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MAJOR RELEASES

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RELEASE DATES: March 14 to 18

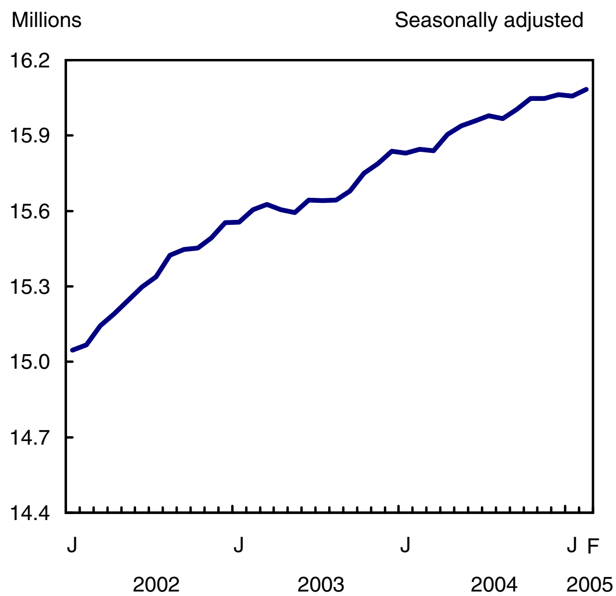
MAJOR RELEASES

Labour Force Survey

February 2005

Employment edged up by an estimated 27,000 in February after three months of little change. The unemployment rate held steady at 7.0% as more people were participating in the labour force in February.

Employment



The number of hours worked rose by 0.9% in February, offsetting the decline in January. Hours worked have increased 2.3% from 12 months ago, while employment has grown by 1.5% over the same period, mostly full-time jobs.

More employment in educational services but fewer factory jobs

There were 21,000 more people working in educational services in February, with gains across several provinces and the largest occurring in Ontario. At the national level, increases were mostly in post-secondary and university education. Employment in educational services declined sharply last summer. However, it has rebounded since the fall and is now 1.8% above the level of a year ago.

In February, employment rose by 15,000 in information, culture and recreation services, offsetting the decline in January. This leaves employment in the sector at about the same level as in February 2004.

There were 13,000 more people employed in business, building and other support services in February. Following robust increases in 2002 and in the latter part of 2003, there has been little growth in this sector over the past 14 months.

Employment also rose in agriculture (+8,000) with the bulk of the increase occurring in Ontario. Despite this gain, agricultural employment was down slightly from 12 months ago at the national level and was little changed over the same period in Ontario.

Manufacturing employment fell by 28,000 in February bringing losses over the last nine months to 43,000 (-1.9%). Most of the decline in February occurred in Ontario, but there were also significant losses in Alberta. A decline in the export of goods observed in the third and fourth quarters of 2004 and the impact of the strong Canadian dollar may have contributed to the ongoing weakness in manufacturing employment.

Employment fell by 20,000 in accommodation and food services. Since the fall, both employment and hours worked have been weak in parts of this sector, notably taverns and bars, possibly due to the National Hockey League labour dispute.

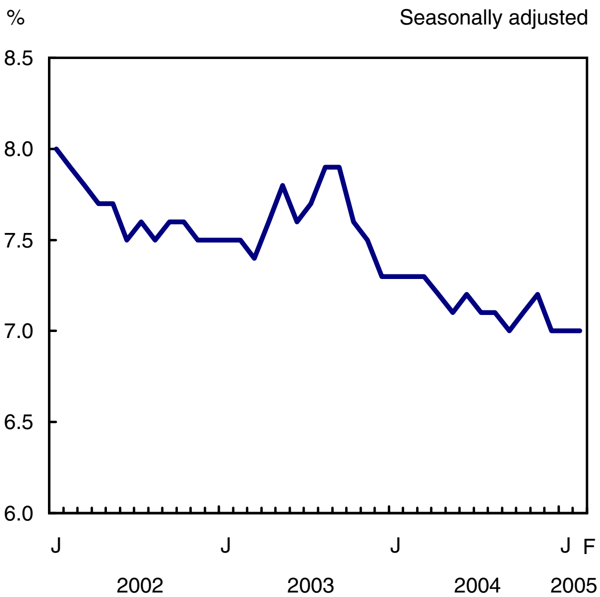
In February, the number of public sector employees rose by 38,000, offsetting a similar decline in January. Most of the gain in February was in educational services. Private sector employment edged down as a decline of 36,000 employees was mostly offset by an increase of 24,000 in the number of self-employed. Over the last 12 months, the rate of employment growth has been strongest among the self-employed (+2.7%), followed by the public sector (+2.3%) and private sector employees (+1.0%).

