



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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## Releases

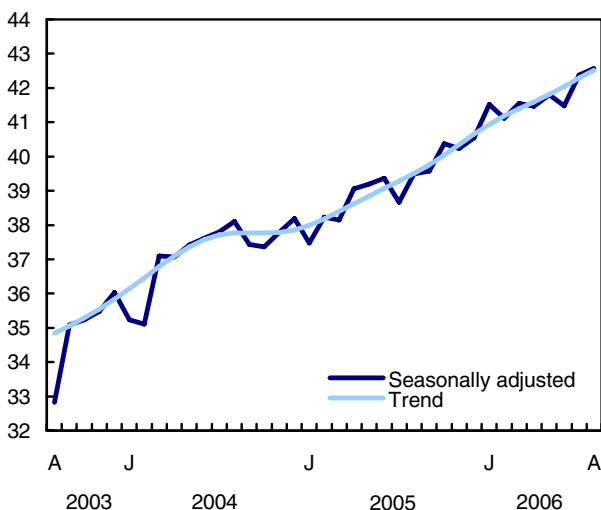
### Wholesale trade

August 2006

A pullback in the automotive sector was not enough to dampen wholesale sales in August, as wide ranging gains in other sectors led the wholesale industry to its third increase in four months.

#### A pullback in the automotive sector fails to dampen wholesale sales

\$ billions



Wholesale sales rose 0.5% to \$42.6 billion in August, following a 2.2% rise in July. The increase came despite a large drop (-7.4%) in automotive product sales, which returned to more normal levels after posting very strong growth in July. This sector accounts for approximately one-fifth of all wholesale sales, so any significant drop will normally be reflected in the overall wholesale number.

Outside of the automotive sector, sales advanced at a robust 2.6% clip in August, with all six of the remaining wholesale sectors registering gains. Wholesalers of "other products" (mainly agricultural products, chemicals and recycled metals), personal and household goods, and food, beverages and tobacco products were among the most notable gainers.

The sales trend for wholesale has generally been rising since September 2003, in line with the growth in the Canadian economy. As key intermediaries in the economy, wholesalers have been able to benefit from

both the surge in business investment as well as strong consumer demand during this period.

Sales in constant dollars, which exclude the effects of price fluctuations, increased by 2.0% in August.

#### Automotive sales fall after a strong July

The decline in the automotive sector was the result of a large drop in the sale of motor vehicles (-9.3%). This drop in sales came after a large increase in July (+10.9%) and was therefore not entirely unexpected. Many of the motor vehicle sales made to dealers in July ended up being sold to consumers in August. According to the latest New Motor Vehicle Sales Survey, motor vehicle sales in August were the second highest on record, as consumers took advantage of dealer incentives.

Nevertheless, wholesalers of motor vehicles could be facing a difficult period over the coming months, as weakening US housing sales erode consumer confidence south of the border. The US is a key market for Canadian auto wholesalers.

#### Higher sales of agricultural inputs boost "other products" sector

A substantial increase in the sale of agricultural inputs propelled the "other products" sector to its strongest monthly increase since April 2005. Sales advanced 5.5% to \$5.1 billion in August after rising 2.2% in July.

The rise in agricultural input sales was mostly related to the fertilizer industry, where the implementation of a new pricing agreement encouraged buyers to return to the market after several months on the sidelines. Delays in reaching a new agreement have had a significant impact on sales in recent months, as well as forcing some Canadian fertilizer manufacturers to shut down their plants for longer periods than usual during the second quarter of the year. Much of the fertilizer produced in Canada is exported to China and Brazil, and with the new agreement in place, exports of fertilizer surged 39.7% in August.

#### Sales of personal and household goods back on track

The personal and household goods sector regained some momentum in August, as sales in this sector rose 3.5% after falling 2.7% in July. While higher sales of household goods (+7.1%) accounted for most of the

increase, wholesalers of pharmaceuticals also had a good month (+2.5%).

