

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, April 29, 2002

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Investment in non-residential building construction, first quarter 2002** 2
Sustained by record government spending, investment in non-residential building construction reached a record \$7.2 billion in the first quarter, up 0.7% from the fourth quarter of 2001.
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NEW PRODUCTS



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MAJOR RELEASES

Investment in non-residential building construction

First quarter 2002

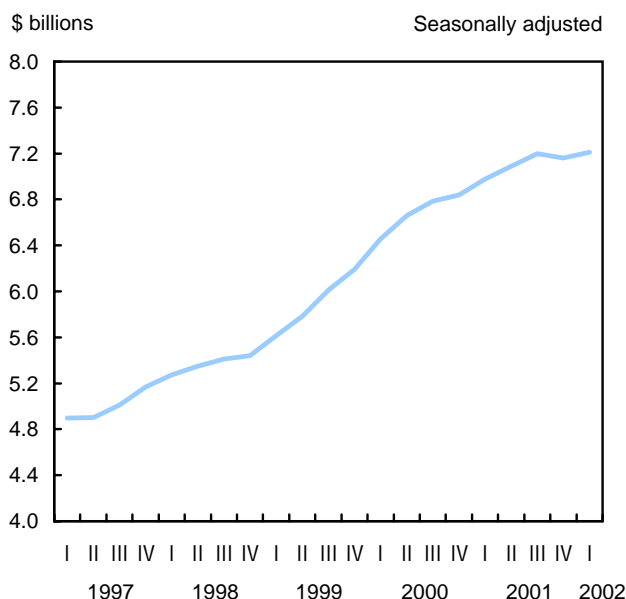
Construction sites for industrial, commercial and institutional buildings were hives of activity during the first three months of 2002. Investment in these projects reached a quarterly high, according to a new economic indicator launched today.

Businesses and governments spent a record \$7.2 billion on non-residential construction from January to March, up 0.7% from the fourth quarter of 2001 and up 3.4% from the first quarter of 2001.

Most of this investment was in commercial projects, where businesses spent \$3.8 billion in the first quarter, although this was down 3.3% from the fourth quarter of 2001.

However, investment in industrial projects rose 1.0% to \$1.3 billion. Governments spent a record \$2.1 billion on institutional projects, up a substantial 8.7%.

Non-residential investment reaches a record high



This analysis of investment in non-residential building construction, the first release of such data,

Note to readers

This release presents seasonally adjusted data (unless otherwise stated), which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

Investments in non-residential building construction exclude engineering construction. This series is based on the Building Permits Survey of municipalities, which collects information on construction intentions.

Work put in place patterns are assigned to each type of structure (industrial, commercial and institutional). These work patterns are used to distribute the value of building permits according to project length. Work put in place patterns differ according to the value of the construction project; a project worth several million dollars will usually take longer to complete than will a project of some hundred thousand dollars.

Additional data from the Survey of Private and Public Investment are used to create this investment series. Investment in non-residential building data is benchmarked to Statistics Canada's System of National Accounts of non-residential building investment series.

is primarily based on the Building Permits Survey of municipalities, which collects information on construction intentions. These data will be released quarterly.

Among the provinces, investment in Ontario accounted for 39% of the quarterly total, in Quebec, 23% and in Alberta, 14%.