Adult women gain full-time jobs while more part-time work for youths

Among women aged 25 and over, full-time employment increased by 42,000 but was partly offset by a decline in part-time jobs. For adult men, there was little change in both full- and part-time employment. Compared with 12 months ago, employment has grown at a brisker pace for adult men (+1.8%) than for adult women (+1.0%) with all of the gains in full-time jobs.

In February, there were more youths working part time (+21,000). Over the past 12 months, youth employment was up 1.8%, led by gains in part time.

Unemployment rate



Job gains for Ontario

In February, employment increased by 19,000 in Ontario, bringing total gains to 50,000 (+0.8%) from a year ago. There were more full-time jobs for the province in February and sectors affected by the overall employment increase include information, culture and recreation along with educational services (mostly university) and agriculture. These gains, however, were partly offset by losses in manufacturing and public administration (municipal). The decline in factory jobs was mainly due to weakness in motor vehicles and parts, furniture and related industries, as well as in chemical products manufacturing. Despite more people working in February, the unemployment rate edged up 0.1 percentage points to 6.8%, the result of an increase in labour force participation.

Employment edged up 3,000 in Manitoba, with gains in education, other services such as personal care, and in retail and wholesale trade. The increase in February brings employment in the province up 1.6% (+9,000) from 12 months ago.

In Quebec, a decline of 20,000 full-time jobs was offset by a similar gain in part time, leaving employment in the province up 1.7% (+61,000) from February 2004. Despite little employment change this month, the unemployment rate fell 0.4 percentage points to 8.0% as the number of people in the labour force declined by 21,000.

In Nova Scotia, the unemployment rate rose 1.1 percentage points to 9.8%, mainly the result of more people in the labour force looking for work. Despite little change in February, there were 6,000 (+1.4%) more people working in the province compared with 12 months ago.

There was also little change in British Columbia in February, leaving employment in the province up 3.4% (+70,000) from a year ago. Most of the job gains over the last 12 months have been in construction and in professional, scientific and technical services. The unemployment rate jumped 0.5 percentage points to 7.0% in February as more people were in the labour force searching for work.

There was little change in employment and unemployment in the other provinces in February.

Available on CANSIM: tables 282-0001 to 282-0042, 282-0047 to 282-0064, 282-0069 to 282-0096 and 282-0098.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.

Available at 7:00 am on Statistics Canada’s Web site. From the home page, choose *Today’s news releases from The Daily*, then *Latest Labour Force Survey*.

A more detailed summary, *Labour Force Information*, is available today for the week ending February 19 (71-001-XIE, $9/$84). The 2004 *Labour Force Historical Review on CD-ROM* (71F0004XCB, $209) is now available. LAN and bulk prices are available on request. See *How to order products*.

Data tables are also available in the *Canadian Statistics* module of our Web site.

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on Friday, April 8.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; *labour@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750) or Jeannine Usalcas (613-951-4720), Labour Statistics Division.

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Employment by industry (based on NAICS) and class of worker for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	January 2005	February 2005	January 2005 to February 2005	February 2004 to February 2005	January 2005 to February 2005	February 2004 to February 2005
	Seasonally adjusted					
	'000				%	
All industries	**16,057.4**	**16,084.0**	**26.6**	**239.6**	**0.2**	**1.5**
Goods-producing sector	**4,037.0**	**4,006.7**	**-30.3**	**63.2**	**-0.8**	**1.6**
Agriculture	317.1	324.8	7.7	-3.5	2.4	-1.1
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas	297.2	300.6	3.4	19.0	1.1	6.7
Utilities	122.1	119.7	-2.4	-8.8	-2.0	-6.8
Construction	1,005.3	994.3	-11.0	81.0	-1.1	8.9
Manufacturing	2,295.4	2,267.3	-28.1	-24.4	-1.2	-1.1
Services-producing sector	**12,020.4**	**12,077.2**	**56.8**	**176.3**	**0.5**	**1.5**
Trade	2,542.5	2,548.5	6.0	53.9	0.2	2.2
Transportation and warehousing	792.9	798.0	5.1	-17.9	0.6	-2.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	985.1	989.2	4.1	66.2	0.4	7.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,030.1	1,032.9	2.8	30.4	0.3	3.0
Business, building and other support services	622.4	635.8	13.4	8.4	2.2	1.3
Educational services	1,047.8	1,068.3	20.5	19.2	2.0	1.8
Health care and social assistance	1,722.1	1,732.0	9.9	7.9	0.6	0.5
Information, culture and recreation	721.0	736.0	15.0	0.8	2.1	0.1
Accommodation and food services	1,026.0	1,005.8	-20.2	2.2	-2.0	0.2
Other services	708.5	707.6	-0.9	5.5	-0.1	0.8
Public administration	821.9	823.2	1.3	-0.1	0.2	0.0
Class of worker						
Public sector employees	3,050.8	3,089.2	38.4	68.0	1.3	2.3
Private sector	13,006.7	12,994.8	-11.9	171.6	-0.1	1.3
Private employees	10,535.5	10,499.9	-35.6	105.1	-0.3	1.0
Self-employed	2,471.2	2,494.9	23.7	66.5	1.0	2.7

