



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Major releases

- **Provincial and territorial economic accounts, 2004**

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Economic output in the western-most provinces boomed in 2004 — particularly in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan — while growth in the eastern-most provinces was below the national average, according to new data on provincial and territorial gross domestic product. A more detailed analysis is available in the *Provincial and territorial economic accounts review*.

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Education Matters

The first issue of volume 2 of Statistics Canada's online publication, *Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada*, contains two articles.

"Earnings trends in the knowledge-based economy" examines trends in the size of the earnings gap between university graduates and those with less education over the 1981 to 2001 period. The analysis compares those trends for males and females, for young (age 25 to 35) and prime-aged workers (age 36 to 55) and across industry sectors.

Drawing on data from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2003, "Student achievement in mathematics — the roles of attitudes, perceptions and family background" discusses two sets of factors that effect student achievement in mathematics. The first is the role of student attitude to, perceptions of, and confidence in mathematics. The second is the relationship between parental education and occupation and students' math performance.

Education Matters is a free, online publication released every two months. A source of facts and analysis on education, training and learning, *Education Matters* offers quick access to the latest education indicators and in-depth research from Statistics Canada. It also links electronically to a wide variety of data, news on education, learning resources and tables, charts and analysis.

The first issue of volume 2 of *Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada* (81-004-XIE free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Education*, then *Education Matters*.

For more information, contact Client Services (telephone: 1 800 307-3382 or 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; educationstats@statcan.ca), Centre for Education Statistics.



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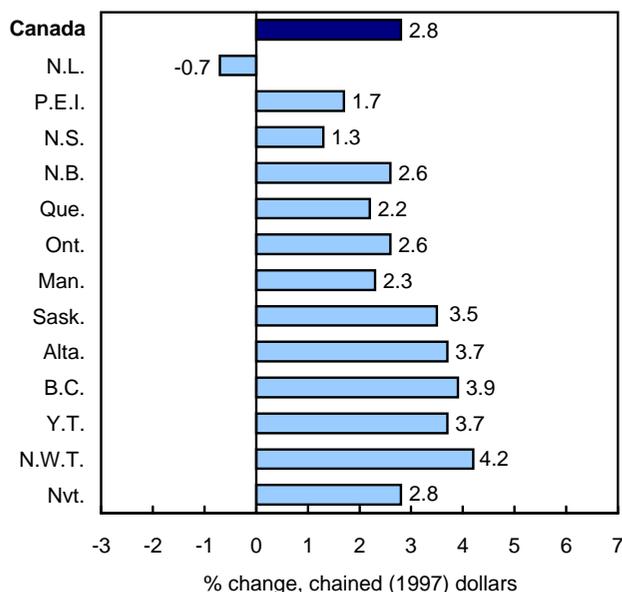
Major releases

Provincial and territorial economic accounts

2004

Economic output in the western-most provinces boomed in 2004 — particularly in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan — while growth in the eastern-most provinces was below the national average, according to new data on provincial and territorial gross domestic product (GDP).

Real gross domestic product, 2004



Nationally, real GDP accelerated from 2.0% in 2003 to 2.8% in 2004. Five provinces and territories had gains above the national average: Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

The only province to experience a decline was Newfoundland and Labrador. Its output edged down 0.7% following two years of stellar growth. The decline was mainly due to production problems on the Terra Nova oil platform and strikes in the public service and mining industries.

British Columbia's GDP went up 3.9%, its best performance in four years and highest among the provinces, while Alberta's economy came second, rising 3.7%. Saskatchewan's GDP advanced 3.5%, above the national average for the second year in a row, but slower than the 4.5% growth rate in 2003.

Note to readers

Preliminary provincial and territorial gross domestic product (GDP) accounts estimates for 2004 are included with this release. No revisions have been made to data for previous years. Revised estimates for 2001 to 2004 will be published in the fall.

Labour productivity measures are usually limited to the business sector. However, in this provincial and territorial analysis, productivity measures cover the overall economy. Productivity estimates in this report were based on the Chain Fisher real GDP at market prices because a provincial measurement of real GDP by sector is not available at present. Economic performance as measured by labour productivity must be interpreted carefully, since these estimates reflect changes in other inputs (particularly capital) in addition to the growth in productive efficiency. Labour productivity growth is often affected upward or downward by changes in the industrial structure over time. This update of labour statistics is consistent with the provincial and territorial economic accounts for 2004 but also includes revisions to some hours worked estimates, particularly for the mining industries in the territories for the 1997 to 2003 period.

