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Releases

Releases

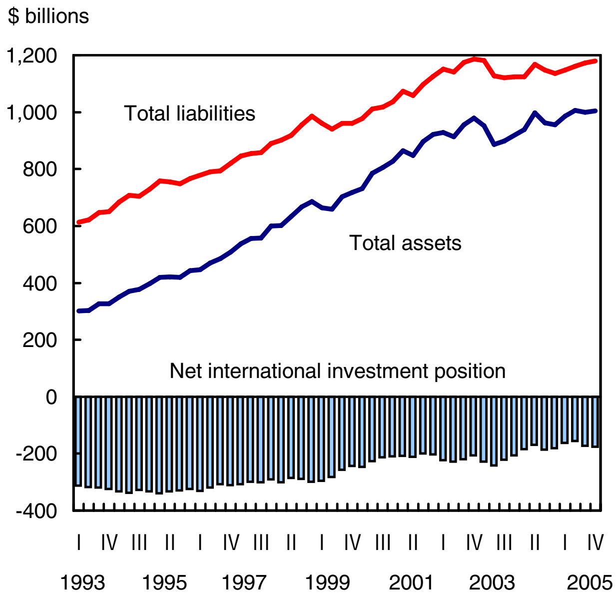
Canada's international investment position

Fourth quarter 2005

Canada's net external liabilities rose to their highest quarterly level of 2005 at the end of the year, as the value of Canada's foreign liabilities rose at a faster pace than its assets abroad.

Net external liabilities (the difference between Canada's external assets and foreign liabilities) reached $175.8 billion at the end of the fourth quarter, up 1.6% from the third.

Canada's international investment position



However, on a year-over-year basis, net external liabilities were down 2.9% compared to the $181.1 billion recorded at the end of 2004. This was the third straight year-end decline of Canada's net external liabilities.

The value of our international assets totalled $1,004.4 billion, up $5.0 billion from the third quarter. An increase in Canadian direct investment abroad and in holdings of foreign bonds explains the advance.

Canada's international liabilities increased $7.9 billion to $1,180.3 billion. An increase in foreign direct investment in Canada was largely responsible for this movement in foreign liabilities.

> ***Note to readers***
>
> ***Estimates at market value***
>
> *As of the first quarter of 2005, total portfolio investment (equities, bonds and money market instruments) are available at market value. These additional series are part of a multi-year initiative to improve the international investment position information. The following analysis focuses on the book value series, however, and this practice will continue until a full set of market value estimates becomes available. Annual market value estimates of foreign direct investment series will be available in May 2006.*
>
> ***Currency valuation***
>
> *The value of assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currency are converted to Canadian dollars at the end of each period for which a balance sheet is calculated. Most of Canada's foreign assets are denominated in foreign currencies while less than half of our international liabilities are in foreign currencies.*
>
> *When the Canadian dollar is appreciating in value, the restatement of the value of these assets and liabilities in Canadian dollars lowers the recorded value. The opposite is true when the dollar is depreciating.*

During the year, foreign liabilities rose $43.7 billion, nearly three-quarters of it was the result of foreign direct investment in Canada. At the same time, Canadian assets abroad rose by $49.0 billion, almost half of it coming from increased holdings of foreign bonds.

Net external liabilities at the end of December represented 12.5% of Canada's gross domestic product (GDP). This was unchanged from the end of the third quarter, but somewhat lower than the ratio of 13.7% at the end of 2004.

The Canadian dollar fell marginally against the US dollar and increased against other major currencies during the quarter. However, at the end of 2005, the Canadian dollar was at 86.0 US cents, up about 3% from a year earlier. In 2005, the Canadian dollar gained 15% against the pound sterling, 18% against the euro and 19% against the yen.

Holdings of foreign bonds significantly increased

Canadian holdings of foreign bonds increased significantly to reach $79.4 billion at the end of the quarter; up 7.3% from a quarter earlier and the tenth consecutive quarterly advance. Most of the increase was directed to US bonds. Canadian holdings of foreign money market paper amounted to $13.1 billion at the end of the fourth quarter, up 4.8% from the third.

Holdings of foreign stocks reached $180.6 billion, up $1.5 billion from the third quarter. The fourth-quarter purchase of foreign stocks was partly offset by a decline in the value of foreign stocks already held resulting from the appreciation of the Canadian dollar against foreign currencies (excluding the US dollar).