Note: *Related to CANSIM tables 282-0088 and 282-0089.*

Employment by type of work, age and sex, seasonally adjusted

	February 2005	January 2005 to February 2005	February 2004 to February 2005	February 2005	January 2005 to February 2005	February 2004 to February 2005	February 2005	January 2005 to February 2005	February 2004 to February 2005
	Seasonally adjusted								
	Both sexes			Men			Women		
	'000								
Employment	**16,084.0**	**26.6**	**239.6**	**8,544.1**	**3.4**	**138.7**	**7,539.9**	**23.2**	**100.9**
Full-time	13,117.8	21.2	214.6	7,617.8	-24.9	131.4	5,500.0	46.1	83.2
Part-time	2,966.1	5.3	25.0	926.3	28.3	7.3	2,039.8	-23.0	17.6
15 to 24	2,474.4	10.3	44.0	1,247.0	2.2	7.2	1,227.4	8.1	36.8
25 and over	13,609.6	16.3	195.7	7,297.1	1.2	131.5	6,312.5	15.1	64.2
25 to 54	11,447.5	-7.7	93.5	6,035.1	2.4	68.9	5,412.4	-10.1	24.6
55 and over	2,162.1	23.9	102.2	1,262.0	-1.2	62.6	900.1	25.1	39.5

Note: *Related CANSIM table 282-0087.*

Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	January 2005	February 2005	January 2005 to February 2005	January 2005	February 2005	January 2005 to February 2005
	Seasonally adjusted					
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	**17,263.8**	**17,292.5**	**0.2**	**67.4**	**67.4**	**0.0**
Newfoundland and Labrador	252.4	252.2	-0.1	58.7	58.6	-0.1
Prince Edward Island	76.5	76.5	0.0	68.8	68.7	-0.1
Nova Scotia	486.8	490.9	0.8	64.1	64.6	0.5
New Brunswick	388.1	387.7	-0.1	63.7	63.6	-0.1
Quebec	4,062.5	4,041.2	-0.5	66.1	65.7	-0.4
Ontario	6,780.6	6,805.6	0.4	67.9	68.1	0.2
Manitoba	610.9	613.3	0.4	69.0	69.2	0.2
Saskatchewan	512.3	513.6	0.3	68.6	68.7	0.1
Alberta	1,856.8	1,853.4	-0.2	73.4	73.2	-0.2
British Columbia	2,236.9	2,258.1	0.9	65.4	66.0	0.6
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	**16,057.4**	**16,084.0**	**0.2**	**62.7**	**62.7**	**0.0**
Newfoundland and Labrador	216.0	213.9	-1.0	50.2	49.7	-0.5
Prince Edward Island	68.5	68.7	0.3	61.6	61.7	0.1
Nova Scotia	444.6	442.8	-0.4	58.6	58.3	-0.3
New Brunswick	350.3	351.2	0.3	57.5	57.6	0.1
Quebec	3,719.6	3,716.2	-0.1	60.5	60.4	-0.1
Ontario	6,325.2	6,344.3	0.3	63.4	63.4	0.0
Manitoba	579.7	582.5	0.5	65.5	65.7	0.2
Saskatchewan	487.4	488.3	0.2	65.2	65.3	0.1
Alberta	1,774.5	1,776.3	0.1	70.1	70.1	0.0
British Columbia	2,091.7	2,099.8	0.4	61.2	61.3	0.1
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	**1,206.4**	**1,208.5**	**0.2**	**7.0**	**7.0**	**0.0**
Newfoundland and Labrador	36.3	38.3	5.5	14.4	15.2	0.8
Prince Edward Island	8.0	7.8	-2.5	10.5	10.2	-0.3
Nova Scotia	42.2	48.1	14.0	8.7	9.8	1.1
New Brunswick	37.8	36.5	-3.4	9.7	9.4	-0.3
Quebec	342.9	325.1	-5.2	8.4	8.0	-0.4
Ontario	455.4	461.3	1.3	6.7	6.8	0.1
Manitoba	31.1	30.8	-1.0	5.1	5.0	-0.1
Saskatchewan	25.0	25.3	1.2	4.9	4.9	0.0
Alberta	82.3	77.1	-6.3	4.4	4.2	-0.2
British Columbia	145.3	158.2	8.9	6.5	7.0	0.5

