



The Daily

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Releases

Canadian economic accounts, fourth quarter 2005, December 2005 and annual 2005

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Investment spending, exports and personal expenditure all advanced in the fourth quarter, pushing up real gross domestic product (GDP) 0.6%. In December, monthly output was up 0.4%, after increasing 0.2% in November and 0.3% in October. A more detailed analysis is available in the *Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review*.

(continued on page 2)

Education Matters

February 2006

This issue of Statistics Canada's free online publication *Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada* contains two articles.

The article "Literacy skills among Canada's immigrant population" uses the 2003 International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey to analyze literacy skills among recent immigrants and those who have been in Canada for more than 10 years. The report reveals that immigrants tended to perform at lower proficiency than the Canadian-born population, a finding that is cause for concern. This is especially the case because immigration will account for all of the labour force net growth in the coming years.

The Census at School is a classroom project that teaches students aged 8 to 18 how to conduct statistics research and census-taking. As part of the project, students anonymously filled in an online questionnaire about themselves. The report "Census at School: Engaging students in statistics" analyzes what students themselves had to say about their reading and associated daily habits. This voluntary project, however, is not an official Statistics Canada survey conducted under the *Statistics Act*. As a result, data collected are not representative of Canada's student population.

The publication *Education Matters*, released every two months, is a source of facts and analyses on education, training and learning. It offers quick access to the latest education indicators and in-depth research from Statistics Canada. It also links electronically to a wide variety of data, news on education, learning resources and tables, charts and analyses.

The publication *Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada*, Vol. 2, no. 5 (81-004-XIE, free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Education*, then *Education Matters*.

For more information, contact Client Services (telephone: 1 800 307-3382 or 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; email: educationstats@statcan.ca), Centre for Education Statistics.



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Releases

Canadian economic accounts

Fourth quarter 2005, December 2005 and annual 2005

Investment spending, exports and personal expenditure all advanced in the fourth quarter, pushing up real gross domestic product (GDP) 0.6%. In December, monthly output was up 0.4%, after increasing 0.2% in November and 0.3% in October.

Real gross domestic product, chained (1997) dollars¹

	Change	Annualized change %	Year-over-year change
First quarter 2005	0.5	2.1	3.2
Second quarter 2005	0.9	3.6	2.8
Third quarter 2005	0.9	3.5	2.8
Fourth quarter 2005	0.6	2.5	2.9
2005	2.9	..	2.9

.. Not available for a specific reference period.

1. The change is the growth rate from one period to the next. The annualized change is the growth rate compounded annually. The year-over-year change is the growth rate of a given quarter compared with the same quarter in a previous year.

Real GDP decelerated in the fourth quarter from the 0.9% growth in the third quarter. Domestic spending remained very strong, rising 1.1% in the fourth quarter. However, an increasing share of this demand was satisfied through imports, which rose 2.7%, keeping GDP growth in check.

Investment and exports again figured prominently in the overall growth. Exports rose 2.3%, following a 1.8% gain during the third quarter, while investment in non-residential construction and equipment rose a further 3.1%.

Both the goods-producing industries (+0.8%) and service-producing industries (+0.7%) contributed to growth in the fourth quarter. Growth in the goods-producing industries, however, slowed down from the 1.3% increase in the third quarter, as output in the mining industry (excluding oil and gas extraction) cooled considerably.

Industrial production (the output of factories, mines and utilities) increased 0.8%, stimulated by manufacturing, mining and oil and gas extraction, while utilities decreased 0.7%, mostly due to lower electricity production. In the United States, the index of industrial production rose 1.4%, bolstered by manufacturing, while mining and utilities receded.