On a year-over-year basis, Canadian holdings of foreign bonds increased by $21.9 billion, or 38.1%, from the end of 2004. Canadian demand for foreign bonds was strong during the entire year as Canadians bought a record amount of bonds during the year. At the same time, Canadian holdings of foreign stocks fell 3.2% from the end of 2004.

Canada's international reserves closed the year at $38.0 billion, down about $500 million from the third quarter, and the lowest level since the second quarter of 1999. Canada's international reserve position has followed a downward slope since the peak of $56.2 billion reached at the end of 2002.

Moderate rise in Canadian direct investment abroad

Canadian direct investment abroad reached $457.3 billion at the end of the fourth quarter, up 1.2% from the end of the third quarter. The increase in direct investment abroad was due to transactions valued at $8.3 billion, which were offset by a $2.7-billion decline caused by the appreciation of the Canadian dollar against overseas currencies.

During 2005, the Canadian direct investment abroad position increased by $12.2 billion. Canadian direct investment in the United States increased by $15.5 billion, but this was partially offset by a $3.3-billion decline in Canadian direct investment in all other countries combined.

Higher foreign direct investment in Canada

Foreign direct investment in Canada rose $10.0 billion to $398.4 billion at the end of the fourth quarter. This increase came mostly from acquisitions of Canadian firms by foreign investors, largely from overseas countries.

For the first time in more than two decades, foreign direct investment in Canada surpassed foreign holdings of Canadian bonds as the largest component of the nation's foreign liabilities.

At the end of December, foreign direct investment accounted for 33.8% of Canada's liabilities, while foreign holdings of Canadian bonds accounted for 32.8%.

In 2005, foreign direct investment in Canada increased by $32.7 billion compared to the 2004 year-end level.

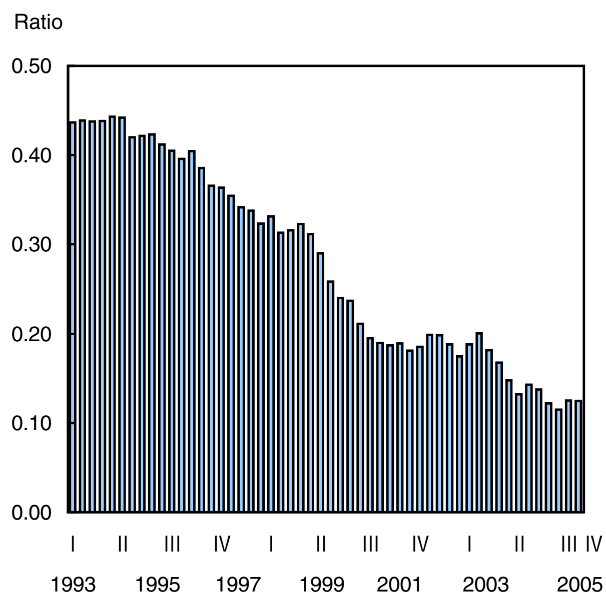
Significant quarterly change in foreign holdings of Canadian money market paper

After dropping sharply in the third quarter, foreign holdings of Canadian money market paper rebounded strongly in the fourth quarter, increasing by more than 17% to $20.8 billion. The position of short-term paper issued by the federal government (including federal government enterprises) rose by $1.9 billion to $14.3 billion.

At the same time, foreign holdings of Canadian bonds reached $387.0 billion at the end of December, down $2.7 billion from the end of September.

Finally, foreign holdings of Canadian stocks increased slightly to $112.8 billion at the end of the fourth quarter. On a year-over-year basis, the foreign position in Canadian stocks increased $4.2 billion. The S&P/TSX Composite Index gained almost 22% in 2005.

Canada's net international liability to GDP



Available on CANSIM: tables 376-0055 to 376-0057 and 376-0059.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1537.

The fourth quarter 2005 issue of *Canada's International Investment Position* (67-202-XIE, $23/$51) will be available soon.

For general information, contact Client Services (613-951-1855; *infobalance@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the methods, concepts or data quality of this release, contact Eric Simard (613-951-7244) or Christian Lajule (613-951-2062) Balance of Payments Division.

