



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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## Releases

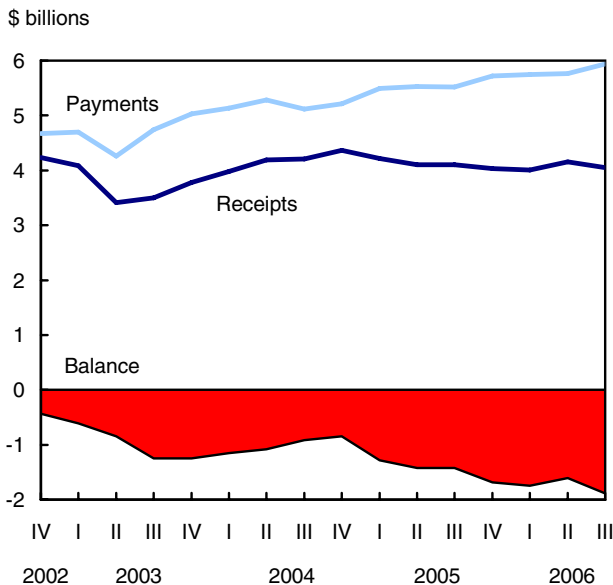
### International travel account

Third quarter 2006 (preliminary)

Increased spending by Canadians abroad pushed Canada's international travel deficit to its highest level ever in the third quarter, edging out the previous high observed nearly 15 years ago.

The deficit (the difference between spending by Canadian residents abroad and spending by foreigners in the country) climbed to a record \$1.9 billion between July and September. This was up \$278 million from the second quarter and slightly above the previous high set in the fourth quarter of 1991. At that time, the ballooning deficit with the United States had been the main reason for the record deficit. Now, widening deficits with both the United States and overseas countries are contributing factors.

#### Canada's travel deficit hits record high



Record spending abroad contributed to the unmatched deficit, as Canadians spent an estimated \$5.9 billion outside the country, up 2.9% from the previous quarter. Spending abroad has shown an upward trend in recent years, with increases in 11 of the last 13 quarters.

Moreover, foreign travel spending in Canada has fallen in six of the last seven quarters, also fuelling the widening deficit. During the third quarter of 2006,

#### Note to readers

The present international travel account analysis is based on preliminary quarterly data, seasonally adjusted unless otherwise stated. Amounts are in Canadian dollars and are not adjusted for inflation.

**Receipts** represent spending by foreigners travelling in Canada, including education spending and medical spending.

**Payments** represent spending by Canadian residents travelling abroad, including education spending and medical spending.

**Overseas countries** are those other than the United States.

foreigners spent \$4.0 billion in Canada, down 2.6% from the previous quarter.

#### Deficit with the United States highest in nearly 13 years

Canada's travel deficit with the United States climbed to \$1.1 billion during the third quarter of 2006, a \$225 million increase from the second quarter and the highest level since the fourth quarter of 1993.

The jump in the deficit was the result of higher spending by Canadians in the United States and lower spending by Americans in Canada.

Canadians spent an estimated \$3.3 billion in the United States in the third quarter, more than any other previous quarter. The 2.6% increase in spending was in line with a similar increase in overnight travel to the United States, which climbed to 4.0 million trips, its highest level since the end of 1993.

Spending in Canada by American travellers fell to \$2.1 billion during the third quarter, a 6.2% drop and the lowest level since the first quarter of 1998. Overnight travel from the United States fell 3.6% to 3.4 million trips during that same period.

The Canadian dollar remained unchanged compared to its American counterpart, averaging \$0.89 US during the third quarter of 2006.

#### Record spending in Canada not enough to halt widening deficit with overseas countries

Spending in Canada by travellers from overseas countries climbed to unprecedented levels in the third quarter of 2006, reaching \$1.9 billion. Yet, Canada's travel deficit with overseas countries climbed to an all-time high of \$753 million, up \$53 million from the previous quarter.

The 1.7% increase in spending in Canada occurred despite a 1.0% drop in overnight travel from overseas

countries. Travellers from overseas countries made almost 1.1 million trips to Canada during the third quarter, the lowest level in over a year.

Record travel from Canada to overseas destinations contributed to the higher deficit, as Canadians took 1.7 million trips to non-US destinations, up 0.5% from the previous quarter. As a result, Canadians spent a record of \$2.7 billion, an increase of 3.3% from the previous high set in the second quarter.

During the third quarter of 2006, the value of the Canadian dollar gained against the Japanese yen but fell against the British pound sterling and the euro.