Sales of household goods have generally been rising since September 2003, as an increasingly favorable job market and strong housing sales continue to spur demand for consumer related items. Despite a recent slowdown, housing starts for the first eight months of the year remain ahead of last year's level and housing prices, particularly in Western Canada, remain robust.

The only decline in the personal and household goods sector came in the apparel trade group, where sales fell 4.8% after rising 1.6% in July. While August is normally a very strong month for clothing and footwear wholesalers (this is the time when retailers are gearing up for the traditional "back to school" shopping period), some wholesalers have indicated that retailers may have been ordering their products earlier than usual this year as consumers spread their purchases over a longer period.

#### **Rise in alcohol and tobacco sales helps to boost food sector**

A large increase in alcohol and tobacco sales helped to lift overall sales in the food, beverages and tobacco sector by 2.5% in August.

Wholesalers of alcohol and tobacco products boosted their sales by 9.4% in August. Much of this increase was attributable to higher demand by liquor retailers in Alberta, where sales are being driven by a combination of healthy wage growth and an influx of workers from other parts of the country. With liquor sales in the province rising faster than anticipated, some liquor retailers have reported shipment delays as wholesalers struggle to keep up with demand.

Sales of food products rose 1.9% in August, after a 0.8% rise in July. After slowing in the second half of 2004, sales in this sector have generally been rising.

#### **Saskatchewan and British Columbia lead the way**

August was another good month for wholesalers in Saskatchewan, as sales increased by 11.7% following a 6.2% gain in July. Higher sales of agricultural inputs were behind most of the August increase, which was the largest since February 2005. Products related to the agricultural industry account for roughly half of all wholesale sales in Saskatchewan.

In British Columbia, wholesale sales increased by 5.9% in August. Higher sales of "other products," as well as machinery and equipment were behind most

of the rise. After posting strong gains throughout most of 2005, sales in this province have experienced a bit of a lull since the start of the year, owing in large part to the ongoing slump in the lumber industry.

Only two provinces recorded drops in August: Ontario (-1.7%), which was hit by the decline in motor vehicle sales, and Nova Scotia (-0.3%).

#### **Inventories up for third month running**

Wholesalers added to their inventories for the third consecutive month in August, as levels increased by 1.2% to \$52.9 billion. The rise was widespread, with 13 out of 15 trade groups reporting higher inventories.

One of the largest increases came in the metals trade group (+4.2%), where inventory levels rose for the seventh consecutive month. Inventory levels in this trade group have risen around 30% since the start of the year and are indicative of a broader phenomenon taking place throughout North America. According to the Chicago-based Metal Service Center Institute, US metal service centre inventories hit their highest level in August since January 2005. Higher than anticipated import levels, as well as generalized weakness in the manufacturing sector, explain in part the high inventory levels in this industry.

With sales growth failing to keep pace with the rise in inventories, the overall wholesale inventory-to-sales ratio edged up from 1.23 in July to 1.24 in August. The ratio is a measure of the amount of time (in months) that it would take to exhaust inventories at the current rate of sales. The ratio has remained relatively stable since October 2003.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 081-0007 and 081-0010.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.**

The August 2006 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008-XIE, free) will soon be available.

Wholesale trade estimates for September will be released November 20.

For data or general information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; [wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca](mailto:wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marc Atkins (613-951-0291; [marc.atkins@statcan.ca](mailto:marc.atkins@statcan.ca)), Distributive Trades Division.

