



The Daily

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Canadian economic accounts, 2003 and fourth quarter 2003**

3

Real gross domestic product (GDP) advanced 1.7% in 2003, almost half the pace set in 2002, as exports fell for a third straight year. However, the economy ended the year with its best showing in six quarters, as exports rebounded and GDP advanced a solid 0.9%. Much of the strength came late in the quarter as growth accelerated from 0.2% in October and November to 0.5% in December. A more detailed analysis is available in the *Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review*.

(continued on page 2)

Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review

Fourth quarter 2003

The electronic publication *Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review* has the most up-to-date data and analysis on the economy and Canada's transactions with the rest of the world.

The section on GDP by income and expenditure provides information on topics such as consumer spending and business investment, and of course, the overall state of the economy. To find out which industries are booming, see the section on GDP by industry.

The section on labour productivity includes hours worked by Canadians, their wages and productivity for different industries.

In the balance of international payments section, you can find investment flows between residents of Canada and non-residents, and exports and imports.

The international investment position gives you, among other components, Canada's indebtedness to the rest of the world and how much Canadians have invested in other countries.

Find out more about the wealth of Canadian households, businesses and governments with detail on assets and liabilities in the national balance sheet accounts section.

The fourth quarter 2003 issue of *Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review*, Vol. 2, no. 4 (13-010-XIE, free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *National accounts*.

For more information, contact the information officer (613-951-3640; iead-info-dcrrd@statcan.ca), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.



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MAJOR RELEASES

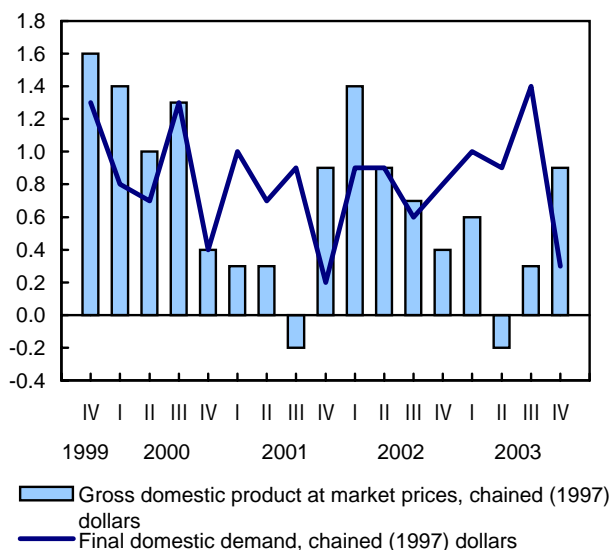
Canadian economic accounts

2003 and fourth quarter 2003

Real gross domestic product (GDP) advanced 1.7% in 2003, almost half the pace set in 2002, as exports fell for a third straight year. However, the economy ended the year with its best showing in six quarters, as exports rebounded and GDP advanced a solid 0.9%. Much of the strength came late in the quarter, as growth accelerated from 0.2% in October and November to 0.5% in December.

GDP picked up at year end

Quarterly % change



Exports were the main source of strength in the fourth quarter, bouncing back from a four-quarter slump and helping manufacturing to a strong year-end. Consumer spending was flat, as retail activity was driven down by sharply curtailed sales of motor vehicles. Additions to business inventories were more than three times those of the third quarter.

Flat consumer and government spending in the fourth quarter coupled with a slowdown in business

investment resulted in the weakest showing for final domestic demand (+0.3%) since the fourth quarter of 2001. As measured by the chain price index for GDP, economy-wide prices edged up 0.1% after gaining 0.9% in the third quarter.

Industrial production (manufacturing, mining and utilities) surged 1.6% in the fourth quarter, after a depressed first half of the year. Higher manufacturing and mining production more than offset reduced output in the utilities sector, as electricity generation declined for the third consecutive quarter. Industrial production in the United States advanced 1.3%, with all major components registering gains.

On an annualized basis, Canada's GDP growth for the fourth quarter was 3.8%. South of the border, the U.S. economy grew at an annualized rate of 4.1%, down from 8.2% in the third quarter.

