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Releases

Releases

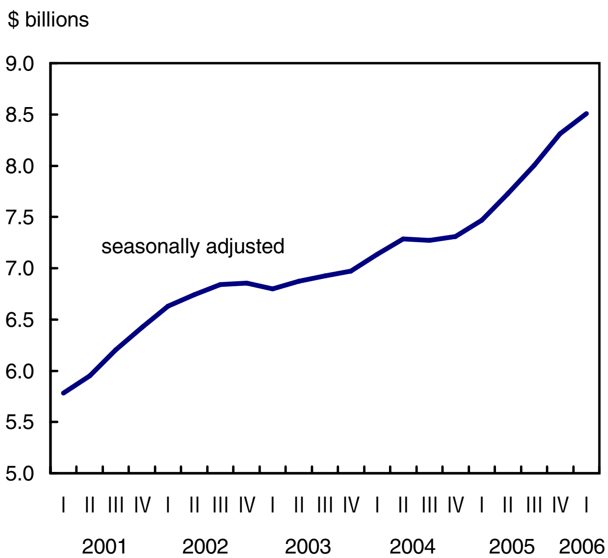
Investment in non-residential building construction

First quarter 2006

Last year's sustained pace for investment in non-residential building construction has spilled over into 2006, again the result of strong activity in Western Canada, particularly Alberta.

Investment during the first three months of 2006 rose 2.3% to $8.5 billion — the sixth consecutive record high.

Investments in non-residential building construction continues to soar



Last year, investment in non-residential building construction surpassed the $31-billion mark nationally for the first time ever, thanks largely to huge gains in Alberta and British Columbia.

In the first quarter this year, investment set records in two of three components, commercial and industrial.

Investors pumped $4.8 billion into commercial projects, up 3.0% from the fourth quarter. In the industrial component, investment increased 2.1% to a record $1.6 billion, while institutional investment rose 1.2% to $2.2 billion.

Provincially, by far the biggest first-quarter increase in terms of dollar value occurred in Alberta where investment rose by $125 million to $1.4 billion. In Saskatchewan, which was a distant second, investment increased by $39 million to $238 million.

In contrast, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario and all three territories ended the first quarter with lower investment.

Locally, 14 of the 27 census metropolitan areas recorded gains, the strongest was in Edmonton where investment rose 15.8% to $413 million. In contrast, investment in Toronto fell most sharply as a result of a marked decline in investment in industrial construction.

The results of Statistics Canada's Survey of Private and Public Investment for 2006, indicate an increase of 8.2% in construction investment, including engineering construction.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

Investments in non-residential building construction exclude engineering construction. This series is based on the Building Permits Survey of municipalities, which collects information on construction intentions.

Work put-in-place patterns are assigned to each type of structure (industrial, commercial and institutional). These work patterns are used to distribute the value of building permits according to project length. Work put-in-place patterns differ according to the value of the construction project; a project worth several million dollars will usually take longer to complete than will a project of a few hundred thousand dollars.

Additional data from the Capital and Repair Expenditures Surveys are used to create this investment series. Investment in non-residential building data is benchmarked to Statistics Canada's System of National Accounts of non-residential building investment series.

For the purpose of the Investment in non-residential building construction release, the census metropolitan area of Ottawa–Gatineau is divided into two areas: Ottawa–Gatineau (Quebec part) and Ottawa–Gatineau (Ontario part).

Investment in non-residential building construction, by census metropolitan area[1]

	First quarter 2005	Fourth quarter 2005	First quarter 2006	Fourth quarter 2005 to first quarter 2006
	seasonally adjusted			
	$ millions			% change
St. John's	54	61	60	-1.9
Halifax	112	137	121	-11.1
Saint John	17	18	23	27.7
Saguenay	15	36	32	-11.4
Québec	136	159	164	3.3
Sherbrooke	24	30	27	-10.0
Trois-Rivières	33	23	32	42.1
Montréal	717	683	679	-0.5
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	314	350	371	6.0
Ottawa–Gatineau (Que. part)	57	56	55	-2.6
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ont. part)	256	294	317	7.6
Kingston	38	37	30	-17.6
Oshawa	118	132	108	-18.1
Toronto	1,607	1,649	1,605	-2.6
Hamilton	180	144	159	9.9
St. Catharines–Niagara	91	59	56	-5.8
Kitchener	178	144	129	-10.2
London	149	141	122	-14.0
Windsor	74	78	88	13.4
Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury	35	31	27	-13.6
Thunder Bay	22	25	35	37.9
Winnipeg	165	174	200	15.0
Regina	53	55	78	41.0
Saskatoon	40	79	86	8.2
Calgary	365	482	516	7.0
Edmonton	283	357	413	15.8
Abbotsford	19	40	44	9.4
Vancouver	480	672	666	-0.9
Victoria	44	69	71	3.4

1. *Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.*

Commercial: Office buildings in Western Canada the impetus for growth

Investment in commercial construction projects advanced for a tenth straight quarter as the result of robust activity in office building construction sites in Western Canada.