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**Wholesale merchants' inventories and inventory-to-sales ratio**

	August 2005	May 2006 <sup>f</sup>	June 2006 <sup>f</sup>	July 2006 <sup>f</sup>	August 2006 <sup>p</sup>	July to August 2006	August 2005 to August 2006	July 2006 <sup>f</sup>	August 2006 <sup>p</sup>
	Wholesale inventories					Inventory-to-sales ratio			
	Seasonally adjusted								
	\$ millions					% change			
<b>Inventories</b>	<b>47,601</b>	<b>50,875</b>	<b>51,318</b>	<b>52,226</b>	<b>52,870</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>1.23</b>	<b>1.24</b>
Farm products	174	167	187	194	206	6.5	18.5	0.47	0.45
Food products	4,353	4,303	4,356	4,337	4,407	1.6	1.2	0.62	0.62
Alcohol and tobacco	268	283	286	294	297	1.0	10.7	0.47	0.43
Apparel	1,607	1,623	1,648	1,640	1,662	1.3	3.4	2.16	2.30
Household and personal products	3,440	3,964	3,927	3,958	3,893	-1.7	13.2	1.58	1.45
Pharmaceuticals	2,971	3,118	3,068	3,182	3,114	-2.1	4.8	1.21	1.15
Motor vehicles	4,246	4,854	4,727	4,724	4,854	2.8	14.3	0.64	0.72
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,244	3,166	3,198	3,310	3,360	1.5	3.6	2.10	2.10
Building supplies	4,960	5,501	5,509	5,583	5,631	0.9	13.5	1.61	1.59
Metal products	2,329	2,678	2,782	2,900	3,022	4.2	29.8	2.26	2.39
Lumber and millwork	1,082	1,057	1,058	1,044	1,034	-0.9	-4.4	1.09	1.08
Machinery and equipment	8,942	10,279	10,701	10,839	11,047	1.9	23.5	2.59	2.62
Computer and other electronic equipment	1,575	1,566	1,581	1,596	1,613	1.1	2.5	0.59	0.59
Office and professional equipment	2,442	2,480	2,519	2,619	2,650	1.2	8.5	1.29	1.27
Other products	5,969	5,837	5,773	6,007	6,079	1.2	1.8	1.24	1.19

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

**Wholesale merchants' sales**

	August 2005	May 2006 <sup>r</sup>	June 2006 <sup>r</sup>	July 2006 <sup>r</sup>	August 2006 <sup>p</sup>	July to August 2006	August 2005 to August 2006
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
<b>Total, wholesale sales</b>	<b>39,487</b>	<b>41,807</b>	<b>41,484</b>	<b>42,381</b>	<b>42,572</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>7.8</b>
<b>Farm products</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>-3.4</b>
<b>Food, beverages and tobacco products</b>	<b>7,244</b>	<b>7,589</b>	<b>7,536</b>	<b>7,589</b>	<b>7,780</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>7.4</b>
Food products	6,614	6,930	6,902	6,959	7,091	1.9	7.2
Alcohol and tobacco	630	659	634	630	689	9.4	9.3
<b>Personal and household goods</b>	<b>5,696</b>	<b>6,013</b>	<b>6,065</b>	<b>5,901</b>	<b>6,111</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>7.3</b>
Apparel	796	771	748	760	724	-4.8	-9.0
Household and personal products	2,372	2,604	2,662	2,501	2,680	7.1	13.0
Pharmaceuticals	2,529	2,638	2,656	2,641	2,708	2.5	7.1
<b>Automotive products</b>	<b>8,027</b>	<b>8,373</b>	<b>8,177</b>	<b>8,977</b>	<b>8,315</b>	<b>-7.4</b>	<b>3.6</b>
Motor vehicles	6,468	6,813	6,675	7,403	6,717	-9.3	3.9
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	1,559	1,560	1,502	1,574	1,597	1.5	2.5
<b>Building materials</b>	<b>5,329</b>	<b>5,895</b>	<b>5,889</b>	<b>5,717</b>	<b>5,764</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>8.2</b>
Building supplies	3,279	3,546	3,535	3,478	3,543	1.9	8.0
Metal products	1,081	1,283	1,323	1,284	1,262	-1.7	16.7
Lumber and millwork	968	1,067	1,030	955	959	0.4	-1.0
<b>Machinery and electronic equipment</b>	<b>8,020</b>	<b>8,679</b>	<b>8,668</b>	<b>8,939</b>	<b>9,026</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>12.6</b>
Machinery and equipment	3,735	4,103	4,131	4,189	4,223	0.8	13.1
Computer and other electronic equipment	2,446	2,614	2,610	2,724	2,720	-0.1	11.2
Office and professional equipment	1,839	1,962	1,927	2,027	2,083	2.8	13.3
<b>Other products</b>	<b>4,691</b>	<b>4,884</b>	<b>4,744</b>	<b>4,848</b>	<b>5,114</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>9.0</b>
<b>Total: Excluding automobiles</b>	<b>31,460</b>	<b>33,434</b>	<b>33,306</b>	<b>33,405</b>	<b>34,258</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>8.9</b>
<b>Sales, province and territory</b>							
Newfoundland and Labrador	213	228	226	225	234	3.7	10.0
Prince Edward Island	45	42	34	32	33	3.3	-27.7
Nova Scotia	537	543	526	552	550	-0.3	2.6
New Brunswick	393	406	401	404	408	0.9	3.8
Quebec	7,541	7,770	7,882	7,843	7,940	1.2	5.3
Ontario	19,998	21,394	21,039	21,859	21,486	-1.7	7.4
Manitoba	1,075	1,005	976	965	986	2.2	-8.3
Saskatchewan	1,071	1,109	1,037	1,101	1,229	11.7	14.8
Alberta	4,558	5,106	5,179	5,179	5,231	1.0	14.8
British Columbia	4,031	4,176	4,156	4,194	4,440	5.9	10.1
Yukon	7	8	9	10	11	6.8	53.2
Northwest Territories	17	18	18	16	22	31.2	29.1
Nunavut	2	2	2	2	3	29.1	57.4

