



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Wednesday, September 1, 2004**

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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There are no major releases today.

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## OTHER RELEASES

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Residential construction investment, second quarter 2004	2
Telecommunications statistics, first quarter 2004	3
Investment in non-residential building, second quarter 2004	3
Coal and coke statistics, June 2004	4
Electric power statistics, June 2004	4

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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5

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## INDEX: August 2004

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## OTHER RELEASES

### Residential construction investment

Second quarter 2004

Residential construction continued to surge in the second quarter, with the total value of investment in the housing sector climbing to \$18.5 billion. This figure was 16.3% higher than the \$15.9 billion invested in the second quarter of 2003. Significant increases in the three components of residential construction investment (new housing, renovations and acquisition costs) were responsible for this strong showing.

Since the start of 2004, investment in the housing sector has reached \$32.3 billion, up 15.7% from the total for the first six months of 2003.

Low mortgage rates (and their positive impact on the accessibility of homeownership) and a high level of employment are some of the factors that have stimulated the demand for new housing.

Investment in the construction of new housing reached \$9.1 billion in the second quarter, up 17.3% from the second quarter of 2003. The greatest contribution to this growth came from increased investment in the construction of single family homes (+11.8% to \$5.9 billion). Investment in the construction of new apartments/condominiums was also up sharply (+40.4% to \$1.9 billion). For new single family homes, as well as for new apartments/condominiums, the growth came from increases in the number of housing starts and in the average unit cost.

Expenditures on renovations to the existing housing stock in the second quarter reached \$7.8 billion, up 13.6% from the value recorded in the second quarter of 2003. Acquisition costs were also up, rising 23.9% to \$1.6 billion.

At the provincial level, the largest gain in dollar terms was registered in Quebec (+26.2% to \$5.3 billion), with Ontario and British Columbia close behind. The growth in all three provinces came from increases in the three components.

**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.

Because ownership transfer costs are not included in the investment totals presented in this release and in CANSIM table 026-0013, the figures here do not match the figures published in the National economic accounts (CANSIM table 380-0010).

### Residential construction investment

Provinces/territories	Second quarter 2003	Second quarter 2004	Second quarter 2003 to second quarter 2004
	\$ millions		% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>15,945.9</b>	<b>18,539.4</b>	<b>16.3</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	252.5	293.1	16.1
Prince Edward Island	51.6	56.9	10.3
Nova Scotia	380.2	426.2	12.1
New Brunswick	315.6	352.9	11.8
Quebec	4,228.0	5,337.0	26.2
Ontario	6,162.3	6,766.4	9.8
Manitoba	345.4	401.8	16.3
Saskatchewan	303.2	310.9	2.5
Alberta	1,951.9	2,050.2	5.0
British Columbia	1,905.7	2,478.4	30.1
Yukon	18.1	23.6	30.0
Northwest Territories	20.5	32.7	59.0
Nunavut	10.8	9.4	-12.6

Note: Data may not add to totals due to rounding.

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](mailto:bdp_information@statcan.ca)), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

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## Telecommunications statistics

First quarter 2004

Operating revenues in the telecommunications services industry advanced a modest 1.1% to \$8.3 billion in the first quarter of 2004, after three consecutive year-over-year quarterly declines. Declining revenues in the wireline industry continued to offset the solid performance of the wireless industry.

Operating revenues in the wireless industry surged 18.5% to \$2.2 billion in the first quarter of 2004 compared with the same quarter in 2003.

At the same time, revenues in the wireline segment fell 4.1% to \$5.8 billion, continuing a downward trend that began in the first quarter of 2002.

The robust growth in wireless revenues was driven by a 12.7% increase in subscribers, as well as a 5.2% gain in revenue per subscriber and improved productivity. The number of subscribers hit 13.6 million at the end of the quarter, or 43 for every 100 inhabitants.

The penetration of wireless telecommunications services has steadily increased through the years. However, it remains significantly lower than in the United States, where the rate was 54 subscribers per 100 inhabitants at the end of 2003. The penetration of wireless telecommunications in Canada at the end of the first quarter of 2004 was comparable with the US level in mid-2001 (42 subscribers per 100 inhabitants).

The average revenue per subscriber in the wireless industry was \$158.90 in the first quarter of 2004, up 5.2% from the same period in 2003. This was the fifth consecutive year-over-year quarterly increase, an indication that the industry's efforts to sell new services and higher value packages have been successful.

The wireless industry's revenue per employee jumped 12.4%, well above the increases in previous periods. The combined impact of higher productivity and strong growth in revenues resulted in a 24.3% operating profit margin, surpassed only by the margin of 25.4% in the third quarter of 2003.

In the wireline industry, fierce competition in the long distance market and the loss of business to competing technologies continued to exercise downward pressure on revenues. These downward pressures were partially offset by growth in retail Internet and other non-traditional markets.