Canada's international investment position at period-end

	Fourth quarter 2004	First quarter 2005	Second quarter 2005	Third quarter 2005	Fourth quarter 2005
	$ billions				
Assets					
Canadian direct investment abroad	445.1	452.7	462.1	451.7	457.3
Portfolio investment abroad					
Foreign bonds	57.5	62.9	67.8	74.0	79.4
Foreign bonds at market value	61.9	67.5	74.6	80.0	85.9
Foreign stocks	186.7	185.8	185.7	179.1	180.6
Foreign stocks at market value	368.9	367.3	375.7	383.7	398.3
Foreign money market	11.1	11.0	12.2	12.5	13.1
Foreign money market at market value	11.1	11.0	12.2	12.5	13.1
Other investment					
Loans	56.0	59.3	57.6	56.6	53.3
Allowances	-10.9	-10.8	-10.9	-10.7	-10.6
Deposits	112.5	120.1	126.1	134.2	125.0
Official international reserves	40.3	43.1	41.8	38.5	38.0
Other assets	57.2	61.3	64.1	63.7	68.5
Total assets					
at book value	955.4	985.5	1,006.3	999.4	1,004.4
with portfolio investment at market value	1,142.1	1,171.5	1,203.2	1,210.1	1,228.7
Liabilities					
Foreign direct investment in Canada	365.7	369.5	374.7	388.4	398.4
Portfolio investment					
Canadian bonds	405.1	402.7	403.9	389.7	387.0
Canadian bonds at market value	437.7	434.7	445.2	424.3	415.8
Canadian stocks	108.6	110.5	109.3	112.0	112.8
Canadian stocks at market value	242.3	256.7	261.5	298.2	308.7
Canadian money market	19.6	18.6	19.7	17.7	20.8
Canadian money market at market value	19.7	18.7	19.8	17.8	20.9
Other investment					
Loans	39.7	48.9	50.1	43.3	39.3
Deposits	176.0	175.2	181.2	198.9	201.6
Other liabilities	21.9	22.2	22.4	22.5	20.3
Total liabilities					
at book value	1,136.6	1,147.6	1,161.3	1,172.4	1,180.3
with portfolio investment at market value	1,303.0	1,325.9	1,354.9	1,393.4	1,405.0
Net international investment position					
at book value	-181.1	-162.2	-155.0	-173.0	-175.8
with portfolio investment at market value	-160.9	-154.3	-151.7	-183.3	-176.4

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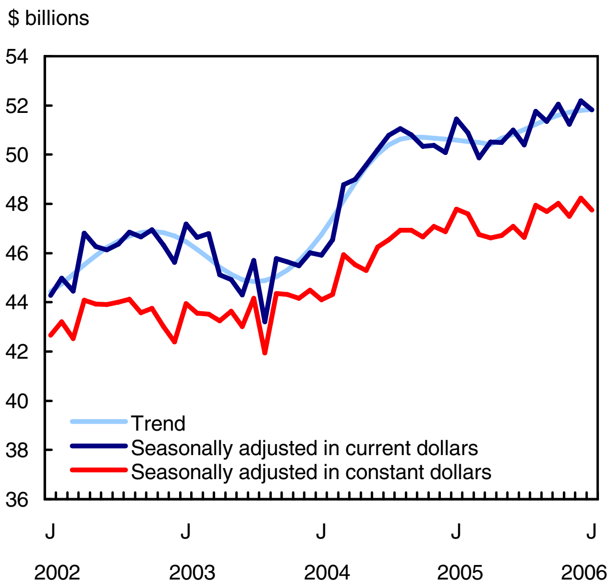
Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

January 2006

Manufacturing shipments continued on an erratic course in January as the ever-volatile motor vehicles and parts industries pulled down total shipments, despite strength in several resource-based industries.

Manufacturers continue on a volatile course



Shipments declined 0.7% to $51.8 billion in January, following a 1.8% advance in December. A substantial drop in motor vehicles and parts manufacturing largely contributed to January's weakness. Excluding the motor vehicles and parts industries, shipments actually edged up by 0.3%.

The unpredictable state of manufacturing

Over the past 18 months, the manufacturing sector has experienced considerable volatility as some key industries struggled, while strong global demand fuelled expansion in other industries. This has also generated some significant disparity across the country in terms of shipment activity.