<sup>r</sup> revised

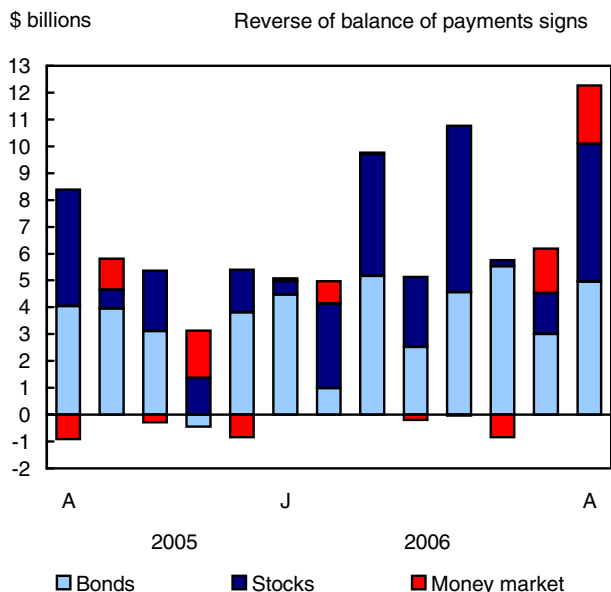
<sup>p</sup> preliminary

## Canada's international transactions in securities

August 2006

Canadians have been investing heavily in foreign securities since February 2005, buying another \$12.3 billion in August — the second highest level on record. This drove the total purchases over the first eight months of 2006 to \$58.8 billion, close to the record annual purchase of \$63.9 billion in 2000. Investment in foreign bonds accounted for over half of the year-to-date purchases, compared to only 6% in 2000.

### Canadian portfolio investment in foreign securities



Acquisitions of Canadian securities by non-residents, on the other hand, cooled down significantly to \$335 million in August. This was a significant pull-back from months of strong purchases earlier in 2006. Investments were reduced to moderate levels for both debt instruments and equities.

### Strong purchases of foreign bonds continue

Canadian investors extended the trend of heavy acquisitions of foreign bonds in August. The \$4.9 billion of purchases over the month pushed the total amount so far in 2006 to \$31.2 billion, surpassing the record annual purchase of \$27.6 billion in 2005.

