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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, April 29, 2005
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Major releases

Other releases

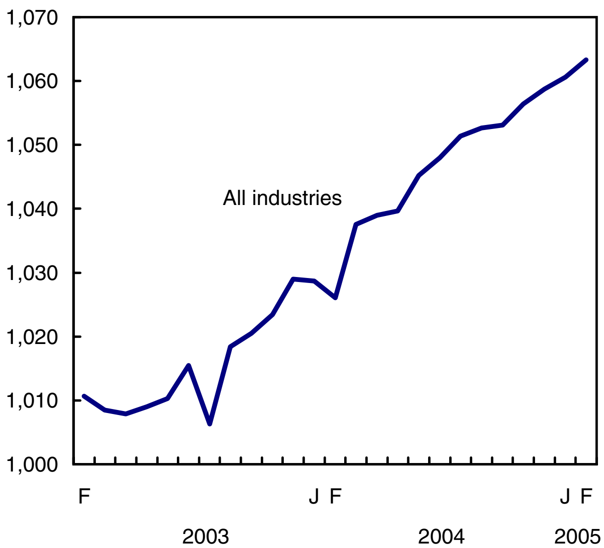
Major releases

Gross domestic product by industry
February 2005

The Canadian economy rose by 0.3% in February after increasing by 0.2% in January. Much of the growth in February was attributable to increased spending by consumers in retail stores and by continued strength in the demand for machinery and equipment by businesses, both domestic and abroad.

Economic activity rises

GDP billions of chained $ (1997)



Spending on big-ticket items spurs retailing and wholesaling activity

Retailing activity increased a further 1.7% in February after rising by 2.3% in January. There were widespread increases across many store types, with particular strength in new and used car dealerships. Incentive programs by some carmakers helped propel new car sales in February, with unit sales jumping by 13%. The end of a strike in Quebec's liquor stores as well as stronger sales in most other provinces caused a sizeable jump in the beer, wine and liquor stores industry. Only supermarkets and general merchandise stores, including department stores, saw lower activity.

Wholesaling activity increased by 1.4% in February after edging down 0.2% in January. Wholesalers of food and beverage products saw the largest increase in activity, recovering from the January drop. Increased foreign demand for potash, industrial chemicals, and machinery and equipment helped boost the output of wholesalers of these types of products. Wholesaling of motor vehicles and building supplies also increased. Wholesaling of oil products decreased in line with a reduction in crude petroleum extraction.

Note to readers

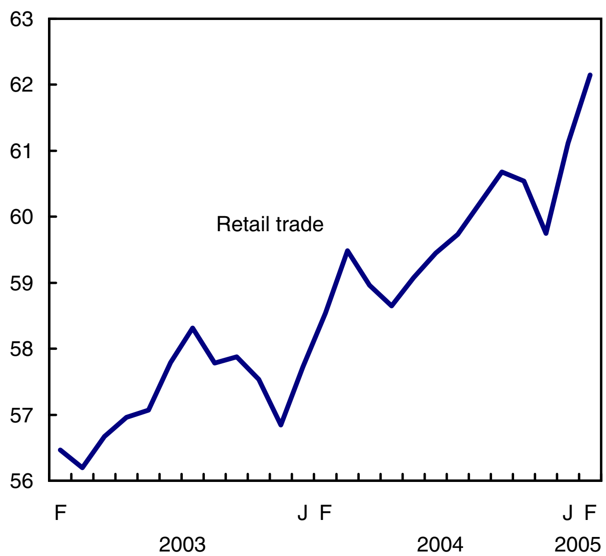
In September 2002 (reference month: July 2002), the monthly gross domestic product (GDP) by industry program introduced the first stage of a conversion to a Chain Fisher formula, by adopting annually chained Fisher Input-output benchmarks in its calculation of real GDP for 1997 to 2001. However, beginning with January 2002 onwards, the monthly estimates are derived by chaining a Laspeyres volume index at 2001 prices to the prior period. The monthly GDP data are expressed in chained dollars with 1997 as reference year. This conversion brings the monthly GDP by industry estimates more in line with the quarterly expenditure-based GDP data, chained quarterly. For more information, see the Chain Fisher Volume Index *page on our Web site.*

Revisions

With this release of monthly GDP by industry, revisions have been made back to January 2004.