The international travel account for 2006 and the fourth quarter of 2006 will be released on February 26, 2007.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3152 and 5005.**

For more information, or to inquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Eric Desjardins (613-951-1781; [eric.desjardins@statcan.ca](mailto:eric.desjardins@statcan.ca)) or Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-9169; fax: 613-951-2909; [cult.tourstats@statcan.ca](mailto:cult.tourstats@statcan.ca)), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

**International travel account receipts and payments**

	Third quarter 2005	Second quarter 2006 <sup>r</sup>	Third quarter 2006 <sup>p</sup>	Second quarter to third quarter 2006
Seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>				
	\$ millions			% change
<b>United States</b>				
Receipts	2,188	2,267	2,126	-6.2
Payments	3,061	3,177	3,260	2.6
Balance	-873	-910	-1,134	
<b>All other countries</b>				
Receipts	1,912	1,889	1,921	1.7
Payments	2,459	2,589	2,675	3.3
Balance	-547	-700	-753	
<b>Total</b>				
Receipts	4,100	4,156	4,047	-2.6
Payments	5,520	5,766	5,935	2.9
Balance	-1,419	-1,610	-1,888	

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

1. Data may not add to totals due to rounding.

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## Characteristics of international travellers

Second quarter 2006 (preliminary)

Canadians headed out of the country in increasing numbers between April and June 2006, surging into the United States as well as setting yet another quarterly record for travel to countries other than the United States.

Overnight travel to the United States rose for the third consecutive quarter on a year-over-year basis, likely boosted by a strong Canadian dollar. At the same time, second-quarter travel to overseas nations hit a record level for the third straight year.

The second quarter was also marked by an increase in overnight travel to Canada as more overseas visitors came to the country. However, fewer American residents made overnight trips to Canada.

### Travel to the US: New York, Florida most popular states

Canadian residents took about 3.9 million overnight trips to the United States between April and June, up 7.5% from the same three months last year.

As is usually the case during the second quarter, more Canadians visited New York State than any other American state. An estimated 659,000 overnight visits were made by Canadians to the Empire State, up 19.1% from the second quarter last year.

There were about 569,000 overnight visits by Canadian tourists to Florida between April and June, a 5.6% gain from the same period in 2005.

Of the top 10 most visited states, only 2 recorded fewer overnight Canadian visitors: Nevada, where travel fell 15.0%, and Maine, where it was down 4.4%. Despite increases in the number of visits, spending by Canadians declined in 5 of the top 10 states.

Pleasure trips, which accounted for 56% of overnight Canadian travel to the United States, rose 7.9% from the second quarter of 2005. The number of business trips increased a slight 0.7%, while the number of trips to visit friends and relatives jumped 11.9%.

More than half of overnight travel to the US was by car. Canadians used an automobile for nearly 2.2 million overnight trips in the second quarter, up 8.3% compared to the second quarter of 2005. The number of overnight trips taken by air increased 5.4% during the same period.

Spending by Canadians in the United States rose 2.5% to about \$2.9 billion. Average spending per overnight trip declined from \$777 to \$741.

In terms of US dollars, the Canadian dollar was 10.8% higher in the second quarter of 2006 than it was in the same period in 2005.

## Canadians travelling overseas in record numbers

Canadians set a new record for second quarter travel to overseas nations this year as nearly 1.6 million trips were taken by residents during the second quarter. This was a 5.5% increase over the same quarter last year, when the previous record was set.

The top three most visited overseas countries for Canadians were the United Kingdom, France and Cuba. Travel to the United Kingdom fell 9.6% from the second quarter in 2005, while travel to France was up 5.5% and travel to Cuba rose 13.4%.

Italy experienced the largest decline among the top 10 overseas destinations, as there were 34.6% fewer overnight visits by Canadians to the country. This followed a jump of over 50% in Canadian visits in the second quarter of 2005 when the funeral of the late Pope John Paul II occurred, as well as the installation of Pope Benedict XVI.

Travel to China set a record in the second quarter, surpassing the previous mark established in 2002. Travel to this country had sharply declined from April to June of 2003 at the height of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) crisis.

During their travels in overseas countries, Canadians spent an estimated \$2.4 billion, up 5.9% from the second quarter last year.

### More overseas visitors coming to Canada

While Canadians were travelling in record numbers overseas, the number of overseas visitors to Canada also increased in the second quarter of this year.

An estimated 1.1 million overnight trips were made by overseas tourists to Canada between April and June, up 4.6% from the same period last year and the third straight year of increases for the second quarter. This follows three consecutive years of decreases that had culminated during the second-quarter of 2003 at the height of the SARS crisis.

The United Kingdom remained the top overseas country of origin with 234,000 overnight trips to Canada. Japan remained steady in second spot as 95,000 of its residents took overnight trips to Canada.

Mexican residents took 27.4% more overnight trips to Canada between April and June, perhaps reflecting the fact that Easter was celebrated in April this year rather than in March, as had been the case the year before. Easter is a major holiday in Mexico and a popular time for people to travel.

Overall, overseas residents spent an estimated \$1.5 billion on overnight trips in Canada, down 0.8% from the second quarter of 2005.