Note to readers

Non-durable goods industries *include food, beverage and tobacco products, textile mills, textile product mills, clothing, leather and allied products, paper, printing and related support activities, petroleum and coal products, chemicals, and plastics and rubber products.*

Durable goods industries *include wood products, non-metallic mineral products, primary metals, fabricated metal products, machinery, computer and electronic products, electrical equipment, appliances and components, transportation equipment, furniture and related products and miscellaneous manufacturing.*

Unfilled orders *are a stock of orders that will contribute to future shipments assuming that the orders are not cancelled.*

New orders *are those received whether shipped in the current month or not. They are measured as the sum of shipments for the current month plus the change in unfilled orders. Some people interpret new orders as orders that will lead to future demand. This is inappropriate since the "new orders" variable includes orders that have already been shipped. Readers should note that the month-to-month change in new orders may be volatile. This will happen particularly if the previous month's change in unfilled orders is closely related to the current month's change.*

Not all orders will be translated into Canadian factory shipments because portions of large contracts can be subcontracted out to manufacturers in other countries. Also, some orders may be cancelled.

The soaring value of the Canadian dollar, which recently closed at a 14-year high, has been a source of challenge for manufacturers. The majority of products produced in Canada are sold abroad, and the high-valued dollar makes Canadian exports more expensive in the global marketplace.

Shipments fall despite strength in most industries

January's decline was not widespread as only 7 of the 21 manufacturing industries reported lower shipments, although these industries accounted for just over one-half of the value of total shipments.

Although seven provinces posted decreases in January, Ontario (-$554 million or -2.1%) was the hardest hit of the lot. Sustained strength among Quebec's manufacturers (+$146 million or +1.2%) and a big bounce-back in Manitoba (+$103 million or +9.8%) following a weak December, partly offset the decline overall.

Manufacturing shipments, provinces and territories

	December 2005r	January 2006p	December 2005 to January 2006
	seasonally adjusted		
	$ millions		% change
Canada	**52,185**	**51,819**	**-0.7**
Newfoundland and Labrador	223	222	-0.7
Prince Edward Island	125	123	-1.1
Nova Scotia	811	811	-0.1
New Brunswick	1,244	1,218	-2.0
Quebec	12,254	12,399	1.2
Ontario	26,197	25,643	-2.1
Manitoba	1,043	1,146	9.8
Saskatchewan	1,011	1,018	0.7
Alberta	5,473	5,453	-0.4
British Columbia	3,798	3,779	-0.5
Yukon	2	2	12.0
Northwest Territories including Nunavut	4	5	13.2

r *Revised.*
p *Preliminary.*

Continued volatility in the transportation equipment sector

In January, temporary plant closures and production slowdowns at some factories contributed to declines in the manufacturing of motor vehicles and parts. Shipments of motor vehicles tumbled by 4.6% to $5.4 billion, the third decrease in a row.

Meanwhile, manufacturers of motor vehicle parts lost most of the substantial gains of December (+8.6%) as shipments fell 7.6% to $2.6 billion.

The automotive sector has been quite unpredictable over the past year. Canada is home to the assembly of several popular models in North America. Nevertheless, soaring gas prices, fickle consumers and lagging sales, despite tempting retail incentives, were among several factors contributing to some major announcements of restructuring in the motor vehicle manufacturing industry planned over the next few years.

Other industries reporting lower January shipments included railroad rolling stock (-30.9%) and paper (-4.2%) manufacturing.

Resource-based industries offset some of the decline

Despite January's decrease overall, the majority of industries posted higher shipments.

Robust global demand and soaring industrial prices fuelled a 4.8% jump in shipments of primary metals to $4.2 billion in January. Primary metal prices surged 3.0% in January, led by strong demand for aluminium, nickel and zinc products.

Above-average temperatures this winter have contributed to plenty of construction activity in North America, and consequently a rise in the price of lumber products (+1.6%). As a result, shipments of wood products rose 1.8% to $3.0 billion in January, the highest level since May 2005.

Factory job losses versus productivity

According to the latest Labour Force Survey for February, there have been just over 106,000 (-4.7%) factory jobs lost compared to the same period one year ago. Yet, several manufacturing industries have been gradually improving their rates of capacity utilization.

Manufacturers used 84.7% of their production capacity in the fourth quarter of 2005, up from 84.1% in the previous quarter. According to the latest release of industrial capacity utilization rates, foreign demand for durable goods, such as automotive products, machinery, and plastics and rubber products, were among the industries contributing to the rise in the capacity rate.

