



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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## Releases

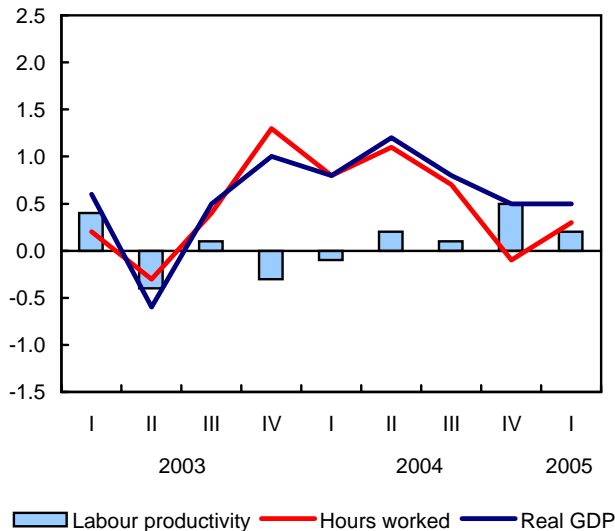
### Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost

First quarter 2005

Labour productivity in the Canadian business sector edged up 0.2% during the first three months of 2005 compared with the previous quarter, continuing its anaemic performance of the past two years.

#### Productivity growth comes down again

Quarterly % change



In the United States, productivity increased 0.6%, three times the rate of growth in Canada. This gap stems entirely from a more rapid economic growth in the United States.

Canada's marginal first quarter gain in productivity followed a 0.5% increase in the fourth quarter last year and a 0.1% advance in the third quarter. This anaemic productivity performance in Canada occurred in the context of a strong Canadian dollar.

Productivity rises when gross domestic product (GDP) increases at a faster pace than the number of hours worked. Ultimately, rising productivity enables Canadians to increase and maintain their standard of living.

Real GDP in the Canadian business sector rose 0.5% in the first three months of the year, the same

#### Note to readers

This release contains a brief analysis of detailed data on productivity growth and other related variables. A more thorough analysis, including additional charts and tables, is available in the Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review (13-010-XIE, free).

This electronic publication presents an analysis of labour productivity for the aggregate business sector and its constituent industries (15 two-digit) and two sectors (goods and services). With this release, the statistical series for total economy, business sector and non-commercial sector now start as of the first quarter of 1981, while those at industry level are made available only back to the first quarter of 1997.

The term "productivity" refers to labour productivity. Calculations of the productivity growth rate and its related variables are based on index numbers rounded to one decimal place.

For more information about the productivity program, see the Overview and description of publications page online. You can also order a copy of a technical note about the quarterly estimates of productivity by sending an email to [productivity.measures@statcan.ca](mailto:productivity.measures@statcan.ca).

#### Revisions

This release incorporates part of the revised historical data of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) published in February. An overview of revisions is available in the article Improvements in 2005 to the LFS (71F0031XIE2005002, free). This release also incorporates the 2001 to 2004 revisions to the National Economic and Financial Accounts that were released May 31 as well as a new methodology to benchmark the quarterly series to the annual. As a result of these revisions, the database on labour productivity and related variables was revised back to the first quarter of 1987. The impact of these revisions by industry and province will be included in the annual productivity accounts next fall.

In the United States, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has revised its historical data on hours worked, while their revisions to GDP data should be released in September.

rate of growth as in the previous quarter. This was due to the strength of domestic demand, which was partially offset by the considerable increase in imports and by a slowdown in the accumulation of inventories.

With a stronger Canadian dollar, Canadian businesses increased their purchases of machinery and equipment by 3.8% in the first quarter of 2005, which explain in part the 2.5% surge in imports.

South of the border, productivity among US businesses continued to rise more rapidly than that of their Canadian competitors, although the growth rate was significantly slower.

Productivity in the American business sector increased 0.6% in the first quarter, three times the

rate of growth in Canada. However, the American rate slipped from 1.0% in the fourth quarter of 2004.