Note: *Related CANSIM table 282-0087.*

Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	February 2004	February 2005	February 2004 to February 2005	February 2004	February 2005	February 2004 to February 2005
	Unadjusted					
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	**16,851.4**	**17,051.8**	**1.2**	**66.6**	**66.5**	**-0.1**
Newfoundland and Labrador	241.4	238.2	-1.3	56.2	55.4	-0.8
Prince Edward Island	71.2	72.5	1.8	64.4	65.1	0.7
Nova Scotia	464.8	476.2	2.5	61.5	62.7	1.2
New Brunswick	370.8	372.6	0.5	61.1	61.2	0.1
Quebec	3,951.1	3,982.7	0.8	64.9	64.7	-0.2
Ontario	6,665.7	6,732.7	1.0	67.8	67.3	-0.5
Manitoba	595.3	606.3	1.8	67.8	68.4	0.6
Saskatchewan	495.5	504.5	1.8	66.5	67.5	1.0
Alberta	1,817.8	1,827.6	0.5	73.1	72.1	-1.0
British Columbia	2,177.8	2,238.6	2.8	64.7	65.4	0.7
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	**15,541.3**	**15,784.5**	**1.6**	**61.4**	**61.5**	**0.1**
Newfoundland and Labrador	199.2	197.2	-1.0	46.4	45.8	-0.6
Prince Edward Island	60.5	63.0	4.1	54.8	56.6	1.8
Nova Scotia	419.7	425.6	1.4	55.6	56.0	0.4
New Brunswick	331.9	333.3	0.4	54.7	54.7	0.0
Quebec	3,571.5	3,631.8	1.7	58.7	59.0	0.3
Ontario	6,211.7	6,265.3	0.9	63.2	62.7	-0.5
Manitoba	563.5	573.1	1.7	64.1	64.7	0.6
Saskatchewan	465.3	476.7	2.5	62.5	63.7	1.2
Alberta	1,721.2	1,751.1	1.7	69.2	69.1	-0.1
British Columbia	1,997.0	2,067.3	3.5	59.3	60.4	1.1
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	**1,310.1**	**1,267.3**	**-3.3**	**7.8**	**7.4**	**-0.4**
Newfoundland and Labrador	42.2	40.9	-3.1	17.5	17.2	-0.3
Prince Edward Island	10.7	9.5	-11.2	15.0	13.1	-1.9
Nova Scotia	45.1	50.6	12.2	9.7	10.6	0.9
New Brunswick	38.9	39.3	1.0	10.5	10.5	0.0
Quebec	379.6	350.9	-7.6	9.6	8.8	-0.8
Ontario	454.0	467.4	3.0	6.8	6.9	0.1
Manitoba	31.8	33.1	4.1	5.3	5.5	0.2
Saskatchewan	30.2	27.8	-7.9	6.1	5.5	-0.6
Alberta	96.7	76.5	-20.9	5.3	4.2	-1.1
British Columbia	180.8	171.3	-5.3	8.3	7.7	-0.6