Real gross domestic product, chained (1997) dollars¹

	Change	Annualized change %	Year-over-year change
First quarter 2003	0.6	2.5	2.7
Second quarter 2003	-0.2	-1.0	1.5
Third quarter 2003	0.3	1.3	1.1
Fourth quarter 2003	0.9	3.8	1.6
2003	1.7	..	1.7

¹ The change is the growth rate from one period to the next. The annualized change is the growth rate compounded annually. The year-over-year change is the growth rate of a given quarter compared with the same quarter in a previous year.

.. Figures not available.

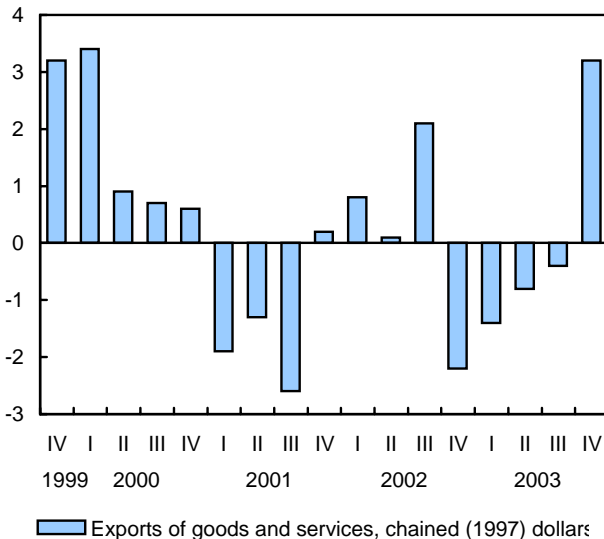
Exports rebound after four-quarter slump

Exports rebounded 3.2% in the fourth quarter after a four-quarter slump. Exports of industrial goods and materials surged 8.3%, while increased demand from south of the border spurred automotive product exports. Crude oil and natural gas exploration, extraction and distribution activity were all up and energy product exports jumped 4.2%.

Imports were up 4.2%, driven by increased industrial activity. Automotive products imports rebounded 7.5%, while industrial goods and materials imports advanced 3.9% after four quarters of decline.

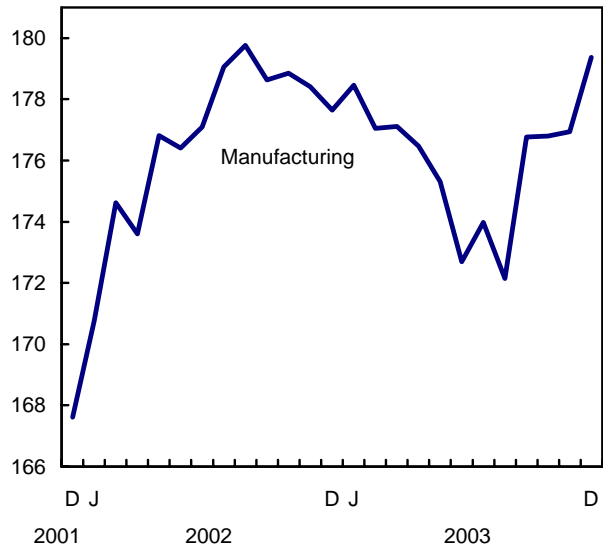
Export growth rebounded

Quarterly % change



Manufacturers ramp up production

GDP billions of chained \$ (1997)



Manufacturing registers first gain in five quarters

Manufacturing output rose 2.0% in the fourth quarter, the first increase in five quarters. This reflected a number of factors, including a bounce-back from reduced output in the third quarter as a result of the electricity black-out in Ontario, the reopening of international borders to some Canadian beef products, robust housing construction in both Canada and the United States and higher demand for motor vehicle parts from American motor vehicle assembly plants.

Information and communications technologies manufacturers registered a significant 4.4% increase in output, only the second gain in the last six quarters. Higher manufacturing production translated into increased activity for wholesalers, truck and rail transportation and warehousing industries.

Weak car sales and good harvest boost inventories

Non-farm inventories grew by \$6.8 billion in the fourth quarter, after falling in the third. Wholesalers and retailers were largely responsible for the build-up. Retailers accumulated \$3.7 billion of motor vehicle inventories, as sales dropped off. Manufacturing inventories were unchanged.