Despite the month-to-month volatility in shipments and thousands of job losses, many manufacturers continue to hold their own, a possible sign of improved productivity and efficiency gains through restructuring, at least in some industries. The trend for shipments, although levelling off in recent months, has remained positive through much of the last year.

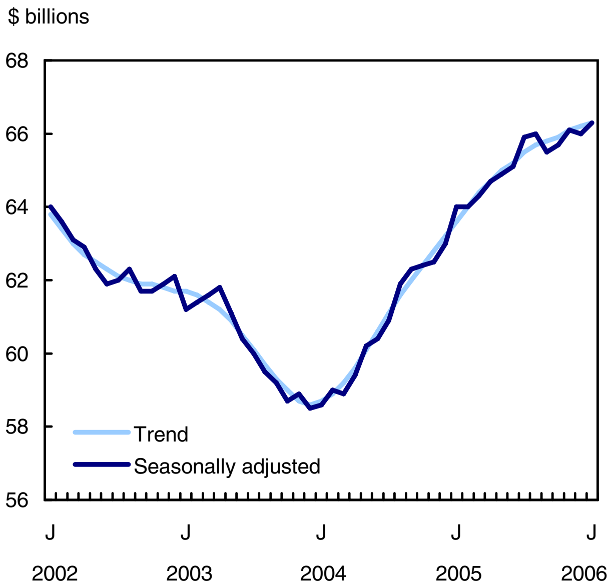
At 1997 prices, total shipments fell back 1.0% to $47.7 billion in January, following December's volume-based surge in constant dollar shipments (+1.5%).

Finished product inventories on the rise

Manufacturers' inventories continued to accumulate in January, rising 0.3% to $66.3 billion at month's end. Inventories have been on a gradual rise for about two years.

A 0.9% decline in goods-in-process inventories partly offset increases in finished products (+1.1%), and raw material (+0.5%) inventories.

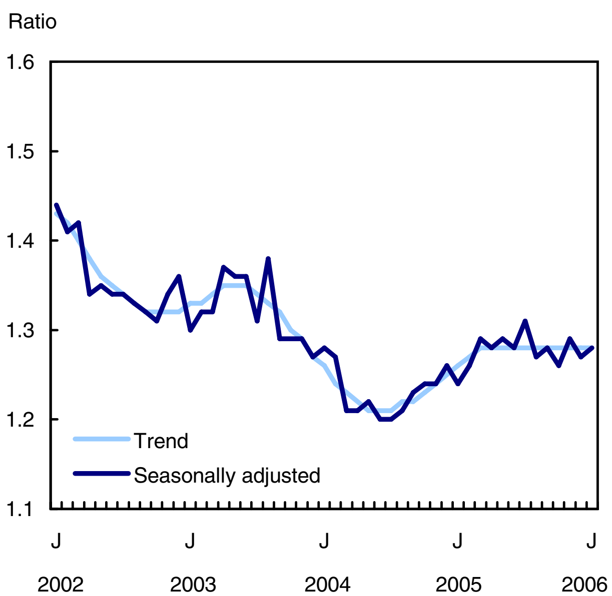
Manufacturers add to their inventories



The inventory-to-shipment ratio edges higher

January's drop in shipments contributed to an up-tick in the inventory-to-shipment ratio. The ratio edged up to 1.28 from 1.27 in December, although it remained shy of the year high of 1.31 set in July 2005. The volatility of shipments in recent months has also contributed to some flux in the ratio.

Inventory-to-shipment ratio rises slightly



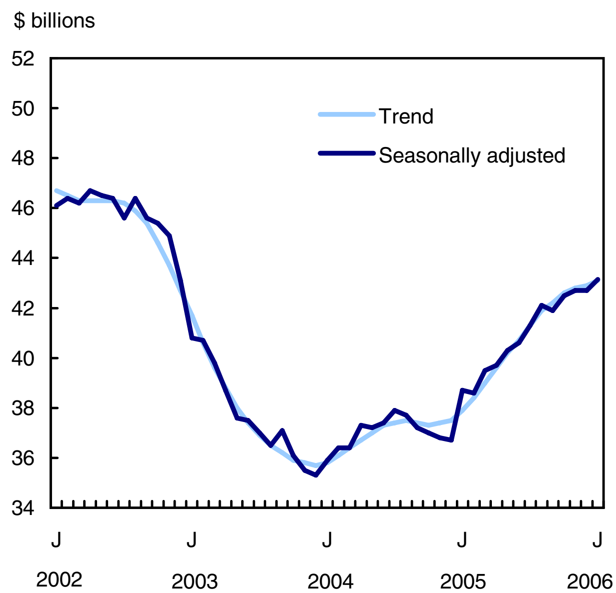
The inventory-to-shipment ratio is a key measure of the time, in months, that would be required in order to exhaust inventories if shipments were to remain at their current level.