Over half of August's investment went to buy US government bonds and another one-third was

### Related market information

In August, there was little change in Canadian and American short-term **interest rates**. The resulting differential between the two countries dropped a marginal 3 basis points to 0.83%. Continuing to favour investment in the United States, the differential is at its lowest point since January 1998.

Meanwhile, Canadian long-term interest rates decreased 26 basis points to 4.12% while US rates dropped a similar 28 basis points to 4.76%. The resulting differential of 0.64% was similar to that of July.

August's decline in long-term rates also caused them to fall below short-term rates, a rarity and last seen in 2000.

Both Canadian and American **stock prices** increased for the second straight month in August. The S&P/TSX Composite index ended the month at 12,073.75 while the Standard and Poor's Composite index closed the month at 1,303.82. Both price indices increased 2.1% over the previous month.

The **Canadian dollar** climbed 1.05 US cents to close the month of August at 89.42 US cents.

### Definitions

The data series on international security transactions cover portfolio transactions in stocks, bonds and money market instruments for both Canadian and foreign issues.

**Stocks** include common and preferred equities, as well as warrants.

**Debt securities** include bonds and money market instruments.

**Bonds** have an original term to maturity of more than one year.

**Money market instruments** have an original term to maturity of one year or less.

channelled to acquire non-US bonds. The majority of these foreign bonds, \$4.5 billion worth, were acquired from investors in the United States and the United Kingdom.

### Record high investment in foreign money market paper

In August, Canadian investors acquired a record \$2.2 billion of foreign money market paper, after adding \$1.7 billion in July. August's investment was concentrated in non-US paper, totalling \$2.1 billion. Canadians bought foreign paper from January to March, purchasing \$1.0 billion worth over the quarter, but were sellers from April to June, divesting \$1.1 billion.

### Substantial foreign shares added to Canadian investment portfolio

Canadian investors posted the 19th straight month of foreign equity purchases in August. They acquired \$5.1 billion worth over the month, up

from the previous two months. The purchases totalled \$23.9 billion over the first eight months of 2006, exceeding the annual buying of any of the previous four years.

While a sizable \$1.9 billion was invested in US stocks, nearly double the amount went to acquire overseas shares in August. August's heavy purchases were driven by investment by Canadian pension funds.

### Non-residents sell Canadian bonds but buy Canadian money market paper

Non-resident investors decreased their holdings of Canadian bonds by \$788 million in August, after adding \$4.0 billion the month before. Two-thirds of the sell-offs were in outstanding Canadian bonds. In August, Canadian long-term rates not only lagged behind US rates, but also dropped below Canadian short-term rates.

August's dispositions were concentrated in federal government bonds, slashing \$3.0 billion of foreign holdings. This more than offset a \$1.9 billion foreign acquisition of federal enterprise bonds and corporate bonds.

Geographically, American investors alone sold \$2.2 billion worth of Canadian bonds in August, after acquiring \$8.0 billion in July. Moreover, British investors switched their investment from a \$4.9 billion acquisition in July to a \$1.9 billion sell-off in August.

On a currency basis, foreign sales of Canadian bonds were equally split between Canadian-dollar denominated (\$712 million) and US-dollar denominated (\$727 million), while non-residents bought \$650 million worth of bonds denominated in other foreign currencies.

After a big swing from purchases to sales over the previous two months, foreign investors bought a moderate \$915 million worth of Canadian money market paper in August. Over three-quarters of the acquisition went to paper issued by corporations. On a regional basis, while investors from the European Union countries sold off \$150 million worth of their holdings, investors from other countries added \$1.1 billion into their investment portfolios.

