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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, March 1, 2005
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MAJOR RELEASES

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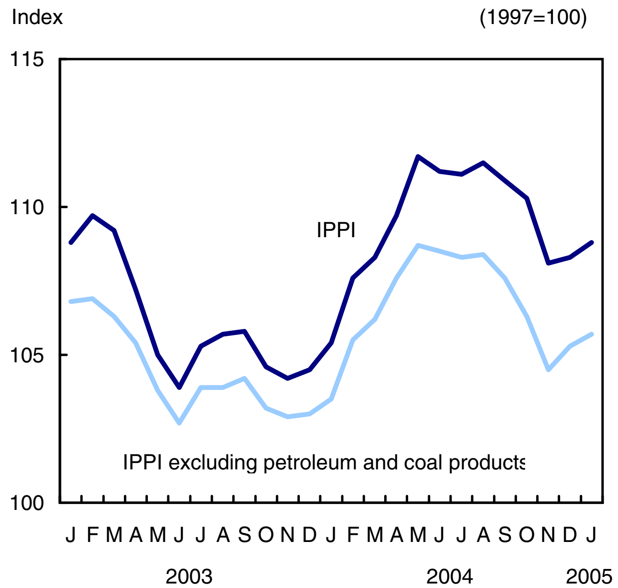
INDEX: February 2005

MAJOR RELEASES

Industrial product and raw materials price indexes
January 2005

Monthly prices for manufactured goods at the factory gate rose in January for the second month in a row. Raw material prices also increased as a result of higher prices for crude oil.

Prices for manufactured goods increase again



Prices charged by manufacturers, as measured by the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI), rose 0.5%. Higher prices for petroleum products, primary metals, pulp and paper products, and lumber products were the main sources of the monthly increase.

The 12-month change in the IPPI was 3.2%, down from December's increase of 3.6%. The rate of growth has been decelerating since October 2004.

The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) was up 4.5% from December to January, following a 4.6% decrease registered the month before. There were price increases in mineral fuels, animals and animal products, non-ferrous metals as well as non-metallic minerals.

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.*

Compared with January 2004, raw materials cost factories 12.6% more. This was up from the 12-month rise of 11.1% in December but down from the peak of 28.2% last October.

In January, the IPPI (1997=100) stood at 108.8, up from its revised level of 108.3 in December. The RMPI (1997=100) reached 131.5, up from a revised level of 125.8 in December.

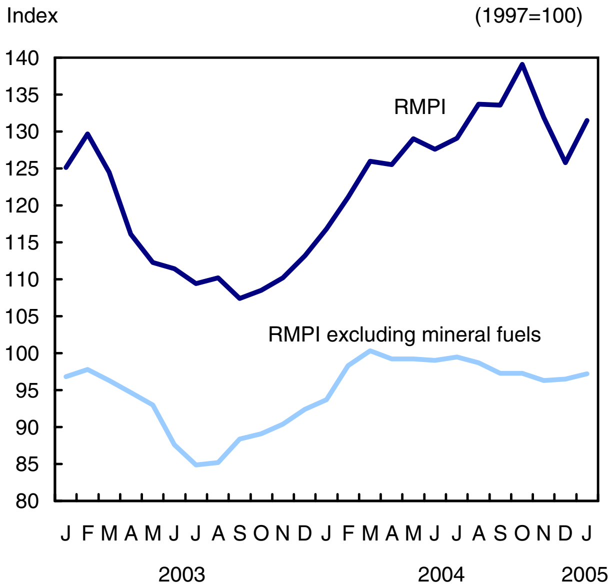
IPPI: Monthly increase due to petroleum products, primary metals, pulp and paper products and lumber products

On a month-over-month basis, manufacturers' prices rose 0.5% following an increase of 0.2% in December.

Petroleum and coal products prices increased 2.4% compared with December as gasoline and fuel oil prices rose 4.3%. Prices for primary metals increased 1.2%, mainly because of lower inventories for nickel products. Prices for pulp and paper products rose 1.3% in response to higher prices for newsprint paper and pulp. Lumber and other wood products were up 1.1% due to increased demand.

Motor vehicles and other transport equipment, meat, fish and dairy products, rubber, leather and plastic products, electrical and communication products, as well as machinery and equipment also contributed to the increase in January.

Raw materials prices increasing



Lower prices were observed for chemical products (-0.6%), fruit, vegetable and feed products (-0.3%) and tobacco products (-0.2%).