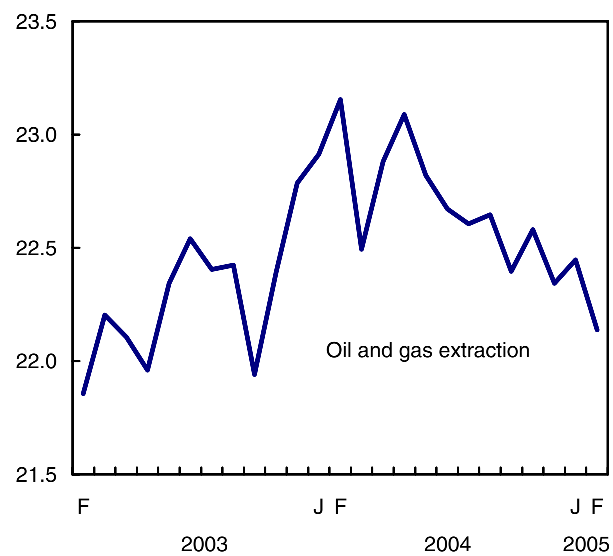
Consumers still shopping

GDP billions of chained $ (1997)



Production problems hamper crude oil extraction

GDP billions chained $ (1997)



Lower energy output pulls down industrial production

Industrial production (the output of factories, mines and utilities) decreased by 0.2% as an increase in manufacturing output (+0.2) was overshadowed by declines in the mining, oil and gas extraction sector (-1.3%) and by utilities (-0.8%). A relatively warm February compared with previous months across many regions of the country and in the United States lowered the demand for electricity and natural gas. Energy sector output fell 1.0%, a second consecutive decline. In the United States, the index of industrial production rose by 0.2% with increases in the manufacturing and mining sectors tempered by reduced output by utilities.

Mining and oil and gas extraction give ground

Mining and oil and gas extraction fell back 1.3% in February. Despite the high prices for crude petroleum on international markets, continuing production problems in the tar sands reduced the output of crude oil and natural gas by 1.4%. Metal ore mines increased their output by 2.2%, with all types increasing except for gold and silver (-2.3%). Non-metallic mineral mines saw their output decrease by 5.0%. The output of potash was essentially flat but stood at a level nearly 15% higher than a year ago.

Construction activity edges down

Construction activity edged down by 0.1% in February. Residential construction declined for a third month in a row (-0.6%). Building of single detached dwellings and of apartment units were both down. Housing starts however recovered some of the ground lost in January, except in Quebec's urban areas which saw a further decrease. Sales of existing homes increased in February, raising the output of real estate agents and brokers by 1.8%.

Non-residential building construction activity increased by 0.3% in February. This was the second increase in the last three months since this sector peaked in June 2003. Construction of commercial and industrial buildings both increased, but there was a further decline in institutional units. There were large increases in the value of building permits for all types of non-residential buildings however.

Continued strength in durable goods manufacturing

Output in the manufacturing sector rose by 0.2% in February, pushed by durable goods production (+0.6%). Only 9 out of the 21 major groups, accounting for 38% of manufacturing's value added, reported gains. Decreases were widespread but more concentrated in paper (-1.3%), sawmills (-1.6%), and food products (-0.6%).

The manufacturing of machinery increased by 2.4%, in part to satisfy foreign demand. There was particular strength in the production of agricultural, construction and mining machinery (+4.5%), metalworking (+5.3%) and other general purpose machinery (+4.0%). The output of computer and electronic products rose 2.3% with gains reported in most categories. The manufacturing of information and communication technologies goods reached its highest level since July 2001.

Primary metal manufacturing increased by 2.2%, helped by the progressive resumption of output in primary production of aluminum (+4.4%) after a labour dispute curtailed production at a smelter in the third quarter of 2004. Non-ferrous metal smelting and refining (+7.8%) rebounded in February with an increase in uranium production.