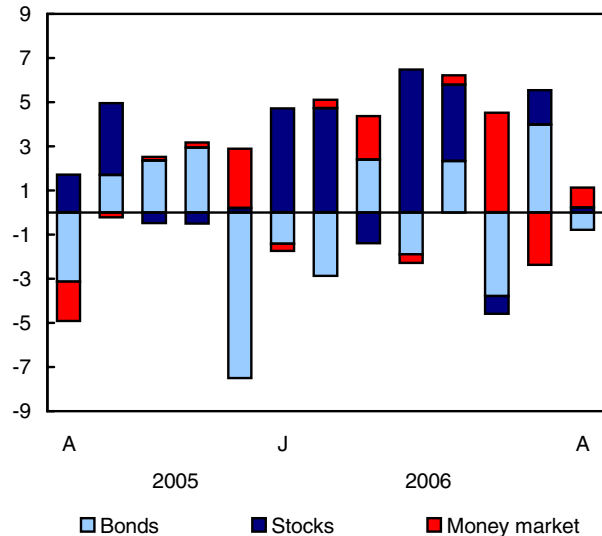
### Investment in Canadian stocks slows down

After two consecutive quarters of strong purchases in 2006, non-residents slowed down their acquisition of Canadian shares. They bought \$209 million worth in August, despite a rising S&P/TSX Composite index.

The slowdown was widespread across regions. American investors purchased \$1.0 billion in August, down from \$1.6 billion in July. British investors bought a nominal \$172 million over the month, compared to \$1.0 billion in July. August's acquisitions of Canadian equities were entirely in outstanding shares.

### Foreign portfolio investment in Canadian securities

\$ billions



Available on CANSIM: tables 376-0018 to 376-0029, 376-0042, 376-0058 and 376-0063.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1535.

The August 2006 issue of *Canada's International Transactions in Securities* (67-002-XIE, free) will soon be available.

Data on Canada's international transactions in securities for September will be released on November 16.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-1855; [infobalance@statcan.ca](mailto:infobalance@statcan.ca).) To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Yiling Zhang (613-951-1864), Balance of Payments Division.

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**Canada's international transactions in securities**

	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	August 2006	January to August 2005	January to August 2006
\$ millions						
<b>Foreign investment in Canadian securities</b>	<b>6,210</b>	<b>-76</b>	<b>3,145</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>3,671</b>	<b>21,925</b>
Bonds (net)	2,328	-3,772	3,986	-788	-668	-2,033
Outstanding	2,622	-1,345	884	-1,040	-2,928	1,857
New issues	1,692	3,886	4,243	1,463	21,672	21,010
Retirements	-2,330	-4,704	-1,432	-2,001	-20,558	-25,179
Change in interest payable <sup>1</sup>	344	-1,610	291	789	1,145	279
Money market paper (net)	438	4,531	-2,400	915	-2,340	5,078
Government of Canada	-449	3,419	-1,362	656	-637	3,904
Other	887	1,112	-1,038	259	-1,703	1,174
Stocks (net)	3,445	-835	1,559	209	6,679	18,880
Outstanding	2,722	-1,097	1,611	429	3,538	20,500
Other transactions	723	262	-52	-221	3,141	-1,620
<b>Canadian investment in foreign securities</b>	<b>-10,710</b>	<b>-4,902</b>	<b>-6,191</b>	<b>-12,264</b>	<b>-33,534</b>	<b>-58,800</b>
Bonds (net)	-4,554	-5,524	-3,001	-4,947	-17,172	-31,165
Stocks (net)	-6,204	-242	-1,525	-5,145	-16,062	-23,923
Money market paper (net)	47	864	-1,664	-2,172	-300	-3,712

1. Interest accrued less interest paid.

**Note:** A minus sign indicates an outflow of money from Canada, that is, a withdrawal of foreign investment from Canada or an increase in Canadian investment abroad.





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## Current economic conditions

The record rise of the loonie, which went up from 63 US cents to 90 US cents in the last four years, has stopped in recent months. The exchange rate has been little changed for five straight months.

The levelling off of the Canadian dollar was accompanied by stable interest rates and, more recently, by a drop in commodity prices. Energy and metals drove the decline in commodities, which led the stock market lower in September after a rally over the summer.

