Catalogue 11-001-XIE (Français 11-001-XIF) ISSN 0827-0465

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, February 10, 2006
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

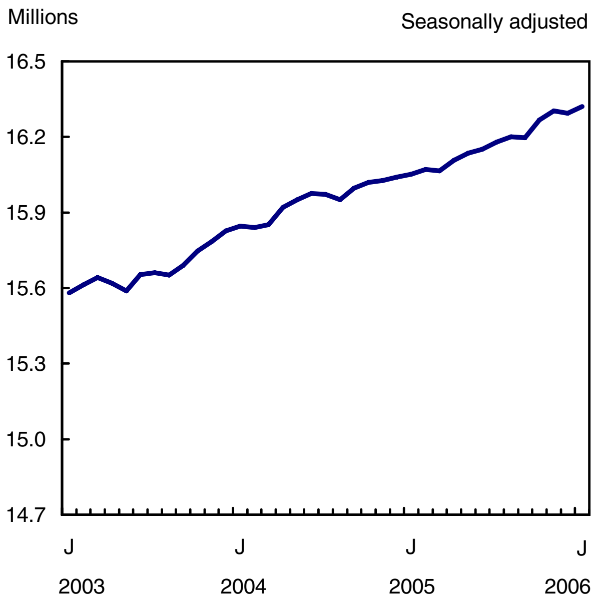
Releases

Labour Force Survey

January 2006

Employment increased by 26,000 in January following a pause the month before. Although employment increased, the unemployment rate edged up 0.1 percentage points to 6.6% as more people entered the labour force in search of work.

Employment



Compared to 12 months ago, employment is up 1.7% (+269,000), slightly less than the rate of employment growth in the United States over the same period (+2.0%).

In January, the average hourly wage rate was up 3.4% from 12 months ago, well ahead of the most recent year-over-year increase in the Consumer Price Index of 2.2%. Alberta continued to lead the nation with an increase of 7.4% in the average hourly wage rate compared to 12 months ago.

More adult women working full time

Employment among adult women aged 25 and over increased by 35,000 in January, with strong gains in full time (+45,000). Their unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage points to 5.4%. Over the past 12 months, employment gains for this group have totalled 112,000 (+1.8%), entirely the result of full-time job growth.

Although little changed in January, there were 106,000 (+1.5%) more adult men working compared to 12 months ago. Just under three-quarters of this increase was in full-time work.

In January, there were 22,000 added part-time jobs among youths. However, this was offset by a similar decline in full time, leaving the year-over-year increase in youth employment at 2.1% or 51,000. More youths entered the labour market in January in search of work, pushing their unemployment rate up 0.5 percentage points to 12.4%.

Note to readers

Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates for the January 1987 to December 2005 period have undergone revisions. There are three reasons for the revision. First, the revision enables the use of improved population benchmarks in the LFS estimation process. These improved benchmarks provide better information on the number of non-permanent residents. There are also changes to the data for the public and private sectors from 1987 to 1999. In the past, the data on the public and private sectors for this period were based on an old definition of the public sector. The revised data better reflects the current public sector definition, and therefore result in a longer time series for analysis. Finally, the geographic coding of several small Census Agglomerations (CA) has been updated historically from 1996 urban centre boundaries to 2001 CA boundaries. This affects data from January 1987 to December 2004.

It is important to note that the changes to almost all estimates are very minor, with the exception of the public sector series and some associated industries from 1987 to 1999. Rates of unemployment, employment and participation are essentially unchanged, as are all key labour market trends.

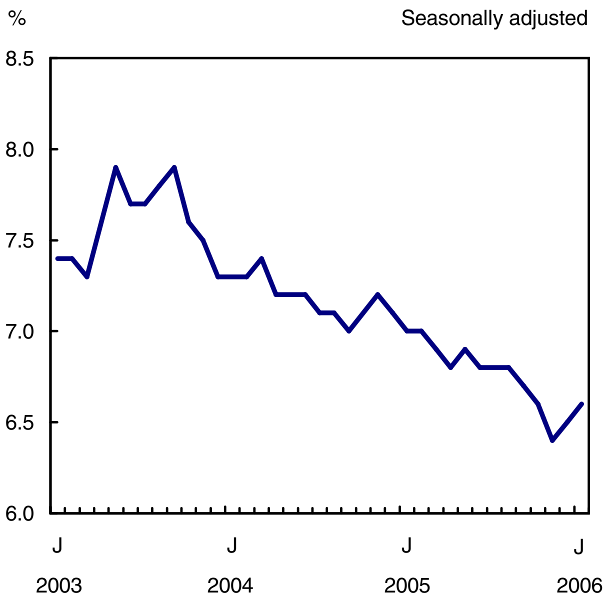
Also note that the LFS seasonally adjusted estimates have been revised back to 1987.

The article "Improvements in 2006 to the LFS" (71F0031XIE, free) provides further explanation for the revisions and an overview of the effect of these changes on the estimates.

