



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Wednesday, August 25, 2004**

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

---

## MAJOR RELEASES

---

- **Leading indicators, July 2004** 2  
The growth of the composite leading index moderated to 0.6% after rising 1% in May and June, their largest gains in two years.

---

## OTHER RELEASES

---

- Asphalt Roofing, July 2004 4
- Construction Type Plywood, June 2004 4

---

## NEW PRODUCTS

---



## MAJOR RELEASES

### Leading indicators

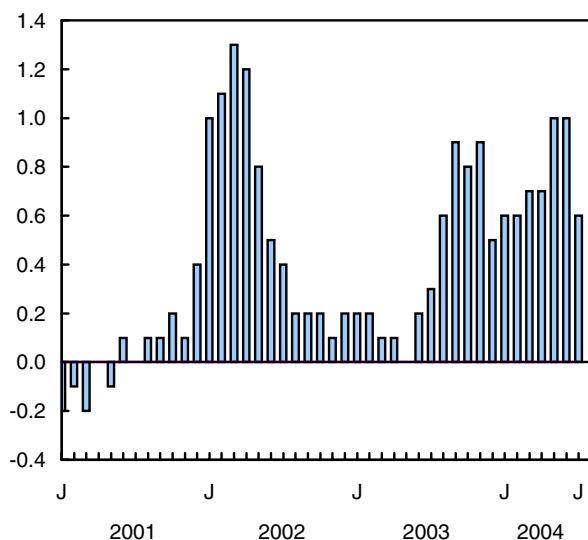
July 2004

The growth of the composite leading index moderated to 0.6% after rising 1% in May and June, their largest gains in two years. Growth remained broadly-based, with 8 of 10 components advancing. The recent strength in household demand and the US leading indicator gave way to a firming of business spending.

The upturn in investment was reflected in new orders which, driven by capital goods, posted a ninth straight increase. The strength of demand raised the ratio of shipments to inventories by over 1% for a third straight month, returning to its level posted before the end of the high-tech boom in 2000.

#### Composite index

Smoothed % change



The year's first gain in business services employment was another reflection of the pick-up

of business spending. The increase originated in professional, scientific and technical services.

Household demand featured a slowdown in the housing index for the first time in six months, from 2.9% to 1.2%. Construction of multiple units fell after the number of vacant units rose in most major urban centres since the start of the year. The single-family housing market remained buoyant, with high levels of new construction and vacancies near record lows. Existing home sales in the second quarter surpassed their previous record set in the third quarter of 2003.

Elsewhere, the trend of durable goods sales continued upward, despite lower auto sales and the depressing impact of high gasoline prices on incomes.

The growth of the US leading indicator also moderated, from 0.4% to 0.2%. Consumer confidence fell for the third straight month. As in Canada, however, firms spent more, as reflected in new orders for investments goods. This upturn accompanied a sharp rebound in our exports to the United States, which posted their largest year-over-year increase since 2000.

**Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1601.**

A more detailed analysis of the components is available on Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). From the *Canadian statistics* page, choose *Economic conditions*, then click on the banner ad for *Canadian Economic Observer*. From that page, choose *Issues of CEO*, then *Composite Index*. For more information on the economy, consult the August 2004 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 17, no. 8 (11-010-XIB, \$19/\$182; 11-010-XPB, \$25/\$243), which is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627; [ceo@statcan.ca](mailto:ceo@statcan.ca)) Current Economic Analysis Group. □