### Canadian businesses continue to lag behind US counterparts

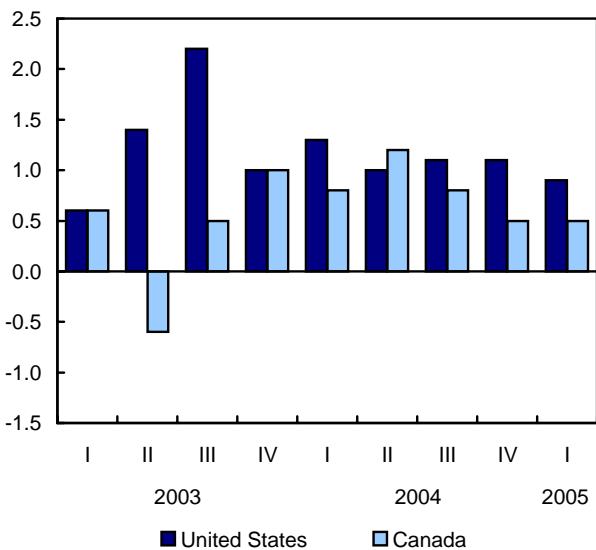
Canadian businesses continued to lag behind their American counterparts in terms of productivity growth. During the first three months of 2005, quarterly productivity in both countries slowed.

The first-quarter gap between the two nations stems entirely from the difference in the rate of growth in economic activity, given that the number of hours worked increased 0.3% on both sides of the border.

Growth in economic output in Canada's business sector has increased at a slower pace than in the US business sector for three consecutive quarters. In the first quarter, business sector GDP south of the border rose 0.9%, nearly double the rate of growth in Canada.

### Higher output growth of US businesses

Quarterly % change



Business sector output in Canada started to slow late in 2004 after posting quarterly increases of approximately 1.0% for about a year. South of the border, however, output in the American business sector prior to the first quarter this year had expanded by 1.0% or more for seven consecutive quarters.

Growth in economic activity in Canada in the first quarter of 2005 was largely attributable to healthy domestic demand, which was strongly supported by household consumption.

In the United States, consumers were primarily responsible for the first quarter growth in output.

Business investments in inventories, exports, residential investment and computer hardware and software were also factors.

The small rate of increase in hours worked posted in Canada during the last two quarters follows in the wake of a series of strong increases that started in the third quarter of 2003. In comparison, the growth in hours worked in the United States has kept essentially the same pace for the last seven quarters. On average, the number of hours worked increased during this period by 0.3% per quarter.

### Comparison of annual labour productivity growth in the business sector before and after revision

	Canada		United States <sup>1</sup>	
	Before revision	After revision	Before revision	After revision
	annual % change			
1981 to 2004	..	1.4	2.2	2.2
1981 to 2000	1.4	1.5	1.9	1.9
2000 to 2004	1.1	0.9	3.8	3.8
2000	3.6	3.4	2.9	2.8
2001	1.7	1.5	2.5	2.5
2002	2.5	2.1	4.3	4.3
2003	0.2	0.2	4.5	4.4
2004	0.0	0.0	4.0	3.9

.. not available for a specific reference period.

1. US data are from Bureau of Labor Statistics, Productivity and costs: First quarter 2005 published in NEWS, June 2.

### Competitive capacity among businesses crumbles with strong loonie

Without taking into account the effect of the exchange rate, the labour cost to produce a unit of GDP for Canadian businesses increased 0.9% on a year-over-year basis in the first quarter, somewhat less than during the fourth quarter of 2004.

In comparison, American businesses saw their unit labour costs increase for a third consecutive quarter. On a year-over-year basis, their unit labour cost increased by 4.1% in the first quarter of 2005 after increasing 3.0% in the fourth quarter of 2004.