Investment in non-residential building construction

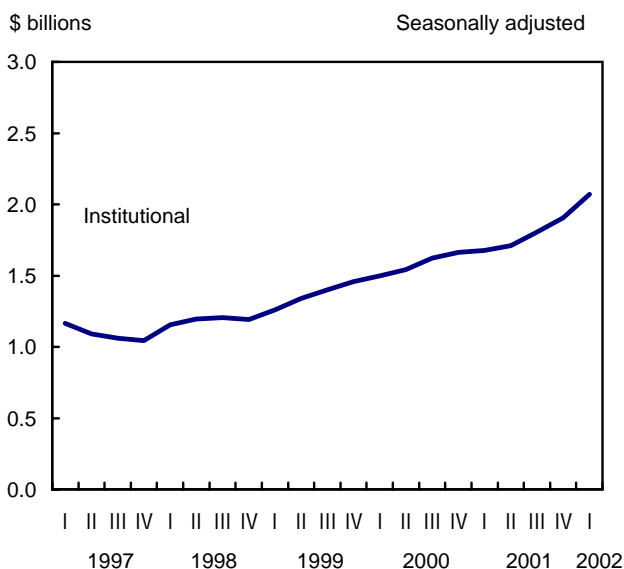
	First quarter 2001	Fourth quarter 2001	First quarter 2002	Fourth quarter 2001 to first quarter 2002
Seasonally adjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
Canada	6,978	7,162	7,212	0.7
Newfoundland and Labrador	83	119	99	-16.6
Prince Edward Island	13	41	50	22.9
Nova Scotia	184	146	125	-14.1
New Brunswick	91	120	126	4.7
Quebec	1,359	1,607	1,659	3.3
Ontario	3,005	2,819	2,824	0.2
Manitoba	234	199	201	1.0
Saskatchewan	171	204	208	2.0
Alberta	905	999	1,028	3.0
British Columbia	913	870	853	-1.9
Yukon	14	14	14	5.4
Northwest Territories	3	19	19	1.7
Nunavut	5	6	4	-30.9

Quebec recorded the largest increase in dollar terms; investment was up significantly in the census metropolitan area of Montréal. Spending declined only in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, British Columbia and Nunavut.

Institutional investment posts thirteenth straight quarterly increase

Institutional investment in construction projects by the government sector reached a new high of \$2.1 billion (+8.7 %) in the first quarter, fuelled by sharp jumps in the third and fourth quarters of 2001. All categories of institutional buildings contributed to this increase, particularly spending on hospitals.

Hospital projects fuel gains in government sector



Government sector investment spending may continue to grow in 2002, according to Statistics Canada's most recent Survey of Private and Public Investment. Forecasts for investment in health care and social assistance building are up in 2002. Moreover, the tremendous construction intentions for 2001 in this sector noted by the Building Permits Survey suggests that the high level of activity will continue.

Ontario contributed the most (in dollar terms) to this strong performance with a 12.5% gain in the government sector, followed by Quebec (+10.9%), Alberta (+10.4%) and British Columbia (+6.8%).

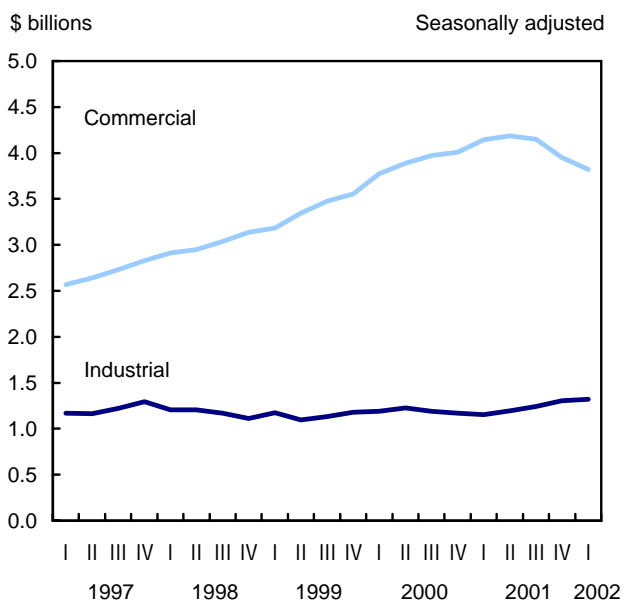
Ontario has registered continual growth since the first quarter of 1999. This astounding increase is the result of sustained investment in the hospital and

education categories. Similarly, investment in Ontario has nearly doubled since the first quarter of 1999.

Slowdown in business sector investment

Total investment in the business sector, which includes both industrial and commercial construction projects, declined 2.2% in the first quarter compared with the fourth quarter of 2001.

