential.

New York remained the most popular state for Canadian travellers in 1999, the only state to attract more than 2 million Canadian residents. However, 1.7 million Canadians visited Florida, down 1.8%, the second straight annual decline.

California, which welcomed a record 1.0 million Canadian travellers in 1999, has gained in popularity over the last decade, as air access and business connections have expanded.

### Growth in air travel outpaces car trips

Canadians flew to the United States on five million trips in 1999, up 7.8% compared to the previous year. Due in part to the Open Skies Agreement, 35% of Canadian overnight trips to the United States in 1999 were made by air, compared with 23% in 1990.

Air travel to the United States has expanded from a low of 3.6 million in 1991 to almost 5 million in 1999. On the other hand, auto travel south of the border slid from a high of 14.3 million trips in 1991 to 7.9 million by 1999. The Canadian dollar dropped from US\$0.83 to US\$0.67 over the same period.

Auto travel tends to be predominately for pleasure, and is therefore more responsive to such factors as exchange rate fluctuations.

### Business travel to the United States expands

Canadians took 2.7 million overnight business trips south of the border in 1999, including those to conventions, up 4.8% from the previous year and up 36.2% from 1990. Business travel accounted for almost 2 out of every 10 trips to the United States in 1999 compared with about 1 in 10 in 1990.

About 7.4 million overnight trips were for holiday reasons, a 5.2% increase over 1998. In the last decade, vacation travel fluctuated between a high of 11.6 million in 1991 and a low of 7.0 million in 1998.

Travel to visit friends or relatives living in the United States has remained the most stable since 1990. Canadians took 2.8 million such trips in 1999, up 4.9% over 1998, but about the same level as in 1991.

### Slowdown in Canadian travel overseas

Canadians made 4.3 million trips to overseas countries in 1999, up 0.8% from 1998, the slowest

annual growth rate of the 1990s. Nonetheless, this was the highest number of trips during the past three decades.

Canadians made 350,000 visits to Cuba in 1999, almost double the level in 1998. This increase moved Cuba from sixth to fourth place, displacing Germany from fourth to fifth place on the list of top 10 overseas destinations visited by Canadians.

Despite a near-double-digit decline in Canadian visits in 1999, France remained in third position on the list. Travel to the United Kingdom, Canadians' most popular overseas destination, stayed unchanged at 816,000 visits.

### Top ten overseas countries visited by Canadians 1998 and 1999

	1998	1999	1998 to 1999 % change
	'000		
United Kingdom	816	816	0.0
Mexico	597	608	1.8
France	452	408	-9.7
Cuba	181	350	93.4
Germany	252	228	-9.5
Italy	194	192	-1.0
Netherlands	174	154	-11.5
Dominican Republic	140	153	9.3
Hong Kong	119	115	-3.4
Switzerland	142	108	-23.9

This release summarizes data now available from the International Travel Survey. The tables and various statistical profiles and microdata files of characteristics of international travellers for the fourth quarter and for 1999 are now available on request.

To order these products, contact Pearl Bellefeuille (613-951-1674; fax: 613-951-2909; [pearl.bellefeuille@statcan.ca](mailto:pearl.bellefeuille@statcan.ca)). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Laurie McDougall (613-951-6766; fax: 613-951-2909; [laurie.mcdougall@statcan.ca](mailto:laurie.mcdougall@statcan.ca)), Tourism Statistics Program. ■

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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Stocks of frozen meat products

May 2000

Total frozen meat in cold storage at the opening of the first business day of May amounted to 70,190 tonnes, compared with 73,890 tonnes last month and 66,980 tonnes a year ago.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 87 and 9518-9525.**

Data from *Stocks of frozen meat products* (23-009-XIE, free) is available at Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). On the Products and services page, choose Downloadable publications (free).

For general enquires, call toll-free 1-800-216-2299. For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact James Duffy (613-951-6356; [duffjam@statcan.ca](mailto:duffjam@statcan.ca)) or Robert Plourde (613-951-8716; [robert.plourde@statcan.ca](mailto:robert.plourde@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

### Railway carloadings

Ten-day period ending April 30, 2000

Non-intermodal traffic loaded during the 10-day period ending April 30 decreased 10.7 % to 5.8 million tonnes compared with the same period of 1999. The number of cars loaded decreased 12.6 %.

Intermodal traffic tonnage totalled 505 000 tonnes, off 7.2 % from the same period of 1999. The year-to-date figures rose of 7.9%.

Total traffic decreased 10.5 % during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 90.8 million tonnes, an increase of 9.1% from the previous year.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; [laroque@statcan.ca](mailto:laroque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

### Cereals and oilseeds review

March 2000

Data from the March issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* are now available. The information includes data on production, stocks, cash and futures prices, domestic processing, exports, farmers' deliveries and supply-disposition analyses.

The April situation report, which is an overview of current market conditions, both domestic and international, is also included in the March issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149), which will be available in June. See *How to order publications*. An electronic version of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XIB, \$11/\$112) will be available soon on Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Les Macartney (613-951-8714; [les.macartney@statcan.ca](mailto:les.macartney@statcan.ca)) or Karen Gray (204-983-2856; [karen.gray@statcan.ca](mailto:karen.gray@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

### Grain trade of Canada

1998-99

Data from this publication for the crop year 1998-99 are now available.

This report presents an overview of the crop year as well as tables on Canadian and world grain supply and demand, prices, trade, domestic processing, and storage and movement.

The 1998-99 issue of *Grain trade of Canada* (22-201-XPB, \$44), will be released shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Karen Gray (204-983-2856; [karen.gray@statcan.ca](mailto:karen.gray@statcan.ca)), or Susan Anderson (613-951-3859; [sue.anderson@statcan.ca](mailto:sue.anderson@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Stocks of frozen meat products, May 2000**  
**Catalogue number 23-009-XIE**  
(Free).

**Innovation analysis bulletin, May 2000**  
**Catalogue number 88-003-XIE**  
(Free).

**All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.**

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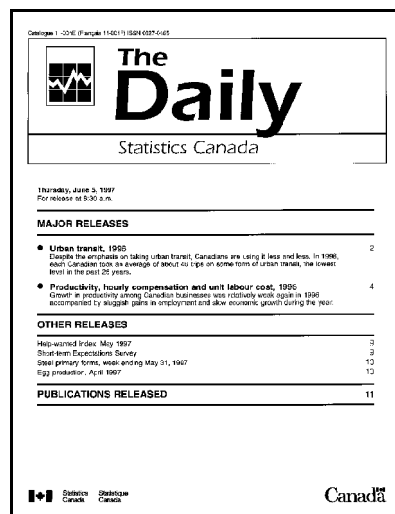
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