



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, March 18, 2004

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Consumer Price Index, February 2004**

In February 2004, consumers paid 0.7% more for the goods and services in the Consumer Price Index basket than they did in February 2003. This was a significant slowdown from the 1.2% increase registered in January. The 12-month increase in the Consumer Price Index excluding energy also slowed significantly, declining from 1.5% in January to 1.1% in February.

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- **Canada's international transactions in securities, January 2004**

Foreign investors bought \$5.5 billion of Canadian securities in January. They invested more in bonds than in stocks, while continuing to reduce their holdings of money market paper. Meanwhile, Canadian investors reduced their holdings of foreign stocks after three months of acquisitions, but continued to buy foreign bonds.

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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## MAJOR RELEASES

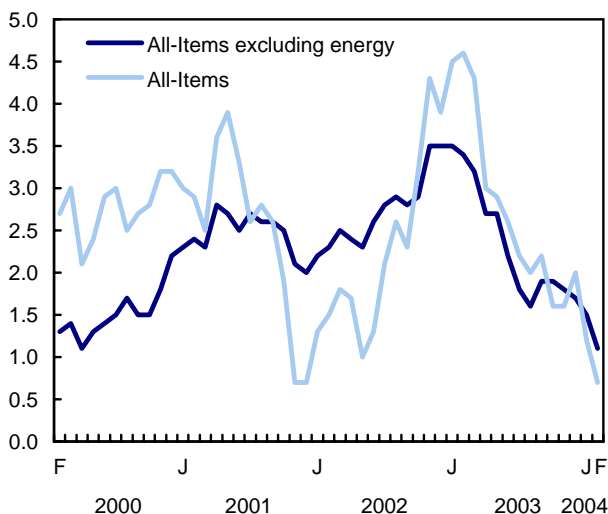
### Consumer Price Index

February 2004

In February, consumers paid 0.7% more for the goods and services in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket than they did in February 2003. This was a significant slowdown from the 1.2% rise registered in January. It was also the smallest 12-month increase since December 2001, when the increase was 0.7% as well.

#### Percentage change from the same month of the previous year

% change



The 12-month increase in the CPI excluding energy also slowed significantly, from 1.5% in January to 1.1% in February.

The monthly increase in both these indexes was far smaller this year than for the same period a year ago, which, in general terms, accounts for the slowdown in the 12-month increase between January and February (base effect).

The CPI rose only 0.2% on a monthly basis in February, compared with 0.7% in February 2003. Over the last 10 months, the CPI has been relatively stable, increasing an average of 0.1% per month, with no increase or decrease larger than 0.2%.

Gasoline prices, which were 5.8% lower than in February 2003, accounted for about a quarter of the slowdown in the 12-month increase of the all-items CPI.

#### Base effect

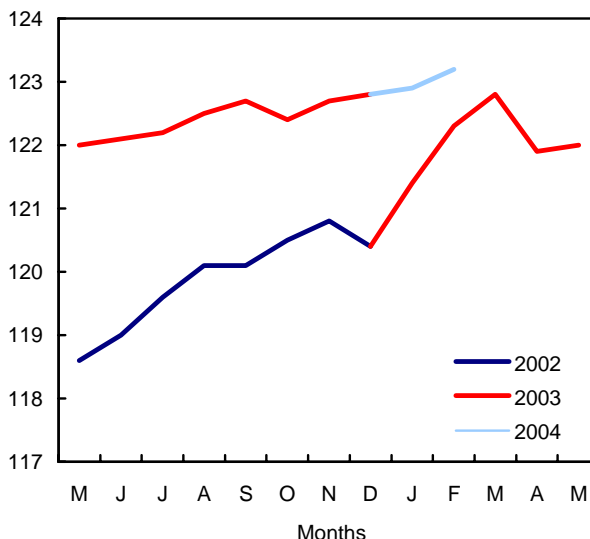
The 12-month variation in the CPI is calculated by comparing the most current month's index with the index for the same month of the previous year. In the all-items index chart, the 12-month change is represented by the gap between the two curves. Thus, the 12-month variation can decrease from one month to the next merely as a result of an increase in the base serving as the point of comparison. As can be observed from the chart, the behaviour of the index in 2003 is going to be a very important factor in explaining the variations in the 12-month percentage changes up until April 2004.

