



The Daily

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 Manufacturers' prices were up 0.3% in December following two months of decrease. Compared with December 2002, prices fell 3.4%, largely as a result of the continuing effect of a strong Canadian dollar against the US dollar. Meanwhile, prices of raw materials increased 2.4% from November but were 5.1% lower than in December 2002.
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MAJOR RELEASES

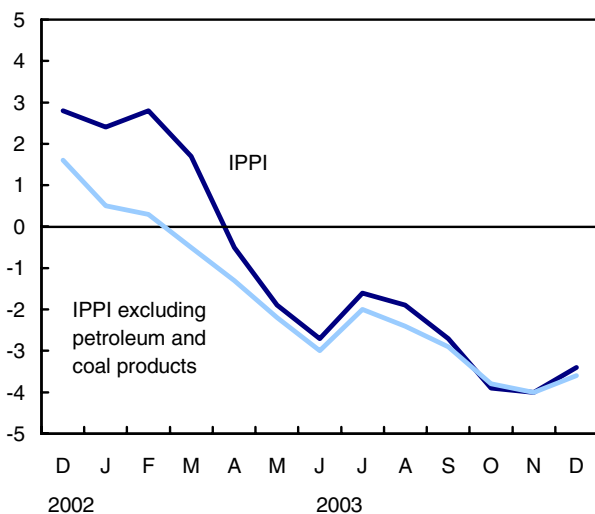
Industrial product and raw materials price indexes

December 2003

Manufacturers' prices were up 0.3% in December following two months of decrease. Compared with December 2002, prices fell 3.4%, largely as a result of the continuing effect of a strong Canadian dollar against the US dollar.

Declining influence of petroleum products on the IPPI

12-month % change



Without the dollar's influence, the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) would have risen 1.0% rather than falling 3.4% from a year ago.

On a monthly basis, prices for primary metal products were up 2.3%, the result of higher prices for nickel, silver and gold. Motor vehicles and other transport equipment increased 0.5%, mainly the result of the effect of the exchange rate.

Higher prices were also observed for petroleum and coal products (+1.6%), electrical and communication products (+0.3%) as well as meat, fish and dairy products (+0.2%).

Lumber and other wood products were down 3.6% from November. Decreasing prices for particleboard and softwood plywood were responsible for this drop, as demand declined for these products.

Note to readers

The **Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI)** reflects the prices that producers in Canada receive as the goods leave the plant gate. It does not reflect what the consumer pays. Unlike the Consumer Price Index, the IPPI excludes indirect taxes and all the costs that occur between the time a good leaves the plant and the time the final user takes possession of it, including the transportation, wholesale, and retail costs.

Canadian producers export many goods. They often quote their prices in foreign currencies, particularly for motor vehicles, pulp, paper, and wood products. Therefore, a rise or fall in the value of the Canadian dollar against its US counterpart affects the IPPI.

The **Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI)** reflects the prices paid by Canadian manufacturers for key raw materials. Many of these prices are set in a world market. Unlike the IPPI, the RMPI includes goods not produced in Canada.

On a 12-month basis, December represents the ninth consecutive month of decline in the IPPI. Lower prices persisted for motor vehicles and other transport equipment (-10.6%), electrical and communication products (-7.7%) and pulp and paper products (-5.2%). These products remain the major contributors to the 12-month decline in the IPPI.

The petroleum and coal products group continued to have a much smaller influence on the 12-month change in the IPPI, with a decrease of 3.0%. If petroleum and coal product prices had been excluded, the IPPI would have declined 3.6% on a 12-month basis.

Higher prices for tobacco products (+14.2%), beverages (+2.4%) and furniture and fixtures (+1.6%) partly offset the decline.

Higher crude oil prices push up prices of raw materials

On a monthly basis, raw materials prices were up 2.4% from November. Mineral fuels prices, up 3.2%, were responsible for more than half of the monthly increase in the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI).