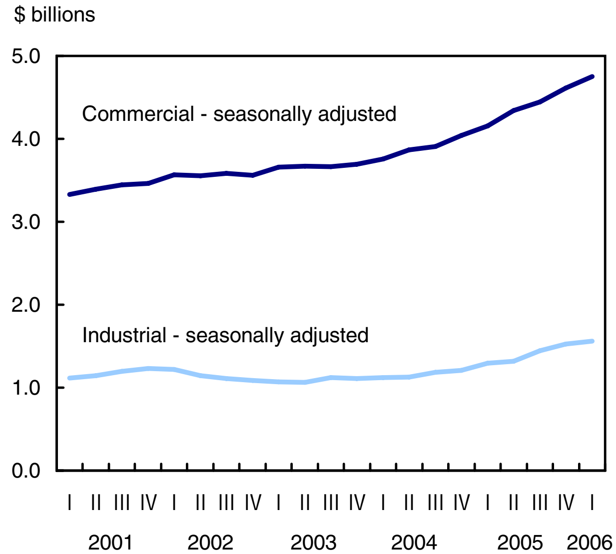
Provincially, commercial investment in Alberta peaked at $882 million, a 10.0% increase, followed by Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

After experiencing the strongest growth in the previous quarter, Ontario recorded the most significant decline in the wake of a downturn in investment in office building, store and shopping centre construction.

For a second straight quarter, growth in investment in Edmonton exceeded that of the other metropolitan areas, with Regina and Calgary close behind. In contrast, Oshawa experienced the largest decline in investment in the country (-29.1%).

A decline in vacancy rates in the major urban centres continued to put positive pressure on office building construction. In addition, growth in trade appears to have had a favourable impact on the construction of warehouses, which posted a gain for the third straight quarter.

The construction of commercial and industrial buildings reaches a new record



Industrial: Gains in construction of manufacturing, processing and assembly plants

Investment in industrial building construction rose for the ninth straight quarter to reach a new record. Construction of manufacturing, processing and assembly plants has been mainly responsible for gains in the industrial component over the past two quarters.

Investment was especially high in Alberta. As it did in 2005, activity around exploitation of energy resources enabled the province to record a total of $264 million in investments in the first quarter, an 8.7% increase. The sharpest drop (-9.9%) occurred in British Columbia, which had posted record investments in the fourth quarter of 2005.

Of the 27 census metropolitan areas, 14 showed quarterly gains. Winnipeg, Edmonton and Calgary saw the most substantial increases, while Toronto recorded the largest downturn for the third straight quarter. Investment in Toronto declined 12.0% to $222 million.

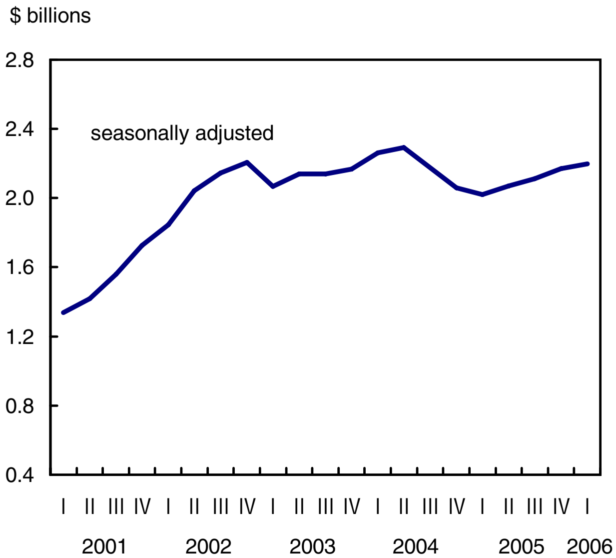
High levels of industrial capacity utilization observed in 2005, coupled with robust domestic demand, continued to sustain investment projects. It appears that a number of industries have chosen to renew or expand their facilities in order to meet demand.