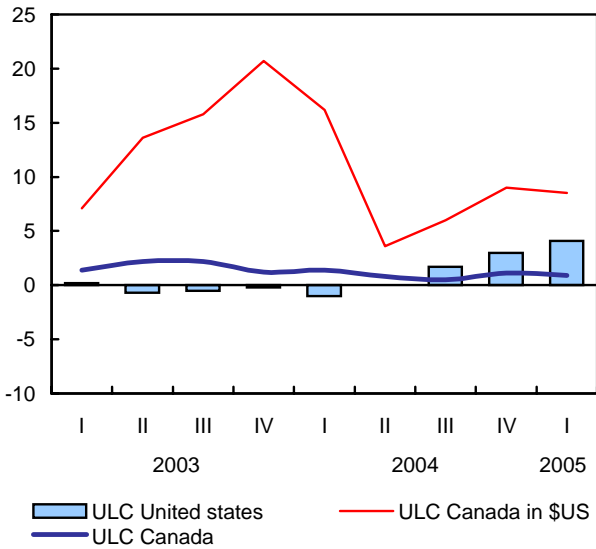
When the exchange rate is taken into account, the position turns in favour of American businesses.

In Canada's business sector, the lack of productivity gains during the first three months of 2005, combined with the strong Canadian dollar, resulted in an 8.5% rise in unit labour costs measured in US dollars. This compared to the 4.1% increase in unit labour costs in the United States.

Despite this decline in competitiveness from a cost standpoint, Canada's exports nonetheless rebounded 4.4% in the first quarter of 2005, after falling 3.0% in the previous quarter.

**Canadian unit labour costs in US \$ slows slightly**

Year-over-year %



Canadian businesses also increased their investment in machinery and equipment as the Canadian dollar strengthened. On an annual basis,

their purchases in this area climbed 11.2% in the first quarter of 2005, in line with the solid 10.7% increase in imports.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 383-0008 and 383-0012.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5042.**

A more comprehensive analysis, including additional charts and tables, is now available in the *Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review* (13-010-XIE, free). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *National accounts*.

The second quarter 2005 data for Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost will be released on September 9.

To order data, contact Client Services ([productivity.measures@statcan.ca](mailto:productivity.measures@statcan.ca)). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean-Pierre Maynard (613-951-3654; fax: 613-951-3292; [maynard@statcan.ca](mailto:maynard@statcan.ca)), Micro-Economic Analysis Division.

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**Business sector: Labour productivity and related variables for Canada and the United States**

	2003 Q1	2003 Q2	2003 Q3	2003 Q4	2004 Q1	2004 Q2	2004 Q3	2004 Q4	2005 Q1
% change from previous quarter, seasonally adjusted									
<b>Canada</b>									
Labour productivity	0.4	-0.4	0.1	-0.3	-0.1	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.2
Real GDP	0.6	-0.6	0.5	1.0	0.8	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.5
Hours worked	0.2	-0.3	0.4	1.3	0.8	1.1	0.7	-0.1	0.3
Hourly compensation	0.7	0.3	0.3	-0.3	0.4	0.0	0.2	1.3	0.5
Unit labour cost	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.5	-0.1	0.0	0.8	0.3
Exchange rate <sup>1</sup>	-3.9	-7.3	-1.3	-4.7	0.2	3.2	-3.9	-6.6	0.5
Unit labour cost in US\$	4.2	8.6	1.6	5.0	0.3	-3.2	4.1	7.9	-0.2
<b>United States<sup>2</sup></b>									
Labour productivity	0.8	2.1	1.9	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.4	1.0	0.6
Real GDP	0.6	1.4	2.2	1.0	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.9
Hours worked	-0.3	-0.6	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.7	0.2	0.3
Hourly compensation	1.4	1.6	1.3	0.9	0.7	1.4	1.4	2.7	1.5
Unit labour cost	0.5	-0.4	-0.6	0.3	-0.3	0.5	1.0	1.7	0.8
% change from the previous year									
<b>Canada</b>									
Labour productivity	3.4	1.5	2.1	0.2	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.7	1.0
Real GDP	6.1	1.6	3.2	1.6	3.1	3.5	3.9	3.4	3.0
Hours worked	2.5	0.1	1.1	1.5	3.0	3.7	4.0	2.6	2.0
Hourly compensation	5.3	3.5	1.8	1.9	0.9	0.5	0.3	1.9	2.0
Unit labour cost	1.9	2.0	-0.3	1.7	0.9	0.8	0.5	1.1	0.9
Exchange rate	0.0	4.3	1.3	-10.8	-7.1	-2.8	-5.3	-7.2	-6.9
Unit labour cost in US\$	1.8	-2.2	-1.6	14.1	8.6	3.5	6.0	9.0	8.5
<b>United States<sup>2</sup></b>									
Labour productivity	2.8	2.5	4.3	4.4	3.9	4.2	2.7	3.1	2.8
Real GDP	3.9	0.3	1.8	3.8	5.1	5.6	4.4	4.5	4.2
Hours worked	1.1	-2.2	-2.4	-0.5	1.2	1.3	1.7	1.3	1.3
Hourly compensation	7.0	4.2	3.1	4.0	4.9	4.2	4.4	6.3	7.1
Unit labour cost	4.0	1.6	-1.1	-0.3	1.0	0.0	1.7	3.0	4.1

