



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

Current economic conditions, June 2005	2
Salaries and salary scales of full-time teaching staff at Canadian universities: Final report, 2003/04	2
Small area retail trade estimates, 2002	3
Refined petroleum products, February 2005	3
Sawmills and planing mills, April 2005	3
Total income of farm operators, 2003	3
Construction type plywood, April 2005	3

New products	4
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Current economic conditions

June 2005

First-quarter growth was driven by consumer spending and business investment, according to an assessment of current economic conditions in the June edition of *Canadian Economic Observer*.

These gains were partly offset by a drop in housing and a slowdown in inventories, while the growth of imports continued to outstrip exports.

Business investment rose 8% in volume year-over-year. This marks its best year of growth since early 2000 (excluding a blip late in mid-2003). All components of spending picked up.

The resource boom continued to fuel gains in engineering, while a surge in permits suggests building has pulled out of a prolonged slump. Higher outlays for machinery and equipment were driven by computers, industrial machinery and aircraft.

Prospects for the second quarter brightened. Housing rebounded in May, helping the leading indicator hit a year-high, while job growth strengthened in April and May.

This edition of *Canadian Economic Observer* also provides a snapshot of regional economies across Canada. Western Canada continued to experience the country's best economic conditions. Their resources accounted for almost the entire year-over-year increase in exports in the first quarter. Owing to this resource boom, non-residential industrial permits doubled in Alberta to a seven-year high.

Investment goods contributed to a third consecutive strong increase in shipments in the West. Strength in transportation equipment and computers was reinforced by growth in wood and metals on the Prairies.

British Columbia remained far ahead in job growth, up 4.1% from last May thanks to natural resources and construction and, since December, transportation.

Alberta was next at 1.8% due to resources and transportation as well as business services (several mega-projects are in their planning and development phase). All of the increase in jobs was outside of Edmonton and Calgary.

Fuelled by the tar sands, the Athabasca region had 10% more jobs than last May; together with neighbouring Cold Lake, it had the lowest unemployment rate in the country at 3.1%. Only Northern British Columbia and Kootenay had faster job growth.

Altogether, Northern Alberta and British Columbia contributed 10% of Canada's job growth in the past year, despite having less than 1.5% of its population.

Since December, the Prairies have contributed more than either Ontario or Quebec to the national growth of labour income and retail sales, a rare occurrence. Labour income and retail sales also rose sharply in British Columbia.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1901 and 3701.

The June 2005 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 18, no. 6 (11-010-XIB, \$19/\$182; 11-010-XPB, \$25/\$243) is now available.

For more information about the *Canadian Economic Observer*, from the *Canadian Statistics* page, choose *National Accounts*, then click on the banner ad for *Canadian Economic Observer*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Philip Cross (613-951-9162; ceo@statcan.ca), Current Economic Analysis Group. ■

Salaries and salary scales of full-time teaching staff at Canadian universities: Final report

2003/04

This report presents the final set of tables for the academic year 2003/04, which contain information on the salaries of full-time teaching staff for Canadian universities that have more than 100 staff.

This information was collected annually under the University and College Academic Staff System and has a reference date of October 1. Therefore, the data reflect employment in universities as of that date. Universities must authorize Statistics Canada to release their information.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3101.

The bulletin *Salaries and Salary Scales of Full-time Teaching Staff at Canadian Universities, 2003/04: Final Report* (81-595-MIE2005031, free) is now available online. From *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publication* choose *Free then Education*.

Also available are special requests from the full data set of information collected under the University and College Academic Staff System for 2003/04. Unlike the bulletin, this data set includes information on all institutions, including those with fewer than 100 staff.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact

Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

Small area retail trade estimates

2002

Small area retail trade estimates for sales and number of stores are now available for 2002.

Small area data are tabulated by Canada Post geographic areas. For urban delivery areas, the estimates are available at the forward sortation area level (the first three digits of the postal code). For rural areas, estimates are available at the six-digit postal code level.

Estimates within these geographic areas are based on the North American Industry Classification System. Data are available to the five-digit level of industrial detail, subject to confidentiality.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2447.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division. ■

Refined petroleum products

February 2005

Data on the supply and disposition and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for February.

Available on CANSIM: tables 134-0001 to 134-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

The February 2005 issue of *The Supply and Disposition of Refined Petroleum Products in Canada* (previously titled *Refined Petroleum Products*), Vol. 60, no. 2 (45-004-XIE, \$18/\$166) 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 the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Sawmills and planing mills

April 2005

Data on sawmills and planing mills are now available for April.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0009.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2134 and 2135.

The April 2005 issue of *Sawmills and Planing Mills*, Vol. 59, no. 4 35-003-XIB, \$10/\$93) 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 the dissemination officer (1-866-873 8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Total income of farm operators

2003

Data on total income of farm operators for 2003 are now available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3447.

For custom data requests, contact Client Services (1-800-465-1991; agriculture@statcan.ca). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lina Di Piéto (613-951-3171, fax: 613-951-3868; lina.dipietro@statcan.ca), or Sylvana Beaulieu (613-951-5268; sylvana.beaulieu@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Construction type plywood

April 2005

Data on construction type plywood for April 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

Analytical Studies Branch Series: The Deteriorating Economic Welfare of Immigrants and Possible Causes: Update 2005, no. 262
Catalogue number 11F0019MIE2005262
(free).

Cereals and Oilseeds Review, April 2005, Vol. 28, no. 4
Catalogue number 22-007-XIB (\$12/\$120).

Sawmills and Planing Mills, April 2005, Vol. 59, no. 4
Catalogue number 35-003-XIB (\$10/\$93).

The Supply and Disposition of Refined Petroleum Products in Canada, February 2005, Vol. 60, no. 2
Catalogue number 45-004-XIE (\$18/\$166).

Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics: Research Papers: Salaries and Salary Scales of Full-time Teaching Staff at Canadian Universities, 2003/04: Final Report, no. 31
Catalogue number 81-595-MIE2005031
(free).

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

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 23, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1990** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 201 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1990** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, Apr. 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11



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