Backlog of unfilled orders on the climb

Unfilled orders rose 1.0% to $43.2 billion in January, the fourth successive increase. As a result, the backlog of unfilled orders stood at the highest level since November 2002 ($43.3 billion), and has risen 11.5% compared to one year ago.

Unfilled orders have been on a positive trend since December 2004, with industries such as machinery and aerospace contributing to the rise.

Unfilled orders continue to accumulate



Although the build-up of unfilled orders may be regarded as a sign of future production, assuming contracts are not cancelled, the recent backlog could also be an indication of the lack of production capacity. For example, by the fourth quarter of 2005, machinery manufacturers increased their capacity utilization to 89.2%, the highest rate posted since the fourth quarter of 1997.

The scope of January's boost in orders was wide ranging with increases reported by several big-ticket industries including fabricated metal products (+3.1%), heavy duty trucks (+8.7%) and computers (+1.7%).

New orders steady

Following a surge in December, manufacturers' level of new orders remained stable at $52.2 billion in January. Extensive decreases in the transportation equipment sector offset advances in new orders for fabricated metals products, primary metals and machinery.

The 2005 annual review of manufacturing shipments will be released in the spring.

Available on CANSIM: tables 304-0014, 304-0015 and 377-0008.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2101.

All data are benchmarked to the 2001 Annual Survey of Manufactures.

Data from the February Monthly Survey of Manufacturing will be released on April 13.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; fax: 613-951-9499; *manufact@statcan.ca*).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of the release, contact Russell Kowaluk (613-951-0600; *kowarus@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Shipments, inventories and orders in all manufacturing industries

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders		Inventories-to-shipments ratio
	seasonally adjusted								
	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	
January 2005	51,448	2.7	64,046	1.7	38,714	5.5	53,468	7.0	1.24
February 2005	50,877	-1.1	64,048	0.0	38,637	-0.2	50,799	-5.0	1.26
March 2005	49,879	-2.0	64,273	0.4	39,541	2.3	50,783	-0.0	1.29
April 2005	50,506	1.3	64,663	0.6	39,656	0.3	50,621	-0.3	1.28
May 2005	50,488	-0.0	64,914	0.4	40,256	1.5	51,088	0.9	1.29
June 2005	51,004	1.0	65,061	0.2	40,609	0.9	51,357	0.5	1.28
July 2005	50,391	-1.2	65,933	1.3	41,327	1.8	51,109	-0.5	1.31
August 2005	51,755	2.7	65,982	0.1	42,095	1.9	52,523	2.8	1.27
September 2005	51,359	-0.8	65,510	-0.7	41,947	-0.4	51,211	-2.5	1.28
October 2005	52,058	1.4	65,658	0.2	42,464	1.2	52,575	2.7	1.26
November 2005	51,242	-1.6	66,105	0.7	42,668	0.5	51,446	-2.1	1.29
December 2005	52,185	1.8	66,040	-0.1	42,728	0.1	52,245	1.6	1.27
January 2006	51,819	-0.7	66,266	0.3	43,151	1.0	52,242	-0.0	1.28