1. The exchange rate corresponds to the US dollar value expressed in Canadian dollars.

2. US data are from Bureau of Labor Statistics, Productivity and costs: First quarter 2005 published in NEWS, June 2.

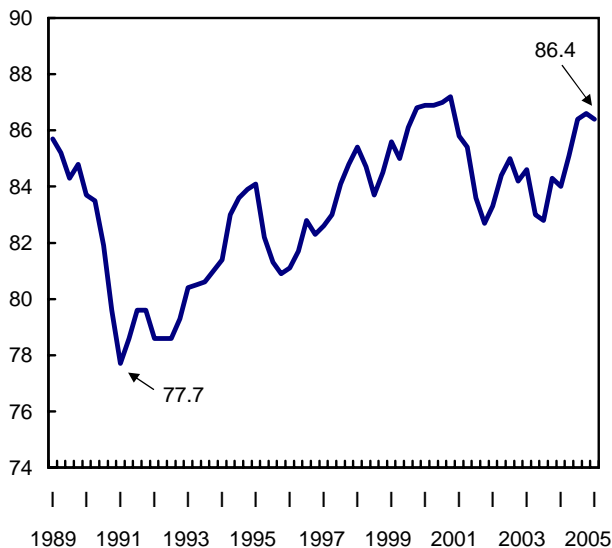
## Industrial capacity utilization rates

First quarter 2005

Capacity use among industries fell for the first time in a year during the first quarter of 2005, even though the rate hit a record high in the manufacturing sector. Industries operated at 86.4% of their capacity between January and March, down slightly from 86.6% in the fourth quarter of 2004. The decline put the current rate at 1.2 percentage points below the high of 87.6% in the first quarter of 1988. (Capacity utilization rates have been revised back to the first quarter of 2002 to include revisions in source data.)

### Capacity use edges down

% (rate of capacity use)



Capacity use hit a record level in manufacturing because of an increase in demand for durable goods. But it fell significantly in the forestry and logging sector, and in the mining and oil and gas sectors, as well as dipping slightly in the electrical power and construction sectors.

Despite growth in consumer spending and the increase in exports between January and March, manufacturers continued to accumulate inventories at a similar pace to the previous quarter. The Business Conditions Survey for April 2005 indicated that

#### Note to readers

An industry's capacity use is the ratio of its actual output to its estimated potential output. Statistics Canada derives estimates of an industry's potential output from measures of the industries capital stock. The conventional definition of capital for the oil and gas industry includes geological and geophysical expenditures as well as exploration drilling expenditures, i.e. outlays for assets that do not necessarily immediately add to the industry's productive capacity (potential output).

These expenditures have grown significantly, increasing the estimates of potential output but with little or no increase in actual output thereby leading to lower levels of capacity use for this industry. In order to better reflect capacity use, we have now excluded these expenditures from the industry's capital stock measures, and delayed the inclusion of offshore development drilling expenditures by an average of two years in order to capture the new production capacity closer to when new production actually occurs.

The resulting estimates of capacity use for the oil and gas industry are now based on a definition of potential output that is more consistent with what is used for the other industries of the industrial sector.

manufacturers expected to maintain the same level of output during the next three months.