Economy-wide prices, as measured by the chain price index for GDP, rose 1.3% in the fourth quarter, down slightly from the 1.6% increase in the third quarter. A large share of the increase was the result of rising

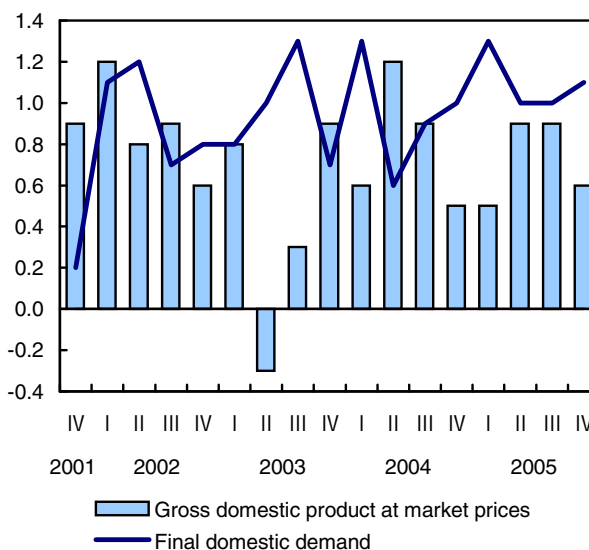
energy prices. Excluding energy prices, economy-wide prices rose 0.7% in the fourth quarter and 0.4% in the third.

The economy grew at an annualized rate of 2.5% in the fourth quarter, decelerating from the 3.5% annualized pace set during the third quarter.

For 2005 as a whole, GDP increased 2.9%, a rate of growth identical to the one registered in 2004, although the sources of strength somewhat differed between the two years.

Final domestic demand continues to outpace GDP

Quarterly % change, chained (1997) dollars



Investment remains source of strength

Business investment in non-residential structures and equipment continued to climb in the fourth quarter, increasing a further 3.1%, following an equally strong 3.3% performance in the third quarter.

Spending on non-residential structures by business remained strong, growing 2.9%, up slightly from last quarter's increase, due, in large part, to a 3.2% increase in engineering investment.

Investment in machinery and equipment maintained the pace set in the third quarter, rising another 3.2%. Continued strength in investment in computers and other office equipment and in industrial machinery, coupled with an 18.5% increase in other transportation equipment, all contributed to the strong quarterly performance.

This investment activity helped drive up imports, which climbed 2.7%, after an equally strong 2.5% increase in the third quarter. This translated into growth for the wholesale trade sector (+2.0%). Most wholesalers recorded positive results in the fourth quarter, particularly wholesalers of machinery and equipment, motor vehicles, apparel and building supplies.

Strong renovation activity alone kept investment in residential structures (+0.3%) out of negative territory, as the value of new housing construction and ownership transfer costs both fell in the fourth quarter. The value of new housing construction has now fallen for four consecutive quarters; this is the first time this has occurred since the late 1990s. In 2005, residential construction increased 3.3%, well off the 8.3% pace established in 2004.

Inventory accumulation slows but remains strong

A total of \$12 billion was added to inventories in the fourth quarter, down slightly from the \$14 billion added in the third.

There was a \$3.9 billion increase in the inventories of retailers, following a \$1.9-billion contraction during the third quarter. This was more than offset by a much slower build up of inventories in wholesale trade and utilities.

Inventories have been accumulating steadily since the third quarter of 2004, with the accumulation split evenly across the manufacturing, wholesale and retailing sectors.

Exports rebound following a poor start in 2005

Widespread growth, including a jump in forestry products, pushed up exports 2.3% in the fourth quarter, following a 1.8% increase in the third. This helped drive manufacturing output up 0.8%, a slightly higher rate than in the previous quarter.

Almost all of the growth in manufacturing output was concentrated in the production of durable goods, particularly machinery (+5.4%), transportation equipment (+2.1%), fabricated metal products (+2.4%)

and non-metallic mineral products (+3.6%). The growth in transportation equipment was fuelled by an increase in US demand for trendy Canadian-made motor vehicles. Exports of automotive products rose by more than 7% for a second consecutive quarter.

Exports of forestry products increased for the first time in six quarters, with a gain of 4.9%. A large share of these exports was destined for the US, in part to help with the reconstruction of areas devastated by hurricane Katrina last year.

Another solid gain in labour income and corporate profits

Wages and salaries continued to climb in the fourth quarter as a very tight labour market, particularly in Alberta and British Columbia, exerted upward pressure on wages. Corporate profits received another boost (+3.9%) from higher energy prices, although it was somewhat smaller than the jump (+4.7%) registered in the previous quarter. Profits among retailers, wholesalers and banks were all strong.