Note: *Related CANSIM table 282-0087.*

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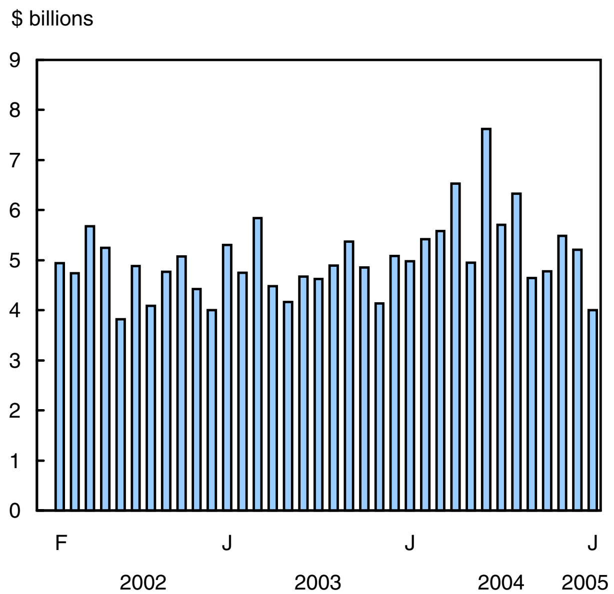
Canadian international merchandise trade

January 2005

A fall in exports of energy products, which can be attributed to falling export prices, led to a drop in exports in January. Strong imports from countries outside North America resulted in an increase in imports. As a result, the nation's merchandise trade surplus narrowed from $5.2 billion in December to $4.0 billion in January.

Trade balance



Exports fell 1.6% from December to $35.9 billion, while imports rose 1.9% to $31.9 billion.

Exports in all trade sectors, except energy products, registered gains. If energy exports are removed from the total, exports increased 0.8% in January. The gain in imports resulted from increases in agricultural and fishing products, energy products and machinery and equipment.

Exports to the United States fell 2.3% to $29.5 billion, while imports from south of the border edged up 0.3%. That put Canada's trade surplus with the United States at $8.1 billion, down from $8.8 billion in December.

Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States grew to $4.1 billion. Imports from outside the United States reached $10.5 billion in January, up from $9.9 billion in December.

Imports from both the European Union and Japan rose substantially. Increased imports of alcoholic beverages contributed to the European Union's jump, while Japan's growth was partly attributed to increased demand for manufacturing assembly equipment.

Imports from all other countries, a country grouping dominated by China, fell 3.5% to $4.1 billion.

Note to readers

Merchandise trade is one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services.

Revisions

In general, merchandise trade data are revised on an ongoing basis for each month of the current year. Customs basis data are revised for the previous data year each quarter.

Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs forms, replacement of estimates with actual figures, changes in classification of merchandise based on more current information, and changes to seasonal adjustment factors. Revised data are available in the appropriate CANSIM tables.

Forestry exports up after seven months of decline

In the last seven months of 2004, exports of forestry products dropped nearly 15% to settle at $3.0 billion in December. In January, however, exports of forestry products reversed direction, reaching $3.1 billion.

Private housing starts in the United States were unusually high in January, perhaps as a result of rebuilding after the hurricane season. This surge in construction contributed to the increased demand for other wood fabricated materials (+$39.6 million).

Newsprint paper exports also grew in January, increasing 3.4% to $519.0 million. This increase was entirely a result of higher prices as volumes declined slightly.

Strong automotive exports at the end of 2004 have carried on into January. Exports of automotive products grew to $7.5 billion in January, adding another 1.3% to December's jump.

Exports of agricultural and fishing products increased by 4.4%, reaching $2.5 billion in January. Wheat exports increased 5.3% to $252.0 million, nearing the level held prior to October's decline to $175.6 million. Exports of other agricultural and fishing products, which include fish and fish preparations and other crude vegetable products, jumped 4.3% to $2.2 billion.

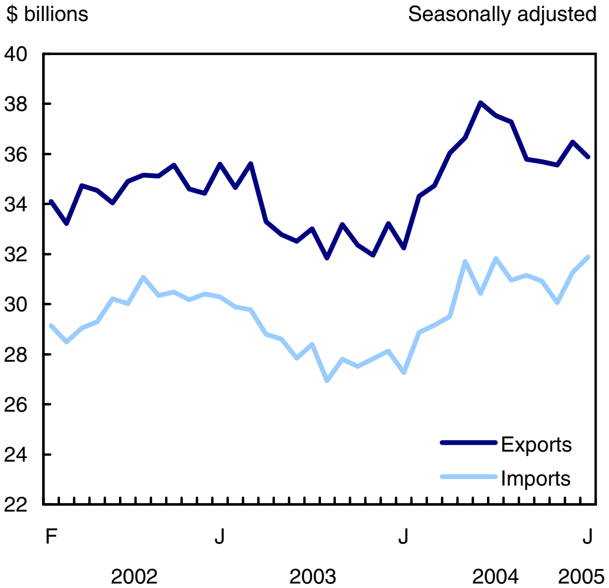
Exports of other consumer goods, industrial goods and materials, and machinery and equipment each also showed increases.