Revised historical data are now available on CANSIM. The revised data will also be available on the CD-ROM Labour Force Historical Review *(71F0004XCB, $209), which will be released on February 20.*

For further information, contact Client Services (613-951-4090; 1-866-873-8788; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

Unemployment rate



More jobs in natural resources while manufacturing continues to lose ground

Employment in natural resources rose strongly, up 12,000 in January, with the largest increases occurring in Alberta and British Columbia. Employment in this industry has shown a strong upward trend with gains totalling 19.2% since the end of 2002, fuelled by strength in Alberta's oil and gas sector.

Public administration rose by 15,000 in January, with gains at the federal and municipal level. Temporary hiring for the recent federal election contributed to added employment in the industry.

The downward trend in the number of factory jobs continued in January with a decline of 42,000, mostly in Ontario. Since the end of 2002, employment in manufacturing has fallen by 8.2%. In January, the decline was concentrated in furniture and related products as well as in motor vehicle and parts. According to the most recent Business Conditions Survey for manufacturing industries, manufacturers were slightly more cautious in their outlook for the first quarter of 2006. Fewer new orders, a strong Canadian dollar and continued competition from foreign imports were some of the challenges facing manufacturers in recent months.

In January, employment in the private sector edged down 16,000. There was a gain of 42,000 in the public sector, with the largest increases in public administration and educational services. Compared to January 2005, public sector employment has increased by 4.6%, led by strong gains in educational services. Over the same period, the number of self-employed has grown by 2.4% while the number of private-sector employees edged up 0.7%.

Alberta labour market remains robust

Employment in Alberta increased by 10,000 in January, with gains in trade, construction, public administration as well as in natural resources. This latter sector continues to provide much of the spark in employment for the province as it has increased by 35.3% since the end of 2002. Over the past year, there have also been gains in professional, scientific and technical services (+22.3%), likely the result of strength related to the oil patch. In January, the unemployment rate in the province fell by 0.7 percentage points to 3.5%, the lowest in almost 25 years.

In Ontario, employment edged up 16,000 in January as an increase in part-time jobs was somewhat offset by declines in full time, bringing total gains from 12 months ago to 122,000 (+1.9%). The unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage points in January to 6.5% as more people entered the labour force in search of work. Manufacturing continued to shed jobs in January (-33,000), bringing total losses since the end of 2002 to 93,000. In January, losses were spread across a number of manufacturing sectors.

Although little changed in January, employment in Quebec has increased by 78,000 (+2.1%) since May 2005 when the upward trend began. However, manufacturing employment has been weak with losses over the last three years totalling 71,000.

In January, employment in New Brunswick continued to increase (+3,000), the third consecutive monthly gain. The unemployment rate fell 0.7 percentage points to 8.9%. Recent employment increases more than offset losses earlier in the year, leaving gains since January 2005 at 2.5%, with strength coming from a number of industries.

Employment in Manitoba was up by 3,000 in January, bringing job growth in the province to 1.1% from 12 months ago. The unemployment rate edged up 0.1 percentage points to 4.3% due to an increase in the number of people entering the labour force.

In Saskatchewan, employment increased by 3,000 in January, causing the unemployment rate to edge down 0.1 percentage points to 5.2%. Despite more jobs in January, losses earlier in 2005 leave employment in the province slightly below the level from a year ago.

There was little change in employment in the other provinces in January.

Available on CANSIM: tables 282-0001 to 282-0042, 282-0047 to 282-0064 and 282-0069 to 282-0099.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.

Available at 7:00 a.m. on our Web site. From the home page, choose *Today's news releases from The Daily*, then *Latest Labour Force Survey*.

A more detailed summary, *Labour Force Information*, is available today for the week ending January 21 (71-001-XIE, $9/$84). See *How to order products*.

Data tables are also available in the *Canadian Statistics* module of our Web site.

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on Friday, March 10.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; *labour@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750), Danielle Zietsma (613-951-4243), Labour Statistics Division.

Employment by type of work, age and sex

	January 2006	December 2005 to January 2006	January 2005 to January 2006	January 2006	December 2005 to January 2006	January 2005 to January 2006	January 2006	December 2005 to January 2006	January 2005 to January 2006
	seasonally adjusted								
	Both sexes			Men			Women		
	'000								
Employment	**16,321.0**	**26.3**	**269.3**	**8,663.0**	**-14.5**	**133.4**	**7,658.0**	**40.8**	**135.9**
Full-time	13,374.4	16.1	287.5	7,714.4	-23.8	85.5	5,660.0	39.9	201.9
Part-time	2,946.6	10.2	-18.1	948.6	9.3	47.9	1,998.0	0.9	-66.1
15-24	2,512.3	-0.2	51.1	1,261.6	-6.4	27.4	1,250.7	6.2	23.7
25 and over	13,808.7	26.5	218.2	7,401.4	-8.1	106.0	6,407.3	34.6	112.2
25-54	11,564.2	25.7	111.7	6,103.8	-6.4	68.7	5,460.4	32.1	43.1
55 and over	2,244.4	0.7	106.4	1,297.6	-1.7	37.4	946.8	2.4	69.1