Farm inventories were up \$4.0 billion, as farmers added to their grain stockpiles and livestock holdings.

Business plant and equipment spending eases

Business spending on plant and equipment slowed to 0.6% in the fourth quarter after strong growth in the third. Outlays on engineering construction advanced 2.0%, a second straight quarter of growth, while outlays on building construction fell 1.7%.

Investment in machinery and equipment edged up 0.3%, following a 4.5% gain in the third quarter. Outlays on telecommunications equipment were up 10%, the second consecutive strong quarter of growth. Investment in industrial machinery increased 2.4%, the fifth consecutive increase. Spending on trucks and transportation equipment other than automobiles was sharply curtailed.

Corporate profits and labour income make moderate gains

Corporate profits rose 3.5% in the fourth quarter, closing in on the record level set in the first quarter of 2003. The transportation and mining industries led, while oil and gas producers lost ground.

Labour income recorded a solid 0.9% gain, as employment picked up after a lacklustre first three quarters of 2003. Much of the gain in labour income was offset by higher income taxes and personal disposable income advanced only 0.3%.

Housing boom continues as interest rates fall even lower

Historically low interest rates continued to fuel demand for new housing, as investment in new housing construction gained 4.7%. Transfer costs, which include real estate commissions, were down 4.7%, as the resale housing market cooled somewhat from a busy third quarter.

The real estate agent and brokerage industry registered its first downturn since the third quarter of 2002. Manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers of furniture and appliances benefited from the continued housing boom.

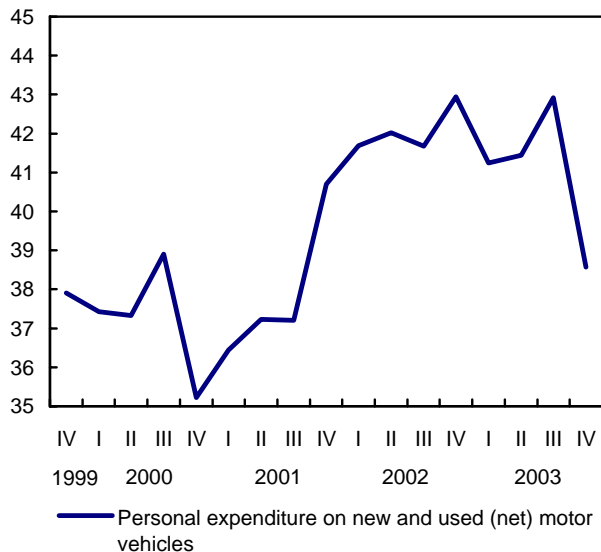
Consumer spending flat

Consumer spending was flat after eight straight years of advances, averaging 0.8% per quarter. Despite generous incentives, spending on new cars fell 8.2% while purchases of new trucks plummeted almost twice as much. As a result, retailers recorded their first drop in activity in two years. Excluding motor vehicle dealers, however, retail activity advanced 1.0%.

Purchases of semi-durable goods edged down, as spending on clothing and footwear fell 1.1%. Consumer outlays on services increased 1.0%, with tourism-related spending on restaurant meals, accommodation and transportation all recording advances.

Purchases of motor vehicles dropped

Billions of chained (1997) \$



Travel and tourism regain ground

Industries in the travel-related sector enjoyed a brisk quarter as gains were reported for air travel, gambling, hotels and restaurants. Exports (+4.8%) and imports (+11%) of travel services both made solid gains. The number of travellers to Canada surged 9.0%, the largest increase since the first quarter of 1981.

Monthly gross domestic product by industry at basic prices, chained (1997) dollars

	July 2003 ^r	Aug. 2003 ^r	Sept. 2003 ^r	Oct. 2003 ^r	Nov. 2003 ^r	Dec. 2003 ^p
seasonally adjusted						
	month-to month % change					
All industries	0.5	-0.7	1.1	0.2	0.2	0.5
Goods-producing industries	0.9	-0.6	1.8	0.1	0.4	0.9
Service-producing industries	0.2	-0.8	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.3
Industrial production	0.9	-0.8	2.1	-0.1	0.3	1.2
Wholesale trade	0.1	-3.5	5.0	1.0	0.0	1.0
Finance and insurance	0.2	-0.1	0.7	-0.5	0.0	1.0

^r Revised figures.