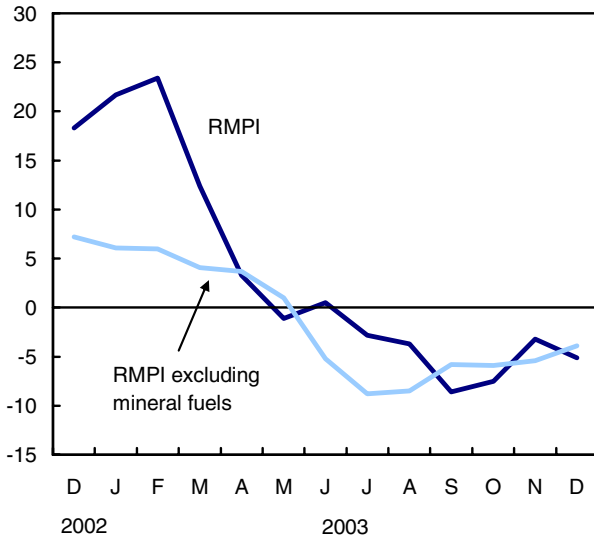
Crude oil prices rose 4.3% from November as a result of strong demand and low inventories. Higher prices for non-ferrous metals (+4.5%), animals and animal products (+1.0%), vegetable products (+1.9%) as well as wood products (+1.2%) also contributed to this increase.

Manufacturers paid 5.1% less for their raw materials than they did in December 2002, compared with a decrease of 3.2% in November. Mineral fuels were

down 6.7% from a year ago, with crude oil prices declining 8.5%. If mineral fuels had been excluded, the RMPI would have decreased 3.9%.

Crude oil prices have less influence on the RMPI

12-month % change



Lower prices for animals and animal products (-7.7%), vegetable products (-14.2%) and wood products (-5.0%) also contributed to the 12-month drop in the RMPI.

These decreases were partly offset by higher prices for non-ferrous metals (+10.7%), ferrous materials (+4.7%) and non-metallic minerals (+4.4%).

The IPPI (1997=100) stood at 104.6 in December, up from its revised level of 104.3 in November. The RMPI (1997=100) was 113.0 in December up from its revised level of 110.3 in November.

Impact of exchange rate

From November to December, the value of the US dollar strengthened against the Canadian dollar, pushing up prices of commodities that are quoted in US dollars, notably motor vehicles, lumber products and pulp and paper products. As a result, the total IPPI excluding the effect of the exchange rate would have risen 0.1% instead of 0.3%.

On a 12-month basis, however, the influence of the dollar is much stronger. Consequently, the IPPI excluding the effect of the exchange rate would have increased 1.0% rather than declining 3.4% from December 2002 to December 2003.

Prices for intermediate goods continue to decrease on an annual basis

Prices for intermediate goods were up 0.2% from November. Higher prices for primary metal products, petroleum and coal products, motor vehicles as well as meat, fish and dairy products were the major contributors to the increase.

Lower prices for lumber products, pulp and paper products, chemical products as well as fruit, vegetable and feed products partly offset this increase.

Producers of intermediate goods received 2.4% less for their goods in December 2003 than in December 2002. Lower prices for motor vehicles, pulp and paper products, electrical and communication products, primary metal products as well as petroleum products were mainly responsible for the annual decline.

"Intermediate goods," sometimes referred to as "input goods," are goods that are generally bought by manufacturers to be further used in the production process, that is, to make other goods.

Finished goods decrease again from a year ago

On a monthly basis, prices for finished goods were up 0.3% from November. Higher prices for motor vehicles and petroleum products were partly offset by lower prices lumber products.

Declining prices for motor vehicles, petroleum products, electrical and communication products, machinery and equipment as well as pulp and paper products pushed prices down 5.0% from December 2002.

These decreases were partly offset by higher prices for tobacco products, fruit, vegetables and feed products, chemical products, beverages as well as furniture and fixtures.

"Finished goods" are those generally purchased for the purpose of either consumption or investment. Most of the foods and feeds category ends up in the hands of consumers. Most capital goods are equipment and machinery generally bought by companies, government agencies, or governments. Much of the remainder is bought by consumers.

Available on CANSIM: tables 329-0038 to 329-0049 and 330-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2306 and 2318.

The December 2003 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011-XIE, \$19/\$175; 62-011-XPE, \$24/\$233) will be available in February. See *How to order products*.

The Industrial product and raw material price indexes for January will be released on March 2.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact

Client Services (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca) or Danielle Gouin (613-951-3375; danielle.gouin@statcan.ca), Prices Division.