Consumer spending accelerates

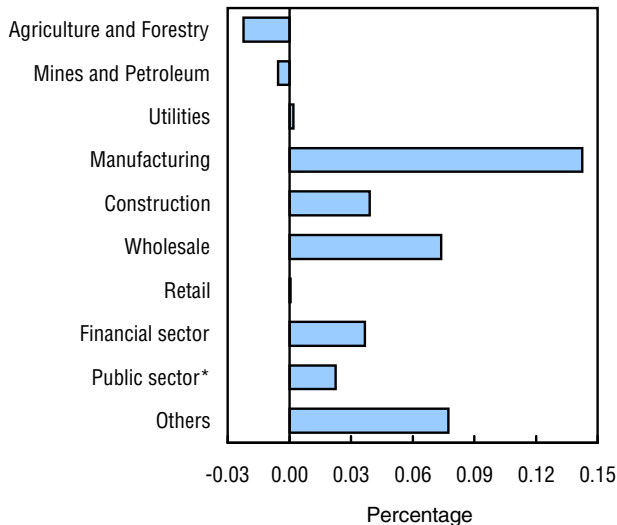
Growth in consumer spending edged up 0.7% in the fourth quarter. Expenditures on clothing and other semi-durable goods advanced 1.5%, after registering a slight decline in the third.

Purchases of durable goods declined 0.3% in the fourth quarter, the first quarterly decrease in two years. The decline resulted from a 3.5% drop in purchases of new and used automobiles. Even with the fourth quarter decline, annual growth in new and used automobiles sat at 3.3%, well above the 1.9% decline registered in 2004.

GDP by industry: highlights for December 2005

The Canadian economy grew 0.4% in December 2005, after growing 0.2% in November, mostly on the strength of durable goods manufacturing, wholesale trade, construction, and transportation and warehousing. Declines in oil and gas extraction and forestry partly offset the overall growth.

Main industrial sectors' contribution to total growth, December 2005



* Education, health and public administration.

Industrial production (the output of factories, mines and utilities) grew 0.6% in December, mainly on the strength of manufacturing (+0.9%). Utilities edged up 0.1%, while the mining, oil and gas sector declined 0.1%. In the United States, the index of industrial production grew 0.9% in December, pushed up by manufacturing, utilities and mining output.

Manufacturing output rebounded 0.9% in December after declining 0.5% in November. Production increased in 11 of the 21 major groups, these accounting for 70% of this sector's output. The largest increases were recorded by manufacturers of transportation equipment (+0.8%), particularly of motor vehicle parts, which had declined for three consecutive months.

Wholesale trade gained 1.3% in December, pulled up mainly by a sharp increase in motor vehicles. Excluding motor vehicles, wholesale trade remained essentially unchanged. After two consecutive monthly increases, the retail trade sector remained flat in December, due to a decline in sales of new cars.

Construction activities increased 0.7%, driven by continued strength in residential construction (+0.8%), and in engineering, repairs and other construction activities (+0.8%).

The energy sector declined 0.5% in December. A drop in natural gas output offset a strong increase in crude petroleum extraction. Mining activity, however, gained strength from an increase in output of metals and of non-metallic minerals (which include diamonds and potash).

The transportation and warehousing sector grew 0.7%, with most types of transportation services showing increased activities.

Monthly gross domestic product by industry at basic prices in 1997 chained dollars

	July 2005 ^r	August 2005 ^r	Sept. 2005 ^r	Oct. 2005 ^r	Nov. 2005 ^r	Dec. 2005 ^p
seasonally adjusted						
month-to-month % change						
All industries	0.3	0.6	-0.1	0.3	0.2	0.4
Goods-producing industries	0.6	1.1	-0.3	0.6	-0.1	0.5
Services-producing industries	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.3
Industrial production	0.6	1.4	-0.7	0.8	-0.3	0.6
Construction	0.6	0.3	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.7
Wholesale trade	-1.4	2.5	0.7	1.0	-1.0	1.3
Transportation and warehousing	0.6	0.9	0.5	-0.1	0.2	0.7

^r Revised.

^p Preliminary.

