



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Employment Insurance

August 2006 (preliminary)

An estimated 492,240 Canadians (seasonally adjusted) received regular Employment Insurance benefits in August, up 3.8% from July.

The increase at the national level was primarily due to advances in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Ontario. These increases, however, may be related to a July timing issue. An unusually large number of July claimants had not received benefits in time for the mid-July reference week, due to the required two week waiting period. As a result, the number of July beneficiaries was low and inflated the month-to-month July to August change. The mid-month reference week is used for consistency with the Labour Force Survey.

Employment Insurance statistics

	August 2006	July 2006	August 2005	July to August 2006	August to August 2005
Seasonally adjusted					
	%				
	change				
Regular beneficiaries	492,240 ^P	474,060 ^r	532,620	3.8	-7.6
Regular benefits paid (\$ millions)	696.3 ^P	722.1 ^r	726.8	-3.6	-4.2
Initial and renewal claims received (thousands)	217.8 ^P	224.0 ^r	245.8	-2.8	-11.4
Unadjusted					
All beneficiaries (thousands) ¹	735.7 ^P	661.8 ^P	786.9
Regular beneficiaries (thousands)	496.0 ^P	422.1 ^P	514.0
Initial and renewal claims received (thousands)	172.0	304.6	205.8
Payments (\$ millions)	1,121.6	1,131.7	1,304.4
Year-to-date (January to August)					
			2006	2005	2005 to 2006
	%				
	change				
Claims received (thousands)			1,711.4	1,809.6	-5.4
Payments (\$ millions)			10,196.4	10,355.7	-1.5

... not applicable
 r revised

^P preliminary

1. "All beneficiaries" includes all claimants receiving regular benefits (for example, as a result of layoff) or special benefits (for example, as a result of illness) and are representative of data for the Labour Force Survey reference week which is usually the week containing the 15th of the month.

Regular benefit payments in August totalled \$696.3 million, while 217,760 people made initial and renewal claims.

Note: Employment Insurance Statistics Program data are produced from an administrative data source and may, from time to time, be affected by changes to the *Employment Insurance Act* or administrative procedures. The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who received Employment Insurance benefits from the 13th to the 19th of the month. This coincides with the reference week of the Labour Force Survey. The regular benefit payments figure measures the total of all monies paid to individuals during the month.

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	August 2006 ^P	July to August 2006	August 2005 to August 2006
Seasonally adjusted			
	%		
	change		
Canada	492,240	3.8	-7.6
Newfoundland and Labrador	38,650	-0.6	-3.0
Prince Edward Island	8,630	1.2	3.4
Nova Scotia	30,530	4.2	2.7
New Brunswick	34,130	0.1	-0.1
Quebec	171,130	2.1	-3.7
Ontario	130,860	11.8	-6.6
Manitoba	11,360	11.6	-14.7
Saskatchewan	10,770	23.2	-6.8
Alberta	20,700	16.0	-14.4
British Columbia	42,300	6.0	-16.7
Yukon Territory	860	2.4	-11.3
Northwest Territories	680	1.5	-13.9
Nunavut	370	0.0	-5.1

^P preliminary

Note: The number of beneficiaries includes all claimants who received regular benefits for the Labour Force Survey reference week, usually containing the 15th day of the month.

Available on CANSIM: tables 276-0001 to 276-0006, 276-0009, 276-0011, 276-0015 and 276-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2604.

Data on Employment Insurance for September will be released on November 28.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-4090 or toll-free 1-866-873-8788; labour@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091), Labour Statistics Division. ■

Railway carloadings

August 2006

Canadian railroads recorded their busiest month so far in 2006 during August, as loadings surpassed 25.1 million metric tonnes of freight.

Tonnage was up 5.2% from July, which was the highest level of freight for the month of July in six years. Total tonnage has increased for two months in a row.

Loadings of non-intermodal goods had the biggest impact on August's freight volumes. They were up 5.4% to 22.7 million tonnes, the highest tonnage for the month of August in the past six years.

This gain occurred despite substantial declines in loadings of coal and wheat. These declines were offset by sharp gains in loadings of other cereal grains, potash, sulphur and lumber.

Commodities such as canola and other wood products are becoming more important for the rail industry. So far this year, monthly loadings of canola are on average 2,000 carloads higher than the monthly average for 2005.

Loadings of "other wood products," which consist primarily of finished products for housing construction, have been consistently on the rise for the past seven years, thanks to the strength of residential and business construction in both Canada and the United States.

In 1999, these miscellaneous wood products filled about 4,000 carloads a month. In August this year, they filled about 7,500. Looked at in another way, these products accounted for 1.5% of total non-intermodal loadings in August 1999. By August this year, this proportion had nearly doubled to 2.7%.

Intermodal loadings, that is, containers and trailers hauled on flat cars, increased 3.6% from July to 2.4 million metric tonnes, which was the highest level ever for the month of August.

Freight coming from the United States, either destined for or passing through Canada, jumped 9.9% from the previous month to 2.4 million metric tonnes.

On a year-over-year basis, non-intermodal tonnage in August was 1.2% higher than last year. Intermodal loadings were up 1.5%, while traffic received from the United States rose 9.1%.

Available on CANSIM: table 404-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2732.

The August 2006 issue of *Monthly Railway Carloadings*, Vol. 83, no. 8 (52-001-XIE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

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

the Dissemination Unit (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 1-613-951-0009; transportationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Farm Product Price Index

August 2006

Prices farmers received for their commodities were 6.2% lower in August from the same month a year earlier, as overall lower crop prices more than offset the slight increase in overall livestock prices.