Continued strong demand for heavy-duty trucks fuelled the output of motor vehicles (+0.6%) as manufacturers adjusted their production of automobiles and light-duty motor vehicles to the demand for Canadian built models.

Other sectors

A surge in wheat exports in February contributed to the jump in farm product warehousing and was also a factor in the increase in rail transportation and wholesale trade. Tourism-related industries benefited from an influx of travellers from countries other than the United States, with air transportation up by 1.7%, and accommodation services up by 1.5%. An increase in the volume of transactions on the Canadian stock exchanges helped raise output in the finance and insurance industries by 0.4%.

Available on CANSIM: tables 379-0017 to 379-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1301 and 1302.

The February 2005 issue of *Gross Domestic Product by Industry*, Vol. 19, no. 2 (15-001-XIE, $12/$118) is now available. See *How to order products*. A print-on-demand version is available at a different price.

Data on gross domestic product by industry for March will be released on May 31.

For general information or to order data, contact Yolande Chantigny (1-800-887-IMAD; *imad@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bernard Lefrançois (613-951-3622), Industry Measures and Analysis Division.

□

Monthly gross domestic product by industry at basic prices in chained dollars (1997)

	September 2004r	October 2004r	November 2004r	December 2004r	January 2005r	February 2005p	February 2005	February 2004 to February 2005
	seasonally adjusted							
	month-to-month % change						Millions of dollars[1]	% change
All Industries	**0.1**	**0.0**	**0.3**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**0.3**	**1,063,347**	**3.6**
Goods-producing industries	**-0.0**	**-0.1**	**0.2**	**0.3**	**-0.0**	**-0.2**	**332,238**	**3.5**
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	1.1	-0.1	-0.5	0.2	-0.4	0.2	24,196	4.9
Mining and oil and gas extraction	-1.1	0.6	0.1	-0.9	0.3	-1.3	37,078	-2.3
Utilities	0.6	0.3	0.6	2.3	-1.5	-0.8	26,378	3.8
Construction	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.3	-0.7	-0.1	58,978	2.8
Manufacturing	-0.1	-0.5	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.2	185,864	5.4
Services-producing industries	**0.2**	**0.1**	**0.4**	**0.2**	**0.3**	**0.5**	**732,389**	**3.7**
Wholesale trade	-0.3	0.2	1.6	0.9	-0.2	1.4	69,231	11.5
Retail trade	0.8	0.8	-0.2	-1.3	2.3	1.7	62,151	6.2
Transportation and warehousing	0.5	0.5	-0.1	0.5	0.4	0.4	51,416	5.7
Information and cultural industries	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.3	44,043	4.8
Finance, insurance and real estate	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	214,642	3.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	0.0	0.3	-0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	46,598	1.5
Administrative and waste management services	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	-0.0	0.2	22,252	2.1
Education services	-0.2	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.3	45,745	2.5
Health care and social assistance	0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.0	-0.2	0.0	62,956	0.9
Arts, entertainment and recreation	-2.3	-2.9	0.5	1.5	-1.4	0.1	9,382	-2.5
Accommodation and food services	1.6	0.0	0.3	0.2	-0.7	0.4	23,648	1.7
Other services (except public administration)	0.8	0.0	0.1	0.1	-0.2	0.3	24,767	1.4
Public administration	-0.4	-0.7	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.2	57,470	0.9
Other aggregations								
Industrial production	-0.3	-0.1	0.2	0.4	0.1	-0.2	249,455	3.5
Non-durable manufacturing industries	0.0	-0.8	0.2	0.3	-0.3	-0.4	74,372	1.8
Durable manufacturing industries	-0.2	-0.2	0.2	0.6	0.8	0.6	111,415	8.1
Business sector industries	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	905,397	4.1
Non-business sector industries	-0.2	-0.2	0.4	0.0	-0.0	0.2	158,196	1.2
Information and communication technologies (ICT) industries	-0.7	-0.2	1.0	-0.9	1.0	0.4	62,974	6.7
Energy sector	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.6	-0.8	-1.0	60,134	-0.5

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*
1. *Millions of chained dollars (1997), seasonally adjusted at annual rates.*

■

Other releases

Study: Income inequality and working-age mortality

In Great Britain and the United States, working-age people living in metropolitan areas with high income inequality had higher death rates in 1991 compared with people living in metropolitan areas with lower income inequality, according to a new study. But this association between mortality and income inequality at the metropolitan level was not found for Canada and the two other countries included in the analysis.