## Leading indicators

	February 2004	March 2004	April 2004	May 2004	June 2004	July 2004	Last month of data available % change
<b>Composite leading indicator (1992=100)</b>	<b>190.6</b>	<b>192.0</b>	<b>193.4</b>	<b>195.4</b>	<b>197.3</b>	<b>198.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Housing index (1992=100) <sup>1</sup>	135.1	136.6	139.0	141.7	145.8	147.6	1.2
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,632	2,627	2,622	2,614	2,608	2,609	0.0
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	8,232	8,395	8,472	8,511	8,516	8,450	-0.8
Money supply, M1 (\$ millions, 1992) <sup>2</sup>	118,475	119,791	121,413	123,226	125,724	127,160	1.1
U.S. composite leading indicator (1992=100) <sup>3</sup>	113.5	113.8	114.2	114.5	114.9	115.1	0.2
<b>Manufacturing</b>							
Average workweek (hours)	38.7	38.7	38.7	38.8	38.8	38.8	0.0
New orders, durables (\$ millions, 1992) <sup>4</sup>	20,968	21,658	21,691	22,014	22,294	22,323	0.1
Shipments/inventories of finished goods <sup>4</sup>	1.74	1.77	1.78	1.81	1.84	1.86	0.02 <sup>5</sup>
<b>Retail trade</b>							
Furniture and appliance sales (\$ millions, 1992) <sup>4</sup>	1,969	1,977	1,991	2,009	2,030	2,046	0.8
Other durable goods sales (\$ millions, 1992) <sup>4</sup>	7,578	7,447	7,458	7,468	7,498	7,556	0.8
<b>Unsmoothed composite leading indicator</b>	<b>193.5</b>	<b>195.5</b>	<b>197.5</b>	<b>199.2</b>	<b>200.7</b>	<b>199.7</b>	<b>-0.5</b>

1. Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).

2. Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.

3. The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.

4. The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the second preceding month.

5. Difference from previous month.



---

## OTHER RELEASES

---

### Asphalt Roofing

July 2004

Data on Asphalt Roofing are now available.

**Available on CANSIM: table 303-0006.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2123.**

The July 2004 issue of *Asphalt Roofing*, Vol. 56, no. 7 (45-001-XIB, \$6/\$51) is now available. See *How to order products*.

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](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division ■

### Construction Type Plywood

June 2004

Data on Construction Type Plywood for June are now available.

**Available on CANSIM: table 303-0005.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2138.**

The June 2004 issue of *Construction type plywood*, Vol. 52, no. 6 (35-001-XIB, \$6/\$51), is now available. See *How to order products*.

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](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## NEW PRODUCTS

**Cereals and Oilseeds review**, June 2004, Vol. 27, no. 6

**Catalogue number 22-007-XIB** (\$12/\$120).

**Construction Type Plywood**, June 2004, Vol. 52, no. 6

**Catalogue number 35-001-XIB** (\$6/\$51).

**Asphalt Roofing**, July 2004, Vol. 56, no. 7

**Catalogue number 45-001-XIB** (\$6/\$51).

**Imports by Country**, January-June 2004, Vol. 61, no. 2

**Catalogue number 65-006-XMB** (\$67/\$221).

**Imports by Country**, January-June 2004, Vol. 61, no. 2  
**Catalogue number 65-006-XPB** (\$133/\$441).

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

Catalogue numbers with an -XWE, -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette and -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc.

### How to order products

#### To order by phone, please refer to:

- The title
- The catalogue number
- The volume number
- The issue number
- Your credit card number.

From Canada and the United States, call:

**1-800-267-6677**

From other countries, call:

**1-613-951-7277**

To fax your order, call:

**1-877-287-4369**

For address changes or account inquiries, call:

**1-800-700-1033**


**To order by mail, write to:** Statistics Canada, Circulation Management, Dissemination Division, Ottawa, K1A 0T6.

Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

**To order by Internet, write to:** [infostats@statcan.ca](mailto:infostats@statcan.ca) or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *For sale*.

**Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.**

Catalogue 11-001-XIE (If printed, 11-001-XIE-001-XIE)



Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 9, 1997  
For release at 9:30 a.m.



**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 4.5 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4  
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- **High-wired Index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, April 1997** 12

**PUBLICATIONS RELEASED** 11

### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <http://www.statcan.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by e-mail, send an e-mail message to [listproc@statcan.ca](mailto:listproc@statcan.ca). Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2004. Citation in newsprint, magazine, radio, and television reporting is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source. Any other reproduction is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source on all copies as follows: Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, catalogue 11-001-XIE, along with date and page references.