IPPI: Petroleum and primary metals remain the major factors in the 12-month change

On a 12-month basis, the IPPI was up 3.2% in January. Prices for petroleum and coal products continued to have a major influence on the 12-month change, rising 18.0% from January 2004. If petroleum and coal product prices had been excluded, the IPPI would have increased only 2.1%, rather than 3.2%.

Prices for primary metal products also had a big impact on the increase, rising 14.3% from a year ago. Primary steel, copper and aluminum products were the major contributors to the advance.

Metal fabricated products increased 10.9%, as the cost for raw material remained high. Chemical products, pulp and paper products, rubber, leather and plastic fabricated products, as well as lumber and other wood products, also contributed to the 12-month increase in the IPPI.

These increases were partly offset by lower prices for motor vehicles and other transport equipment, which were down 3.8% from a year ago. Price decreases were also observed for fruit, vegetable and feed products and electrical and communication products.

RMPI: Crude oil prices push up the cost of raw materials in January

On a monthly basis, raw materials prices rose 4.5% in January. Mineral fuels were up compared with December, as crude oil prices increased 10.9% following two months of decline. The increase was the result of higher demand and colder temperatures.

Animals and animal products increased 1.8% as higher prices were observed for cattle for slaughter (+3.0%), hogs for slaughter (+4.3%) as well as fish (+4.5%). Prices for non-ferrous metals were up 0.6% from December mainly due to higher prices for zinc and nickel concentrates. Prices for non-metallic mineral products also rose 2.1% from December.

Ferrous materials decreased 0.8% from December as iron and steel scrap prices were down 1.4%. Prices for wood products decreased 0.5% due to lower prices for pulpwood.

On a 12-month basis, the price of raw materials rose 12.6% in January, up from the 11.1% advance in December. Mineral fuels were up 23.4% with crude oil prices rising 31.5%. If mineral fuels had been excluded, the RMPI would have increased only 3.7% instead of 12.6%.

Prices manufacturers paid for non-ferrous metals rose 13.0%, mainly because of higher prices for radio-active concentrates, copper, zinc, and lead. Animal and animal products prices rose 9.1% from January 2004 as higher prices were registered for hogs for slaughter, cattle for slaughter and unprocessed whole milk.

Other major contributors to the 12-month increase were higher prices for ferrous materials as well as non-metallic minerals.

These increases were partly offset by lower prices for vegetable products and wood products.

Impact of the exchange rate

Between December and January, the value of the Canadian dollar fell 0.5% against the US dollar.

As a result, if the impact of the exchange rate had been excluded, the IPPI would have risen 0.3%, compared to the actual 0.5% increase.

On a 12-month basis, the value of the Canadian dollar rose 5.8% against the US dollar. If the impact of the exchange rate had been excluded, producer prices would have risen 4.8% between January 2004 and January 2005, rather than their actual 3.2% increase.

Prices for intermediate goods continue to increase

Prices for intermediate goods increased 0.5% from December. Higher prices for primary metals; petroleum products; pulp and paper products; lumber products;

rubber, leather and plastic products; and motor vehicles were the major contributors to the increase.

Lower prices for chemical products, tobacco products and fruit, vegetable and feed products partially offset the monthly increase.

Producers of intermediate goods received 5.7% more for their goods in January 2005 than in January 2004, down from the 6.7% increase in December. Higher prices for primary metal products; petroleum products; metal fabricated products; chemical products; pulp and paper products; rubber, leather and plastic products; and lumber products were mainly responsible for the annual increase.

These increases were partly offset by declining prices for fruit, vegetable and feed products; motor vehicles; and tobacco products.

Finished goods prices increase again in January

On a monthly basis, prices for finished goods were up 0.5% from December. Higher prices for petroleum products; motor vehicles; meat, fish and dairy products; lumber products; and electrical and communication products were responsible for this monthly rise.

Compared with January 2004, prices for finished goods were down by 0.4%. Lower prices for motor vehicles and electrical and communication products were the major contributors to the annual decline.

Higher prices for petroleum products; fruit, vegetable and feed products; machinery and equipment; rubber, leather and plastic products; furniture and fixtures; tobacco products; and chemical products partly offset the annual decrease.

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 January 2005 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011-XIE, $19/$175, 62-011-XPE, $24/$233) will be available in March.