Previous studies have demonstrated that in many developed countries, people with lower income have higher death rates compared to people with higher income. However, the relationship between income distribution and mortality is a more complex phenomenon about which much less is known.

The current study analyzed comparable data on income distribution and three-year average death rates for people aged 25 to 64 in 528 metropolitan areas in five industrialized countries. The mortality rates were age-standardized to the Canadian population in 1991. Income inequality was calculated as the share of total after-transfer, pre-tax household income for the poorer 50% of all households within a given metropolitan area.

The study substantiated a link between income inequality and death rates among the working-age population only within the United States and Great Britain. The link did not hold in metropolitan centres of Canada, Australia or Sweden.

Previous studies have shown that death rates among working-age populations are extremely sensitive to underlying social conditions. The study's findings suggest that in Australia, Canada, and Sweden, public resources that enhance health along social lines may filter down to metropolitan areas through spending in areas such as education, health care and housing.

Among the five countries examined, spending on these items as a proportion of gross domestic product was highest for Sweden in 1990 at about 31%, and the lowest for the United States at just over 13%.

However, the study concluded that the findings also provide evidence for the idea that there is not necessarily an association between income inequality and population health. The question, therefore, becomes one of understanding the social conditions under which income inequality is linked to the health of populations.

The study "Metropolitan income inequality and working-age mortality: A cross-sectional analysis using comparable data from five countries", published recently in the *Journal of Urban Health*, is a collaboration of Statistics Canada and an international group of researchers. An abstract of the article is available free online, in English only (*http://jurban.oupjournals.org/cgi/reprint/82/1/101*).

For more information about the concepts, methods or data quality of the study or to obtain a copy, contact Dr. Nancy Ross (1-514-398-4307; *nancy.ross@mcgill.ca*), McGill University or Jean-Marie Berthelot (1-613-951-3760; *berthel@statcan.ca*) or François Gendron (1-613-951-1509; *gendfra@statcan.ca*), Health Analysis and Measurement Group. ■

Steel primary forms, weekly data

Week ending April 23, 2005 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending April 23 totalled 318 839 metric tonnes, up 2.1% from 312 198 tonnes a week earlier and down 1.4% from 323 333 tonnes in the same week of 2004.

The year-to-date total as of April 23 was 5 007 751 tonnes, down 1.4% from 5 078 925 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. ■

Computer and peripherals price indexes

February 2005

Prices for commercial computers, as measured by the computer and peripherals price indexes (CPPI, 2001=100), were down 2.2% from January. Consumer computer prices, representing computer brands and models normally purchased by consumers and small businesses, fell 3.0%.

In the case of computer peripherals, monitor prices for February declined 1.3% on a monthly basis, while printer prices were down 0.5% from January.

These indexes are available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: tables 331-0001 and 331-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5032.

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. ■

Aircraft movement statistics

2004

Airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers and flight service stations recorded 5.5 million take-offs and landings in 2004, down 2.7% from 2003.

Statistics for the Canadian airports without air traffic control towers are also available. These 112 airports reported 0.6 million take-offs and landings in 2004.

The annual report *Aircraft Movement Statistics* (TP577, free) is now available on Transport Canada's Web site (*http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/Report/TP577/tp577.htm*). For more information on this Web site, contact Michel Villeneuve (613-990-3825; *villenm@tc.gc.ca*).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2715.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141; fax: 613-951-0010; *aviationstatistics@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Access to financing capital by Canadian innovative biotechnology firms

2001

Just over 7 out of 10 innovative biotechnology firms in Canada that attempted to raise financing capital in 2001 were successful, according to new data from the Biotechnology Use and Development Survey.