More detailed analyses, charts and tables formerly released in The Daily are available in a new electronic publication, Provincial and Territorial Economic Accounts Review (13-016-XIE, free), available in HTML and PDF formats. This publication will be released simultaneously with releases in The Daily.

Overall, national economic growth rose against the backdrop of a healthy gain in corporate profits (+18%), with manufacturers stepping up production to meet foreign demand despite a 7.7% appreciation in the loonie against the American dollar.

Continued low interest rates aided home building across the country, and consumers furnished their new homes with appliances and electronic products, spurring a 3.9% gain in retail trade. Consumer spending grew 3.5%, compared with 3.1% in 2003, while personal disposable income rose 3.9%.

Atlantic provinces: Strongest growth in New Brunswick

New Brunswick's economy led the Atlantic provinces in 2004, rising 2.6%, just below the national average. The province's manufacturing sector bounced back last year with a 3.6% rise led by rapidly increasing shipments of primary metal products.

Operational problems at the Terra Nova offshore oilfield coupled with strikes in both the private and public sector restrained Newfoundland and Labrador, resulting in a decline of 0.7%. On the other hand, residential construction activity was especially robust in

the province, rising 12% thanks to the largest number of housing starts since the early 1990s.

Prince Edward Island's economy rose 1.7%, on par with the growth registered in 2003. The main factors underlying growth were a modest increase in manufacturing, particularly the production of frozen food products such as potato products, and a booming housing market.

Nova Scotia's economy continued to expand, but at a moderate 1.3%. Home building and the manufacture of rail cars and high tech equipment coupled with strength in retail trade contributed to the growth.

Exports the engine of growth in Central Canada

In Ontario, the centre for one-half of the manufacturing activity in Canada, auto assembly operations benefited from export demand for Canadian built models.

Ontario's goods-producing industries matched the performance of the services-producing industries for the first time in two years. Three industries (transportation equipment manufacturing, wholesale trade and finance) contributed significantly to the growth of the economy. However, gains in personal consumption and business investment were below the national average.

In Quebec, investment in housing continued at a torrid pace (+15%), marking the fourth consecutive year of double-digit growth. Activity in the housing market stimulated sales of furniture, appliances and building materials. Aerospace production fell 9.2% as demand for new aircraft remained weak.

Both Ontario and Quebec consumers flocked to building material stores and new "big box" malls. Consumer spending was up 3.2% in Ontario, and 3.3% in Quebec. Overall, Ontario's economy rose 2.6% last year while Quebec's advanced 2.2%.

The West: Oil, natural resources push economic growth

Saskatchewan's and Alberta's manufacturers flourished last year, providing machinery for the booming petroleum industry, while meat processors boosted production to deal with the surplus cattle due to the closure of the American border.

Historically high oil prices spurred production and exploration in Alberta and Saskatchewan. The Alberta economy grew 3.7% thanks largely to heightened activity in the oil patch.

Overall, Saskatchewan's manufacturers had their strongest performance in a decade with an 11.5%

increase that pushed total economic growth in the province to 3.5%. In addition, crop production advanced for the second consecutive year; however, wet harvest conditions affected crop quality.

Alberta and British Columbia led the provinces in terms of consumer spending, with increases of 4.7% and 4.1% respectively. Healthy labour markets in these provinces saw unemployment rates near historic lows, with Alberta's besting the country at 4.6%.

Forest products experienced their best performance in years. British Columbia profited most from this growth, with improvements of more than 15% for both forestry and sawmill production. Output in coal mining in British Columbia rose 15%, with much of the coal destined for export.

Manitoba's economy overcame a weak agriculture sector to increase 2.3%. Home building sustained the manufacture and sale of furniture and construction materials. As well, favourable weather conditions sparked electricity production and exports.

The territories: Best growth in years in Yukon

Economic output in the Yukon rose 3.7%, its best performance in three years. All sectors recorded strong growth, with business and government investment leading the charge. Output in the mining industry rose more than 70%, led by gold.

Mining operations also prospered in the Northwest Territories, where diamonds continue to have a large affect on the economy. In total, the Northwest Territories economy rose 4.2%, the best in the country, with diamond mining accounting for more than half of this growth.