### **Fewer American visitors coming to Canada**

An estimated 3.7 million overnight trips were taken by US residents to Canada during the second quarter of this year, a marginal 0.4% decline from the same period last year.

While cars remained the most popular method of travel for overnight trips to Canada, 3.3% fewer trips were taken by automobile. Nonetheless, about 2.2 million, or 58.6%, of all overnight trips were taken by car.

American residents took nearly 1.1 million overnight trips by air to Canada between April and June of this year, up 4.7%.

Travel from the US rose in the two largest categories. Americans made 2.1 million trips for pleasure, an increase of 2.7%, and about 691,000 to visit friends and relatives, up 4.9%. Overnight travel in the third largest category, business trips, edged downward 0.2% to about 555,000.

Among the top 10 states of origin for overnight travel to Canada, 6 states recorded year-over-year increases in the second quarter. New York remained the top state of origin for overnight visitors as nearly 500,000 trips were taken to Canada.

Massachusetts recorded the largest gain (+25.1%), and Michigan, the largest decline (-19.1%).

Despite the decrease in the number of overnight trips to Canada, American residents spent nearly \$2.0 billion in Canada, up 2.3% from the second quarter of 2005.

This release summarises data now available from the International Travel Survey. Tables, various statistical profiles and micro-data files of characteristics of international travellers using preliminary second quarter 2006 data and revised first quarter 2006 data are now available on request.

Data on characteristics of international travellers for the third quarter of 2006 will be released on February 26, 2007.

### **Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3152.**

To obtain one or more of these products, 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; fax: 613-951-2909; [frances.kremerik@statcan.ca](mailto:frances.kremerik@statcan.ca)), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

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### Overnight travel between Canada and other countries

	Trips				Expenditures			
	Second quarter 2005 <sup>r</sup>	First quarter 2006 <sup>r</sup>	Second quarter 2006 <sup>p</sup>	Second quarter 2005 to second quarter 2006	Second quarter 2005 <sup>r</sup>	First quarter 2006 <sup>r</sup>	Second quarter 2006 <sup>p</sup>	Second quarter 2005 to second quarter 2006
	thousands			% change	\$ millions			% change
<b>Canadian trips abroad</b>	<b>5,102</b>	<b>5,740</b>	<b>5,454</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>5,045</b>	<b>5,748</b>	<b>5,249</b>	<b>4.0</b>
To the United States	3,617	3,530	3,888	7.5	2,811	2,939	2,882	2.5
To other countries	1,485	2,210	1,566	5.5	2,235	2,809	2,367	5.9
<b>Travel to Canada</b>	<b>4,817</b>	<b>2,528</b>	<b>4,851</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>3,411</b>	<b>1,837</b>	<b>3,445</b>	<b>1.0</b>
From the United States	3,723	1,910	3,707	-0.4	1,938	963	1,983	2.3
From other countries	1,094	618	1,144	4.6	1,473	874	1,462	-0.8

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

### Top 10 overseas countries of origin for travellers to Canada

	Second quarter 2005 <sup>r</sup>	Second quarter 2006 <sup>p</sup>	Second quarter 2005 to second quarter 2006
	Overnight trips (thousands)		% change
United Kingdom	233	234	0.3
Japan	100	95	-5.2
Germany	78	79	1.5
France	74	76	2.8
Mexico	44	56	27.4
Australia	51	54	7.1
South Korea	42	46	9.3
China	30	35	19.2
India	31	35	12.4
Netherlands	32	33	3.3

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

### Top US States visited by Canadian residents

State	Overnight visits			Expenditures		
	Second quarter 2005 <sup>r</sup>	Second quarter 2006 <sup>p</sup>	Second quarter 2005 to second quarter 2006	Second quarter 2005 <sup>r</sup>	Second quarter 2006 <sup>p</sup>	Second quarter 2005 to second quarter 2006
	thousands		% change	\$ millions		% change
New York	553	659	19.1	173	223	28.7
Florida	538	569	5.6	965	916	-5.1
Washington	389	434	11.6	83	95	15.2
Michigan	309	329	6.5	72	61	-15.7
California	216	230	6.5	174	216	24.1
Nevada	250	213	-15.0	225	217	-3.3
Pennsylvania	179	208	16.1	39	38	-2.6
Maine	148	141	-4.4	36	35	-3.3
Minnesota	114	133	17.4	33	39	18.8
Ohio	129	129	0.4	25	27	7.7

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

## Employment Insurance

September 2006 (preliminary)

The estimated number of Canadians (seasonally adjusted) receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits in September was 492,600, down 0.5% from August and 4.1% from a year ago.

The September decline was due to significant decreases in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. These drops offset large increases in the number of beneficiaries in August that were primarily due to a timing issue between the claimants waiting period and the reference week for these statistics.