Slowdown in business sector investment



After reaching a record high of almost \$4.2 billion in the second quarter of 2001, investment in the commercial sector could not maintain the pace. During the following three quarters, commercial investment declined 8.7%.

All categories except warehouse buildings contributed to the 3.3% decline in the first quarter, particularly investment in construction projects for shopping centres.

The decline in commercial investment reflects business indicators. Also, higher vacancy rates for office buildings in different areas affected decisions to invest in office building construction. Demand for professional services remained practically unchanged in January. However, the fourth consecutive increase in retail trade in January may have a positive impact on future commercial building investment.

Only Quebec, Prince Edward Island and Manitoba registered gains in commercial investment. Ontario saw a significant 5.4% drop, the fourth consecutive quarter of decline, mainly because of decreases in the census

metropolitan areas of Toronto and Ottawa. Moreover, the vacancy rate for office buildings in both areas grew in the fourth quarter of 2001.

The industrial sector posted its fourth consecutive quarterly increase. Investment in industrial projects has increased 14.2% from the most recent low of just under \$1.2 billion in the first quarter of 2001. The \$1.3-billion investment in the first quarter of 2002 was the highest since 1997.

Advances by Alberta (+7.1%), which recorded its sixth consecutive increase, and New Brunswick (+44.0%) more than offset declines in the industrial sector in British Columbia (-17.4%) and Ontario (-1.4%).

Dwindling production and a sharp drop in corporate profits led to stabilized investments in the first quarter. Industries operated at 80.3% capacity in the fourth quarter of 2001, the sixth consecutive quarterly decline.

Available on CANSIM: table 026-0016.

To obtain data, contact Joanne Bureau (613-951-9689; burejoa@statcan.ca). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Valérie Gaudreault (613-951-1165; gaudval@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

Investment in non-residential building construction by sector

	Industrial		Commercial		Institutional	
			Seasonally adjusted			
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
First quarter 2000	1,189	0.7	3,771	6.1	1,497	2.7
Second quarter 2000	1,227	3.2	3,890	3.1	1,543	3.1
Third quarter 2000	1,191	-3.0	3,972	2.1	1,623	5.2
Fourth quarter 2000	1,170	-1.7	4,009	0.9	1,662	2.4
First quarter 2001	1,156	-1.2	4,145	3.4	1,677	0.9
Second quarter 2001	1,195	3.4	4,186	1.0	1,710	1.9
Third quarter 2001	1,243	4.1	4,149	-0.9	1,805	5.6
Fourth quarter 2001	1,307	5.1	3,949	-4.8	1,906	5.6
First quarter 2002	1,320	1.0	3,821	-3.3	2,071	8.7

OTHER RELEASES

Provincial and territorial tourism satellite accounts

1996

The economic impact of tourism varied considerably across the provinces and territories in 1996, according to the paper, *Provincial and territorial tourism satellite accounts*, 1996, which is available today.

The economic impact of tourism was highest in Yukon in 1996, accounting for 4.8% of its total gross domestic product (GDP), according to this regional report, the first of its kind for Canada. British Columbia and Prince Edward Island followed with the second and third highest tourism GDP shares. Saskatchewan, at 1.8%, had the lowest share. Tourism accounted for 2.3% of Canada's total economy, making it larger than both agriculture and forestry.

The provinces and territories rank in much the same order when employment generated by tourism is measured. Yukon, with 1,200 jobs, or 8.1% of its total workforce, had the highest share. Again, British Columbia (4.7%) and Prince Edward Island (4.6%) followed. The national average was 3.7%, the equivalent of 507,000 jobs across Canada.

Yukon's strong showing occurred largely because of its ability to attract both international and interprovincial tourists. British Columbia's tourism industry relied more on international visitors; Prince Edward Island's, on tourists from other regions of Canada. Tourism generally had a smaller economic impact in provinces that relied heavily on tourists from within their own borders.