Year-end review

The year 2005 was the year of the consumer, as the 4.0% jump in personal expenditure on goods and services was the main contributor to overall growth in real GDP. It was the largest annual increase since 2000, when skyrocketing labour income drove up personal expenditures.

Widespread growth across most expenditure categories, a large first-quarter surge and a sustained growth throughout the year all contributed to this solid performance.

In 2005, growth in investment in non-residential structures reached 6.8%, a large gain from the 0.8% increase in 2004. The opposite was the case for investment in residential structures, which decelerated markedly, with annual growth settling in at 3.3% compared to the 8.3% increase of 2004.

While investment in residential and non-residential structures have taken turns sharing the investment spotlight over the last two years, investment in machinery and equipment was the backbone of the recent three-year surge in investment. Investment in machinery and equipment climbed 10.7% in 2005, its best annual performance since 1997. This was reflected in the 9.1% increase in output of machinery manufacturers, and was partly responsible for the 8.1% surge in wholesaling activities.

The high energy prices were behind a 14% jump in oil and gas exploration. The output of the energy sector, however, increased by only 1.9%, as production difficulties in the tar sands during the first quarter of 2005 hampered oil extraction.

High energy prices also helped boost economy-wide incomes, with much of these earnings reflected in the corporate bottom line, as well as in personal income. In 2005, wages, salaries and supplementary labour income increased 5.4%, the strongest annual increase since 2000. The increase was particularly strong in Alberta and British Columbia.

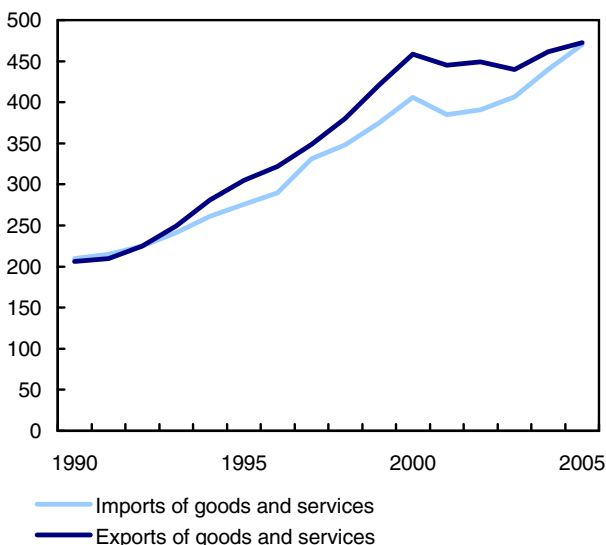
While 10.7% annual increase in profits in 2005 was well off the 18.7% increase registered in 2004, it represented another year in an unparalleled string of healthy corporate returns that began in 1993. The latest round of increases began in the third quarter of 2003, driven mainly by higher export prices for Canadian energy products, which increased 71% over this same period.

Final domestic demand rose 4.3% for the year. Since 2001, growth in final domestic demand has been on par or has outpaced that of real GDP.

The Canadian dollar's appreciation over the last three years has helped drive import prices down 10%. These declining prices have led to an increase in the demand for imports, as Canadian businesses substitute cheaper foreign goods for domestically produced goods. Consequently, a greater share of our final domestic demand is being satisfied through imports rather than domestic production.

Imports close the gap on exports in 2005

Billions of chained (1997) dollars



Following a healthy gain in 2004, growth in the manufacturing sector's output was cut in half in 2005 (+2.2%). Manufacturers faced a strong dollar

(its highest value against the US currency in more than a decade), high input costs (such as petroleum) and strong international competition. Almost all of the growth was concentrated in the production of durable goods (+4.0%), while output of non-durable goods, more sensitive to international competition, edged down 0.4%, dragged down notably by textiles and clothing.

Detailed analysis and tables

The new National Economic Accounts module, accessible from the home page of the agency's website, features an up-to-date portrait of national and provincial economies and their structure.

More detailed analysis on today's releases from the national accounts, including additional charts and tables, can be found in the fourth quarter 2005 issue of *Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review*, Vol. 4, no. 4 (13-010-XIE, free). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *National accounts*.

Products, services and contact information

Gross domestic product by industry

Available on CANSIM: tables 379-0017 to 379-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1301.