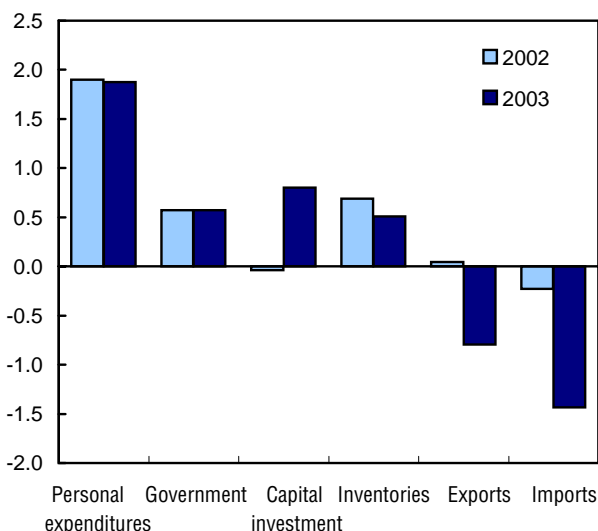
^p Preliminary figures.

2003 year-end review

GDP advanced 1.7% in 2003, half its 3.3% pace in 2002. Consumers continued to shore up the economy for the third year in a row. Exports were a major source of weakness, while imports were up 4.0%. Business investment turned around, advancing 4.8% after edging down in 2002.

Contributions to percent change in GDP

Percentage points



Final domestic demand picked up steam in 2003, advancing 3.6%, the strongest gain in three years. As measured by the chain price index for GDP, economy-wide prices advanced 3.4% driven in part by higher energy prices early in the year.

Industrial production edged up 0.3% in 2003 after a 2.4% gain in 2002. Higher prices spurred oil exploration and extraction activity. Canada's diamond mining industry more than doubled its output, making Canada one of the world's leading producers. Output in utilities and manufacturing were both lower.

Consumers shore up economy for third straight year

Consumer spending rose 3.3%, the third straight year in which consumers were a driving force behind economic growth. The housing boom continued to support robust gains in spending on furniture and

appliances. Imports of other consumer goods were up 8.7%, the strongest gain in five years.

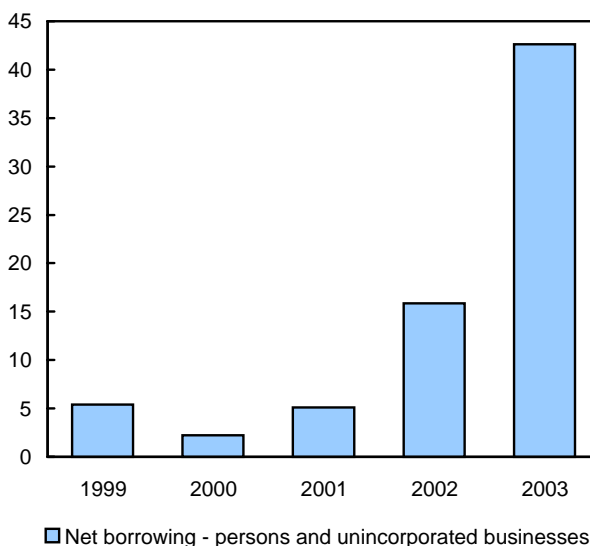
Outlays for durable goods were up 2.3%, the weakest increase since 1995, as purchases of motor vehicles slipped from the record levels registered in 2002. Consumer spending on services advanced 4.1%, up from 2.6% in 2002.

Personal saving down sharply

After averaging 5.0% growth in the previous five years, personal disposable income slowed to 2.8% in 2003, almost half the pace of consumer spending (in nominal terms). As a result, saving by the personal sector plummeted and the saving rate fell to a low of 2.0%. With the sharp drop in saving, personal sector net borrowing jumped \$43 billion in 2003, following a \$16 billion increase in 2002.