The only product group to decline in exports in January was energy products. However, this decline was large enough to offset the increases in all other trade sectors.

Energy exports decreased by 12.5% to $5.9 billion. Natural gas exports fell 16.7% to $2.5 billion, accounting for well over half of the drop. Exports of crude petroleum fell by 11.3% to $2.2 billion while other energy product exports declined 4.1% to $1.2 billion.

Export prices for natural gas and crude petroleum both dropped considerably in January. The decreases were entirely a result of these lower prices as volumes actually increased.

Exports and imports



Beverages lead the rise in import growth

Imports of agricultural and fishing products shot up 8.8% in January, reaching a record high of $1.9 billion. This was 14.3% above January 2004 levels, and still 2.3% above the very strong month of January 2003.

Imports of alcoholic beverages soared in January to a new high of $276.1 million, up 48.1% over December levels.

Restocking emptied-out inventories in Quebec in the final stages of the labour dispute contributed to increased import levels.

Imports of meat and meat preparations also jumped in January, up 6.5% to $126.2 million.

Energy product imports are up for the fifth consecutive month. Imports of energy products climbed an additional 2.2% to reach $2.6 billion.

Crude petroleum imports fell 11.9% to $1.6 billion while imports of other energy products, which include natural gas imports, soared from $782.3 million to $1.1 billion. Increasing volumes accounted for the majority of the jump.

Machinery and equipment imports, after a slump from July to November, were strong in December and January. Imports of these products grew by 1.6% in January, following a 3.2% increase in December. Demand for aircraft and for manufacturing assembly equipment fuelled this gain.

Imports of automotive products and industrial goods and materials also grew in January. Imports of other consumer goods, which include imports of apparel, fell 1.9% to $4.0 billion. This followed a strong December.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001 to 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The January 2005 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 59, no. 1 (65-001-XIB, $15/$151) is now available. See *How to order products*. The publication includes tables by commodity and country on a customs basis. Current account data (which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, service transactions, investment income and transfers) are available quarterly in *Canada's Balance of International Payments* (67-001-XIE, $32/$100).

Merchandise trade data are available in PDF format on the morning of release.

For more information on the publications, contact Anne Couillard, (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-6867). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Diana Wyman (613-951-3116), International Trade Division.

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Merchandise trade

	December 2004	January 2005	December 2004 to January 2005	January 2004 to January 2005	January to December 2003	January to December 2004	January - December 2003 to January - December 2004
	Seasonally adjusted, $ current						
	$ millions		% change		$ millions		% change
Principal trading partners							
Exports							
United States	30,183	29,492	-2.3	11.9	330,376	351,937	6.5
Japan	789	765	-3	-0.6	9,787	9,955	1.7
European Union	2,196	2,181	-0.7	7.4	24,119	27,102	12.4
Other OECD countries[1]	1,091	1,089	-0.2	-1.1	12,669	14,212	12.2
All other countries	2,222	2,357	6.1	19.5	23,062	27,150	17.7
Total	**36,482**	**35,884**	**-1.6**	**11.3**	**400,011**	**430,357**	**7.6**
Imports							
United States	21,350	21,418	0.3	12.1	239,871	249,982	4.2
Japan	824	1,069	29.7	37.6	10,644	10,029	-5.8
European Union	2,871	3,329	16	32.3	34,810	36,259	4.2
Other OECD countries[1]	1,964	1,946	-0.9	13.8	19,676	22,366	13.7
All other countries	4,265	4,117	-3.5	30.6	36,831	44,492	20.8
Total	**31,273**	**31,878**	**1.9**	**16.9**	**341,832**	**363,125**	**6.2**
Balance							
United States	8,833	8,074	...	...	90,505	101,955	...
Japan	-35	-304	...	...	-857	-74	...
European Union	-675	-1,148	...	...	-10,691	-9,157	...
Other OECD countries[1]	-873	-857	...	...	-7,007	-8,154	...
All other countries	-2,043	-1,760	...	...	-13,769	-17,342	...
Total	**5,209**	**4,006**	**...**	**...**	**58,179**	**67,232**	**...**
Principal commodity groupings							
Exports							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,363	2,468	4.4	2.4	29,258	30,699	4.9
Energy products	6,751	5,910	-12.5	17.9	60,499	69,199	14.4
Forestry products	3,026	3,099	2.4	10.9	34,454	39,199	13.8
Industrial goods and materials	6,798	6,837	0.6	18.3	66,538	77,591	16.6
Machinery and equipment	7,380	7,402	0.3	5.1	88,606	91,791	3.6
Automotive products	7,425	7,519	1.3	11.4	87,374	90,324	3.4
Other consumer goods	1,423	1,462	2.7	8.2	17,184	17,299	0.7
Special transactions trade[2]	682	669	-1.9	11.9	7,669	7,959	3.8
Other balance of payments adjustments	634	518	-18.3	2.2	8,432	6,298	-25.3
Imports							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,754	1,908	8.8	14.3	21,517	21,367	-0.7
Energy products	2,584	2,641	2.2	60.7	19,625	24,886	26.8
Forestry products	282	264	-6.4	14.8	3,022	3,178	5.2
Industrial goods and materials	6,436	6,467	0.5	21.1	65,182	73,467	12.7
Machinery and equipment	8,609	8,750	1.6	11.7	98,239	103,697	5.6
Automotive products	6,549	6,678	2	13.5	76,360	77,303	1.2
Other consumer goods	4,096	4,018	-1.9	7	46,260	47,665	3.0
Special transactions trade[2]	404	559	38.4	40.8	5,297	5,039	-4.9
Other balance of payments adjustments	557	594	6.6	15.8	6,332	6,519	3.0