Gasoline prices in January 2004 were only 2.5% lower than those of January 2003.

The rest of the slowdown in the 12-month increase was mostly due to the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles, women's clothing, cigarettes and fuel oil.

#### All-Items Index

Indexes (1992=100)



The all-items index excluding the eight most volatile components, as defined by the Bank of Canada, rose 1.1% from February 2003 to February 2004. This was the second consecutive slowdown after the increase slowed from 2.2% in December to 1.5% in January. As with the CPI all-items, February's monthly increase was far weaker this year than last year,

reducing the 12-month gap between February indexes compared with the one between January indexes (base effect).

### Main factors contributing to the 12-month increase in the CPI

Some of the key factors contributing to the 0.7% increase in the CPI included homeowners' replacement cost, cigarettes, tuition fees, restaurant meals, automotive vehicle insurance premiums and homeowners' insurance premiums.

Lower prices for gasoline, automotive vehicles, traveller accommodation and computer equipment and supplies exerted downward pressure on the 12-month increase in the CPI.

Homeowners' replacement cost, a measure of the depreciation of a house estimated by the changes in the price of new housing (excluding land), was up 6.1%.

Cigarette prices were 8.0% higher than in February 2003. This increase was primarily due to higher provincial tobacco taxes introduced throughout the year in most provinces.

Tuition fees, which were collected in September 2003, increased on average 8.1%. The average increase over the previous three years had been 3.8%.

Consumers paid an average 2.7% more for restaurant meals.

The increase in automotive vehicle insurance premiums from February 2003 to February 2004 averaged 4.2%, while homeowners' insurance was up 10.5%.

Gasoline prices were 5.8% lower than in February 2003.

Although the index for the purchase of automotive vehicles increased 1.6% compared with October 2003, its lowest level in seven years, it remained 2.7% lower than in February 2003.

Despite a monthly increase, traveller accommodation prices fell 12.7% from February 2003. Prices in this sector have been trending downwards since mid-2001. Prices are still similar to those observed in early 1994.

Computer equipment and supplies prices fell 15.6% since February 2003.

### Slight monthly increase in the CPI in February

From January to February 2004, the CPI inched up for a fourth consecutive month, increasing 0.2%. Higher prices for gasoline and travel tours exerted upward pressure on the all-items CPI.

Downward pressure came essentially from the price decrease for automotive vehicles.

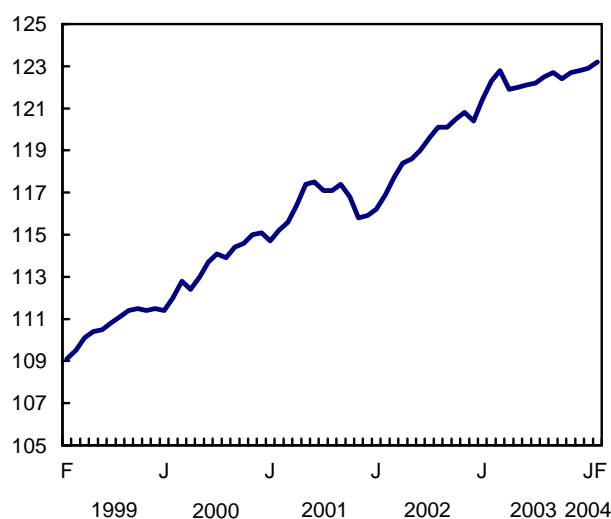
Gasoline prices rose on average 3.4%. Price increases were widespread across provinces and ranged from 2.1% in Ontario to 7.7% in Manitoba.

In February, the travel tours index increased 11.9%. This was similar to the increases recorded in the month of February in each of the previous five years, which averaged 11.0%.

Travel tour prices are collected every year in January, February and March, when they are most popular among Canadians. Of these three months, January is the month with the lowest demand. Since February prices are compared with those of January, the index tends to increase substantially in February.

### Consumer Price Index

Unadjusted index (1992=100)



The price index for the purchase of automotive vehicles declined 1.9% in February. This was due to more substantial manufacturer rebates on certain models and other dealer discounts used to stimulate sales. The larger rebates more than made up for the increases in the suggested retail prices by some manufacturers.

### The seasonally adjusted CPI declined slightly from January to February

After seasonal adjustment, the CPI declined 0.1% from January to February.