The December 2005 issue of *Gross Domestic Product by Industry*, Vol. 19, no. 12 (15-001-XIE, \$12/\$118) is now available. See *How to order products*. A print-on-demand version is available at a different price.

To order data, contact Yolande Chantigny (1-800-887-IMAD; imad@statcan.ca). For general information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bernard Lefrançois (613-951-3622; bernard.lefrancois@statcan.ca), Industry Accounts Division.

New sources and methods publication

The new reference manual *Gross Domestic Product by Industry: Sources and Methods with Industry Details* (15-548-XIE, free) is now available. This document describes in detail the data sources used in the derivation of monthly GDP by industry series. For more information on this manual, contact Erika Young (613-951-3631; erika.young@statcan.ca), Industry Accounts Division.

National economic and financial accounts

Available on CANSIM: tables 378-0001, 378-0002, 380-0001 to 380-0017, 380-0019 to 380-0035, 380-0056, 380-0059, 380-0060 and 382-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1804, 1901 and 2602.

The fourth quarter 2005 issue of *National Income and Expenditure Accounts, Quarterly Estimates* (13-001-XIB, \$36/\$117) will soon be available. A print-on-demand version is available at a different price.

Detailed printed tables of unadjusted and seasonally adjusted quarterly *Income and Expenditure Accounts* (13-001-PPB, \$54/\$193), *Financial Flow Accounts* (13-014-PPB, \$54/\$193) and *Estimates of Labour Income* (13F0016XPB, \$22/\$70), including supplementary analytical tables and charts are now available. See *How to order products*.

At 8:30 am on release day, the complete seasonally adjusted quarterly income and expenditure accounts, financial flow accounts, and monthly estimates of labour income data sets can be obtained on computer diskette. The diskettes (13-001-DDB, \$134/\$535; 13-014-DDB, \$321/\$1284; and 13F0016DDB, \$134/\$535) can also be purchased at a lower cost seven business days after the official release date (13-001-XDB, \$27/\$107; 13-014-XDB, \$65/\$257; and 13F0016XDB, \$27/\$107). To purchase any of these products, contact Client Services (613-951-3810; iead-info-dcrd@statcan.ca), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the information officer (613-951-3640, iead-info-dcrd@statcan.ca), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

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Canadian economic accounts key indicators¹