Corporate profits continued to grow, hitting a record high in the first quarter and resulting in a substantial increase in investment in plant and equipment. This will add to production capacity.

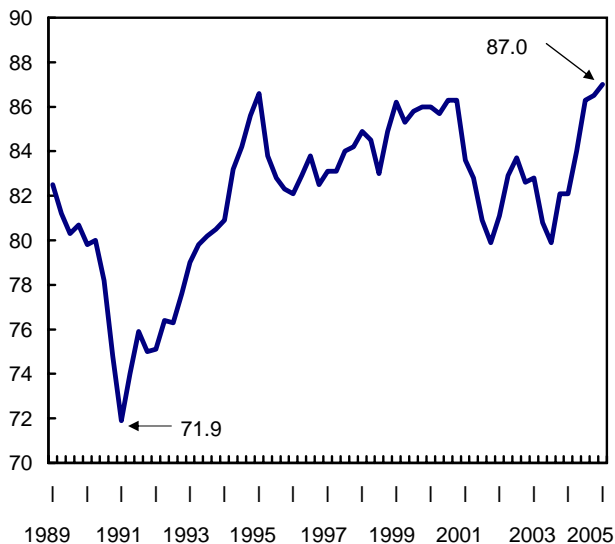
The rate of inflation remained relatively stable during the first quarter. The Consumer Price Index, excluding the eight volatiles components identified by the Bank of Canada, increased 1.7% between April 2004 and April 2005.

### Durable goods push manufacturing sector to record level

Manufacturers operated at a record 87.0% of capacity in the first quarter of 2005, up from 86.5% in the previous quarter. This situation can be attributed to the vast majority of industries producing durable goods, since most manufacturers of non-durable goods made less use of their production capacity in the first quarter. Rates increased significantly among manufacturers of computer and electronic products, machinery, fabricated metal products and non-metallic mineral products. The gains were only partially offset by lower rates in manufacturers of wood products, paper, transportation equipment and chemicals.

**Manufacturing reaches a peak**

% (rate of capacity use)



In the computer and electronics manufacturing industry, capacity use jumped from 85.2% to 91.6%, its highest rate since the fourth quarter of 2000 when it hit 94.5%. Increases in production for most of the main components of this group, particularly producers of computer hardware and peripherals, accounted for the robust 6.5% growth in the industry's output in the first quarter of 2005.

Machinery manufacturers increased their capacity use from 88.0% to 91.5%. Partly to meet foreign demand, the industry increased its production 3.2% in the first quarter. Manufacturers of construction machinery and machinery for mining and oil extraction were largely responsible for the good results posted by the industry.

Fabricated metal product manufacturers operated at 87.4% capacity during the first quarter, up from 85.2% in the previous three months, the fourth consecutive quarterly increase. A 1.7% increase in production accounted for the gain.

In the non-metallic mineral product manufacturing industry, capacity use hit an all-time high of 92.5%, up from 89.0%. Glass and glass product manufacturers and cement and concrete product manufacturers, which supply the construction market, were largely responsible for a 3.8% increase in output for this industry.

After five consecutive quarterly increases, manufacturers of wood products saw capacity use decline from 96.7% to 93.6%. All the main components of this group, particularly sawmills, reduced their output during the first quarter of 2005.

In the paper manufacturing industry, production fell 2.5% in the first quarter. Consequently, the capacity use fell 2.2 percentage points to 90.6%.

Transportation equipment manufacturers used 88.8% of their production capacity, down from 89.2%. A big decline in the production of vehicles and automotive parts in March was largely responsible for the 0.7% drop in this industry's output during the first quarter.

Chemical manufacturers reduced capacity use from 86.0% to 85.7% as varied results for the components of this industry led to a 0.1% drop in output.

**Widespread declines in other sectors**

After posting good results throughout 2004, capacity use in the forestry and logging sector tumbled from 97.3% to 92.7%. This was the largest decline since the third quarter of 2003 when the rate slipped 7.7 percentage points to 82.9%. Output in this sector dropped 4.7% in the first quarter.