Lower seasonally adjusted indexes for transportation (-0.2%), health and personal care (-0.3%), recreation, education and reading (-0.1%), and clothing and footwear (-0.2%) accounted for this decline.

The indexes for shelter (+0.3%) and alcoholic beverages and tobacco products (+0.3%) exerted upward pressure. The seasonally adjusted indexes for household operations and furnishings, and food remained stable.

#### **All-items index excluding the eight most volatile components**

The all-items index excluding the eight most volatile components, as defined by the Bank of Canada, rose 1.1% from February 2003 to February 2004. This was the smallest 12-month increase since September 2000.

Factors that contributed significantly to the rise in the all-items CPI also contributed significantly to the 1.1% rise in this index. Most of the difference between the two rates of increase was the result of the exclusion of the effect of increasing cigarette prices and decreasing gasoline prices.

From January to February 2004, the all-items index excluding the eight most volatile components, as defined by the Bank of Canada, increased 0.2%. Price increases for travel tours and clothing were among the main factors to exert upward pressure, while the decrease in automotive vehicle purchase prices moderated these pressures.

#### **Energy**

Energy prices fell 3.1% from February 2003 to February 2004. This followed a 1.1% decline in the previous month.

Lower gasoline prices (-5.8%), combined with weaker fuel oil prices (-9.4%), accounted for the decline. Higher prices for natural gas (+2.5%) and electricity (+0.2%) partially offset these downward pressures.

From January to February, energy prices increased 2.2%. All components were up. Prices for gasoline (+3.4%), natural gas (+1.9%) and fuel oil (+3.9%) accounted for most of the increase. Electricity prices increased less (+0.1%).

**Available on CANSIM: tables 326-0001, 326-0002, 326-0009, 326-0012, 326-0016, 326-0017 and 326-0018.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2301.**

More information about the concepts and use of the CPI is also available online in *Your Guide to the Consumer Price Index*.

Available at 7 a.m. on our website. From the home page, choose *Today's news releases from The Daily*, then *Latest Consumer Price Index*.

The February 2004 issue of *Consumer Price Index* (62-001-XIB, \$9/\$83; 62-001-XPB, \$12/\$111) is now available. See *How to order products*.

The Consumer Price Index for March will be released April 20.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Rebecca McDougall (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539), Prices Division.

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## Consumer Price Index and major components (1992=100)

	February 2004	January 2004	February 2003	January to February 2004	February 2003 to February 2004
unadjusted					
	% change				
<b>All-items</b>	<b>123.2</b>	<b>122.9</b>	<b>122.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Food	123.4	123.7	122.1	-0.2	1.1
Shelter	119.0	118.7	116.7	0.3	2.0
Household operations and furnishings	115.2	114.9	114.5	0.3	0.6
Clothing and footwear	104.0	102.3	103.8	1.7	0.2
Transportation	141.9	142.2	144.1	-0.2	-1.5
Health and personal care	117.7	117.7	116.4	0.0	1.1
Recreation, education and reading	126.6	125.3	127.1	1.0	-0.4
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	141.1	140.8	133.5	0.2	5.7
All-items (1986=100)	157.8				
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1992	81.2	81.4	81.8		
<b>Special aggregates</b>					
Goods	118.2	117.9	119.2	0.3	-0.8
Services	128.8	128.5	126.1	0.2	2.1
All-items excluding food and energy	121.2	121.1	119.9	0.1	1.1
Energy	141.9	138.9	146.5	2.2	-3.1
All-items excluding the 8 most volatile components <sup>1</sup>	123.7	123.5	122.3	0.2	1.1

<sup>1</sup> Excluded from the All-items CPI are the following eight volatile components, as defined by the Bank of Canada: fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuel; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies. The Bank of Canada further adjusts this series to obtain their measure of core inflation, which also excludes the effect of changes in indirect taxes. For data and information on core inflation, please consult the Bank of Canada website ([www.bankofcanada.ca/inflation](http://www.bankofcanada.ca/inflation)).