Note: *Related CANSIM table 282-0087.*

Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	December 2005	January 2006	December 2005 to January 2006	December 2005	January 2006	December 2005 to January 2006
	seasonally adjusted					
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	**17,429.9**	**17,473.5**	**0.3**	**67.1**	**67.2**	**0.1**
Newfoundland and Labrador	249.4	250.8	0.6	58.1	58.5	0.4
Prince Edward Island	77.2	77.0	-0.3	68.9	68.8	-0.1
Nova Scotia	482.3	480.4	-0.4	63.3	63.0	-0.3
New Brunswick	393.1	393.6	0.1	64.3	64.4	0.1
Quebec	4,090.4	4,092.1	0.0	65.8	65.8	0.0
Ontario	6,859.6	6,897.4	0.6	67.6	67.8	0.2
Manitoba	609.3	612.9	0.6	68.5	68.9	0.4
Saskatchewan	506.3	509.3	0.6	67.7	68.1	0.4
Alberta	1,879.5	1,875.5	-0.2	72.6	72.2	-0.4
British Columbia	2,282.9	2,284.5	0.1	65.6	65.6	0.0
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	**16,294.7**	**16,321.0**	**0.2**	**62.7**	**62.7**	**0.0**
Newfoundland and Labrador	210.9	209.3	-0.8	49.1	48.8	-0.3
Prince Edward Island	68.6	68.7	0.1	61.3	61.4	0.1
Nova Scotia	441.3	442.8	0.3	57.9	58.1	0.2
New Brunswick	355.3	358.7	1.0	58.1	58.7	0.6
Quebec	3,755.0	3,746.3	-0.2	60.4	60.2	-0.2
Ontario	6,433.4	6,449.0	0.2	63.4	63.4	0.0
Manitoba	583.6	586.3	0.5	65.6	65.9	0.3
Saskatchewan	479.7	482.9	0.7	64.1	64.6	0.5
Alberta	1,799.8	1,810.2	0.6	69.6	69.7	0.1
British Columbia	2,167.1	2,166.9	0.0	62.3	62.2	-0.1
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	**1,135.2**	**1,152.5**	**1.5**	**6.5**	**6.6**	**0.1**
Newfoundland and Labrador	38.5	41.5	7.8	15.4	16.5	1.1
Prince Edward Island	8.6	8.3	-3.5	11.1	10.8	-0.3
Nova Scotia	41.0	37.6	-8.3	8.5	7.8	-0.7
New Brunswick	37.8	34.9	-7.7	9.6	8.9	-0.7
Quebec	335.3	345.7	3.1	8.2	8.4	0.2
Ontario	426.2	448.4	5.2	6.2	6.5	0.3
Manitoba	25.7	26.6	3.5	4.2	4.3	0.1
Saskatchewan	26.6	26.4	-0.8	5.3	5.2	-0.1
Alberta	79.7	65.4	-17.9	4.2	3.5	-0.7
British Columbia	115.8	117.6	1.6	5.1	5.1	0.0

Note: *Related CANSIM table 282-0087.*

Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	January 2005	January 2006	January 2005 to January 2006	January 2005	January 2006	January 2005 to January 2006
			unadjusted			
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	**16,952.2**	**17,179.1**	**1.3**	**66.2**	**66.0**	**-0.2**
Newfoundland and Labrador	238.7	238.8	0.0	55.5	55.7	0.2
Prince Edward Island	73.2	73.5	0.4	65.9	65.7	-0.2
Nova Scotia	473.8	466.8	-1.5	62.4	61.2	-1.2
New Brunswick	374.8	380.1	1.4	61.5	62.2	0.7
Quebec	3,976.4	4,023.5	1.2	64.7	64.7	0.0
Ontario	6,666.9	6,786.4	1.8	66.8	66.8	0.0
Manitoba	601.6	603.3	0.3	67.9	67.8	-0.1
Saskatchewan	501.6	500.1	-0.3	67.1	66.9	-0.2
Alberta	1,828.5	1,854.1	1.4	72.3	71.4	-0.9
British Columbia	2,216.7	2,252.5	1.6	64.9	64.7	-0.2
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	**15,678.1**	**15,949.1**	**1.7**	**61.2**	**61.3**	**0.1**
Newfoundland and Labrador	199.3	193.9	-2.7	46.3	45.2	-1.1
Prince Edward Island	62.8	63.0	0.3	56.5	56.3	-0.2
Nova Scotia	426.8	425.0	-0.4	56.2	55.8	-0.4
New Brunswick	332.9	342.9	3.0	54.7	56.1	1.4
Quebec	3,599.5	3,639.1	1.1	58.5	58.5	0.0
Ontario	6,217.0	6,337.6	1.9	62.3	62.3	0.0
Manitoba	567.9	574.1	1.1	64.1	64.5	0.4
Saskatchewan	473.4	470.8	-0.5	63.3	63.0	-0.3
Alberta	1,740.5	1,780.2	2.3	68.8	68.6	-0.2
British Columbia	2,058.0	2,122.5	3.1	60.2	60.9	0.7
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	**1,274.1**	**1,230.0**	**-3.5**	**7.5**	**7.2**	**-0.3**
Newfoundland and Labrador	39.4	44.9	14.0	16.5	18.8	2.3
Prince Edward Island	10.3	10.5	1.9	14.1	14.3	0.2
Nova Scotia	46.9	41.9	-10.7	9.9	9.0	-0.9
New Brunswick	42.0	37.2	-11.4	11.2	9.8	-1.4
Quebec	377.0	384.4	2.0	9.5	9.6	0.1
Ontario	450.0	448.8	-0.3	6.7	6.6	-0.1
Manitoba	33.6	29.2	-13.1	5.6	4.8	-0.8
Saskatchewan	28.1	29.3	4.3	5.6	5.9	0.3
Alberta	88.0	73.9	-16.0	4.8	4.0	-0.8
British Columbia	158.8	130.0	-18.1	7.2	5.8	-1.4