The Industrial product and raw material price indexes for February will be released on March 30.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Client Services Unit (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	January 2004	December 2004[r]	January 2005[p]	January 2004 to January 2005	December 2004 to January 2005
					% change	
Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI)	**100.00**	**105.4**	**108.3**	**108.8**	**3.2**	**0.5**
IPPI excluding petroleum and coal products	**94.32**	**103.5**	**105.3**	**105.7**	**2.1**	**0.4**
Aggregation by commodities						
Meat, fish and dairy products	5.78	106.8	106.6	107.2	0.4	0.6
Fruit, vegetables, feeds and other food products	5.99	104.5	101.8	101.5	-2.9	-0.3
Beverages	1.57	119.5	120.2	120.2	0.6	0.0
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.63	167.1	170.4	170.1	1.8	-0.2
Rubber, leather and plastic fabricated products	3.30	105.1	110.5	111.0	5.6	0.5
Textile products	1.58	98.4	98.9	98.9	0.5	0.0
Knitted products and clothing	1.51	104.1	104.2	104.2	0.1	0.0
Lumber and other wood products	6.30	93.0	93.5	94.5	1.6	1.1
Furniture and fixtures	1.59	110.7	112.8	112.8	1.9	0.0
Pulp and paper products	7.23	98.7	102.3	103.6	5.0	1.3
Printing and publishing	1.70	112.2	114.8	114.8	2.3	0.0
Primary metal products	7.80	102.8	116.1	117.5	14.3	1.2
Metal fabricated products	4.11	108.6	120.4	120.4	10.9	0.0
Machinery and equipment	5.48	104.8	105.8	106.0	1.1	0.2
Motor vehicles and other transport equipment	22.16	100.8	96.8	97.0	-3.8	0.2
Electrical and communications products	5.77	93.7	93.1	93.4	-0.3	0.3
Non-metallic mineral products	1.98	110.4	112.8	112.8	2.2	0.0
Petroleum and coal products[1]	5.68	140.9	162.4	166.3	18.0	2.4
Chemicals and chemical products	7.07	110.5	116.9	116.2	5.2	-0.6
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.40	107.2	109.9	109.7	2.3	-0.2
Miscellaneous non-manufactured products	0.38	110.9	133.2	134.4	21.2	0.9
Intermediate goods[2]	**60.14**	**104.2**	**109.6**	**110.1**	**5.7**	**0.5**
First-stage intermediate goods[3]	7.71	110.3	118.9	119.1	8.0	0.2
Second-stage intermediate goods[4]	52.43	103.3	108.2	108.8	5.3	0.6
Finished goods[5]	**39.86**	**107.2**	**106.3**	**106.8**	**-0.4**	**0.5**
Finished foods and feeds	8.50	110.5	111.1	111.3	0.7	0.2
Capital equipment	11.73	103.7	101.7	101.8	-1.8	0.1
All other finished goods	19.63	107.9	107.0	107.8	-0.1	0.7

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	January 2004	December 2004[r]	January 2005[p]	January 2004 to January 2005	December 2004 to January 2005
					% change	
Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI)	**100.00**	**116.8**	**125.8**	**131.5**	**12.6**	**4.5**
Mineral fuels	35.16	166.7	189.1	205.7	23.4	8.8
Vegetable products	10.28	89.4	78.5	78.6	-12.1	0.1
Animals and animal products	20.30	96.6	103.5	105.4	9.1	1.8
Wood	15.60	82.0	79.0	78.6	-4.1	-0.5
Ferrous materials	3.36	111.6	120.6	119.6	7.2	-0.8
Non-ferrous metals	12.93	96.2	108.0	108.7	13.0	0.6
Non-metallic minerals	2.38	119.1	124.0	126.6	6.3	2.1
RMPI excluding mineral fuels	**64.84**	**93.7**	**96.5**	**97.2**	**3.7**	**0.7**

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Residential construction investment

2004 and fourth quarter 2004

It was an outstanding year for residential construction in 2004 with the total value of investment reaching $70.4 billion. This was 14.2% higher than the previous record of $61.6 billion in 2003. Investment in residential construction rose for the sixth straight year in 2004. All three components of investment in residential construction (new housing, renovations and acquisition costs) recorded strong gains over 2003.

The excellent performance in the housing sector in 2004 was due to low mortgage rates and their positive impact on affordability. The strong employment situation, high consumer confidence and low apartment vacancy rates in a number of large centres, such as Montréal and Vancouver, also contributed to the growth in demand for new housing. Growth in the average value of new housing starts also fuelled the rise in the total value of investment in residential construction.