Again, first-quarter investments were in line with the outlook reported in the 2006 Survey of Private and Public Investment Intentions, which pointed to major gains in plant construction.

Institutional: Slow start to the year for investments in institutional building construction

Investment in the institutional component rose for the fourth straight quarter, although it was a slower 1.2%. This increase was distributed among all building categories, all of which saw growth.

Investment in institutional buildings edges up during the first quarter



For a fourth straight quarter, British Columbia stood out with the strongest gains in investment (+10.1%) and remained the leader in terms of growth in investment in education buildings.

In contrast, Nova Scotia saw investment fall 46.1% to $41.4 million, the result of a downturn in almost all types of buildings. The province maintained record investment levels throughout 2005.

Among metropolitan areas, Ottawa led growth in the first quarter, with investments rising 28.2% to $131 million. The gain was driven by substantial investments in health care facilities.

In Halifax, which experienced the most significant decline (-53.1%), institutional building investment fell to $22 million. Of the 27 census metropolitan areas, 15 posted decreases.

Investment in non-residential building construction

	First quarter 2005	Fourth quarter 2005	First quarter 2006	Fourth quarter 2005 to first quarter 2006
	seasonally adjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Canada	**7,470**	**8,313**	**8,507**	**2.3**
Newfoundland and Labrador	85	82	79	-4.0
Prince Edward Island	24	36	36	0.3
Nova Scotia	225	256	238	-7.1
New Brunswick	129	169	179	5.8
Quebec	1,368	1,379	1,390	0.8
Ontario	3,348	3,451	3,448	-0.1
Manitoba	245	251	267	6.4
Saskatchewan	162	199	238	19.3
Alberta	998	1,306	1,432	9.6
British Columbia	787	1,119	1,158	3.4
Yukon	23	22	15	-33.6
Northwest Territories	51	34	24	-28.3
Nunavut	23	9	4	-48.9

Available on CANSIM: table 026-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5014.

More detailed data on investment in non-residential building construction are also available in free tables online. From the *Canadian Statistics* page, choose *Latest indicators*, then *Construction*.

To order data, contact Patrick Lemire (613-951-6321; *bdp_information@statcan.ca*). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, Bechir Oueriemmi (613-951-1165), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey

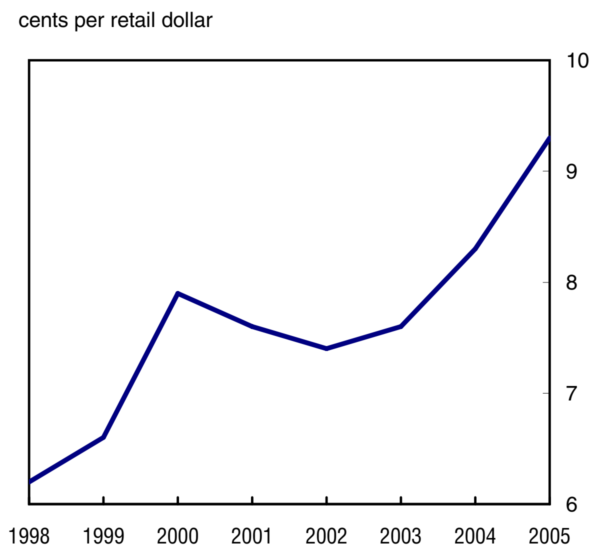
Fourth quarter 2005 and annual 2005

Led by strong increases in sales of automotive fuels, oils and additives as well as hardware, lawn and garden products, retailers in 2005 registered their highest year-over-year increase in retail sales since 2002.

In total, consumers spent $369.2 billion in retail stores last year, up 6.2% from 2004. This was the highest growth rate since 2002 when it was 6.4%. Sales for the fourth quarter increased 5.4% over the same quarter in 2004.

Proportionately, of every $100 in consumer spending in retail stores last year, consumers spent about $22 on food and beverages, $22 on motor vehicles, parts and services, just over $9 on automotive fuels, oils and additives, $9 on furniture, home furnishings and electronics, $8 on clothing, footwear and accessories, $8 on health and personal care products and $7 on hardware, lawn and garden products.

Automotive fuels and oils took a bigger bite from consumers' dollar in 2005



Sales of automotive fuels, oils and additives increased 17.7% to $34.2 billion, the strongest growth since 2000 and the second consecutive year of double-digit increases. The gain was fuelled largely by a 12.8% increase in the price of gasoline.