Note: *Related CANSIM table 282-0087.*

Employment by industry (based on NAICS) and class of worker for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	December 2005	January 2006	December 2005 to January 2006	January 2005 to January 2006	December 2005 to January 2006	January 2005 to January 2006
	seasonally adjusted					
	'000				%	
All industries	**16,294.7**	**16,321.0**	**26.3**	**269.3**	**0.2**	**1.7**
Goods-producing sector	**4,005.9**	**3,971.5**	**-34.4**	**-43.4**	**-0.9**	**-1.1**
Agriculture	347.7	341.1	-6.6	20.6	-1.9	6.4
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas	308.7	321.0	12.3	22.0	4.0	7.4
Utilities	124.6	121.2	-3.4	-1.7	-2.7	-1.4
Construction	1,052.1	1,057.1	5.0	60.9	0.5	6.1
Manufacturing	2,172.8	2,131.2	-41.6	-145.0	-1.9	-6.4
Services-producing sector	**12,288.8**	**12,349.5**	**60.7**	**312.7**	**0.5**	**2.6**
Trade	2,602.9	2,610.6	7.7	56.0	0.3	2.2
Transportation and warehousing	795.0	801.4	6.4	22.5	0.8	2.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	996.2	1,007.0	10.8	22.0	1.1	2.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,086.1	1,087.2	1.1	52.7	0.1	5.1
Business, building and other support services	664.9	673.2	8.3	44.6	1.2	7.1
Educational service	1,150.3	1,154.8	4.5	105.1	0.4	10.0
Health care and social assistance	1,721.1	1,723.4	2.3	-6.6	0.1	-0.4
Information, culture and recreation	749.6	743.7	-5.9	24.4	-0.8	3.4
Accommodation and food services	1,015.6	1,014.0	-1.6	-21.4	-0.2	-2.1
Other services	671.9	684.3	12.4	-18.7	1.8	-2.7
Public administration	835.2	850.0	14.8	32.1	1.8	3.9
Class of worker						
Public sector employees	3,158.7	3,201.5	42.8	139.9	1.4	4.6
Private sector	13,135.9	13,119.5	-16.4	129.4	-0.1	1.0
Private employees	10,587.9	10,575.0	-12.9	68.9	-0.1	0.7
Self-employed	2,548.0	2,544.5	-3.5	60.5	-0.1	2.4

Note: *Related to CANSIM tables 282-0088 and 282-0089.*

■

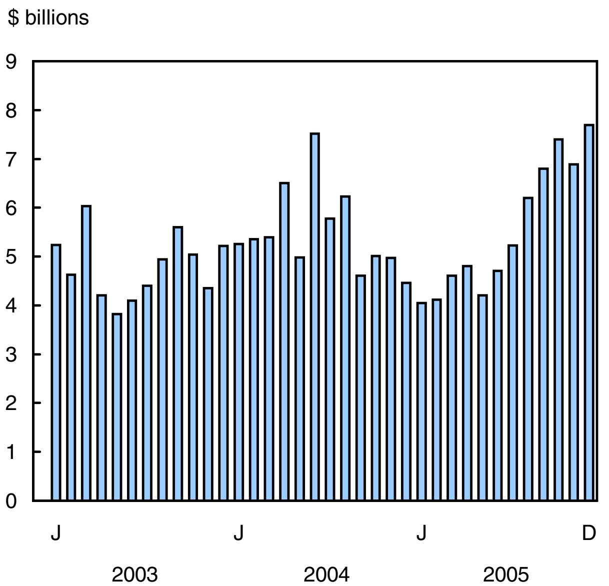
Canadian international merchandise trade

December 2005

Canada's exports surged to a new monthly peak in December, as well as to a new annual record for 2005, despite a Canadian dollar that hit its highest level since the early 1990s.

Canadian companies exported merchandise worth $41.3 billion in December, up 3.9% from November. With foreign goods cheaper to purchase because of the rising loonie, imports rose 2.3% to $33.6 billion.

Trade balance



As a result, Canada's trade surplus with the world soared to $7.69 billion in December, up from a revised $6.89 billion in November. This was the second highest level ever, but well below the $8.59 billion record reached in January 2001.