Net borrowing soars in response to drop in saving

\$ billions



Low interest rates sustain housing boom

Investment in residential structures advanced a robust 7.4%, after a stellar 14% gain in 2002. Low mortgage rates continued to sustain the housing boom, albeit at a reduced pace. Housing starts approached near-record levels, renovation spending accelerated and the resale housing market registered another good year.

Robust corporate profits spur investment

Corporate profits were up 10%, on solid earnings of oil and gas, wholesale and retail companies, as the corporate surplus hit a record level in 2003.

Business investment in plant and equipment rebounded 3.4% after falling 6.0% in 2002. Investment in industrial machinery (+11%) and computers and other office equipment (+11%) were up sharply. Renewed strength in business investment boosted imports of machinery and equipment, up 3.9%, after two years of decline.

Widespread build up of inventories

Businesses built up inventories for the second year in a row. Non-farm inventories were boosted as manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers all added to their stocks.

Farmers stockpiled grain after a good harvest, following two years of drought. Restrictions on Canadian beef exports as a result of the mad cow scare led to higher inventories of farm livestock. The meat slaughtering and processing industry was also adversely affected, as output levels fell 5.3%.

Exports down for third straight year

Exports slumped 2.1% (in volume terms) in 2003, the third straight year of contraction. Almost all major categories of exports recorded declines, with industrial goods and materials and machinery and equipment hardest hit.

Forestry product exports were one exception, advancing 0.5% after two years of decline. These gains came despite the forest fires in British Columbia and the continued Canada-US softwood lumber dispute. Output of the forestry industry was up 3.9%, while the sawmill industry increased its output by almost as much.

Manufacturing edges down

Manufacturing edged down 0.4% in 2003, as the aerospace, machinery and clothing and textiles industries all recorded lower output. Production of motor vehicles was also lower. Manufacturing of telecommunications equipment fell sharply for a third straight year leaving output at pre-1997 levels.

Industries feeding residential construction (wood products and non-metallic mineral products) fared well, while production of pharmaceutical products increased 8.9% after three years of stellar growth.

Stronger dollar helps terms of trade

The Canadian dollar appreciated 12% (based on annual average noon spot rates) against the US dollar in 2003. The chain price index for exports fell 1.0%, while that for imports fell 7.0%, resulting in an improvement in Canada's terms of trade.

Another rough year for travel and tourism

Despite picking-up in the second half of 2003, after fears related to SARS dissipated, consumer spending on transportation and restaurants and accommodation services were all down for the year.

Exports of travel services were down sharply, along with the number of travellers to Canada. Imports of travel services rebounded 8.7%, as Canadians increased their travel spending abroad.

Detailed analysis and tables

More detailed analysis on today's releases from the national accounts, including additional charts and tables, can be found in the fourth quarter 2003 issue of *Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review*, Vol. 2, no. 4 (13-010-XIE, free), available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *National accounts*.

Products, services and contact information

Preliminary provincial estimates for 2003 will be available on April 28.

National economic and financial accounts

Available on CANSIM: tables 378-0001, 378-0002, 380-0001 to 380-0017, 380-0019 to 380-0035, 380-0056, 380-0059 and 382-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1804, 1901 and 2602.

The fourth quarter 2003 issue of *National Income and Expenditure Accounts, Quarterly Estimates* (13-001-XIB, \$36/\$117; 13-001-XPB, \$48/\$156) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

Detailed printed tables of unadjusted and seasonally adjusted quarterly *Income and Expenditure Accounts* (13-001-PPB, \$54/\$193), *Financial Flow Accounts* (13-014-PPB, \$54/\$193) and *Estimates of*

Labour Income (13F0016XPB, \$22/\$70), including supplementary analytical tables and charts are now available.

At 8:30 am on release day, the complete quarterly income and expenditure accounts, financial flow accounts, and monthly estimates of labour income data sets can be obtained on computer diskette. The diskettes (13-001-DDB, \$134/\$535; 13-014-DDB, \$321/\$1284; and 13F0016DDB, \$134/\$535) can also be purchased at a lower cost seven business days after the official release date (13-001-XDB, \$27/\$107; 13-014-XDB, \$65/\$257; and 13F0016XDB, \$27/\$107). To purchase any of these products, contact Client Services (613-951-3810; iead-info-dcrd@statcan.ca), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the information officer (613-951-3640), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

Gross domestic product by industry

Available on CANSIM: tables 379-0017 to 379-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1301 and 1302.