About nine cents of every retail dollar was spent on automotive fuels, oils and additives in 2005, compared to only six cents in 1998. Consumers spent more than twice as much on automotive fuels, oils and additives in 2005 than they did in 1998.

Housing boom boosts hardware, home renovation products

Canada's ongoing housing boom contributed to an 8.6% increase in sales of hardware, lawn and garden products. Of this commodity grouping, sales of the largest component, hardware and home renovation products, reached $19.9 billion in 2005, up 8.2% over 2004.

Lawn and garden products were also strong with $5.3 billion in sales, up 10.2% over 2004. Since 2001, sales of lawn and garden products have increased by about 10% each year.

At the same time, sales of furniture, home furnishings and electronics increased 5.4% to $33.3 billion. Within this commodity group, sales of home furnishings (draperies, bedding, flooring and artwork) were particularly strong, increasing 6.1%. Consumers spent 6.2% more on household appliances in 2005 over the previous year. Sales of home electronics such as televisions, cameras, computer hardware and software and telephones rose 4.5% to $11.9 billion.

Sales of motor vehicles, parts and services increased 5.5% to $80.8 billion, the strongest gain in three years. Incentive programs helped to boost sales of new vehicles in 2005 by 5.6%, the highest increase since 2002. Sales of new vehicles accounted for 55% of total sales for this category. Meanwhile, sales of used vehicles rose by only 1.8%, while revenues from the sale of automotive parts and accessories jumped 9.5%.

Strongest gain in food, beverage sales in six years

Food and beverage sales by retailers rose 5.5% in 2005. This was the strongest increase since 1999. Yet, it was still below the overall annual increase (+6.2%) in retail sales in 2005. The three major components of the commodity group (food, non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages) all increased at a similar rate.

Annual sales of clothing, footwear and accessories rose 4.0% to $30.4 billion, the strongest gain since 1999. Clothing prices declined 1.3% in 2005 when compared to 2004. Of every $100 in spending in this category, $57 went to women's wear, $29 to men's clothing and $12 to children's clothing.

On the other hand, consumer spending in retail stores on health and personal care products gained 5.2%, the weakest year-over-year growth in five years. Sales of prescription drugs, which represented over one-half of the spending in this category, rose 7.1%. This was much lower than gains in both 2002 and 2003, which exceeded 10%. Year-over-year sales of over-the-counter drugs and vitamins were up 2.9% in 2005, after increasing 3.1% in 2004.

Fourth quarter 2005: Automotive fuels, oils again lead the way

Automotive fuels, oils and additives was again the commodity group with the strongest year-over-year increase in the fourth quarter of 2005. Sales of the commodity rose 16.9% in the fourth quarter of 2005, after a 26.0% increase in the third quarter. This was largely driven by a fourth quarter increase of 13.8% in the price at the pump.

Overall, consumers spent $98.6 billion in retail stores in the last three months of 2005, up 5.4% from the same quarter in 2004. This was the weakest year-over-year gain since the first quarter of 2005. Sales rose in all major commodity groups. The strongest increases were seen in hardware, lawn and garden products (+9.1%) and furniture, home furnishings and electronics (+6.1%).

Sales of motor vehicles, parts and services amounted to $18.8 billion in the fourth quarter of 2005, up 3.6% over the same quarter in 2004. This was the lowest year-over-year increase since the first quarter of 2005.

Sales of new vehicles in the fourth quarter rose 2.3% compared to the same quarter in 2004, while used vehicle sales declined 1.8%. Some of the incentive programs introduced at the end of the second quarter of 2005 were discontinued before the end of the year. Automotive parts and accessories (including tires) advanced 11.7% during the fourth quarter.

Note: The Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey collects national level retail sales by commodity, from a sub-sample of businesses in the Monthly Retail Trade Survey. Quarterly data have not been adjusted for seasonality. All percentage changes are year-over-year.

Available on CANSIM: table 080-0018.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2008.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; *retailinfo@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ruth Barnes (613-951-6190), Distributive Trades Division.