	Third quarter 2004	Fourth quarter 2004	First quarter 2005	Second quarter 2005	Third quarter 2005	Fourth quarter 2005	2004	2005
seasonally adjusted at annual rates								
\$ millions at current prices								
GDP by income and by expenditure								
Wages, salaries and supplementary labour income	647,288 0.9	654,312 1.1	662,636 1.3	672,952 1.6	684,312 1.7	695,800 1.7	643,964 4.2	678,925 5.4
Corporation profits before taxes	178,804 0.9	181,484 1.5	183,580 1.2	188,968 2.9	197,780 4.7	205,416 3.9	175,148 18.7	193,936 10.7
Interest and miscellaneous investment income	57,112 3.1	57,312 0.4	57,284 0.0	57,844 1.0	61,284 5.9	68,548 11.9	55,408 10.3	61,240 10.5
Net income of unincorporated business	85,068 1.6	85,296 0.3	85,228 -0.1	85,680 0.5	86,728 1.2	87,232 0.6	83,893 7.0	86,217 2.8
Taxes less subsidies	150,276 1.1	151,212 0.6	152,272 0.7	155,120 1.9	155,284 0.1	156,168 0.6	148,682 5.1	154,711 4.1
Personal disposable income	751,336 0.5	757,772 0.9	761,688 0.5	770,880 1.2	784,000 1.7	794,168 1.3	747,496 3.9	777,684 4.0
Personal saving rate ²	1.4 ...	1.0 ...	-0.3 ...	-0.6 ...	-0.1 ...	0.3 ...	1.4 ...	-0.2 ...
millions of chained (1997) dollars								
Personal expenditure on consumer goods and services	642,702 0.9	648,794 0.9	658,442 1.5	664,610 0.9	668,614 0.6	673,414 0.7	640,630 3.4	666,270 4.0
Government current expenditure on goods and services	210,713 0.5	211,801 0.5	213,012 0.6	214,702 0.8	217,041 1.1	218,992 0.9	210,049 2.7	215,937 2.8
Gross fixed capital formation	241,206 1.5	245,637 1.8	249,630 1.6	252,566 1.2	258,023 2.2	263,572 2.2	240,150 6.6	255,948 6.6
Investment in inventories	17,458 ...	22,370 ...	17,761 ...	13,014 ...	14,372 ...	11,969 ...	11,535 ...	14,279 ...
Exports of goods and services	465,940 -0.7	462,289 -0.8	466,045 0.8	465,418 -0.1	473,836 1.8	484,795 2.3	461,675 5.0	472,524 2.3
Imports of goods and services	446,727 3.0	455,772 2.0	464,293 1.9	460,524 -0.8	471,894 2.5	484,829 2.7	439,619 8.1	470,385 7.0
Gross domestic product at market prices	1,131,229 0.9	1,137,256 0.5	1,143,107 0.5	1,153,132 0.9	1,163,112 0.9	1,170,432 0.6	1,124,428 2.9	1,157,446 2.9
GDP at basic prices by industry								
Goods-producing industries	335,635 1.5	336,330 0.2	336,657 0.1	337,959 0.4	342,418 1.3	345,215 0.8	332,217 4.1	340,562 2.5
Industrial production	250,084 1.4	250,505 0.2	250,259 -0.1	250,455 0.1	253,636 1.3	255,610 0.8	247,374 3.8	252,490 2.1
Energy sector	62,867 -0.5	63,582 1.1	62,771 -1.3	63,457 1.1	65,132 2.6	65,851 1.1	63,109 1.8	64,303 1.9
Manufacturing	183,247 2.3	182,866 -0.2	183,600 0.4	182,805 -0.4	184,168 0.7	185,603 0.8	180,070 4.6	184,044 2.2
Non-durable manufacturing	74,617 1.5	74,096 -0.7	73,543 -0.7	73,038 -0.7	73,518 0.7	73,454 -0.1	73,714 2.0	73,388 -0.4
Durable manufacturing	108,400 2.9	108,539 0.1	109,821 1.2	109,531 -0.3	110,411 0.8	111,905 1.4	106,132 6.5	110,417 4.0
Construction	60,813 0.9	61,510 1.1	62,194 1.1	62,988 1.3	63,801 1.3	65,252 2.3	60,689 4.6	63,559 4.7
Services-producing industries	712,389 0.8	716,314 0.6	722,452 0.9	730,071 1.1	736,499 0.9	741,491 0.7	709,357 2.7	732,628 3.3
Wholesale trade	62,952 1.9	63,958 1.6	65,235 2.0	66,985 2.7	67,957 1.5	69,299 2.0	62,306 5.3	67,369 8.1
Retail trade	59,811 1.5	60,341 0.9	61,449 1.8	62,121 1.1	62,242 0.2	62,472 0.4	59,405 3.8	62,071 4.5
Transportation and warehousing	50,068 0.6	50,547 1.0	50,904 0.7	51,356 0.9	52,416 2.1	52,854 0.8	49,804 4.5	51,883 4.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and renting	207,075 0.5	208,219 0.6	210,324 1.0	212,598 1.1	214,633 1.0	216,030 0.7	206,340 3.4	213,396 3.4
Information and communication technologies	58,616 1.7	59,190 1.0	60,109 1.6	61,056 1.6	61,764 1.2	61,826 0.1	58,112 4.3	61,189 5.3

... Figures not applicable.

1. The first line is the series itself expressed in millions of dollars, seasonally adjusted at annual rates. The second line is the period-to-period percentage change.

2. Actual rate.

Machinery and equipment price indexes

Fourth quarter 2005

The Machinery and Equipment Price Index (MEPI) was 125.6 (1986=100) in the fourth quarter of 2005, down 0.6% from the third quarter. The domestic component increased 0.1%, while the imported component decreased 1.3% during this period. Compared with the fourth quarter of 2004, the index edged down 0.2%, due mainly to a decrease in the import series (-1.1%).