The December 2003 issue of *Gross Domestic Product by Industry*, Vol. 17, no. 12 (15-001-XIE, \$12/\$118) is now available. A print-on-demand version is available at a different price. See *How to order products*.

For general information or to order data, contact Yolande Chantigny (1-800-887-IMAD; imad@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jo Ann MacMillan (613-951-7248), Industry Measures and Analysis Division.

□

Canadian economic accounts key indicators¹

	Third quarter 2002	Fourth quarter 2002	First quarter 2003	Second quarter 2003	Third quarter 2003	Fourth quarter 2003	2002	2003
seasonally adjusted at annual rates								
\$ millions at current prices								
GDP by income and by expenditure								
Wages, salaries and supplementary labour income	600,048	610,040	613,792	614,724	618,116	623,392	597,316	617,506
	1.3	1.7	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.9	4.8	3.4
Corporation profits before taxes	138,656	140,708	153,896	137,688	144,516	149,568	133,004	146,417
	4.5	1.5	9.4	-10.5	5.0	3.5	4.3	10.1
Interest and miscellaneous investment income	49,756	49,028	50,008	50,028	51,528	50,936	49,425	50,625
	-0.4	-1.5	2.0	0.0	3.0	-1.1	-6.8	2.4
Net income of unincorporated business	75,160	75,668	76,940	77,792	78,988	80,060	74,675	78,445
	0.5	0.7	1.7	1.1	1.5	1.4	6.2	5.0
Taxes less subsidies	138,980	141,384	140,128	138,920	144,536	145,924	138,197	142,377
	1.1	1.7	-0.9	-0.9	4.0	1.0	7.0	3.0
Personal disposable income	700,724	707,092	713,208	716,884	719,636	721,544	698,479	717,818
	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.3	4.7	2.8
Personal saving rate ²	3.8	3.2	2.6	2.5	1.3	1.5	4.2	2.0

millions of chained (1997) dollars								
Personal expenditure on consumer goods and services	602,163	608,753	613,557	618,787	625,853	626,048	601,198	621,061
	0.3	1.1	0.8	0.9	1.1	0.0	3.4	3.3
Government current expenditure on goods and services	199,451	200,614	202,034	204,370	205,070	205,360	198,269	204,209
	1.0	0.6	0.7	1.2	0.3	0.1	3.0	3.0
Gross fixed capital formation	215,087	215,153	219,291	220,615	227,790	230,487	214,083	224,546
	0.8	0.0	1.9	0.6	3.3	1.2	1.3	4.9
Investment in inventories	7,920	11,566	19,335	15,643	2,924	11,004	5,824	12,227

Exports of goods and services	450,707	440,573	434,297	430,878	428,989	442,779	443,486	434,236
	2.1	-2.2	-1.4	-0.8	-0.4	3.2	-0.1	-2.1
Imports of goods and services	394,603	393,171	396,862	402,069	397,943	414,593	387,274	402,867
	1.4	-0.4	0.9	1.3	-1.0	4.2	0.6	4.0
Gross domestic product at market prices	1,079,490	1,083,875	1,090,657	1,087,947	1,091,396	1,101,564	1,074,516	1,092,891
	0.7	0.4	0.6	-0.2	0.3	0.9	3.3	1.7
GDP by industry								
Goods producing industries	315,946	316,054	317,725	315,153	317,129	322,336	313,380	318,086
	1.0	0.0	0.5	-0.8	0.6	1.6	1.9	1.5
Services producing industries	684,409	689,375	692,555	694,209	696,713	701,383	681,647	696,215
	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.7	4.2	2.1
Industrial production	241,525	241,015	240,946	237,606	238,572	242,404	239,278	239,882
	0.9	-0.2	0.0	-1.4	0.4	1.6	2.4	0.3
Non-durable manufacturing	73,172	73,303	73,019	72,349	72,013	73,036	72,531	72,604
	1.0	0.2	-0.4	-0.9	-0.5	1.4	3.1	0.1
Durable manufacturing	105,881	104,914	104,432	102,388	102,190	104,575	104,182	103,396
	1.6	-0.9	-0.5	-2.0	-0.2	2.3	2.7	-0.8
Information and communication technologies sector (ICT), total	55,561	55,991	56,640	56,730	56,525	56,911	55,361	56,702
	0.4	0.8	1.2	0.2	-0.4	0.7	1.8	2.4
Manufacturing	179,152	178,309	177,543	174,824	174,292	177,706	176,808	176,091
	1.3	-0.5	-0.4	-1.5	-0.3	2.0	2.9	-0.4
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	21,624	21,900	23,046	23,628	23,818	24,071	21,412	23,641
	1.7	1.3	5.2	2.5	0.8	1.1	-3.5	10.4
Construction	52,622	53,053	53,870	54,270	55,163	56,295	52,555	54,900
	0.9	0.8	1.5	0.7	1.6	2.1	1.7	4.5
Wholesale trade	60,018	60,937	62,506	62,362	62,124	64,273	59,635	62,816
	0.5	1.5	2.6	-0.2	-0.4	3.5	8.1	5.3
Retail trade	54,852	55,290	55,835	56,082	56,537	56,039	54,905	56,123
	0.3	0.8	1.0	0.4	0.8	-0.9	5.5	2.2