## Consumer Price Index by province, and for Whitehorse<sup>1</sup>, Yellowknife<sup>1</sup> and Iqaluit<sup>1</sup> (1992=100)

	February 2004	January 2004	February 2003	January to February 2004	February 2003 to February 2004
unadjusted					
	% change				
Newfoundland and Labrador	120.8	120.9	119.9	-0.1	0.8
Prince Edward Island	122.4	121.8	121.3	0.5	0.9
Nova Scotia	124.2	123.6	124.3	0.5	-0.1
New Brunswick	123.1	122.5	123.3	0.5	-0.2
Québec	119.7	119.2	119.1	0.4	0.5
Ontario	124.4	124.2	123.4	0.2	0.8
Manitoba	125.4	125.6	125.5	-0.2	-0.1
Saskatchewan	127.2	127.1	126.2	0.1	0.8
Alberta	129.9	129.8	129.0	0.1	0.7
British Columbia	121.3	120.8	119.6	0.4	1.4
Whitehorse <sup>1</sup>	119.3	118.9	120.6	0.3	-1.1
Yellowknife <sup>1</sup>	117.7	118.1	118.7	-0.3	-0.8
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100) <sup>1</sup>	99.9	100.0	99.8	-0.1	0.1

<sup>1</sup> View definitions for: Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit.

## Canada's international transactions in securities

January 2004

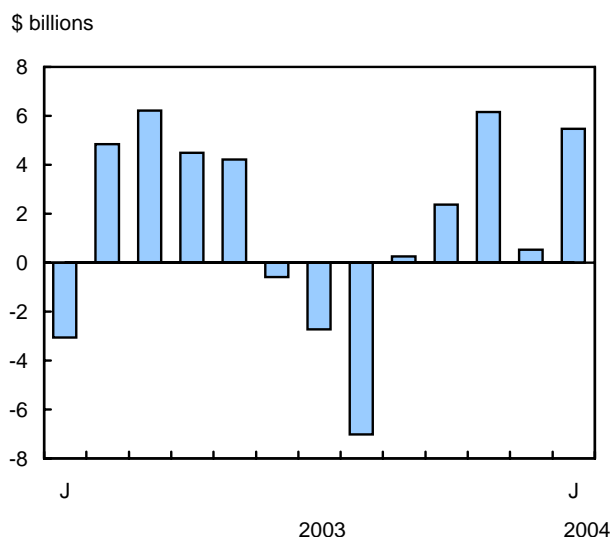
Foreign investors bought \$5.5 billion of Canadian securities in January. They invested more in bonds than in stocks, while continuing to reduce their holdings of money market paper.

Meanwhile, Canadian investors reduced their holdings of foreign stocks after three months of acquisitions, but continued to buy foreign bonds.

### Foreign investment in Canadian bonds largest in 10 months

Foreign investors increased their holdings of Canadian bonds by \$4.5 billion in January, after reducing them by \$1.6 billion in December. This was the largest foreign investment in bonds since March 2003. The buying was concentrated in existing federal bonds. New issues in foreign markets by corporations and governments were at a 12-month low.

Foreign investment in Canadian securities<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Includes bonds, stocks and money market paper.

On a currency basis, foreign investors increased their holdings of Canadian-dollar denominated bonds in January (\$5.9 billion) but reduced their holdings of issues denominated in foreign currencies (\$1.4 billion). This was a change from the second half of 2003, when foreign investors sold Canadian-dollar bonds but increased their holdings of bonds denominated

### Related market information

In January, the gap between Canadian and US **short-term interest rates** narrowed by 30 basis points to 137 basis points. Continuing to favour investment in Canada, the gap was well below the June 2003 high of 215 basis points. Canadian rates fell 32 basis points to 2.25% in January, their lowest level since April 2002. American rates were down marginally to 0.88%, establishing a new record low.

Canadian and American **long-term interest rates** fell 5 basis points each in January, maintaining a differential of 39 basis points favouring investment in Canada. Canadian rates moved to 4.61% in January while American rates fell to 4.22%. The gap is at its narrowest in 19 months (May 2002).

Canadian **stock prices** rose again in January, up 3.7%, marking the fourth consecutive month of rising share prices. The S&P/TSX composite index closed January at 8,521.4, a rise of 15% since the end of September 2003.

American stock prices also rose in January but more slowly at 1.7%. The Standard & Poor's composite 500 index closed January at 1,131.1, a closing-level last surpassed in March 2002.

The **Canadian dollar** fell by one and two-thirds US cents in the first month of 2004. The Canadian dollar, which had registered gains against its American counterpart in 11 of the 12 months of 2003, closed January at 75.48 US cents.