The survey, conducted every two years, showed that in 2001, 134 firms out of 188 that sought financing capital were successful, a success rate of 71%.

In 1999, however, 138 firms out of 178 that sought financing capital were successful, a rate of 78%.

In 1999, the successful firms raised $2.2 billion worth of capital. However, two years later, the amount had fallen to $980 million, a 55% decline.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4226.

The report *Access to Financing Capital by Canadian Innovative Biotechnology Firms* (88F0006XIE2005010, free) is now available online. From *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications,* choose *Free*, then *Science and technology*.

For additional information on the Biotechnology Use and Development Survey, consult the report *Features of Canadian Biotech Innovative Firms: Results from the Biotechnology Use and Development Survey, 2001*, no. 5 (88F0006XIE2003005, free) released in *The Daily* on March 28, 2003.

To order data tables, or to enquire about concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Namatié Traoré (613-951-4489; *namatie.traore@statcan.ca*), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

New products

Analytical Studies Branch Research Paper Series: Explaining the Increase in On-the-job Search, no. 250
Catalogue number 11F0019MIE2005250
(free).

Gross Domestic Product by Industry, February 2005, Vol. 19, no. 2
Catalogue number 15-001-XIE ($12/$118).

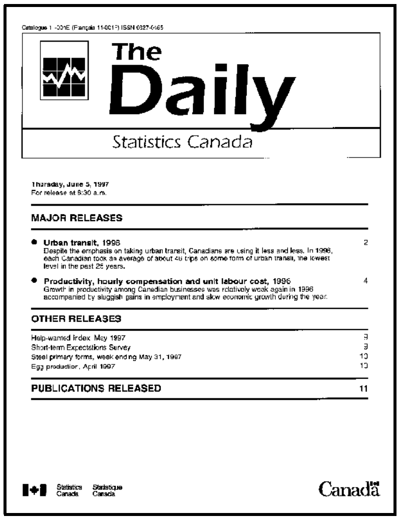
Exports by Commodity, February 2005, Vol. 62, no. 2
Catalogue number 65-004-XMB ($40/$387).

Exports by Commodity, February 2005, Vol. 62, no. 2
Catalogue number 65-004-XPB ($84/$828).

Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division Working Papers: Access to Financing Capital by Canadian Innovative Biotechnology Firms, 2001, no. 10
Catalogue number 88F0006XIE2005010
(free).

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

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



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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

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
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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Release dates: May 2005

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
3	**Early sexual intercourse and use of condoms**	1996 to 2001 and 2003
4	**School Libraries and Teacher-Librarians**	2003/2004
5	**Building permits**	March 2005
6	**Field crop reporting series: Stocks of Canadian grain at March 31**	2005
6	**Labour Force Survey**	April 2005
9	**National Population Healthy Survey: Healthy aging**	1994/95 to 2002/03
10	**New Housing Price Index**	March 2005
11	**Canadian international merchandise trade**	March 2005
11	**Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey**	2003
12	**New motor vehicle sales**	March 2005
12	**Family income**	2003
13	**Monthly Survey of Manufacturing**	March 2005
17	**Foreign direct investment**	2004
17	**Is Inflation Higher for seniors?**	1992-2004
18	**Canada's international transactions in securities**	March 2005
18	**Wholesale trade**	March 2005
18	**Travel between Canada and other countries**	March 2005
19	**Culture goods trade**	2004
20	**Consumer Price Index**	April 2005
20	**Retail trade**	March 2005
24	**Leading Indicators**	April 2005
24	**Employment Insurance**	March 2005
25	**Net farm income**	2004 (preliminary)
25	**Farm cash receipts**	First quarter 2005
26	**Quarterly Financial statistics for enterprises**	First quarter 2005
26	**Periodical publishing**	2003/2004
26	**Employment, earnings and hours**	March 2005
27	**Characteristics of international travellers**	Fourth quarter 2004
27	**International travel account**	First quarter 2005
30	**Industrial product and raw materials price indexes**	April 2005
30	**Balance of international payments**	First quarter 2005
31	**National economic and financial accounts**	First quarter 2005
31	**Gross domestic product by industry**	March 2005