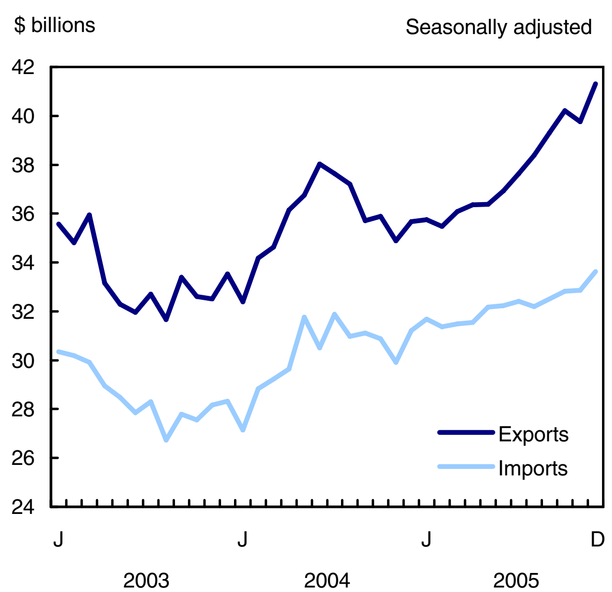
December's surplus with the United States hit a record $11.6 billion, surpassing the old mark of $11.4 billion set in October. Exports destined for the United States surged 3.9%, while imports from south of the border jumped 3.0%.

Annual 2005: Exports and imports post record highs

Canada's exporters showed considerable resilience last year as the loonie jumped from an average US 77 cents in 2004 to US 83 cents in 2005. Real exports, that is, exports adjusted for price movements, advanced to a record high of $423.6 billion compared with $408.9 billion in 2004.

Not surprisingly, real imports also hit a record high, rising 8.8% to $413.8 billion. The higher dollar meant the time was ripe for investment in foreign machinery and equipment, as well as for higher Canadian demand for consumer products from abroad.

Exports and imports



Exports to and imports from all principal trading areas were up in 2005 compared to the year before. Of

---

Note to readers

Merchandise trade is one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services.

With the exception of the United States, Japan and the United Kingdom, trade data by country are available on a customs basis only.

Revisions

In general, merchandise trade data are revised on an ongoing basis for each month of the current year. Customs basis data are revised for the previous data year each quarter.

Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs forms, replacement of estimates with actual figures, changes in classification of merchandise based on more current information, and changes to seasonal adjustment factors.

Revised data are available in the appropriate CANSIM tables.

---

the principal trading areas, the United States posted the largest gains for exports, up nearly $20 billion to $369.3 billion, while "all other countries," in which China is the dominant force, registered the largest increase (+23.7%) in imports.

China is Canada's fourth-largest export market and second-largest source for our imports. Canadian companies imported $29.5 billion in merchandise from China last year, a 22.4% gain, in the wake of booming Canadian demand for computers and accessories, cell phones, high definition televisions, clothing and a host of other household products. Canada's exports to China rose 6.4% to $7.1 billion, led by increases in Newfoundland iron ore, British Columbia copper ore, as well as Saskatchewan potash. Exports of wheat fell to half of the 2004 value, moderating the increase in exports.

Overall, energy products comprised Canada's top growing export commodity last year in terms of value. Exports surged 28.6% as back-to-back hurricanes on the US Gulf Coast drove down the supply of natural gas and crude petroleum and sent prices soaring.

December exports: Strong finish led by energy, aircraft and metals

Energy exports, which depressed export growth in November, rebounded 11.2% to a record high $9.3 billion in December. Excluding energy, exports would have grown at only half the pace they did, or by around 2.0%. Energy products were a driving force behind export gains in 8 of the 12 months of 2005.

The increase in energy exports was led by a surge in natural gas shipments to the United States, which rose 11.9% to $4.1 billion. Volume and prices rose at the same pace for the month.

Crude petroleum exports improved for the third straight month, gaining 7.9% to a record $3.2 billion. The growth was primarily price driven.

Machinery and equipment exports grew for the third straight month, rising 3.1% to $8.2 billion. This was a result of strong exports of aircraft, engines and parts, which rose 37.0% to $1.3 billion, along with exports of telecommunications and related equipment which jumped 5.6% to $1.2 billion.

Exports of industrial goods and materials reached record levels, rising 2.7% to $7.4 billion. The growth was widespread among metals and alloys, metal ores and chemicals, plastics and fertilizers.

Forestry products posted a 4.3% gain in December, reaching $3.1 billion. Lumber and sawmill products led the increase with a 5.3% jump to $1.6 billion.

On the down side, exports of automotive products declined following five monthly increases, slipping 1.5% to $7.8 billion. Passenger autos and chassis were the main contributors, dropping 4.1% to $4.2 billion. However, exports of motor vehicle parts rebounded after two months of decline with a 3.5% increase to $2.2 billion.

December imports: Metals and machinery lead the gain

Imports finished the year with their fourth monthly increase in a row in December, as five of the seven import sectors registered gains. December's increase marked the 10th increase in the past 12 months.