In the oil and gas extraction sector, the rate was 80.4%, down 1.8 percentage points from the previous quarter. Despite high crude oil prices on international markets, labour shortage and maintenance problems in oil sands processing accounted for a 2.4% drop in this sector's output.

Rates in the mining sector fell from 95.2% to 91.5%. Reduced production in metal mines and in extraction support services was largely responsible for a 3.6% drop in output.

In the construction sector, investment in non-residential construction was responsible for a 0.5% increase in output, which was more than offset by the increase in production capacity. Consequently, the capacity utilization rate for this sector dipped 0.5 percentage points to 84.4%.

In the electrical power sector, the relatively mild weather in January and February reduced power demand. The sector's capacity use fell from 88.0% to 87.6%.

**Available on CANSIM: table 028-0002.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2821.**

Data on industrial capacity utilization rates for the second quarter of 2005 will be released on September 12.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality, contact Richard Landry (613-951-2579) or Mychèle Gagnon (613-951-0994), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

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**Industrial capacity utilization rates**

	First quarter 2004 <sup>r</sup>	Fourth quarter 2004 <sup>r</sup>	First quarter 2005	First quarter 2004 to first quarter 2005	Fourth quarter 2004 to first quarter 2005
	percentage point change				
<b>Total industrial</b>	84.0	86.6	86.4	2.4	-0.2
Forestry and logging	89.3	97.3	92.7	3.4	-4.6
Mining and oil and gas extraction	87.1	87.2	84.7	-2.4	-2.5
Oil and gas extraction <sup>1</sup>	85.0	82.2	80.4	-4.6	-1.8
Mining	90.4	95.2	91.5	1.1	-3.7
Electric power generation, transmission and distribution	84.3	88.0	87.6	3.3	-0.4
Construction	87.8	84.9	84.4	-3.4	-0.5
Manufacturing	82.1	86.5	87.0	4.9	0.5
Food	81.5	83.8	83.7	2.2	-0.1
Beverage and tobacco products	73.0	75.0	75.7	2.7	0.7
Beverage	75.6	77.9	78.3	2.7	0.4
Tobacco	64.3	65.6	67.2	2.9	1.6
Textile mills	73.0	76.8	77.1	4.1	0.3
Textile product mills	77.3	85.4	83.6	6.3	-1.8
Clothing	77.0	75.9	75.2	-1.8	-0.7
Leather and allied products	69.2	73.1	69.4	0.2	-3.7
Wood products	87.1	96.7	93.6	6.5	-3.1
Paper	89.3	92.8	90.6	1.3	-2.2
Printing and related support activities	73.1	76.8	75.9	2.8	-0.9
Petroleum and coal products	95.3	89.7	88.2	-7.1	-1.5
Chemical	81.7	86.0	85.7	4.0	-0.3
Plastics and rubber products	89.1	90.3	91.2	2.1	0.9
Plastic products	89.5	90.2	90.9	1.4	0.7
Rubber products	87.5	91.0	92.3	4.8	1.3
Non-metallic mineral products	84.4	89.0	92.5	8.1	3.5
Primary metal	91.6	86.5	86.1	-5.5	-0.4
Fabricated metal products	72.6	85.2	87.4	14.8	2.2
Machinery	78.9	88.0	91.5	12.6	3.5
Computer and electronic products	79.4	85.2	91.6	12.2	6.4
Electrical equipment, appliance and component	76.5	78.3	80.3	3.8	2.0
Transportation equipment	83.7	89.2	88.8	5.1	-0.4
Furniture and related products	79.9	84.9	85.8	5.9	0.9
Miscellaneous manufacturing	85.5	79.7	83.1	-2.4	3.4

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

1. Revised back to 1987. Please see Note to readers.





## New Housing Price Index

April 2005

New housing prices increased 0.6% in April, the largest monthly gain since June 2004. However the 12-month rate of increase of 4.9% was the lowest since February 2004.

Stronger market conditions, combined with increased costs for building materials and labour led to higher prices for new homes. Land value increases were a factor in 6 of the 21 metropolitan areas surveyed.