Manufacturing industries except motor vehicle, parts and accessories

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders	
	seasonally adjusted							
	$ millions	% change	$millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change
January 2005	42,233	1.9	60,120	1.8	36,614	5.3	44,078	6.9
February 2005	42,085	-0.4	60,263	0.2	36,357	-0.7	41,828	-5.1
March 2005	41,891	-0.5	60,435	0.3	37,249	2.5	42,783	2.3
April 2005	42,228	0.8	60,748	0.5	37,406	0.4	42,385	-0.9
May 2005	42,241	0.0	61,066	0.5	38,027	1.7	42,862	1.1
June 2005	42,531	0.7	61,172	0.2	38,484	1.2	42,988	0.3
July 2005	42,226	-0.7	61,844	1.1	39,092	1.6	42,834	-0.4
August 2005	42,805	1.4	61,968	0.2	39,881	2.0	43,593	1.8
September 2005	42,981	0.4	61,503	-0.7	39,755	-0.3	42,855	-1.7
October 2005	43,201	0.5	61,843	0.6	40,315	1.4	43,761	2.1
November 2005	42,918	-0.7	62,298	0.7	40,481	0.4	43,085	-1.5
December 2005	43,711	1.8	62,282	-0.0	40,449	-0.1	43,678	1.4
January 2006	43,821	0.3	62,506	0.4	40,798	0.9	44,171	1.1

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Induced abortions

2003

Canadian women obtained slightly fewer abortions in 2003 compared with the previous year, and the decline was mostly among teen-aged women.

A total of 103,768 abortions were performed in 2003, down 1% from 105,154 in 2002. The abortion rate edged down from 15.4 abortions per 1,000 women in 2002 to 15.2 in 2003. These numbers exclude Nunavut, for which data were unavailable.

Among teen-aged women, the abortion rate in 2003 was 14.5 per 1,000 women under the age of 20, down from 15.7 the year before. The abortion rate for teen-aged women has declined gradually since 1997 when it was 18.4 per 1,000 women under the age of 20.

The crude birth rate for teen-aged women has also continued to fall. In 1997, there were 16.8 live births per 1,000 women under 20. By 2003, this had declined to 12.1.

The number of induced abortions per 100 live births decreased to 31.0 in 2003, from 32.1 in 2002.

Induced abortions continue to be most common among women in their twenties, who accounted for 53% of all women who obtained an abortion in 2003. On average, 26 women out of every 1,000 in their twenties obtained an abortion.

Induced abortion rates remained the same or increased for residents of most provinces and territories except for New Brunswick, Ontario and British Columbia, where the rates decreased.

Rates are based on induced abortions performed on Canadian residents in hospitals and clinics in Canada, as well as abortions obtained by Canadian women in some American states.

Data users should be aware of certain limitations to the Therapeutic Abortion Survey. There are recognized issues concerning coverage, increased submission of aggregate counts instead of detailed records, and an increased reliance on age estimation.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3209.

Selected tables for the years 1999 to 2003 are available in the *Canadian Statistics* module of our Web site.

Historical statistics dating back to 1970 are available in the publication *Induced Abortion Statistics* (82-223-XIE, free). From *Our products and services page*, under *Browse our Internet publications* choose *Free*, then *Health*.

Induced abortion data for 2003 were collected by the Canadian Institute for Health Information. For more information on the Therapeutic Abortion Database, contact Media Relations (613-241-7860, ext. 4004), Canadian Institute for Health Information.

For information on long-term trends in induced abortions, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-1746, *hd-ds@statcan.ca*), Health Statistics Division.

Induced abortions, by province of residence[1]

	2001	2002	2003	2002 to 2003	2002	2003
	number of abortions			% change	rate per 1,000 women[2]	
Total	**106,270**	**105,154**	**103,768**	**-1.3**	**15.4**	**15.2**
Newfoundland and Labrador	883	814	895	10.0	7.1	7.9
Prince Edward Island	174	130	137	5.4	4.5	4.7
Nova Scotia	1,890	1,825	1,925	5.5	9.1	9.7
New Brunswick	1,028	1,045	944	-9.7	6.5	5.9
Quebec	31,065	30,858	30,802	-0.2	19.6	19.7
Ontario	38,827	38,138	36,666	-3.9	14.2	13.6
Manitoba	3,375	3,267	3,670	12.3	13.5	15.2
Saskatchewan	1,900	1,811	1,846	1.9	8.8	9.0
Alberta	10,603	10,735	10,814	0.7	15.1	15.1
British Columbia	15,908	15,967	15,499	-2.9	17.7	17.2
Yukon	122	125	129	3.2	17.3	17.7
Northwest Territories	286	245	255	4.1	24.0	24.5
US reporting	175	152	149	-2.0	...	...
Residence unknown	209	42	37	-11.9	...	...

1. *Nunavut is not included in this table due to incomplete data for 2002 and 2003. In 2001, the number of Nunavut residents obtaining abortions was 148.*
2. *Rates are calculated using female population aged 15 to 44 years.*

... *not applicable.*

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Real estate rental and leasing and property management industries

2004

The continued buoyancy of the real estate market, along with steady economic conditions, contributed to the growth of the real estate rental and leasing and property management industries.