Imports of industrial goods and materials climbed 9.1% to $7.0 billion. The growth was widespread as each major group saw imports rise. Metals and metal ores experienced the biggest gain, rising 20.4% to $2.2 billion. Canadian companies have been importing unrefined metals to supplement domestic supply in order to ensure that mining output keeps pace with high demand for refined materials from the United States, the European Union and Asia. Import levels for unrefined metals have been fairly steady in recent months. However, imports dropped in November and this drop was compensated for by a larger-than-usual jump in December.

Chemicals and plastics also reached a record high in December, increasing 7.7% to $2.6 billion. The rise came as record levels were registered for organic chemicals, plastic materials and other chemicals and related products.

Imports of machinery and equipment edged up 1.8% to $9.6 billion. Demand for excavating machinery continued to climb as a result of increased mining and oil and gas extraction in the Western provinces, leading to a record high of $278.2 million in December.

Imports of automotive products rebounded from a November decline, rising 1.7% to $6.6 billion. Motor vehicle parts were responsible for the majority of the rise, jumping 3.1% to $3.4 billion though imports of trucks and other motor vehicles also registered a 4.3% gain. Imports of passenger autos and chassis fell for the third straight month, dropping 2.5% in December.

Imports of other consumer goods fell 1.1% to $4.2 billion in December. However, imports of apparel and apparel accessories rose 3.0% to a record high $690.1 million.

Imports of energy products fell 4.0% from November's record high. The drop was a result of a 15.8% fall in shipments of crude petroleum to $1.9 billion. However, coal and other related products had an extremely strong month with imports soaring to a record $619.1 million.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001 to 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The December 2005 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 59, no. 12 (65-001-XIB, $15/$151) is now available. See *How to order products*. The publication includes tables by commodity and country on a customs basis. Current account data (which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, service transactions, investment income and transfers) are available quarterly in *Canada's Balance of International Payments* (67-001-XIE, $32/$100).

Merchandise trade data are available in PDF format on the morning of release.

For more information on products and services, contact Anne Couillard (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-6867). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Diana Wyman (613-951-3116), International Trade Division.

□

Merchandise trade

	November 2005[r]	December 2005	November to December 2005	December 2004 to December 2005	January to December 2004	January to December 2005	January–December 2004 to January–December 2005
	seasonally adjusted, $ current						
	$ millions		% change		$ millions		% change
Principal trading partners							
Exports							
United States	32,632	33,918	3.9	16.2	350,769	369,286	5.3
Japan	868	1,044	20.3	31.3	9,957	10,490	5.4
European Union	2,370	2,503	5.6	14.2	26,902	28,905	7.4
Other OECD countries[1]	1,344	1,262	-6.1	-2.7	14,394	15,238	5.9
All other countries	2,546	2,594	1.9	18.3	27,110	29,686	9.5
Total	**39,760**	**41,320**	**3.9**	**15.8**	**429,134**	**453,599**	**5.7**
Imports							
United States	21,641	22,300	3.0	4.3	250,065	258,431	3.3
Japan	888	933	5.1	11.1	10,020	11,182	11.6
European Union	3,276	3,212	-2.0	8.1	36,475	38,359	5.2
Other OECD countries[1]	1,997	2,097	5.0	13.2	22,219	24,117	8.5
All other countries	5,068	5,089	0.4	22.2	44,299	54,820	23.7
Total	**32,870**	**33,631**	**2.3**	**7.8**	**363,076**	**386,908**	**6.6**
Balance							
United States	10,991	11,618	...	...	100,704	110,855	...
Japan	-20	111	...	...	-63	-692	...
European Union	-906	-709	...	...	-9,573	-9,454	...
Other OECD countries[1]	-653	-835	...	...	-7,825	-8,879	...
All other countries	-2,522	-2,495	...	...	-17,189	-25,134	...
Total	**6,890**	**7,689**	**...**	**...**	**66,058**	**66,691**	**...**
Principal commodity groupings							
Exports							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,679	2,661	-0.7	10.3	30,760	30,237	-1.7
Energy products	8,379	9,316	11.2	59.8	67,957	87,388	28.6
Forestry products	2,992	3,120	4.3	2.5	39,235	36,329	-7.4
Industrial goods and materials	7,231	7,426	2.7	9.7	77,727	84,636	8.9
Machinery and equipment	7,954	8,203	3.1	11.1	91,392	94,846	3.8
Automotive products	7,913	7,796	-1.5	5.6	90,336	88,350	-2.2
Other consumer goods	1,430	1,483	3.7	3.3	17,298	17,323	0.1
Special transactions trade[2]	731	729	-0.3	6.3	7,965	8,276	3.9
Other balance of payments adjustments	451	586	29.9	-19.6	6,463	6,214	-3.9
Imports							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,870	1,885	0.8	7.9	21,371	22,036	3.1
Energy products	3,289	3,158	-4.0	25.5	24,781	33,803	36.4
Forestry products	252	253	0.4	-10.3	3,179	3,136	-1.4
Industrial goods and materials	6,419	7,002	9.1	9.2	73,480	78,469	6.8
Machinery and equipment	9,395	9,560	1.8	10.4	103,809	110,282	6.2
Automotive products	6,444	6,554	1.7	-0.6	77,206	78,335	1.5
Other consumer goods	4,246	4,201	-1.1	2.4	47,677	49,410	3.6
Special transactions trade[2]	379	403	6.3	22.5	4,917	4,548	-7.5
Other balance of payments adjustments	576	614	6.6	7.5	6,652	6,887	3.5

r *Revised.*
1. *Includes Australia, Canada, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Switzerland and Turkey.*
2. *These are mainly low valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.*
... *Figures not appropriate or not applicable.*