Nationally, the number of beneficiaries has been dropping steadily since mid-2003.

Regular benefit payments in September totalled \$713.3 million, while the number of people making initial and renewal claims was 227,790.

**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 for this month is a measure of all persons who received Employment Insurance benefits from the 10th to the 16th 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 for the entire 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 October will be released on December 19.

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

## Employment Insurance statistics

	September 2006	August 2006	September 2005	August to September 2006	September 2005 to September 2006
Seasonally adjusted					
				% change	
Regular beneficiaries	492,600 <sup>P</sup>	494,900 <sup>r</sup>	513,630	-0.5	-4.1
Regular benefits paid (\$ millions)	713.3 <sup>P</sup>	699.1 <sup>r</sup>	686.9	2.0	3.8
Initial and Renewal Claims received ('000)	227.8 <sup>P</sup>	219.2 <sup>r</sup>	229.0	3.9	-0.5
Unadjusted					
All beneficiaries ('000) <sup>1</sup>	600.6 <sup>P</sup>	735.7 <sup>P</sup>	653.4		
Regular beneficiaries ('000)	358.3 <sup>P</sup>	496.0 <sup>P</sup>	376.0		
Initial and Renewal Claims received ('000)	178.1	172.0	186.6		
Payments (\$ millions)	1,000.8	1,121.6	996.4		
Year-to-date (January to September)					
			2006	2005	2005 to 2006
					% change
Claims received ('000)			1,889.5	1,996.1	-5.3
Payments (\$ millions)			11,197.2	11,352.1	-1.4

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>P</sup> 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.

## Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	September 2006 <sup>P</sup>	August to September 2006	September 2005 to September 2006
Seasonally adjusted			
			% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>492,600</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>-4.1</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	39,600	1.2	2.7
Prince Edward Island	8,920	2.8	5.6
Nova Scotia	29,930	-1.9	1.7
New Brunswick	34,210	0.1	-1.5
Quebec	172,450	0.3	-2.4
Ontario	128,720	-2.2	-3.4
Manitoba	10,850	-4.1	-9.8
Saskatchewan	9,840	-8.4	-7.3
Alberta	18,410	-11.0	-12.4
British Columbia	39,690	-4.8	-17.6
Yukon	840	-1.2	-7.7
Northwest Territories	700	1.4	-10.3
Nunavut	370	2.8	-7.5

<sup>P</sup> preliminary

**Note:** "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.



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## Aircraft movement statistics: Small airports

July 2006

The July 2006 monthly report, Vol. 2 (TP141, free) is now available on Transport Canada's website (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/Report/tp141e/tp141.htm>).

**Note:** The TP141 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 website.

For more information about this website, contact Michel Villeneuve at (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 at (613-951-0141; fax: 613-951-0010; [aviationstatistics@statcan.ca](mailto:aviationstatistics@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

## Community Employment Innovation Project

2002 to 2004

Data from the first longitudinal follow-up survey of the Community Employment Innovation Project (CEIP) are available today.

The CEIP is a long term research and demonstration project managed by the Social Research and Demonstration Corporation (SRDC) and conducted jointly with Statistics Canada. The project is testing an alternative form of government support for the unemployed in areas of chronic high unemployment. The CEIP offered up to three years of employment on community-based projects, which provided workers with a significant period of stable earned income and an

opportunity to gain varied work experience, acquire new skills, and expand their networks of contacts.

### Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4445.

The report *Testing a Community-based Jobs Strategy for the Unemployed, Early Impacts of the Community Employment Innovation Project* published by the SRDC is available today. To obtain a copy, contact Barbara Greenwood Dufour (613-237-7444; [dufour@srdc.org](mailto:dufour@srdc.org)), Social Research and Demonstration Corporation.

For further information on the findings from this project, contact the Social Research and Demonstration Corporation (613-237-4311, [www.srdc.org](http://www.srdc.org)) or Client Services (toll-free 1-800-461-9050; 613-951-3321; fax: 613-951-4527; [ssd@statcan.ca](mailto:ssd@statcan.ca)), Special Surveys Division. ■

## Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index

October 2006

The Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index (CMSPI) is a monthly price index measuring the change over time in prices for courier and messenger services provided by long and short distance delivery companies to Canadian-based business clients.

The CMSPI decreased 0.7% to 119.8 (2003=100) in October. The courier portion fell 0.7% on a monthly basis, while the local messengers component edged down 0.2% as a result of lower fuel charges.

These indexes are available at the Canada level only.

**Available on CANSIM: table 329-0053.**

### Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5064.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; [prices-prix@statcan.ca](mailto:prices-prix@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Perry Kirkpatrick (613-951-1930; [perry.kirkpatrick@statcan.ca](mailto:perry.kirkpatrick@statcan.ca)), Prices Division. ■