British Columbia had the highest tourism trade balance among the provinces, just over \$200 million. This means that visitors from outside the province spent more money in British Columbia than residents of the

province spent in other regions of Canada and abroad. Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Yukon and the Northwest Territories also had positive tourism balances. Ontario, at \$3 billion, had the largest tourism deficit, mainly because Ontario residents accounted for nearly one-half of the dollars spent abroad by Canadian tourists.

The transportation and accommodation industries were the two largest beneficiaries of tourism. Transportation was particularly strong in Newfoundland and Labrador and Manitoba — air transportation led the way. Prince Edward Island, Yukon and the Northwest Territories were heavily reliant on their accommodation industry.

Note: The provincial and territorial tourism accounts are referred to as satellite (extension) accounts because tourism is not an identified industry within the standard economic accounts. Rather, tourism accounts extract the tourism components out of several industries. The approach is based on principles approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission. The results of this report are based primarily on information from Statistics Canada's provincial input-output accounts and travel surveys.

The research paper *Provincial and territorial tourism satellite accounts for Canada*, 1996 (13F0063XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Research papers (free)*, then *National accounts*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Conrad Barber-Dueck (204-275-3626) or Jacques Delisle (613-951-3796), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division. □

Provincial and territorial tourism satellite accounts 1996

	Tourism expenditures	Tourism GDP	Tourism employment	Proportion of tourism GDP to total GDP	Proportion of tourism employment to total employment
	\$ millions		'000	%	
Canada	39,651	16,925	507.5	2.3	3.7
Newfoundland and Labrador	570	206	6.8	2.3	3.9
Prince Edward Island	187	78	2.7	3.1	4.6
Nova Scotia	1,151	435	16.5	2.6	4.1
New Brunswick	712	287	11.3	2.0	3.6
Quebec	7,869	3,379	104.0	2.2	3.3
Ontario	14,547	6,177	189.0	2.1	3.5
Manitoba	1,304	557	17.8	2.3	3.2
Saskatchewan	1,120	442	16.0	1.8	3.3
Alberta	4,447	1,981	56.2	2.2	3.9
British Columbia	7,503	3,283	84.6	3.5	4.7
Yukon	120	50	1.2	4.8	8.1
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	119	50	1.2	2.1	4.3

Crude oil and natural gas

February 2002 (preliminary)

Crude oil production totalled 10 472 000 cubic metres in February, up 3.9% from February 2001. Newfoundland and Labrador was the main contributor to the gain. With the commencement of Terra Nova, production of crude oil in Newfoundland and Labrador increased 81.2% compared with February 2001.

Exports, which accounted for 60.5% of total production, rose 2.3% from February 2001.

Year-to-date production of crude oil to the end of February increased 3.8% from the same period of 2001, but crude oil exports decreased 1.5%.

Marketable natural gas production declined 1.6% from February 2001; domestic sales and exports of natural gas fell 4.1% and 3.2%, respectively.

Year-to-date marketable production of natural gas fell 1.5% compared with the same period of 2001. Exports of natural gas were down 5.3 %, and Canadian domestic sales dropped 2.1%.

Crude oil and natural gas

	Feb. 2001	Feb. 2002	Feb. 2001 to Feb. 2002
	Thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹			
Production	10 081.5	10 472.0	3.9
Exports	6 194.7	6 338.5	2.3
Imports ²	4 179.9	4 253.2	1.8
Refinery receipts	8 237.9	8 287.5	0.6
	Millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas³			
Marketable production	13 888.7	13 664.1	-1.6
Exports	9 074.1	8 779.7	-3.2
Canadian domestic sales ⁴	7 696.0	7 381.7	-4.1
	Jan. to Feb. 2001	Jan. to Feb. 2002	Jan.–Feb. 2001 to Jan.–Feb. 2002
	Thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹			
Production	21 063.6	21 870.0	3.8
Exports	13 081.1	12 889.4	-1.5
Imports ²	9 677.3	8 592.0	-11.2
Refinery receipts	17 844.5	17 363.9	-2.7
	Millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas³			
Marketable production	29 142.3	28 713.7	-1.5
Exports	19 758.8	18 717.3	-5.3
Canadian domestic sales ⁴	15 878.6	15 539.3	-2.1

¹ Disposition may differ from production because of inventory change, industry own-use, etc.