### Definitions

The data series on international security transactions cover portfolio transactions in stocks and bonds (both Canadian and foreign issues) and Canadian money market instruments.

**Stocks** include common and preferred equities, as well as warrants.

**Debt securities** include bonds and money market instruments.

**Bonds** have an original term to maturity of more than one year.

**Money market instruments** have an original term to maturity of one year or less. **Government of Canada paper** includes treasury bills and US-dollar Canada bills. **Other money market instruments** include treasury bills and other paper issued by other Canadian governments or their enterprises, bankers' acceptances, bearer demand notes of banks, commercial paper and other short-term paper.

in US dollars and other foreign currencies. American investors led the foreign investment in Canadian bonds in January.

Foreign holdings of Canadian money market paper fell again, dropping by \$1.4 billion in January. This was a continuation of the foreign divestment in this market in 2003. However, the divestment in 2003 excluded federal treasury bills, whereas in January 2004, most of the reduction (\$1.1 billion) was in these bills. The remainder was mostly in corporate paper issued by banks and finance companies.

In January, the gap between Canadian and US short-term interest rates narrowed by 30 basis points to 137 basis points. The gap was well below the recent high in mid-2003 of over 2% favouring investment in Canada.

## Foreign investment in Canadian stocks at 19-month high

With Canadian stock prices continuing to rise in January, foreign investors again added to their holdings of Canadian stocks, buying \$2.4 billion worth in the month. The buying in January was roughly split between new shares and secondary-market shares, with the latter led by technology and resource companies. American investors did the bulk of the buying in January as they did for most of the previous year.

## Canadian investors sell foreign stock but buy foreign bonds

Canadian investors reduced their holdings of foreign stock by \$855 million in January. This was a small reversal from the \$7.0 billion of foreign stock they purchased in the previous eight months, 80% of which was in US equities.

Investors continued to buy foreign bonds, but the \$271 million was well below the record pace of last year. Canadian demand for foreign bonds was at an all-time high in 2003, with an investment of \$8.2 billion.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 376-0018 to 376-0029 and 376-0058.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1532, 1534, 1535 and 1537.**

The January 2004 issue of *Canada's International Transactions in Securities* (67-002-XIE, \$15/\$142) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

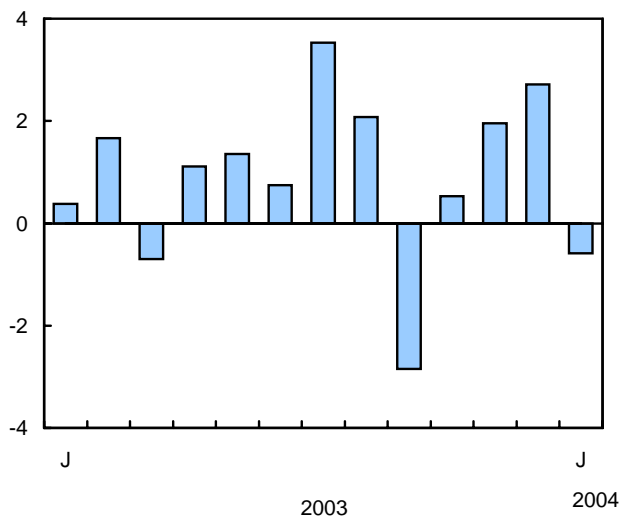
Data on Canada's international transactions in securities for February will be released April 20.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-1855; [infobalance@statcan.ca](mailto:infobalance@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Donald Granger (613-951-1864), Balance of Payments Division.

## Canadian investment in foreign securities<sup>1</sup>

\$ billions

Reverse of balance of payments signs



<sup>1</sup> Includes bonds and stocks.