■

Business Conditions Survey: Traveller accommodation industries

First quarter 2006

For the most part, Canada's hotel operators continue to expect a steady performance for the first quarter of the year, according to results from the Business Conditions Survey on the travel accommodation industry.

Occupancy rates are expected to remain solid. Almost half (48%) of hoteliers believe their occupancy rates will remain the same compared with the same period last year. Close to one in three (31%) respondents expect occupancy rates to rise while 22% expect a decrease. Similarly, close to half of the hotel operators (48%) anticipated their number of room nights booked to stay the same, while 30% expect an increase and 22% a decrease.

As in the previous four quarters, hotel operators expect room rates to rise. The survey found that 34% of hoteliers expect an increase in room rates between January and March, while only 13% feel they will drop.

The numbers of hours worked by employees are expected to decrease, as in the previous quarter. More hoteliers expect a decrease (22%) in the number of hours worked than an increase (19%). In comparison, 24% of hotel managers expected a decrease in the previous quarter.

While almost one-third (31%) of the hotel operators reported no difficulties at this time, labour shortage as an impediment to business was still a concern in the traveller accommodation industry. As in the previous four quarters, about one in four hoteliers continued to signal a shortage of both unskilled (24%) and skilled labour (21%) across the country. Other business impediments cited were excess room supply (23%) and general economic conditions (20%).

The survey of about 1,200 businesses, mostly hotels, was conducted in January to assess their outlook about key indicators compared to the same period last year. Some of these key indicators include bookings, occupancy rates, room rates and hours worked by employees.

Note: The Business Conditions Survey for Traveller Accommodation Industries is made possible with the support of industry partners, the Canadian Tourism Commission and the Ontario Ministry of Tourism. Results are based on survey questionnaires sent to traveler accommodation providers and are weighted by their operating revenues. Consequently, the larger businesses have a correspondingly larger impact on the results than smaller businesses.

Available on CANSIM: tables 351-0004 and 351-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5050.

For more information, to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, or to obtain the survey background paper, contact Veronica Utovac (613-951-0813; fax: 613-951-6696; *veronica.utovac@statcan.ca*) or Janine Stafford (613-951-3288; fax: 613-951-6696; *janine.stafford@statcan.ca*), Service Industries Division. □

Traveller accommodation industries

	Second quarter 2005	Third quarter 2005	Fourth quarter 2005	First quarter 2006
Anticipated number of room nights booked will be:				
About the same (%)	49	47	48	48
Higher (%)	31	31	27	30
Lower (%)	20	23	25	22
Balance of opinion	10	8	3	8
Occupancy rate will be:				
About the same (%)	51	46	50	48
Higher (%)	30	32	25	31
Lower (%)	20	23	25	22
Balance of opinion	10	9	0	9
Number of corporate/commerical travellers will be:				
About the same (%)	59	57	57	55
Higher (%)	23	22	22	24
Lower (%)	18	21	21	21
Balance of opinion	4	2	1	3
Average daily room rate will be:				
About the same (%)	46	44	46	53
Higher (%)	39	39	35	34
Lower (%)	15	18	19	13
Balance of opinion	24	21	16	21
Total number of hours worked by employees:				
About the same (%)	63	62	56	59
Higher (%)	19	20	20	19
Lower (%)	17	18	24	22
Balance of opinion	2	2	-4	-3

	First quarter 2005	Second quarter 2005	Third quarter 2005	Fourth quarter 2005
	%			
Business impediments				
Shortage of unskilled labour	15	21	22	24
Excess room supply	25	26	21	23
Shortage of skilled labour	21	23	23	21
General economic conditions	32	19	21	20
Lack of attractions or complementary facilities in the vicinity	19	16	13	16
Canada's reputation as a desired tourist destination	9	11	8	11
Abnormal weather and/or natural disasters	12	11	4	9
Access to financing	8	8	7	6
Public health and safety concerns	3	2	2	2
Third-party distribution channels (global distribution systems)	1	2	1	1
No difficulties at this time	30	32	38	31

Note: *Due to rounding, components may not add to total.*

■

Provincial distribution of federal expenditures on science and technology
2003/04

The federal government distributed $8 billion to the provinces and territories for spending on science and technology in 2003/04.

The actual final expenditures that were distributed to the provinces represent 91% of the total $8.8 billion federal expenditures for science and technology reported for 2003/04.