The New Housing Price Index (1997=100) rose to 127.7 in April.

Overall, 11 metropolitan areas posted monthly increases, led by Vancouver (+1.7%) and London (+1.5%). Higher land values coupled with a strong demand for new housing contributed to the overall increase in Vancouver while material and labour were the main contributing factors in London.

Other significant increases were observed in Hamilton (+0.8%), Calgary (+0.7%), Toronto and Oshawa, Quebec and Charlottetown (+0.5%).

### New housing price indexes (1997=100)

	April 2005	April 2004 to April 2005 % change	March to April 2005
<b>Canada total</b>	<b>127.7</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>0.6</b>
House only	136.1	5.2	0.4
Land only	111.5	4.2	0.5
St. John's	123.7	6.6	-0.2
Halifax	121.8	0.6	0.0
Charlottetown	112.8	3.9	0.5
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton	108.9	4.8	0.0
Québec	133.2	3.7	0.5
Montréal	141.1	5.7	0.2
Ottawa-Gatineau	152.3	4.4	-0.1
Toronto and Oshawa	130.9	4.8	0.5
Hamilton	133.6	7.1	0.8
St. Catharines-Niagara	136.2	8.1	0.2
Kitchener	129.9	4.8	0.0
London	125.9	5.1	1.5
Windsor	105.0	2.8	-0.1
Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury and Thunder Bay	98.8	1.3	0.0
Winnipeg	128.5	8.4	0.0
Regina	140.9	6.9	0.2
Saskatoon	126.2	7.6	0.0
Calgary	142.7	4.1	0.7
Edmonton	134.2	5.1	0.1
Vancouver	104.5	4.4	1.7
Victoria	109.8	5.9	-0.1

**Note:** View the census subdivisions that comprise the metropolitan areas online.

Monthly increases were also noted in Montréal, St-Catharines-Niagara, Regina and Edmonton.

Six metropolitan areas registered no monthly change while Ottawa-Gatineau, Windsor, Victoria (-0.1%) and St. John's (-0.2%) were down slightly.

**Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.**

The first quarter 2005 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$26/\$85) will be available in July.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact our Client Services Section (613-951-9606, fax: 613-951-1539; [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)) or Randy Sterns (613-951-8183; [sterran@statcan.ca](mailto:sterran@statcan.ca)), Prices Division. ■

## Aircraft movement statistics: Small airports

January 2005

The January 2005 monthly report, Vol. 2 (TP141, free) is available on Transport Canada's Web site at the following URL (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/Report/tp141e/tp141.htm>).

**Note:** The TP 141 monthly report is issued in two volumes. Volume 1 presents statistics for the major Canadian airports (i.e., those with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers or flight service stations). Volume 2 presents statistics for the smaller airports (i.e., those without air traffic control towers). Both volumes are available free upon release at Transport Canada's Web site.

For more information about this Web site, contact Michel Villeneuve (613-990-3825; [villenm@tc.gc.ca](mailto:villenm@tc.gc.ca)), Transport Canada.

**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](mailto:aviationstatistics@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

## Refined petroleum products

January 2005

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

**Available on CANSIM: tables 134-0001 and 134-0004.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.**

The January 2005 issue of *The Supply and Disposition of Refined Petroleum Products in Canada*, Vol. 60, no. 1 (45-004-XIE, \$18/\$166) is now available. See *How to order products*. This publication was formerly titled *Refined Petroleum 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](mailto:energ@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## Salary and salary scales of full-time teaching staff at Canadian universities

2004/05 (preliminary)

Data on the salaries of full-time teaching staff at 30 Canadian universities, along with information on the salary scales for selected institutions for the 2004/05 academic year are now available. The institutions that have been included are those that have completed the survey by the end of April 2004 and have more than 100 staff. This information is collected annually in the University and College Academic Staff System.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3101.**

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. ■

## New products

**The Supply and Disposition of Refined Petroleum Products in Canada, January 2005, Vol. 60, no. 1**  
 Catalogue number **45-004-XIE** (\$18/\$166).

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

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