Most industrial sector indexes decreased, while the remaining had slight increases of less than 1%, compared to the previous quarter. The total index drop was mostly influenced by manufacturing (-0.6%), transport, communication, storage and utilities (-0.5%) and community, business and personal services (-1.1%). Paper and allied products (-1.3%) and transportation equipment (-1.2%) exerted the strongest influence on the manufacturing decrease. Air transportation (-1.4%), electric power (-0.4%) and telephones (-0.7%) were the most significant factors in the downward movement of transport, communication, storage and utilities costs.

At the commodity level, compared to the last quarter, the major contributors to the decline were specialized industrial equipment (-0.6%), automobiles (-1.3%) and tractors (-2.2%). The specialized industrial equipment was influenced, in most part, by the decrease in the imported component (-0.8%).

On a quarterly basis, the Canadian dollar continued to strengthen (+2.38%) against its American counterpart, helping to lower the prices of imported goods. Annually, the Canadian dollar rose 4.83% over the fourth quarter 2004.

Note: The release of the fourth quarter 2005 Machinery and Equipment Price Index (MEPI) (1986=100) marks the end of the production and publication of this series. Starting with the release of the first quarter 2006, the Machinery and Equipment Price Index (MEPI) (1997=100) will be introduced containing new commodities and industry details. This series also contains updated weights for commodity, industries and domestic/import splits. Data for this new series will be available quarterly from the first quarter 1997 inclusive.

Machinery and equipment price indexes

(1986=100)

	Relative importance	Fourth quarter 2005 ^P	Third quarter to fourth quarter 2005	Fourth quarter 2004 to fourth quarter 2005
			% change	
Machinery and equipment price index	100.0	125.6	-0.6	-0.2
Agriculture	11.0	138.3	0.1	-2.9
Forestry	1.5	138.1	-0.5	-0.5
Fishing	0.6	125.1	-0.6	-1.2
Mines, quarries and oil wells	6.0	129.2	-0.9	0.0
Manufacturing	29.9	134.8	-0.6	1.3
Construction	3.5	128.2	-1.2	-0.4
Transportation, communication, storage and utilities	25.9	122.2	-0.5	0.0
Trade	4.0	113.0	-0.8	-0.5
Finance, insurance and real estate	1.8	107.8	-0.6	0.1
Community, business and personal services	11.1	100.6	-1.1	-1.7
Public administration	4.7	121.8	-1.1	-0.8

^P Preliminary.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0013, 327-0014 and 327-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2312.

The fourth quarter 2005 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XIE, \$20/\$59) will be available in April.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality for this release, contact Client Services Unit, Prices Division (613-951-9606); fax: (613-951-1539), infounit@statcan.ca, or Adrian Fisher (613-951-9612). ■

Crude oil and natural gas: Supply and disposition

December (Preliminary) and annual 2005 (Preliminary)

Crude and equivalent hydrocarbon production declined 2.1% in 2005, compared to 2004. This was the first annual percentage drop in the past six years. The total annual production of 146.2 million cubic metres was lower than the previous year, mostly because of a fire at a major oil sands processing facility in Alberta. Synthetic crude production dropped 17.5% over the first nine months of the year as a result of this fire. In Newfoundland and Labrador, production was also lower for 2005 (-3.1%), due to a maintenance slowdown at the Terra Nova oil field.

Overall, Canadian crude oil exports decreased 2.0% from 2004, even though there was an increase in exports to the United States late in the year. Exports accounted for 63.1% of the total crude oil and equivalent production.

Crude oil imports for 2005 receded by 0.9%, compared to 2004. About 75% of Canadian imports come from Norway (25.7%), Algeria (17.9%), United Kingdom (15.7%), Saudi Arabia (8.2%) and Iraq (7.1%). North Sea countries represented 41.4% of total imports, while Middle Eastern countries accounted for 33.2% of total imports.

In December 2005, crude oil production reached 13.7 million cubic metres, up a significant 12.1% from December 2004. This increase was attributable to higher production in Newfoundland and Labrador (due to the addition of the White Rose oilfield), and higher

synthetic crude oil (+24.0%) and bitumen (+20.5%) production in Alberta, compared to the same month last year.

Exports of crude oil, which accounted for 65.5% of total production, increased 16.8% from December 2004.