Industrial product price indexes (1997=100)

	Relative importance	December 2002	November 2003 ^r	December 2003 ^p	December 2002 to December 2003	November to December 2003
					% change	
Industrial product price index (IPPI)	100.00	108.3	104.3	104.6	-3.4	0.3
IPPI excluding petroleum and coal products	94.32	106.9	103.0	103.1	-3.6	0.1
Aggregation by commodities						
Meat, fish and dairy products	5.78	108.7	107.2	107.4	-1.2	0.2
Fruit, vegetables, feeds and other food products	5.99	104.7	104.5	104.4	-0.3	-0.1
Beverages	1.57	116.3	119.0	119.1	2.4	0.1
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.63	146.2	166.9	166.9	14.2	0.0
Rubber, leather and plastic fabricated products	3.30	104.8	105.6	105.6	0.8	0.0
Textile products	1.58	100.9	98.4	98.9	-2.0	0.5
Knitted products and clothing	1.51	103.9	104.4	104.4	0.5	0.0
Lumber and other wood products	6.30	89.9	93.4	90.0	0.1	-3.6
Furniture and fixtures	1.59	108.3	110.0	110.0	1.6	0.0
Pulp and paper products	7.23	105.7	100.3	100.2	-5.2	-0.1
Printing and publishing	1.70	114.4	112.1	112.2	-1.9	0.1
Primary metal products	7.80	98.7	96.7	98.9	0.2	2.3
Metal fabricated products	4.11	107.4	106.9	107.0	-0.4	0.1
Machinery and equipment	5.48	106.9	105.0	105.1	-1.7	0.1
Motor vehicles and other transport equipment	22.16	114.6	101.9	102.4	-10.6	0.5
Electrical and communications products	5.77	100.4	92.4	92.7	-7.7	0.3
Non-metallic mineral products	1.98	108.9	109.4	109.3	0.4	-0.1
Petroleum and coal products ¹	5.68	134.7	128.7	130.7	-3.0	1.6
Chemicals and chemical products	7.07	108.2	108.2	108.0	-0.2	-0.2
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.40	108.5	106.6	107.0	-1.4	0.4
Miscellaneous non-manufactured products	0.38	92.2	102.4	107.9	17.0	5.4
Intermediate goods²	60.14	105.1	102.4	102.6	-2.4	0.2
First-stage intermediate goods ³	7.71	104.4	105.0	106.7	2.2	1.6
Second-stage intermediate goods ⁴	52.43	105.2	102.0	102.0	-3.0	0.0
Finished goods⁵	39.86	113.2	107.2	107.5	-5.0	0.3
Finished foods and feeds	8.50	109.7	110.4	110.4	0.6	0.0
Capital equipment	11.73	112.4	104.1	104.4	-7.1	0.3
All other finished goods	19.63	115.3	107.7	108.1	-6.2	0.4

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ This index is estimated for the current month.

² Intermediate goods are goods used principally to produce other goods.

³ First-stage intermediate goods are items used most frequently to produce other intermediate goods.

⁴ Second-stage intermediate goods are items most commonly used to produce final goods.

⁵ Finished goods are goods most commonly used for immediate consumption or for capital investment.

Raw Materials price indexes
(1997=100)

	Relative importance	December 2002	November 2003 ^r	December 2003 ^p	December 2002 to December 2003 % change	November to December 2003
Raw materials price index (RMPI)	100.00	119.1	110.3	113.0	-5.1	2.4
Mineral fuels	35.16	169.6	153.4	158.3	-6.7	3.2
Vegetable products	10.28	103.8	87.4	89.1	-14.2	1.9
Animals and animal products	20.30	105.9	96.7	97.7	-7.7	1.0
Wood	15.60	86.6	81.3	82.3	-5.0	1.2
Ferrous materials	3.36	91.4	94.4	95.7	4.7	1.4
Non-ferrous metals	12.93	82.2	87.1	91.0	10.7	4.5
Non-metallic minerals	2.38	112.8	117.7	117.8	4.4	0.1
RMPI excluding mineral fuels	64.84	95.7	90.3	92.0	-3.9	1.9

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.



OTHER RELEASES

Payroll employment, earnings and hours November 2003 (preliminary)

The average weekly earnings of payroll employees increased slightly in November to \$693.37 (+\$2.00).

The new level is up 0.9% from November 2002. The year-over-year growth is due largely to earnings increases in the construction, manufacturing, retail trade, education services, health care and social assistance and public administration sectors.