r *Revised figures*
1. *Includes Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and South Korea .*
2. *These are mainly low-valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.*
... *Figures not appropriate or not applicable.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Education Price Index

2002 and 2003

For the fifth straight year, prices for goods and services in elementary and secondary education have risen more than the overall inflation rate.

In 2003, the Education Price Index (EPI) increased 3.4%, while the rate of inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 2.8%. Between 1992 and 2003, the EPI increased 24% or an average annual increase of 2.2%. This was roughly in line with the 22% rise in the CPI for the same period, for an average annual increase of 2.0%.

Teachers' salaries, which account for more than 70% of school boards' operating expenses, are the major component of the EPI. Teachers' salaries increased an average of 2.9% per year between 1999 and 2003, slightly above the 2.7% CPI average annual growth over the same period. These increases reflect a number of retroactive collective agreements. Teachers' salaries had increased by less than 1% per year from 1994 to 1998.

Non-teaching salaries, which include support staff such as administrators and maintenance personnel and account for roughly 8.5% of operating expenses, rose by 1.4% in 2003 after reaching a 10-year high advance of 4.6% in 2001. This marks the second consecutive year that they actually grew less rapidly than the teachers' salaries (+3.4% in 2003).

Between 1992 and 2003, teaching and non-teaching salaries increased 19% in Canada. The smallest increases were found in Ontario (+14.3%), British Columbia (+15.4%) and Nova Scotia (+16.9%), while the largest increases were in Saskatchewan (+27.3%), Alberta (+26.9%), and Quebec (+24.6%).

Non-salary items rose by 4.4% in 2003 and increased by 16.7% between 1999 and 2003. Non-salary items include school facilities, such as gas, fuel oil and hydro; instructional supplies, such as notebooks and pens; and fees and contractual services, such as bus transportation. The non-salary items represent about one-fifth of the total school board operating budgets.

Between 1992 and 2003, the non-salary component of the EPI grew 49.2%, more than two and one half times the growth of the salary component. Over this period, the increases in the non-salary costs were highest in Alberta (+52%), Ontario (+51.2%) and Manitoba (+49.8%). The lowest increases were recorded in the Atlantic provinces of Prince Edward Island (+37.7%), Nova Scotia (+39.2%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (+40.9%).

Note: The Education Price Index was established in the 1970s to estimate whether changes in elementary and secondary education operating expenditures are attributable to inflation or variations in the quantity and quality of goods and services purchased by schools, including teaching services. The EPI is used mainly to indicate price changes in elementary and secondary education, and to express its expenditures in constant dollar amounts. These data are now available for the years 1971 to 2003.