Investment in new housing construction reached $36.0 billion in 2004, up 14.6% from 2003. This growth was spurred by a strong demand for the construction of new single family homes (+11.2% for a value of $23.3 billion), but also by a sharp increase in investment in new apartment/condominium units, which rose 29.0% to $7.3 billion in 2004. The increase in housing starts and the rise in the average value of these starts explain the sharp increase in investment in both the construction of new single family homes and new apartments/condominiums.

Expenditures on renovations, the second major component, rose 13.6% to $28.0 billion in 2004. The high level of existing homes resale in recent years was a key factor in the strong growth in renovations. As for acquisition costs, they rose by 14.7% to $6.3 billion.

At the provincial level, all provinces and territories recorded increased investment in residential construction in 2004. Strong demand for new housing construction put Quebec in the lead in terms of the rise in dollars for all residential construction in 2004, with expenditures of $17.5 billion. Ontario and British Columbia followed in terms of increased investments. While renovations were the dominant component of growth in Ontario, the high level of investment in new housing was the source of the strong gains in British Columbia.

In the fourth quarter of 2004, investment in residential construction climbed to $18.0 billion, up 12.1% from the fourth quarter in 2003. A rise in investment in single family houses (+11.5%) and in apartments/condominiums (+18.0%) accounted for the increase in investment in the new housing component of 11.8% to $9.4 billion.

Expenditures on renovations totalled $6.9 billion, an increase of 12.2% from the fourth quarter of 2003, while acquisition costs amounted to $1.7 billion, up 12.8%.

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).

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 Michel Labonté (613-951-9690; *bdp_information@statcan.ca*), Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Residential construction investment

	Fourth quarter 2003	Fourth quarter 2004	Fourth quarter 2003 to fourth quarter 2004	2003	2004	2003 to 2004
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
Canada	**16,077.3**	**18,018.6**	**12.1**	**61,607.5**	**70,356.9**	**14.2**
Newfoundland and Labrador	216.3	252.7	16.8	871.3	1,020.6	17.1
Prince Edward Island	45.6	63.7	39.6	198.8	241.4	21.4
Nova Scotia	355.5	423.6	19.2	1,462.0	1,625.5	11.2
New Brunswick	311.7	335.4	7.6	1,150.6	1,284.2	11.6
Quebec	3,456.5	4,142.5	19.8	14,308.7	17,544.8	22.6
Ontario	6,889.8	7,310.4	6.1	25,232.5	27,373.9	8.5
Manitoba	303.5	346.0	14.0	1,256.8	1,493.6	18.8
Saskatchewan	256.7	310.6	21.0	1,127.0	1,269.8	12.7
Alberta	1,902.8	2,137.2	12.3	7,742.3	8,160.5	5.4
British Columbia	2,262.9	2,609.9	15.3	8,006.4	10,046.6	25.5
Yukon	30.8	38.5	25.3	98.8	119.3	20.8
Northwest Territories	32.4	32.7	0.9	102.4	121.1	18.3
Nunavut	12.8	15.3	19.4	50.0	55.7	11.5

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

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Investment in non-residential building
Fourth quarter 2004 (revised)

Following the release of the fourth quarter of National economic and financial accounts, revised estimates of investment in non-residential building for the year 2004 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 026-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5014.

To order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release contact Patrick Lemire (613-951-6321; *bdp_information@statcan.ca*). ■

Coal and coke statistics
December 2004

Data on coal and coke are now available for December.

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*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Electric power statistics
December 2004

Data on electric power are now available for December.

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*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Asphalt roofing
January 2005

Data on asphalt roofing are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0052.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2123.

The publication *Asphalt Roofing* (45-001-XIB) has been discontinued.

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. ■

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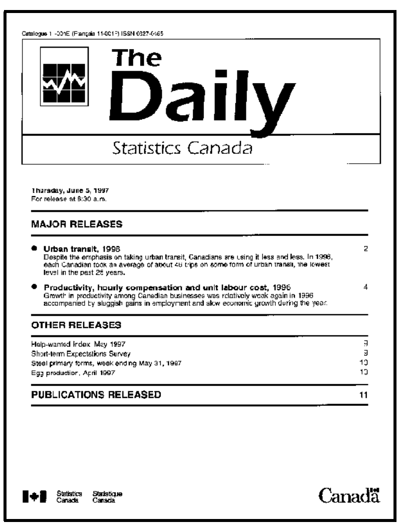
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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
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Statistics Canada

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