Stronger earnings growth for the year is observed from the hourly rates of hourly paid employees. Their hourly wages increased 1.9% from November 2002, with earnings of workers in goods producing sectors (+2.9%) outpacing those of employees in the service producing industries (+1.8%).

The average hours for hourly paid workers dropped in November, attributable mostly to widespread decreases in hours in the services producing industries.

The number of payroll employees for November was little changed (-2,200) following October's sharp increase (+58,900). Gains in November were recorded in Ontario (+13,800), Quebec (+5,100) and British Columbia (+1,400).

By industry, employment gains were lead by an 18,300 gain in education services, which was offset by declines in manufacturing (-12,200) and wholesale trade (-5,100).

Available on CANSIM: tables 281-0023 to 281-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2612.

Detailed industry data, data by size of enterprise based on employment, and other labour market indicators will be available soon in the monthly publication *Employment, Earnings and Hours* (72-002-XIB, \$26/\$257). See *How to order products*.

Data on payroll employment, earnings and hours for December 2003 will be released February 26.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-2869; labour@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091), Labour Statistics Division. □

Average weekly earnings for all employees

Industry group (North American Industry Classification System)	November 2002	October 2003 ^r	November 2003 ^p	October to November 2003	November 2002 to November 2003
	seasonally adjusted				
	\$			% change	
Industrial aggregate	687.24	691.37	693.37	0.3	0.9
Forestry, logging and support	851.78	873.21	867.56	-0.6	1.9
Mining and oil and gas	1,173.73	1,187.68	1,200.89	1.1	2.3
Utilities	1,068.43	1,087.33	1,078.48	-0.8	0.9
Construction	806.88	836.31	821.36	-1.8	1.8
Manufacturing	839.09	840.92	845.24	0.5	0.7
Wholesale Trade	786.89	792.11	793.86	0.2	0.9
Retail trade	438.64	447.52	443.66	-0.9	1.1
Transportation and warehousing	771.05	754.56	751.23	-0.4	-2.6
Information and cultural industries	821.79	801.79	801.94	0.0	-2.4
Finance and insurance	863.87	876.51	884.48	0.9	2.4
Real estate and rental and leasing	604.37	608.25	608.44	0.0	0.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	906.00	912.77	916.37	0.4	1.1
Management of companies and enterprises	849.06	869.94	876.07	0.7	3.2
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	539.28	538.45	544.76	1.2	1.0
Educational Services	750.13	751.10	762.06	1.5	1.6
Health care and social assistance	610.12	613.44	618.80	0.9	1.4
Arts, entertainment and recreation	432.31	416.72	423.59	1.6	-2.0
Accommodation and food services	284.83	280.36	281.86	0.5	-1.0
Other services (excluding public administration)	523.99	532.94	529.53	-0.6	1.1
Public administration	844.12	866.83	869.57	0.3	3.0
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland and Labrador	627.04	619.95	631.92	1.9	0.8
Prince Edward Island	544.25	550.34	554.39	0.7	1.9
Nova Scotia	593.81	597.28	598.39	0.2	0.8
New Brunswick	617.28	633.04	639.15	1.0	3.5
Quebec	650.72	661.33	657.94	-0.5	1.1
Ontario	733.33	733.15	735.25	0.3	0.3
Manitoba	609.28	618.17	622.87	0.8	2.2
Saskatchewan	615.89	624.67	631.87	1.2	2.6
Alberta	702.53	712.25	718.51	0.9	2.3
British Columbia	681.19	682.68	685.83	0.5	0.7
Yukon	757.58	753.22	762.61	1.2	0.7
Northwest Territories ¹	890.72	889.73	891.32	0.2	0.1
Nunavut ¹	804.84	811.40	810.47	-0.1	0.7

^r Revised estimates.
^p Preliminary estimates.
¹ Data not seasonally adjusted.