¹ The first line is the series itself expressed in millions of dollars, seasonally adjusted at annual rates. The second line is the quarter to quarter percentage change at quarterly rates.

² Actual rate.

... Figures not applicable.

OTHER RELEASES

Residential construction investment

2003 and fourth quarter 2003

The boom in the construction sector in 2003 resulted in record investment expenditures of \$61.4 billion, up an impressive 11.5% from the previous record of \$55.1 billion set in 2002. All three components of residential construction investment (new housing, renovations and acquisition costs) grew substantially from 2002.

Contributing to the growth in investment were an increase in demand — positively influenced by very attractive interest rates, high levels of employment and consumer confidence — as well as tight rental and resale markets in some parts of the country. An increase in the average value of dwelling units started also boosted the total value of residential construction investment.

Investment in new homes, the largest component, rose 11.3% to \$31.4 billion. This positive result was due to substantial expenditures for new single family dwellings (+8.4% to \$20.9 billion) and the phenomenal growth of expenditures on new apartments and condominiums (+27.3% to \$5.6 billion). For single family dwellings, the increase was due to a rise in the average value of units started, whereas for apartments and condominiums, the main factor behind the gain was a marked increase in the number of starts for this type of dwelling.

Expenditures for the second largest component, renovations, also rose sharply. They stood at \$24.6 billion, up 11.5% from 2002. Renovations accounted for 40% of the total value of residential construction investment. Acquisition costs rose 12.1% to \$5.4 billion.

At the provincial level, all ten provinces showed gains in 2003. Owing to a sizable increase in renovation expenditures, Ontario registered the largest dollar increase from 2002 in overall residential

construction expenditures, which reached \$25.4 billion. In Quebec, which ranked second in dollar gains, investment totalled \$14.1 billion, propelled by increased expenditures on new dwellings.

In the fourth quarter, residential construction investment reached \$16.0 billion, up 11.6% from the fourth quarter of 2002. The new housing component rose 11.9% to \$8.4 billion, the result of a marked increase in investment for new apartments and condominiums (+39.4%). Compared with the fourth quarter of 2002, renovations increased 11.9% to \$6.0 billion. Acquisition costs rose 9.0% to \$1.5 billion.

Note: Residential construction investment is divided into three main components. The first is new housing construction, which includes single dwellings, semi-detached dwellings, row housing and apartments, cottages, mobile homes and additional housing units created from non-residential buildings or other types of residential structures (conversions). The second component of residential construction investment, renovations, includes alterations and improvements in existing dwellings. The third component is acquisition costs, which refers to the value of services relating to the sale of new dwellings. These costs include sales tax, land development and service charges, as well as record-processing fees for mortgage insurance and the associated premiums.