In 2005, marketable natural gas production advanced 1.2% from 2004. However, lower natural gas sales in the residential (-0.4%), commercial (-1.2%) and industrial (-3.9) sectors resulted in domestic sales edging down 2.7%, compared to 2004.

In December 2005, marketable natural gas production decreased 3.0% and domestic sales fell 4.3% from December 2004. Exports accounted for 66.9% of marketable natural gas production.

Available on CANSIM: tables 126-0001 and 131-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2198.

Preliminary data is available on CANSIM at the national level to December 2005 inclusive. At the national and provincial level detailed information is available for crude oil (126-0001) up to October 2005 inclusive, and for natural gas (131-0001) up to May 2005 inclusive.

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

Crude oil and natural gas

	December 2004	December 2005	Dec. 2004 to Dec. 2005
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹			
Production	12 267.1	13 750.5	12.1
Exports	7 717.0	9 010.3	16.8
Imports ²	4 570.2	4 176.3	-8.6
Refinery receipts	9 114.0	8 502.5	-6.7
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas³			
Marketable production	15 431.8	14 962.2	-3.0
Exports	10 018.3	10 005.7	-0.1
Domestic sales ⁴	8 254.0	7 902.2	-4.3
	Jan. to Dec.2004	Jan. to Dec 2005	Jan.-Dec. 2004 to Jan.-Dec.2005
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹			
Production	149 425.0	146 219.5	-2.1
Exports	94 149.7	92 264.7	-2.0
Imports ²	54 274.4	53 797.0	-0.9
Refinery receipts	110 414.1	106 527.7	-3.5
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas³			
Marketable production	167 502.5	169 532.1	1.2
Exports	105 261.3	106 520.6	1.2
Domestic sales ⁴	72 146.7	70 177.0	-2.7

1. Disposition may differ from production because of inventory change, industry own-use, etc.

2. Crude oil received by Canadian refineries from foreign countries for processing. Data may differ from International Trade Division (ITD) estimates because of timing differences and the inclusion of crude oil landed in Canada for future re-export in the ITD data.

3. Disposition may differ from production because of inventory change, usage as pipeline fuel, pipeline losses, line-pack fluctuations, etc.

4. Includes direct sales.

■

New products

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Day of Release, December 2005
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• Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995 Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.	4

OTHER RELEASES

• Help-wanted index, May 1997	3
• Short-term Expectations Survey	9
• Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997	12
• Egg production, April 1997	12

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Release dates: March 2006

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Release date	Title	Reference period
1	Industrial product and raw materials price indexes	January 2006
1	Study: Immigrants who leave Canada	1980 to 2000
6	Building permits	January 2006
7	Women in Canada	
9	Canadian international merchandise trade	January 2006
9	New Housing Price Index	January 2006
10	Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost	Fourth quarter 2005
10	Labour Force Survey	February 2006
13	Industrial capacity utilization rates	Fourth quarter 2005
13	Survey of Suppliers of Business Financing	2004
14	Feeding the Dragon: Canadian Exporters Profit from a Booming China	1998 to 2004
14	New motor vehicle sales	January 2006
15	Canada's international investment position	Fourth quarter 2005
15	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	January 2006
16	Consumer Price Index	February 2006
17	National balance sheet accounts	Fourth quarter 2005
17	Wholesale trade	January 2006
20	Canada's international transactions in securities	January 2006
20	Travel between Canada and other countries	January 2006
21	Retail trade	January 2006
21	Leading indicators	February 2006
22	Annual Wholesale Trade Survey	Annual 2004
22	Food and Beverage Sales: Slicing the pie between which players ?	1998 to 2004
23	Child care	1994/95 to 2002/03
24	The Participation in Adult Schooling and its Earnings Impact in Canada	1993-1998 and 1996-2001
27	Annual retail store and annual retail chain surveys	2004
28	Youth custody and community services	2003/04
28	Culture services trade	1996 to 2003
28	Employment Insurance	January 2006
29	National tourism indicators	Fourth quarter 2005
29	Payroll employment, earnings and hours	January 2006
30	Industrial product and raw materials price indexes	February 2006
30	Income of Canadians	2004
31	Television viewing	Fall 2004
31	Gross domestic product by industry	January 2006