Nunavut's economy rose 2.8%, rebounding from a decline of 7.6% in 2003 as business investment climbed sharply. Mine closures over the last number of years have now reduced the mining industry to about one-tenth the size it was in 2000.

Labour productivity: Half of the provinces registered gains

Nationally, labour productivity remained almost unchanged in 2004, posting the smallest year-over-year increase since 1996. Performance among the provinces was split with half of the provinces registering an increase while the other half recorded a decline. Labour productivity varied between a high of 2.9% in Prince Edward Island and a drop of 3.1% in the strike-ridden economy of Newfoundland and Labrador. Elsewhere in Atlantic Canada, increases of 0.9% and 1.4%

were registered in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick respectively.

In central Canada, productivity remained just off its 2003 pace, edging down 0.2% in Ontario and 0.4% in Quebec.

With important gains in manufacturing, Manitoba and Saskatchewan experienced increases of around 1.5%, while growth in Alberta edged up (+0.5%). Despite strong growth in GDP, British Columbia saw labour productivity decline by 0.8% as hours worked jumped substantially, climbing 4.7% in 2004.

In the north, Yukon's and Nunavut's labour productivity declined while the Northwest Territories' increased 1.3%.

Detailed analysis and tables

More detailed analysis on today's releases from the national accounts, including additional charts and tables, can be found in the preliminary estimates 2004 issue of *Provincial and Territorial Economic Accounts Review* (13-016-XIE, free), now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *National accounts*.

Products, services and contact information

Provincial economic accounts

Available on CANSIM: tables 384-0001, 384-0002, 384-0004 to 384-0013 and 384-0036.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1902.

The publications *Provincial Economic Accounts, Annual Estimates, 2004* (13-213-DDB, \$428) and *Provincial Economic Accounts, Annual Estimates: Tables and Analytical Document, 2004* (13-213-PPB, \$54) are now available. The diskette can also be

purchased at a lower cost seven business days after the official release date (13-213-XDB, \$86). To purchase any of these products, contact the client services officer (613-951-3810; iead-info-dcrd@statcan.ca), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, including labour statistics, contact the information officer (613-951-3640; iead-info-dcrd@statcan.ca), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

Provincial gross domestic product by industry

Available on CANSIM: table 379-0025.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1303.

To purchase data on provincial gross domestic product by industry at basic prices, contact the client services officer (1-800-887-IMAD; imad@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bruce Cooke (613-951-9061; cookeb@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division.

Labour statistics accounts

Available on CANSIM: tables 383-0009 to 383-0010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1402.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality, contact Jean-Pierre Maynard (613-951-3654; fax: 613-951-3292; productivity@statcan.ca), Microeconomic Analysis Divisions. ■

Other releases

Study: Wholesalers a key link in the economy

1997 to 2004

Wholesale trade is one of the nation's most dynamic and forward-moving industries, according to a new profile of the industry that examines its growth and economic performance during the past seven years.

Wholesaling is a multi-billion-dollar industry in Canada. In 2004, wholesalers did about \$450 billion worth of business. Between 1997 and 2004, wholesale revenues rose by 42%.

During this period, output by wholesalers as measured by gross domestic product rose at an average of 7.1% a year, the third highest rate of growth among all major industrial sectors. This was well above the 4.2% increase for the economy as a whole.

In 2004, wholesale trade accounted for 6.3% of industrial output in Canada, up from 5.3% in 1997. As a result, it ranked as the third most important sector in the economy in 2004, up from fifth place seven years earlier.

The industry was a beacon when it came to employment, with new jobs tending to be high paying and full time. During the seven-year period, employment in wholesale trade increased 28.2%, nearly double the rate of growth in both manufacturing and retail trade.

Wholesalers have been quick to adopt new information and communications technologies and have recorded above-average growth in capital investments. As a result, labour productivity in the industry is one of the highest in Canada.

Globalization, offshore outsourcing, and the arrival of American-style retailing, such as big box stores and club warehouses, have all helped propel wholesalers forward.

This is especially true in terms of commodities with a predominantly retail base, such as motor vehicles, food, and home and personal products.

For example, wholesalers have played an important role in getting motor vehicles produced elsewhere in the

world to Canadians. Overall, 6 out of every 10 cars in Canada are imported.