² Crude oil received by Canadian refineries from foreign countries for processing. Data may differ from International Trade Division (ITD) estimates because of timing differences and the inclusion of crude oil landed in Canada for future re-export in the ITD data.

³ Disposition may differ from production because of inventory change, usage as pipeline fuel, pipeline losses, line-pack fluctuations, etc.

⁴ Includes direct sales.

Available on CANSIM: tables 126-0001 and 131-0001.

The February 2002 issue of *Supply and disposition of crude oil and natural gas* (26-006-XPB, \$19/\$186) will be available in June. See *How to order products*.

To order data, or for general information, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gerry Desjardins (613-951-4368; desjger@statcan.ca) or Eleonore Harding (613-951-5708; hardele@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Farm product prices

March 2002

Prices that farmers received in March for grains, oilseeds, speciality crops, fruits, vegetables, cattle, hogs, poultry, eggs and dairy products are now available.

The Ontario slaughter steer price in March was \$110.95 per hundredweight, up 10% from December but still 8% short of the record of \$120.30 in April 2001.

The March slaughter lamb price in Alberta was \$111.77 per hundredweight, up 64% from December and at its highest since May 1997, when it reached \$119.37.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Paul Murray (613-951-0065; fax: 613-951-3868; paul.murray@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Production and disposition of tobacco products

March 2002

Tobacco product manufacturers reduced production of cigarettes slightly in March, but sales increased. However, production was higher than sales, causing cigarette inventories to expand.

Production totalled 3.6 billion cigarettes in March, down 1% from February and down 9% from March 2001. In the first three months of 2002, 10.4 billion cigarettes were produced, down 2% from the same period of 2001.

Shipments totalled 3.5 billion cigarettes in March, up 4% from February but down 13% from March 2001. Year-to-date shipments to the end of March stood at 10.3 billion cigarettes, down 5% from the same period of 2001.

Due to the relatively high production, inventories expanded 3% to a closing level of 4.6 billion cigarettes at the end of March, up 9% from the end of March 2001.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0007.

The March 2002 issue of *Production and disposition of tobacco products*, Vol. 31, no. 3 (32-022-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Peter

Zylstra (613-951-3511; peter.zylstra@statcan.ca),
Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Domestic and international shipping

First quarter 2001 (preliminary)

Canadian ports handled 70.5 million metric tonnes of cargo in the first quarter of 2001, down 6.9% from the first quarter of 2000. Both the domestic and international sectors declined.

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

Aircraft movement statistics

October 2001

There were 528,564 take-offs and landings recorded in October at the 98 airports with Nav Canada air traffic

control towers and flight service stations, down 6.7% from October 2000, when there were 100 airports in the tower and flight service station categories. Churchill and Fort Simpson are now included with the data for airports without air traffic control towers.

Data for the airports without air traffic control towers participating in this survey are also available. In October, these 108 airports reported 56,368 take-offs and landings.

The October 2001 monthly report (TP141, free) is available on Transport Canada's Web site at the following URL: (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/Report/tp141e/tp141.htm>).

For more information about this Web site, contact Michel Villeneuve (613-990-3825; villenm@tc.gc.ca) or Sheila Rajani (613-993-9822; rajanis@tc.gc.ca).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141; fax: 613-951-0010; aviationstatistics@statcan.ca) Transportation Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Provincial and territorial tourism satellite accounts for Canada, 1996
Catalogue number 13F0063XIE
(free).

Production and disposition of tobacco products,
March 2002, Vol. 31, no. 3
Catalogue number 32-022-XIB (\$5/\$47).

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Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995**
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years. 2
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995**
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year. 4

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Editor: Tom Vradenburg (613-951-1103, tom.vradenburg@statcan.ca)

Head of Official Release: Madeleine Simard (613-951-1088), madeleine.simard@statcan.ca

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