Available on CANSIM: table 026-0013.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5016.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; bdp_information@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Residential construction investment

	Fourth quarter 2002	Fourth quarter 2003	Fourth quarter 2002 to fourth quarter 2003	2002	2003	2002 to 2003
	\$ millions	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	\$ millions	% change
Canada	14,303.3	15,965.0	11.6	55,082.7	61,405.9	11.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	173.4	214.4	23.6	720.2	853.4	18.5
Prince Edward Island	51.7	48.1	-7.1	197.4	209.4	6.1
Nova Scotia	358.9	378.3	5.4	1,391.4	1,554.6	11.7
New Brunswick	262.0	304.8	16.3	989.1	1,113.2	12.5
Quebec	3,000.8	3,401.6	13.4	12,119.2	14,052.7	16.0
Ontario	6,053.1	6,871.9	13.5	23,253.2	25,436.0	9.4
Manitoba	301.3	313.9	4.2	1,195.4	1,309.0	9.5
Saskatchewan	223.6	261.2	16.8	1,008.9	1,144.6	13.4
Alberta	1,987.1	1,876.4	-5.6	7,301.4	7,621.9	4.4
British Columbia	1,827.3	2,222.4	21.6	6,671.9	7,876.3	18.1
Yukon	19.3	28.7	48.3	77.6	94.0	21.1
Northwest Territories	27.0	31.5	16.7	100.2	96.0	-4.2
Nunavut	17.6	11.8	-32.9	56.8	45.0	-20.7

Note: Data may not add to totals because of rounding.

Computer and Peripherals Price Indexes

December 2003 (preliminary)

Prices for commercial computers, as measured by the Computer and Peripherals Price Indexes (CPPI), fell 1.4% compared to November. Desktop prices declined 2.5% while servers and portables fell 0.6%.

Consumer computers, representing computers brands and models normally purchased by consumers and small businesses, decreased 0.8%, with desktops declining 1.8% and portables rising 0.6%.

In the case of computer peripherals, prices of printers and of monitors remained unchanged from November.

These indexes are available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: tables 331-0001 and 331-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5032.

For more information on these indexes, contact Client Services (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; infounit@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts,

methods or data quality of this release, contact Fred Barzyk (613-951-2493; fred.barzyk@statcan.ca), Prices Division.

Steel primary forms — weekly data

Week ending February 21, 2004 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending February 21 totalled 332 103 metric tonnes, up 9.5% from 303 357 tonnes a week earlier and 8.4% from 306 377 tonnes in the same week of 2003.

The year-to-date total as of February 21 was 2 229 761 tonnes, down 0.7% from 2 245 876 tonnes in the same period of 2003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2131.

For more information, 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

National Income and Expenditure Accounts, Quarterly Estimates — Day of Release, Fourth quarter 2003, Vol. 51, no. 04
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Catalogue number 13-001-XDB (\$27/\$107).

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Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review, Fourth quarter 2003, Vol. 2, no. 4
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Statistics Canada

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• Urban transit, 1995 Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 25 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 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.	4

OTHER RELEASES

• Help-wanted index, May 1997	3
• Short-term Expectations Survey	9
• Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997	12
• Egg production, April 1997	13

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RELEASE DATES: MARCH 2004

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
2	Industrial product and raw materials price indexes	January 2004
4	Building permits	January 2004
5	Study: Interprovincial and international exports	1992 to 2002
10	Canadian international merchandise trade	January 2004
11	Industrial capacity utilization rates	Fourth quarter 2003
12	Labour Force Survey	February 2004
12	Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost	Fourth quarter 2003
15	New motor vehicle sales	January 2004
16	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	January 2004
18	Consumer Price Index	February 2004
18	Canada's international transactions in securities	January 2004
18	Travel between Canada and other countries	January 2004
22	Monthly Survey of Large Retailers	January 2004
23	Leading Indicators	February 2004
24	Canada's international investment position	Fourth quarter 2003
25	National balance sheet accounts	Fourth quarter 2003
25	Have Permanent Layoff Rates Increased in Canada?	
26	Retail trade	January 2004
26	Wholesale trade	January 2004
29	Annual Wholesale Trade Survey	2002
30	National tourism indicators	Fourth quarter 2003
30	Annual retail store and annual retail chain surveys	2002
30	Employment, earnings and hours	January 2004
30	Employment Insurance	January 2004
31	Industrial product and raw materials price indexes	February 2004
31	Gross domestic product by industry	January 2004