Number of Employees

Industry group (North American Industry Classification System)	September 2003	October 2003 ^r	November 2003 ^p	September to October 2003	October to November 2003
	seasonally adjusted				
	'000			% change	
Industrial aggregate	13,288.6	13,347.4	13,345.2	0.4	0.0
Forestry, logging and support	53.8	53.2	52.1	-1.1	-2.1
Mining and oil and gas	154.2	153.7	153.9	-0.3	0.1
Utilities	115.4	114.4	114.0	-0.9	-0.3
Construction	648.2	653.0	655.7	0.7	0.4
Manufacturing	2,023.8	2,023.8	2,011.6	0.0	-0.6
Wholesale Trade	751.8	757.0	752.0	0.7	-0.7
Retail trade	1,586.8	1,598.9	1,599.2	0.8	0.0
Transportation and warehousing	605.1	600.7	604.3	-0.7	0.6
Information and cultural industries	354.4	352.8	351.9	-0.5	-0.3
Finance and insurance	571.6	572.3	573.5	0.1	0.2
Real estate and rental and leasing	227.4	231.2	230.7	1.7	-0.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	652.9	651.1	655.5	0.5	-0.1
Management of companies and enterprises	90.2	90.1	89.1	-0.1	-1.1
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	607.0	614.9	612.7	1.3	-0.4
Educational Services	932.6	936.6	954.8	0.4	1.9
Health care and social assistance	1,369.8	1,372.9	1,373.5	0.2	0.0
Arts, entertainment and recreation	244.2	241.1	238.5	-1.3	-1.1
Accommodation and food services	926.2	933.0	938.4	0.7	0.6
Other services (excluding public administration)	498.5	503.0	502.2	0.9	-0.2
Public administration	773.4	769.7	769.2	-0.5	-0.1
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland and Labrador	186.9	185.9	184.0	-0.5	-1.0
Prince Edward Island	64.8	64.0	61.4	-1.2	-4.1
Nova Scotia	383.9	383.3	379.5	-0.2	-1.0
New Brunswick	304.2	304.7	299.8	0.2	-1.6
Quebec	3,158.1	3,171.3	3,176.4	0.4	0.2
Ontario	5,158.5	5,173.5	5,187.3	0.3	0.3
Manitoba	523.9	525.9	520.4	0.4	-1.0
Saskatchewan	393.6	396.7	395.7	0.8	-0.3
Alberta	1,454.2	1,460.7	1,460.3	0.4	0.0
British Columbia	1,625.8	1,636.1	1,637.6	0.6	0.1
Yukon	16.0	15.7	15.5	-1.9	-1.3
Northwest Territories ¹	22.4	22.4	22.0	0.0	-1.8
Nunavut ¹	11.3	11.5	11.4	1.8	-0.9

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

¹ Data not seasonally adjusted.

Electric power selling price indexes

September to December 2003

Electric power selling price indexes (1997=100) are now available for September to December 2003.

Available on CANSIM: table 329-0050.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2325.

The December 2003 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011-XIE, \$19/\$175; 62-011-XPE, \$24/\$233) will be available in February. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca) or Adrian Fisher (613-951-9612; adrianfisher@statcan.ca), Prices Division.

Placement of hatchery chicks and turkey poults

December 2003 (preliminary)

Placements of hatchery chicks onto farms were estimated at 57.8 million birds in December, down 1.4% from December 2002. Placements of turkey poults on farms decreased 1.3% to 1.1 million birds.

Available on CANSIM: table 003-0021.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5039.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandra Giefeldt (613-951-2505; sandy.giefeldt@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Stocks of frozen and chilled meats

January 2004

Total frozen and chilled red meat in cold storage at the opening of the first business day of January amounted to 89 237 metric tonnes, down 3% from 92 180 tonnes in December and up 7% from 83 692 tonnes in January 2003. Stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on January 1 totalled 46 886 metric tonnes, down 11% from January 1, 2003.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0005 and 003-0041.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3423.

The January 2004 issue of *Stocks of Frozen and Chilled Meats* (23-009-XIE, free) is now available online.

From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

For general information, call 1-800-465-1991. To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Barbara McLaughlin (902-893-7251; barbara.mclaughlin@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Industrial concentration in the manufacturing sector

1998 to 2001

Industrial concentration ratios in the manufacturing sector are now available. This indicator measures the market share of the industry's largest enterprises according to their shipments. The concentration ratios also provide an indicator of the degree of competition within a specific industry. Data are now available from 1998 to 2001 for Canada and provinces for the manufacturing industries found under the North American Industry Classification System.

For more information, to order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Stocks of Frozen and Chilled Meats, January 2004
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(free).

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

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- Urban transit, 1995 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, 68% of Canadian trips are a average of about 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was initially weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- High-waged index, May 1997 3
- Short-term Expectations Survey 3
- Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 12
- EGU indicator, April 1997 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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