## Canada's international transactions in securities

	October 2003	November 2003	December 2003	January 2004	2002	2003
	\$ millions					
<b>Foreign investment in Canadian securities</b>	<b>2,368</b>	<b>6,161</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>5,473</b>	<b>21,058</b>	<b>15,663</b>
Bonds (net)	1,219	4,110	-1,584	4,503	18,712	6,663
Outstanding	-1,217	1,751	-2,103	4,987	14,474	-1,299
New issues	3,692	5,318	7,249	1,526	49,956	56,132
Retirements	-1,945	-3,145	-5,431	-2,592	-45,937	-48,688
Change in interest payable <sup>1</sup>	688	185	-1,299	583	220	518
Money market paper (net)	351	-147	-80	-1,441	3,782	-3,889
Government of Canada	-12	-592	336	-1,077	1,980	323
Other	363	445	-416	-364	1,802	-4,212
Stocks (net)	798	2,198	2,188	2,411	-1,436	12,888
Outstanding	255	109	1,828	1,107	-8,037	8,983
Other transactions	544	2,089	359	1,303	6,600	3,906
<b>Canadian investment in foreign securities</b>	<b>-530</b>	<b>-1,959</b>	<b>-2,715</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>-24,950</b>	<b>-12,519</b>
Bonds (net)	293	-76	-2,260	-271	-6,243	-8,196
Stocks (net)	-823	-1,883	-455	855	-18,707	-4,323

<sup>1</sup> Interest accrued less interest paid.

**Note:** A minus sign indicates an outflow of money from Canada, that is, a withdrawal of foreign investment from Canada or an increase in Canadian investment abroad.





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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Travel between Canada and other countries January 2004

Canadians and foreign visitors stayed at home in January, as trips both to and from Canada suffered across-the-board declines.

Canadian residents made 4.0% fewer international trips than in December, the second monthly decline after seven consecutive months of increases. Trips to the United States and to overseas nations were both down.

In addition, foreign travel to Canada tumbled 4.9%, the second monthly decline after three months of gains. An estimated 3.2 million visitors came to Canada in January.

The 5.6% decline in trips by Canadians to overseas nations was the first in eight months. But the 464,000 trips Canadians made overseas was still the highest on record for any January. (Unless otherwise specified, data are seasonally adjusted).

Fewer than 2.9 million Canadian residents travelled to the United States in January, down 3.8%. Overnight travel south of the border fell 2.4%, the second consecutive monthly decline.

About 1.7 million Canadian residents made same-day car trips to the United States, the second decline after four consecutive months of increases. This represented a 6.0% drop, as the Canadian dollar increased 1.3% against its U.S. counterpart.

Travel to Canada from the United States fell 5.3% to less than 2.9 million. It was the second monthly decline

in the last five months. Overnight trips by Americans to Canada dropped 3.4% to less than 1.2 million.

Travel to Canada from overseas countries decreased 1.4%, the first decline in eight months. Despite the decline, January's level was 22.2% above that recorded in May 2003 during the height of concerns over SARS. It was also, however, 19.0% below the number recorded in November 2002, prior to the war in Iraq.

Travel from 7 of Canada's top 12 overseas markets declined in January. Switzerland led the way with a 13.4% decrease, followed by France (-8.7%). The number of visitors from Taiwan increased 13.5%, while those from Australia went up 5.5%.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 427-0001 to 427-0006.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5005.**

The January 2004 issue of *International Travel, Advance Information*, Vol. 20, no. 1 (66-001-PIE, \$7/\$59) is now available. See *How to order products*.

Data on travel between Canada and other countries for February will be released April 20.

For general information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; [cult.tourstats@statcan.ca](mailto:cult.tourstats@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Frances Kremarik (613-951-4240; [frances.kremarik@statcan.ca](mailto:frances.kremarik@statcan.ca)), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. □