□

Annual sales by commodity, all retail stores

	2003	2004	2005	2003 to 2004	2004 to 2005
	$ millions			% change	
Commodity					
Food and beverages	73,284	76,869	81,071	4.9	5.5
Health and personal care products	27,154	29,283	30,815	7.8	5.2
Clothing, footwear and accessories	28,156	29,206	30,360	3.7	4.0
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics	29,874	31,605	33,325	5.8	5.4
Motor vehicles, parts and services	76,271	76,599	80,784	0.4	5.5
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	25,325	29,016	34,164	14.6	17.7
Housewares	7,039	7,287	7,503	3.5	3.0
Hardware, lawn and garden products	20,998	23,189	25,190	10.4	8.6
Sporting and leisure goods	12,038	12,292	12,830	2.1	4.4
All other goods and services	31,889	32,357	33,133	1.5	2.4
Total	**332,027**	**347,704**	**369,175**	**4.7**	**6.2**

Sales by commodity, all retail stores

	Fourth quarter 2004^{r}	Third quarter 2005^{r}	Fourth quarter 2005^{p}	Fourth quarter 2004 to fourth quarter 2005
	unadjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Commodity				
Food and beverages	20,587	21,051	21,496	4.4
Health and personal care products	7,913	7,645	8,350	5.5
Clothing, footwear and accessories	9,502	7,430	9,931	4.5
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics	9,906	8,278	10,507	6.1
Motor vehicles, parts and services	18,137	21,407	18,783	3.6
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	7,564	9,748	8,839	16.9
Housewares	2,104	1,937	2,177	3.5
Hardware, lawn and garden products	5,461	7,074	5,959	9.1
Sporting and leisure goods	4,195	3,037	4,349	3.7
All other goods and services	8,187	8,756	8,202	0.2
Total	**93,557**	**96,363**	**98,593**	**5.4**

^{r} *Revised.*
^{p} *Preliminary.*

■

Study: Canadian retailers competing for the consumer's food dollar

1997 to 2004

Canadian grocers are holding their own in face-to-face competition with general merchandise stores for the consumer's food dollar, and they appear to be faring much better than their American counterparts, according to a new study.

Canadian consumers do not get their groceries in general merchandise stores as much as their American counterparts do. The tendency for consumers to shop in only one store is much less popular on this side of the border.

The study analyzes the competition for the food dollar between food and beverage stores and general merchandise stores. It also compares the relative situation of these stores in both Canada and the United States.

Canadian food stores still have the lion's share of consumer spending on food. South of the border, American grocers have been losing ground to general merchandise stores.

In 2004, Canadian consumers spent $61.6 billion on food. For every $100 of this spending, consumers spent $83.90 in food stores, which was practically unchanged from $85.10 in 1998.

On the other hand, they spent $10.60 on food in general merchandise stores in 2004, up only slightly from $9.00 four years ago.

In contrast, for every US $100 American consumers spent on food, US $70.40 went to food stores in 2002, down from US $76.90 in 1997.

In order to keep their clientele, Canadian food retailers have been offering more diversified food products. They also offered more non-food items than American food retailers.

Between 1998 and 2004, the proportion of non-food sales in all food stores rose 5.1 percentage points in Canada. This growth was nearly five times the pace of 1.1 percentage points in the United States between 1997 and 2002.

Non-food sales consist primarily of necessities, such as health and personal care items. Sales of these items in food stores jumped more than 10% per year, which reduced the market share of other retailers.

In Canada, food stores increased their market share of sales of health and personal care items from 13.9% in 1998 to 16.8% in 2004. Food stores had the biggest gains in market share for medication (prescription and over-the-counter), vitamins, medicinal plants and other health supplements. This market share rose from 10.3% of total sales in 1998 to 14.1% in 2004.

These gains are partly due to more supermarkets with pharmacies as well as increased consumption of prescription and over-the-counter drugs. Food stores sold proportionally more of these health items than general merchandise stores.

One possible reason why Canadian food stores were more successful is that food stores invested more in their buildings than general merchandise stores. The reverse happened in the United States.

In Canada, food stores spent $1.1 billion in commercial buildings in 2005, while general merchandise stores spent $189 million. In other words, food stores accounted for 85.8% of the investment in these two sectors.

US general merchandise stores invested US $7.5 billion (69.3% of the total) in building construction while food stores invested US $3.3 billion (30.7% of the total).

Investment grew faster initially in the United States than in Canada in the 1990s as household demand was more robust. Consumption in Canada during this period was curbed by a long recession and the growth of cross-border shopping.

Canada had to wait until this decade to see investment by retailers increase rapidly, thanks to sustained growth in consumer spending and a declining dollar that kept Canadian consumers at home. This trend continued with the additional restrictions on border crossings imposed following September 11, 2001, in spite of the soaring loonie.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2008, 2409 and 2447.