The number of network access lines declined 1.4% in the first quarter of 2004, the ninth consecutive year-over-year decline. The downward trend affected

both residential and business markets, and the number of lines has fallen to mid-1999 levels.

Despite the challenging conditions, operating profits for the wireline industry were up 1.8% to \$1.1 billion.

After two years of plummeting capital expenditures, both the wireless and wireline industries increased their investments substantially in the first quarter of 2004.

Expenditures in the wireless industry were up 70.3% to \$348.5 million and those of the wireline industry up 31.2% to \$849.6 million.

However, those spending levels remained well below the average of the last five years of \$1.1 billion per quarter in the wireline industry, and \$446.2 million per quarter in the wireless industry.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2721.**

The first quarter 2004 issue of *Quarterly Telecommunications Statistics* (56-002-XIE, \$23/\$43) will soon be available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Daniel April (613-951-3177) or Jo Anne Lambert (613-951-6673), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

## Investment in non-residential building

Second quarter 2004 (revised)

Following the release of the second quarter of National economic and financial accounts, revised estimates of investment in non-residential building for the first and second quarters of 2004 are now available. Notably, data relating to 2003 for Alberta have been revised. Additionally, minor revisions to the data for 2003 have been carried out for the other Canadian provinces and territories.

**Available on CANSIM: table 026-0016.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5014.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Michel Labonté (613-951-9690; [michel.labonte@statcan.ca](mailto:michel.labonte@statcan.ca)), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

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## **Coal and coke statistics**

June 2004

Data on coal and coke are now available for June.

**Available on CANSIM: table 303-0016.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2003 and 2147.**

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

## **Electric power statistics**

June 2004

Data on electric power are now available for June.

**Available on CANSIM: table 127-0001.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2151.**

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

## NEW PRODUCTS

**Canadian Foreign Post Indexes**, September 2004  
Catalogue number **62-013-XIE**  
(free).

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

**Canada's International Transactions in Securities**,  
June 2004, Vol. 70, no. 6  
Catalogue number **67-002-XIE** (\$15/\$142).

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.

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Thursday, June 5, 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, each Canadian rode an average of about 10 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 notably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

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

**PUBLICATIONS RELEASED** 11

### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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# The Daily

## Statistics Canada

### INDEX

#### August 2004

Subject	Reference period	Release date
<b>Aircraft Movement Statistics</b>	July 2004	August 26, 2004
<b>Aircraft movement statistics: Major airports</b>	May 2004	August 20, 2004
<b>Apartment Building Construction Price Index</b>	Second quarter 2004	August 18, 2004
<b>Asphalt Roofing</b>	July 2004	August 25, 2004
<b>Building Permits</b>	June 2004 and the first half 2004	August 9, 2004
<b>Canada's Balance of International Payments</b>	Second quarter 2004	August 30, 2004
<b>Canada's International Trade in Services</b>	2003	August 17, 2004
<b>Canada's International Transactions in Securities</b>	June 2004	August 18, 2004
<b>Canadian Agriculture at a Glance: Teachers' kit</b>		August 30, 2004
<b>Canadian economic accounts</b>	Second quarter 2004	August 31, 2004
<b>Canadian Economic Observer</b>	August 2004	August 19, 2004
<b>Canadian Framework for Culture Statistics</b>		August 23, 2004
<b>Canadian International Merchandise Trade</b>	June 2004	August 13, 2004
<b>Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey</b>	February to December 2003	August 9, 2004
<b>Cement</b>	June 2004	August 10, 2004
<b>Cereals and Oilseeds Review</b>	June 2004	August 24, 2004
<b>Characteristics of international travellers</b>	First quarter 2004	August 27, 2004
<b>Coal and coke statistics</b>	May 2004	August 3, 2004
<b>Commercial Software Price Index</b>	June 2004	August 11, 2004
<b>Computer and peripherals price indexes</b>	June 2004	August 30, 2004
<b>Construction Type Plywood</b>	June 2004	August 25, 2004
<b>Construction Union Wage Rate Index</b>	July 2004	August 18, 2004
<b>Consumer Price Index</b>	July 2004	August 24, 2004
<b>Crude oil and natural gas</b>	June 2004	August 20, 2004
	June 2004	August 31, 2004
<b>Crushing statistics</b>	July 2004	August 24, 2004