Prices for crops fell 14.4% from August 2005, as prices for all crops except oilseeds and potatoes were down from year-earlier levels. This was the first year-to-year increase for oilseed prices since September 2004, while grains and specialty crops continued their downward trend that began in November 2004.

Potato prices continued their upward trend, which ran for most of the 2005/2006 crop year.

Meanwhile, prices for livestock and animal products were 0.5% higher compared with August 2005. Hog prices recorded the only decrease, while cattle and calves and the supply managed commodities (eggs, poultry and dairy) increased.

The Farm Product Price Index stood at 95.6 (1997=100) in August, up 1.5% from the revised July index of 94.2.

Prices farmers received for crops were up 2.3% in August from a month earlier, as prices for all crops except grains and fruits rose. Oilseed prices were 5.7% higher in August, the largest of six consecutive monthly increases, as the first survey-based production estimates were released in August. The United States Department of Agriculture estimated that soybean production would be down 5% compared to last year, while Statistics Canada estimated a 17% drop in Canada's major oilseed crop — canola.

Potato prices rose in August, as the new crop table potatoes hit the market. Overall potato prices have increased in seven of the first eight months of this calendar year. Reduced production in 2005 had helped boost prices over the winter and spring. Also this spring, area seeded to potatoes was reduced.

Grain prices were lower in August, as the new crop year (August 2006 to July 2007) initial prices guaranteed by the Canadian Wheat Board came into effect for wheat and barley.

Prices farmers received for livestock and animal products were up 1.0% in August from a month earlier, as dairy, cattle and calf, and egg prices all increased.

Cattle and calf prices were 0.3% higher in August compared with July. After increasing 14.5% in July 2005, when the border re-opened to restricted trade of live

animals, the month-to-month changes for the index have remained within a narrow range, from down 2.3% to up 2.7%.

After climbing to their highest level in the last 10 months in June to 80.3, hog prices have been virtually unchanged. The August index was 79.2.

Farm Product Price Index (1997=100)

	August 2005 ^r	July 2006 ^r	August 2006 ^p	August 2005 to August 2006 % change	July to August 2006 % change
Farm Product Price Index	101.9	94.2	95.6	-6.2	1.5
Crops	96.9	81.0	82.9	-14.4	2.3
Grains	78.3	66.3	61.7	-21.2	-6.9
Oilseeds	74.2	71.8	75.9	2.3	5.7
Specialty crops	80.1	75.1	78.0	-2.6	3.9
Fruit	109.9	99.0	97.4	-11.4	-1.6
Vegetables	117.2	106.4	106.9	-8.8	0.5
Potatoes	189.8	163.2	207.1	9.1	26.9
Livestock and animal products	106.6	105.9	107.0	0.4	1.0
Cattle and calves	113.5	114.2	114.5	0.9	0.3
Hogs	84.5	79.3	79.2	-6.3	-0.1
Poultry	93.0	94.5	94.1	1.2	-0.4
Eggs	97.0	98.2	98.6	1.6	0.4
Dairy	125.3	124.9	129.1	3.0	3.4

^r revised

^p preliminary

Available on CANSIM: table 002-0021.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5040.

The August 2006 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 6, no. 8 (21-007-XIE, free) is now available online from the *Publications* module of our website.

For general information or to order data, call (toll-free 1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gail-Ann Breese (613-951-2701; fax 613-951-3868; gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Annual Survey of Water Carriers 2004

The 114 for-hire marine carriers earned \$129 million in income, as revenues rose 2.1% to \$2.6 billion in 2004. This modest increase in revenue was slightly outpaced by a 2.9% gain in expenses. The for-hire sector recorded \$2.1 billion in liabilities against \$2.9 billion in assets.

Government carriers had \$809 million in revenues and \$816 million in expenses in 2004.

Note: The government sector differs significantly from the for-hire sector in terms of the availability of financial data. Many government carriers only report partial financial data and apply accounting rules that differ from the for-hire sector. Therefore, the information in this section should be used with caution, particularly in comparisons with the for-hire section.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2753.

For more information, or to enquire about concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Dissemination Unit (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 613-951-0009; transportationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. □

Revenues and expenses of for-hire carriers

	2003 ^r	2004 ^p	2003 to 2004
	\$ thousands		% change
Revenues			
Transportation	2,418,424	2,467,095	2.0
Non-transportation	162,079	167,594	3.4
Total revenue	2,580,503	2,634,689	2.1
Expenses			
Transportation	2,302,938	2,373,683	3.1
Wages and salaries	510,929	551,734	8.0
Non-transportation	132,381	131,525	-0.6
Total expenses	2,435,318	2,505,208	2.9

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note: Components may not add up due to rounding.

Revenues and expenses of government carriers

	2003 ^r	2004 ^p
	\$ thousands	
Revenues		
Transportation	670,762	713,088
Non-transportation	87,970	95,611
Total revenue	758,733	808,699
Expenses		
Transportation	754,469	783,405
Wages and salaries	351,020	356,525
Non-transportation	30,806	32,660
Total expenses	785,274	816,064

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note: Components may not add up due to rounding.



New products

Farm Product Price Index, August 2006, Vol. 6, no. 8
Catalogue number 21-007-XIE
(free).

Statistics on Revenues and Expenses of Farms, 2004
Catalogue number 21-208-XIE
(free).

Monthly Railway Carloadings, August 2006, Vol. 83,
no. 8
Catalogue number 52-001-XIE
(free).

Retail Trade, August 2006, Vol. 78, no. 8
Catalogue number 63-005-XIE
(free).

Imports by Commodity, August 2006, Vol. 63, no. 8
Catalogue number 65-007-XPB (\$84/\$828).

Imports by Commodity, August 2006, Vol. 63, no. 8
Catalogue number 65-007-XCB (\$40/\$387).

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

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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 notably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

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

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