## Travel between Canada and other countries

	December 2003 <sup>r</sup>	January 2004 <sup>p</sup>	December 2003 to January 2004	January 2004	January 2003 to January 2004
	seasonally adjusted			unadjusted	
	'000		% change	'000	% change
<b>Canadian trips abroad<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>3,451</b>	<b>3,311</b>	<b>-4.0</b>	<b>3,076</b>	<b>0.2</b>
to the United States	2,959	2,847	-3.8	2,421	-2.7
to other countries	492	464	-5.6	655	12.7
Same-day car trips to the United States	1,809	1,701	-6.0	1,484	-4.0
Total trips, one or more nights	1,585	1,531	-3.4	1,513	4.6
United States <sup>2</sup>	1,093	1,067	-2.4	859	-0.8
Car	652	639	-2.0	421	1.3
Plane	357	346	-3.3	398	-2.2
Other modes of transportation	84	83	-1.7	40	-6.9
Other countries <sup>3</sup>	492	464	-5.6	655	12.7
<b>Travel to Canada<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>3,321</b>	<b>3,157</b>	<b>-4.9</b>	<b>2,005</b>	<b>-16.1</b>
from the United States	3,028	2,868	-5.3	1,834	-16.8
from other countries	293	289	-1.4	172	-7.9
Same-day car trips from the United States	1,620	1,534	-5.3	1,164	-20.4
Total trips, one or more nights	1,522	1,478	-2.9	756	-9.6
United States <sup>2</sup>	1,237	1,196	-3.4	589	-10.0
Car	806	772	-4.2	366	-11.0
Plane	308	295	-4.2	182	-8.5
Other modes of transportation	123	128	4.1	41	-7.9
Other countries <sup>3</sup>	284	282	-0.6	167	-7.9
<b>Most important overseas markets<sup>4</sup></b>					
United Kingdom	64	64	-0.6	33	-10.3
Japan	26	25	-2.7	14	-14.9
France	25	22	-8.7	14	-10.6
Germany	22	21	-1.5	9	-17.4
South Korea	14	14	4.5	11	5.2
Australia	13	14	5.5	13	-8.3
Mexico	12	12	-0.1	6	-16.0
Hong Kong	10	10	2.2	8	6.8
Netherlands	9	9	1.9	3	-11.2
Taiwan	7	8	13.5	6	8.1
China	8	7	-5.0	6	-9.6
Switzerland	8	7	-13.4	3	-11.8

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

<sup>1</sup> Totals exceed the sum of "same-day car trips" and "total trips, one or more nights" because they include all of the same-day trips.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.

<sup>3</sup> Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.

<sup>4</sup> Includes same-day and one or more night trips.

## Cereals and oilseeds review

January 2004

Chicago corn and soybean futures' prices continued to rally in February. The May soybean contract gained almost one US dollar a bushel over the month, reaching more than \$9 a bushel. Impressive gains were driven by deteriorating crop prospects in Brazil, the increased likelihood that US imports of South American soybeans would be restricted as a result of Asian rust problems and Chinese approval of a common imported variety of genetically-modified soybeans, while bird-flu concerns were largely ignored.

In Winnipeg, May canola futures' prices gained almost \$40 a tonne, mainly because of spillover strength from Chicago soybeans. The Exchange's flaxseed contract was not traded during the month but stronger demand pushed farmgate cash flaxseed prices to more than \$8 a bushel.

The data from the January 2004 issue of the *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* are now available. The information includes data on production, stocks, prices, domestic processing, exports, farmers' deliveries, and supply-disposition analyses.

The February situation report, an overview of current market conditions, both domestic and international, is also included in the January issue of *Cereals and*

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*Oilseeds Review* (22-007-XIB, \$12/\$120), which will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For general information, contact Client Services (1-800-465-1991; [agriculture@statcan.ca](mailto:agriculture@statcan.ca)). 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)), Agriculture Division. ■

## Crushing statistics

February 2004

According to the monthly survey of crushing plants, Canadian oilseed processors crushed 267,181 metric tonnes of canola in February. Oil production last month totalled 111,113 tonnes while meal production amounted to 168,097 tonnes.

**Available on CANSIM: table 001-0005.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3404.**

The February 2004 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007-XIB, \$12/\$120; 22-007-XPB, \$17/\$160) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For general information, contact Client Services (1-800-465-1991; [agriculture@statcan.ca](mailto:agriculture@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Les Macartney (613-951-8714, [les.macartney@statcan.ca](mailto:les.macartney@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## Deliveries of major grains

February 2004

Data on grain deliveries for February are now available.

**Available on CANSIM: table 001-0001.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3403, 3404 and 3443.**

The February 2004 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007-XIB, \$12/\$120) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For more information, contact Client Services, (1-800-465-1991; [agriculture@statcan.ca](mailto:agriculture@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Susan Anderson (613-951-3859; [sue.anderson@statcan.ca](mailto:sue.anderson@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## Construction Union Wage Rate Index

February 2004

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in February compared with the January level of 128.2 (1992=100). The Composite index increased 2.1% from the February 2003 index.

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas for the basic rates and for rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes (1992=100) are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0003 and 327-0004.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2307.**

The first quarter 2004 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$26/\$85) will be available in June. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact Client Services, (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)) or Louise Chaîné (613-951-3393), Prices Division. ■

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Thursday, June 5, 1997 For release at 9:30 a.m.	
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● <b>Urban transit, 1995</b> Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.	2
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<b>OTHER RELEASES</b>	
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