Likewise, fewer and fewer consumer-type products such as home furnishings, electronics, and apparel are sourced from within Canada. As a result, wholesalers have been able to benefit by becoming a primary buyer and distributor of these products manufactured elsewhere in the world.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2401, 2405 and 2445.

The analytical article *Wholesalers: A Key Link in Canada's Economy* (11-621-MIE2005026, free) is now available online in the *Analysis in Brief* series (11-621-MIE). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Business enterprises*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Alex Hays (613-951-3552), Distributive Trades Division. ■

Restaurants, caterers and taverns

February 2005 (preliminary)

Total sales of the restaurants, caterers and taverns industry reached almost \$2.7 billion in February, a 2.5% increase over February 2004 on a year-over-year basis. (Data are neither seasonally adjusted, nor adjusted for inflation.)

Provincially, the most important year-over-year increases were in Newfoundland (+11.4%), Quebec (+4.0%) and Ontario (+1.8%).

The year-over-year increase in sales at the national level (+2.5%) was due to the increase in demand for social and mobile caterers (+18.7%), food service contractors (+14.8%) and full services restaurants (+3.9%).

Food services sales

	February 2004 ^r	February 2005 ^p
Not seasonally adjusted		
\$ thousands		
Total food services sales	2,589,412	2,655,282
Full service restaurants	1,166,711	1,212,060
Limited service restaurants	1,028,721	1,033,730
Food service contractors	141,071	161,880
Social and mobile caterers	42,819	50,807
Drinking places	210,090	196,805
Provinces and territories		
Newfoundland and Labrador	28,123	31,322
Prince Edward Island	9,290	9,384
Nova Scotia	59,792	58,246
New Brunswick	50,827	48,609
Quebec	539,405	561,019
Ontario	1,014,987	1,033,325
Manitoba	69,388	68,091
Saskatchewan	66,433	65,732
Alberta	332,418	310,908
British Columbia	457,701	461,108
Yukon	3,421	1,757
Northwest Territories	6,796	5,539
Nunavut	922	243

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

Note: The Monthly Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns Survey has undergone several important changes. Effective starting for the April 2004 reference month, the survey was restratified and a new sample was selected. Commencing with the reference month of May 2004, the survey incorporated increased use of GST data to reduce response burden and collection costs. As a result of these changes, total food services sales for Canada and the provinces/territories have been revised back to January 1998.

Detailed estimates by kind of business are available now. The next revision step will be done on number of locations.

Available on CANSIM: table 355-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2419.

For more information, to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality, or to obtain

the new methodology paper about the Monthly Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns Survey contact Alain Mbassegue (613-951-2011; fax: 613-951-6696; alain.mbassegue@statcan.ca) or Roland Boudreau (613-951-3145; fax: 613-951-6696; roland.boudreau@statcan.ca), Service Industries Division. ■

Placement of hatchery chicks and turkey poults

March 2005 (preliminary)

Placements of hatchery chicks onto farms were estimated at 53.0 million birds in March, down 8.1% from March 2004. Placements of turkey poults on farms increased 17.8% to 2.0 million birds.

Available on CANSIM: table 003-0021.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5039.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandra Giefeldt (613-951-2505; sandra.giefeldt@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Construction type plywood

February 2005

Data on construction type plywood for February are now available.

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0056 and 303-0057.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2138.

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. ■

New products

Analysis in Brief: Wholesalers: A Key Link in Canada's Economy, 1997 to 2004, no. 26
Catalogue number 11-621-MIE2005026
(free).

Provincial and Territorial Economic Accounts Review, 2004
Catalogue number 13-016-XIE
(free).

Provincial Economic Accounts, Annual Estimates: Day of Release, 2004
Catalogue number 13-213-DDB (\$428).

Provincial Economic Accounts, Annual Estimates: Tables and Analytical Document, 2004
Catalogue number 13-213-PPB (\$54).

Provincial Economic Accounts, Annual Estimates, 2004
Catalogue number 13-213-XDB (\$86).

Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada
Catalogue number 81-004-XIE
(free).

Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division Working Papers: Overview of the Biotechnology Use and Development Survey, 2003, no. 9
Catalogue number 88F0006XIE2005009
(free).

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

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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 took an average of about six 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 noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- Map-based index: May 1997 3
- Short-term Expectations Survey 8
- Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 12
- Egg production: Apr 19 1997 13

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