Level and annual growth rate of the EPI and its major components compared with the CPI (1992=100)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Education Price Index (EPI)	**110.1**	**113.5**	**116.9**	**120.1**	**124.2**
Salaries and wages	106.5	108.9	112.1	115.4	119.0
Teachers' salaries	106.3	108.5	111.5	114.9	118.6
Non-teaching salaries	108.3	112.3	117.5	120.1	121.8
Non-salary	127.9	135.8	139.9	142.9	149.2
Instructional supplies	153.9	167.7	167.7	168.5	168.5
School facilities, supplies and services	109.4	118.0	124.7	127.7	139.8
Fees and contractual services	122.7	126.8	131.9	136.2	143.0
Consumer Price Index (CPI)	110.5	113.5	116.4	119.0	122.3

Note: *Growth rates may differ slightly due to rounding.*

Available on CANSIM: table 478-0013.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3144.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services, (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; *educationstats@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Claudio Pagliarello (613-951-1508; *claudio.pagliarello@statcan.ca*) or Louise Bertrand

(613-951-0839; *louise.bertrand@statcan.ca*), Culture Tourism and Centre for Education Statistics. ■

Commercial Software Price Index

January 2005

The Commercial Software Price Index (CSPI) is a monthly series measuring the change in the purchase price of pre-packaged software typically bought by businesses and governments. The CSPI (2001=100) for January was 77.8, up 0.7% from December.

This index is available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: table 331-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5068.

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. ■

Export and import price indexes

January 2005

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1997=100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to January 2005 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted US price indexes (1997=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to January 2005. Included with the US commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and US-only Standard International Trade Classification section indexes.

Indexes for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups are also available now on a customs basis.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001, 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0040.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The January 2005 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 59, no. 1 (65-001-XIB, $15/$151) 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 Anne Couillard (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9647), International Trade Division. ■

Steel primary forms, weekly data

Week ending March 5, 2005 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending March 5 totalled 296 213 metric tonnes, down 7.9% from 321 683 tonnes a week earlier and down 1.5% from 300 806 tonnes in the same week of 2004.

The year-to-date total as of March 5 was 2 831 780 tonnes, down 0.9% from 2 857 855 tonnes in the same period of 2004.

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. ■

Dairy statistics

January 2005 (preliminary)

Dairy farmers sold 646 900 kilolitres of milk and cream to dairies in January 2005, down 0.8% from January 2004. Fluid milk sales stood at 239 200 kilolitres, and industrial milk sales at 407 700 kilolitres. Industrial milk is used to manufacture butter, cheese, yogurt, ice cream, milk powders and concentrates.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3430, 3431 and 3432.

The first quarter 2005 issue of *The Dairy Review* (23-001-XIB, $29/$96) will be available in May.

For more information, contact Anna Michalowska (613-951-2442 or toll free 1-800-465-1991; fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Refined Petroleum Products, October 2004, Vol. 59, no. 10
Catalogue number 45-004-XIB ($18/$166).

Summary of the Findings of the National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations, 2003 revised
Catalogue number 61-533-SIE
(free).

Summary of the Findings of the National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations, 2003 revised
Catalogue number 61-533-SPB ($8).

Capital Expenditure Price Statistics, Third quarter 2004, Vol. 20, no. 03
Catalogue number 62-007-XPB ($26/$85).

Canadian International Merchandise Trade, January 2005, Vol. 59, no. 1
Catalogue number 65-001-XIB ($15/$151).

Labour Force Information, Week ending February 19, 2005
Catalogue number 71-001-XIE ($9/$84).

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

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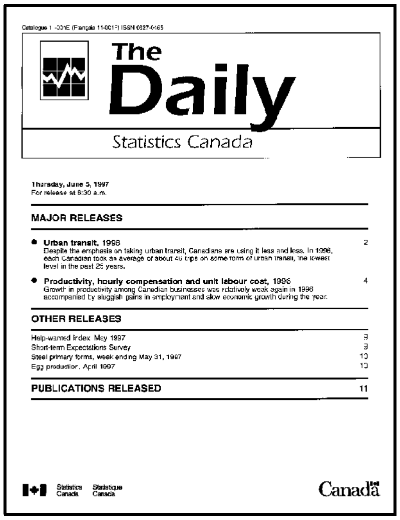

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RELEASE DATES: MARCH 14 TO 18

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
14	**New motor vehicle sales**	January 2005
14	**Study: Canadian direct investment in offshore financial centers**	1990 to 2003
15	**Monthly Survey of Manufacturing**	January 2005
15	**Use of alternative health care**	2003
16	**Canada's international investment position**	Fourth quarter 2004
17	**National balance sheet accounts**	Fourth quarter 2004
17	**Canada's international transactions in securities**	January 2005
17	**Travel between Canada and other countries**	January 2005