Total combined operating revenues of the real estate rental and leasing and property management industries increased 9.5% from 2003 to $50.6 billion.

Total operating expenses for the combined industries increased by 8.9% in 2004 to $40.2 billion. Of the total operating expenses, mortgage interest accounted for 19.3% and property taxes for 17.4%. Profit margin (before tax) of these industries stood at 20.6%.

Revenue growth was widespread across Canada. Provincial shares remained virtually unchanged from the previous year, except for slight increases in Alberta and British Columbia. Being the most populated province in Canada, Ontario continued to dominate the market, followed by Quebec.

The largest segment of the industry was the non-residential sector (52%), followed by the residential sector (41%) and property management services (7%).

Data on the real estate rental and leasing and property management service industries are now available for 2004. These data provide information such as operating revenue, operating expenses, salaries and wages, profit before income tax and the number of establishments at the provincial and territorial level. The industries comprise lessors of residential buildings (excluding social housing), lessors of non-residential buildings and property managers.

Available on CANSIM: table 352-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4705.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Georgie Zuger (613-951-2595; *georgie.zuger@statcan.ca*) or Adib Farhat (613-951-6306; *adib.farhat@statcan.ca*), Service Industries Division. ■

Geomatics Industry Survey

2004

Just over 2,200 firms in Canada provide geomatics products or services according to data from the 2004 Geomatics Industry Survey.

Revenue earned strictly from geomatics products or services totalled $2.8 billion in 2004. Revenue from geomatics activities rose 15.6% from 2003, up from the 13.2% gain the previous year.

Geomatics is the science and technology of activities, products or services involved in the collection, integration, interpretation, analysis and management of location based data (geospatial data); and the development of tools to support those activities.

An earlier release in *The Daily* of February 8, 2006 on Canada's surveying and mapping industry produced industry estimates for firms classified under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) codes 541360 and 541370, geophysical surveying and mapping services and non-geophysical survey and mapping services (land surveying) respectively.

The Geomatics Industry Survey was a census of all known firms engaged in geomatics activities in Canada and was sponsored by Natural Resources Canada.

This release provides detailed information on all geomatics activities in Canada. It covers firms that provide geomatics products or services from the two primary geomatics NAICS codes (541360 and 541370) as well as 11 other NAICS codes which also provide geomatics products and services.

Alberta accounted for about 27% of firms with geomatics activities in 2004, the highest proportion, thanks to the significant role played by the province's oil and gas sector. Ontario followed with 21%, Quebec with 20% and British Columbia with 18%.

The most common geomatics activity in Canada was surveying, cited by nearly 69% of firms. About 57% listed it as their core activity. About 35% of firms cited mapping and cartography, the second most common activity.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5092.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this survey, contact Client Services (1-877-679-2746, *sbss-info@statcan.ca*), Small Business and Special Surveys Division. ■

Steel wire and specified wire products

January 2006

Data on steel wire and specified wire products production are now available for January.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0047.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2106.

The January 2006 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-XIE, $6/$51) will soon be available.

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

New Motor Vehicle Sales, January 2006, Vol. 78, no. 1
Catalogue number 63-007-XIE ($14/$133).

Canada's Balance of International Payments, Fourth quarter 2005, Vol. 53, no. 4
Catalogue number 67-001-XIE ($32/$100).

Induced Abortion Statistics, 2003
Catalogue number 82-223-XIE
(free).

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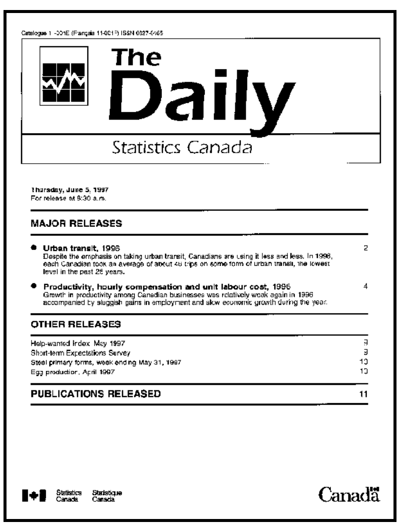
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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** — 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** — 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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