The remaining 9% or $800 million consisted of payments made abroad or not identified by region.

Federal spending on science and technology is expected to reach $9.1 billion in 2005/06.

Due to the heavy concentration of federal government departments in the National Capital Region, one-third (33%) of total actual federal science and technology spending, or about $2.6 billion was spent there, compared with 37% for 1997/98.

Of the remaining $5.3 billion of federal science and technology spending in 2003/04, 38% was paid out to performers in Ontario, 25% to Quebec, 11% to British Columbia, 9% to Alberta and 5% to Nova Scotia.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4212.

The service bulletin *Science Statistics: Distribution of Federal Expenditures on Science and Technology by Province and Territories*, 2003/04, Vol. 30, no. 1 (88-001-XIE, free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page under *Browse our Internet products*, choose *Free* and then *Science and technology*.

For more information, or to enquire about the methods, concepts of data quality of this release, contact Gisèle Bellefeuille (613-951-7113; *gisele.bellefeuille@statcan.ca*) or Lloyd Lizotte (613-951-2188; *lloyd.lizotte@statcan.ca*), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

Fruit and vegetable production

Fall 2005

Data from the Fruit and Vegetable Survey conducted in the fall of 2005 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: tables 001-0009 and 001-0013.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3407 and 3411.

An analysis of these data will appear in the February 2006 issue of *Fruit and Vegetable Production* (22-003-XIB, $25/$50) scheduled for release on February 24. Data are made available on the Internet twice a year, in February and June. A print-on-demand version is also available at a different price. It can be ordered directly from our Web site, or by calling (1-800-267-6677).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact William Parsons at (613-951-8727), Agriculture Division. ■

Export and import price indexes

December 2005

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1997=100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to December 2005 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted US price indexes (1997=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to December 2005. Included with the US commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and US-only Standard International Trade Classification section indexes.

Indexes for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups are also available now on a customs basis.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001 to 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The December 2005 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 59, no. 12 (65-001-XIB, $15/$151) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Anne Couillard (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9647), International Trade Division. ■

Steel primary forms, weekly data

Week ending February 4, 2006 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending February 4 totalled 305 702 metric tonnes, up 12.4% from 272 054 tonnes a week earlier and down 0.1% from 306 038 tonnes in the same week of 2005.

The year-to-date total as of February 4 was 1 442 243 tonnes, down 7.9% from 1 565 425 tonnes in the same period of 2005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2131.

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

New products

Energy Statistics Handbook, Third quarter 2005
Catalogue number 57-601-XCB ($54/$161).

Energy Statistics Handbook, Third quarter 2005
Catalogue number 57-601-XIE ($38/$107).

Canadian International Merchandise Trade, December 2005, Vol. 59, no. 12
Catalogue number 65-001-XIB ($15/$151).

Labour Force Information, Week ending January 21, 2006
Catalogue number 71-001-XIE ($9/$84).

Science Statistics, Vol. 30, no. 1
Catalogue number 88-001-XIE
(free).

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

Catalogue numbers with an -XWE, -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or –XDE are electronic versions on diskette; -XCB or –XCE are electronic versions on compact disc and -XBB or -XBE a database.

How to order products

To order by phone, please refer to:

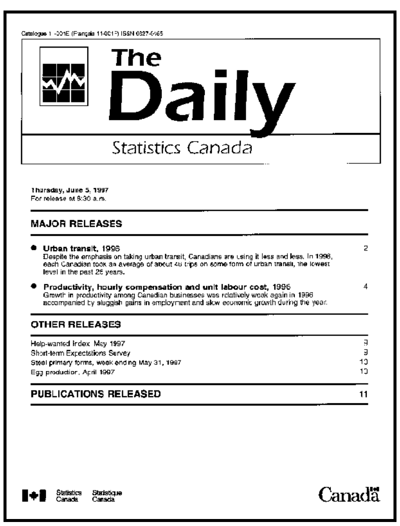
- The title
- The catalogue number
- The volume number
- The issue number
- Your credit card number.

From Canada and the United States, call:	**1-800-267-6677**
From other countries, call:	**1-613-951-7277**
To fax your order, call:	**1-877-287-4369**
For address changes or account inquiries, call:	**1-800-700-1033**

To order by mail, write to: Statistics Canada, Finance, 6th floor, R.H. Coats Bldg., Ottawa, K1A 0T6. Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

To order by Internet, write to: *infostats@statcan.ca* or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's website *(www.statcan.ca)*. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *For sale*.

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.



Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-G, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at *http://www.statcan.ca*. To receive *The Daily* each morning by e-mail, send an e-mail message to *listproc@statcan.ca.* Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Release dates: February 13 to 17, 2006

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
14	**New motor vehicle sales**	December 2005
14	**Study: Out-migration among immigrants**	
15	**Livestock statistics**	January 1, 2006
16	**Monthly Survey of Manufacturing**	December 2005
16	**Canada's international transactions in securities**	December 2005
17	**Wholesale trade**	December 2005
17	**Monthly Survey of Large Retailers**	December 2005 and Annual 2005