So far this year, demand and output has been little affected by these changes. Domestic spending continued to be the main source of growth, notably business investment and auto sales, as housing slowed.

Economic conditions in most of the regions followed the national trend over the summer. Retail sales in July rebounded across the country, while housing starts in August fell everywhere except in Quebec.

Newfoundland and Labrador's unemployment rate in September nearly matched its 18-year low of 14% set last summer, the result of modest job gains and a shrinking labour force. In the past year, Newfoundland and Labrador was the first province in the history of the country to record more deaths than births.

Newfoundland and Labrador's population also declined because of interprovincial out-migration. In the last four quarters, 14,912 people have left the province. Nearly half of these migrants went to Alberta, which surpassed Ontario as the preferred destination of interprovincial migrants early in 2005. In the last year, 7,000 people left Newfoundland and Labrador for Alberta, equal to 1.4% of Newfoundland and Labrador's population.

Alberta remained a magnet for migrants from every province. Nearly 27,000 people moved there in the second quarter, matching its average for the past year, up from an average of 20,000 the year before and nearly double the number in 2003.

The boom in Alberta lifted nominal gross domestic product (GDP) on the Prairies to \$300 billion last year, surpassing Quebec for the first time since 1981. As recently as 1999, GDP in Quebec was \$30 billion larger than the Prairies. Alberta accounts for 72% of GDP on the Prairies.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1301, 1901, 2152, 2306, 2406 and 3701.**

The print version of the October 2006 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 19, no. 10 (11-010-XPB, \$25/\$243) is now available. See *How to order products*. This issue summarizes the major economic events that occurred in September and

presents an article "National and regional trends in business bankruptcies, 1980-2005."

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](mailto:ceo@statcan.ca)), Current Economic Analysis Group. ■

## Travel between Canada and other countries

August 2006

The number of Americans travelling to Canada on same-day car trips continued to plummet in August, setting another record low.

An estimated 1.1 million US residents took same-day car trips to Canada in August, down 2.0% from the previous month and the fourth consecutive month that a record low was established. (Unless otherwise specified, monthly data are seasonally adjusted.)

The decrease in same-day car trips resulted in an overall decline in travel from the United States. Overnight car trips, however, rose 0.9% and overnight travel by plane jumped 2.4%. Overall, total overnight travel to Canada rose 0.7% to 1.1 million trips in August.

The number of Canadian residents taking same-day car trips to the United States also fell in August compared to July. About 1.9 million same-day car trips were taken in August, down 0.7% compared to the previous month.

In contrast, overnight travel to the United States by Canadian residents rose 1.7% to its highest monthly level since December 1993. Canadians took over 1.3 million overnight trips in August. Overnight car travel led the way with a 2.5% increase followed by overnight plane travel, up 1.3%. Overnight travel by other means fell 2.2% compared to July.

Overall, Canadians took 3.3 million trips to the United States in August, up 0.3% compared to July, while travel by American residents to Canada declined 0.9% to less than 2.4 million trips.

Travel to countries other than the United States dropped for the second consecutive month, as 551,000 Canadian residents took trips to overseas countries. This follows the record high set in June when 566,000 Canadians took overseas trips.

In August, travel to Canada from overseas countries rose 2.3% compared to the previous month, as 377,000 residents of overseas countries took trips to Canada.

Among Canada's top 12 overseas markets, 8 posted increases in August, including the top 6 markets. Germany recorded the largest increase (+6.3%) in travel to Canada while Hong Kong had the largest decrease (-8.1%).

The Canadian dollar was worth 89.4 US cents on average in August, up 1.0% compared to July. The

loonie gained against the Japanese yen, declined against the British pound sterling and was unchanged against the euro.

Available on CANSIM: tables 427-0001 to 427-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5005.