## INDEX: August 2004

Subject	Reference period	Release date
<b>Current economic conditions</b>	August 2004	August 19, 2004
<b>Dairy statistics</b>	June 2004	August 13, 2004
<b>Deliveries of major grains</b>	July 2004	August 24, 2004
<b>Domestic travel</b>	First quarter 2004	August 27, 2004
<b>Electric power statistics</b>	May 2004	August 3, 2004
<b>Employer pension plans</b>	2002	August 5, 2004
<b>Employment Insurance</b>	June 2004	August 24, 2004
<b>Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops</b>	July 31, 2004	August 24, 2004
<b>Export and import price indexes</b>	June 2004	August 13, 2004
<b>Farm cash receipts</b>	January to June 2004	August 26, 2004
<b>Farm product prices</b>	June 2004	August 4, 2004
<b>Financial statistics for enterprises</b>	Second quarter 2004	August 26, 2004
<b>For-hire motor carriers of freight, all carriers</b>	First quarter 2004	August 31, 2004
<b>Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins</b>	June 2004	August 12, 2004
<b>Industrial product and raw materials price indexes</b>	July 2004	August 30, 2004
<b>Industrial Research and Development</b>	2000 to 2004	August 5, 2004
<b>Infomat: An electronic publication from Statistics Canada</b>		August 4, 2004
<b>International travel account</b>	Second quarter 2004	August 27, 2004
<b>Labour Force Survey</b>	July 2004	August 6, 2004
<b>Leading indicators</b>	July 2004	August 25, 2004
<b>Livestock estimates</b>	As of July 1, 2004	August 19, 2004
<b>Machinery and equipment price indexes</b>	Second quarter 2004	August 16, 2004
<b>Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation</b>	July 2004	August 31, 2004
<b>Monthly Railway Carloadings</b>	Second quarter 2004 and June 2004	August 27, 2004
<b>Monthly Survey of Large Retailers</b>	June 2004	August 18, 2004
<b>Monthly Survey of Manufacturing</b>	June 2004	August 13, 2004
<b>Natural gas sales</b>	June 2004	August 24, 2004
<b>New Housing Price Index</b>	June 2004	August 10, 2004
<b>New Motor Vehicle Sales</b>	June 2004	August 16, 2004
<b>Non-residential building construction price index</b>	Second quarter 2004	August 13, 2004
<b>Oil and gas extraction industry: Capital and operating expenditures</b>	2003	August 23, 2004
<b>Particleboard, Oriented Strandboard and Fibreboard</b>	June 2004	August 23, 2004
<b>Payroll employment, earnings and hours</b>	June 2004	August 26, 2004
<b>Perspectives on Labour and Income</b>	August 2004 online edition	August 31, 2004

# INDEX: August 2004

Subject	Reference period	Release date
<b>Pipeline Transportation of Crude Oil and Refined Petroleum Products</b>	May 2004	August 26, 2004
<b>Placement of hatchery chicks and turkey poults</b>	July 2004	August 27, 2004
<b>Postal Code Conversion File Plus</b>	December 2003	August 12, 2004
<b>Private Security and Public Policing in Canada</b>	2001	August 10, 2004
<b>Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products</b>	June 2004	August 3, 2004
<b>Production and value of ranch-raised pelts</b>	2003	August 17, 2004
<b>Production and value of wildlife pelts</b>	2001 and 2002	August 17, 2004
<b>Production of eggs and poultry</b>	June 2004	August 10, 2004
<b>Provincial and territorial government finance: assets and liabilities</b>	March 31, 2003	August 11, 2004
<b>Public sector employment</b>	Second quarter 2004	August 26, 2004
<b>Refined petroleum products</b>	June 2004	August 18, 2004
<b>Residential Telephone Service Survey</b>	May 2004	August 20, 2004
<b>Restaurants, caterers and taverns</b>	April 2004	August 16, 2004
<b>Retail Trade</b>	June 2004	August 23, 2004
<b>Shipments of Solid Fuel Burning Heating Products</b>	Second quarter 2004	August 23, 2004
<b>Steel pipe and tubing</b>	June 2004	August 20, 2004
<b>Steel primary forms, weekly data</b>	Week ending July 31, 2004	August 12, 2004
	Week ending August 7, 2004	August 13, 2004
	Week ending August 14, 2004	August 20, 2004
	Week ending August 21, 2004	August 27, 2004
<b>Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products</b>	June 2004	August 13, 2004
<b>Stocks of Frozen and Chilled Meats</b>	August 2004	August 26, 2004
<b>Stocks of frozen poultry meat</b>	August 1, 2004	August 19, 2004
<b>Study: Immigrants in Canada's urban centres</b>	2001	August 18, 2004
<b>Study: The union movement in transition</b>	1977 to 2003	August 31, 2004
<b>Study: Trends in the use of social assistance</b>	1993 to 2000	August 19, 2004
<b>Travel between Canada and other countries</b>	June 2004	August 19, 2004
<b>University finances</b>	2002/03	August 19, 2004
<b>Wage Survey of Seasonal Employees in the horticultural sector</b>	2003	August 30, 2004
<b>Wholesale trade</b>	June 2004 and second quarter 2004	August 20, 2004