The August 2006 issue of *International Travel, Advance Information*, Vol. 22, no. 8 (66-001-PIE, free)

is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For general information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-9169; fax: 613-951-2909; [cult.tourstats@statcan.ca](mailto:cult.tourstats@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Frances Kremerik (613-951-4240; [frances.kremerik@statcan.ca](mailto:frances.kremerik@statcan.ca)), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

### Travel between Canada and other countries

	July 2006 <sup>r</sup>	August 2006 <sup>p</sup>	July to August 2006	August 2006 <sup>p</sup>	August 2005 to August 2006
	Seasonally adjusted			Unadjusted	
	thousands		% change	thousands	% change
<b>Canadian trips abroad<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>3,880</b>	<b>3,885</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>4,946</b>	<b>4.4</b>
To the United States	3,323	3,334	0.3	4,352	4.4
To Other Countries	558	551	-1.2	594	4.0
Same-day car trips to the United States	1,938	1,925	-0.7	2,303	1.5
Total trips, one or more nights	1,885	1,901	0.9	2,595	6.9
United States <sup>2</sup>	1,327	1,350	1.7	2,000	7.8
Car	778	797	2.5	1,438	8.8
Plane	457	463	1.3	410	9.0
Other modes of transportation	92	90	-2.2	153	-3.6
Other countries <sup>3</sup>	558	551	-1.2	594	4.0
<b>Travel to Canada<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2,758</b>	<b>2,745</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>4,370</b>	<b>-7.5</b>
from the United States	2,389	2,367	-0.9	3,760	-8.7
from Other Countries	369	377	2.3	610	1.0
Same-day car trips from the United States	1,152	1,128	-2.0	1,472	-14.9
Total trips, one or more nights	1,479	1,497	1.2	2,677	-2.7
United States <sup>2</sup>	1,120	1,128	0.7	2,083	-3.9
Car	680	686	0.9	1,323	-4.1
Plane	309	317	2.4	461	-0.2
Other modes of transportation	131	125	-4.2	299	-8.3
Other countries <sup>3</sup>	360	369	2.6	594	1.8
<b>Most important overseas markets<sup>4</sup></b>					
United Kingdom	72	75	3.9	117	-4.9
Japan	33	33	1.3	48	-9.3
France	31	31	0.4	56	-0.2
Germany	24	26	6.3	51	-7.5
Australia	17	18	4.2	24	1.8
Mexico	17	17	1.0	26	13.1
South Korea	16	15	-3.2	24	-3.7
China	13	12	-7.7	18	23.5
Netherlands	10	10	-2.2	17	-7.5
Hong Kong	10	9	-8.1	13	7.4
Italy	8	8	3.0	21	-4.4
Taiwan	8	8	0.1	10	0.0

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

<sup>r</sup> revised

1. Totals exceed the sum of "same-day car trips" and "total trips, one or more nights" because they include all of the same-day trips.
2. Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.
3. Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.
4. Includes same-day and one or more night trips.

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## Construction Union Wage Rate Index

September 2006

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in September compared to the August level of 137.8 (1992=100). The composite index was 1.9% higher compared with the September 2005 index (135.2).

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes on a 1992=100 time base are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0003 and 327-0004.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2307.**

The third quarter 2006 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XIE, free) will be available in November.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services Unit (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; [prices-prix@statcan.ca](mailto:prices-prix@statcan.ca)) or Louise Chainé (613-951-3393), Prices Division. ■

## Stocks of frozen poultry meat

October 1, 2006 (preliminary)

Stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on October 1 totalled 66,250 metric tonnes, up 3.8% from a year ago.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0023 and 003-0024.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3425.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandra Gielfeldt (613-951-2505; [sandy.gielfeldt@statcan.ca](mailto:sandy.gielfeldt@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## Primary iron and steel

August 2006

Data on primary iron and steel for August are now available.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0048 to 303-0051.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2116 and 2184.**

The August 2006 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-XIE, free) will soon be available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; [manufact@statcan.ca](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## New products

Canadian Economic Observer, Vol. 19, no. 10  
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International Travel, Advance Information, Vol. 22,  
no. 8  
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(free).

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- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 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.

**OTHER RELEASES**

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

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