The analytical article "Canadian retailers competing for the consumer's food dollar" (11-621-MIE2006038, free) is now available online in the *Analysis in Brief* series.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Serge Grenier (613-951-3566), Distributive Trades Division. ■

New Housing Price Index

February 2006

New house prices continued to rise strongly in February, as the New Housing Price Index rose 0.7%, down slightly from January's increase of 0.9%. On a 12-month basis prices were up 7.0% compared to 6.6% the previous month.

The New Housing Price Index (1997=100) rose to 135.3 in February.

Construction material and labour cost increases were the main factors pushing price levels up at the national level. Good demand for new housing in some metropolitan areas also contributed to higher price levels. Land value increases contributed to price hikes in 10 of the 21 metropolitan areas surveyed.

Of the 21 metropolitan areas surveyed, 15 posted monthly gains led by Calgary (+2.2%). Higher material, labour and land costs, combined with good demand and increased architectural costs, were behind the increases.

Québec (+1.5%), Edmonton (+1.1%), Vancouver (+0.8%) St. John's and London (+0.7% each) had significant gains, for the most part, as a result of increases in material and labour costs along with higher development costs. Elevated lot values were a factor in Quebec and Edmonton.

New housing price indexes
(1997=100)

	February 2006	February 2005 to February 2006	January to February 2006
		% change	
Canada total	**135.3**	**7.0**	**0.7**
House only	144.5	7.0	0.8
Land only	117.2	6.2	0.3
St.John's	127.8	3.3	0.7
Halifax	129.7	6.5	0.0
Charlottetown	113.5	1.2	-0.4
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton	111.8	2.7	0.4
Québec	141.3	6.6	1.5
Montréal	145.3	3.9	0.6
Ottawa–Gatineau	156.6	3.0	0.1
Toronto and Oshawa	135.5	4.6	0.2
Hamilton	138.7	4.9	0.3
St. Catharines–Niagara	141.8	4.7	0.6
Kitchener	135.4	4.5	0.5
London	131.2	6.3	0.7
Windsor	106.0	0.7	0.0
Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury and Thunder Bay	101.1	2.0	0.5
Winnipeg	139.7	9.6	0.6
Regina	149.9	6.6	0.0
Saskatoon	128.3	3.6	0.0
Calgary	173.4	22.8	2.2
Edmonton	150.2	12.4	1.1
Vancouver	109.5	6.5	0.8
Victoria	117.0	7.0	0.0

Note: *View the census subdivisions that comprise the metropolitan areas online.*

Monthly increases were noted in Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton, Montréal, Ottawa–Gatineau, Toronto and Oshawa, St. Catharines–Niagara, Hamilton, Kitchener, Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury and Thunder Bay, and Winnipeg.

Five metropolitan areas registered no monthly change while Charlottetown (-0.4%) posted the only decrease.

On a 12-month basis, Calgary (+22.8%) had the largest increase for new homes for the fourth month in a row, followed by Edmonton (+12.4%), Winnipeg (+9.6%), Victoria (+7.0%), Québec and Regina (+6.6% each) and Halifax and Vancouver (+6.5% each).

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.

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

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact our Client Services Section (613-951-9606, fax: 613-951-1539; *infounit@statcan.ca*) or Randy Sterns (613-951-8183; *sterran@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. ■

A Feasibility Report on Improving the Measurement of Fraud in Canada
2005

This feasibility report provides a blueprint for improving data on fraud in Canada through a survey of businesses and through amendments to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, which gathers statistics on crimes substantiated by the police.

With globalization, the growing use of technology and the increased sophistication of certain criminal activities, the issue of fraud has become a growing concern for Canada, as well as other countries.

Presently, national information on fraud is based on official crime statistics reported by police services to the UCR Survey. These data, however, do not reflect the true nature and extent of fraud in Canada for two main reasons: the under-reporting of fraud by individuals and businesses to the police; and, inconsistencies in the way frauds are counted by police across the country and reported to the UCR Survey.

To collect better data that would inform fraud-related issues for government, law enforcement and the private sector, this feasibility report recommends surveying banks, credit card and debit card companies, selected retailers, property and casualty insurance carriers, health and disability insurance carriers and selected manufacturers. The report includes recommendations regarding survey methodology and questionnaire content, and it provides estimates for timeframes and cost.

The report also recommends changes to the UCR Survey to improve the way in which incidents are counted and to make the data collected through the UCR Survey more relevant with respect to the information needs of government, law enforcement and the private sector.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3302.

The report *A Feasibility Report on Improving the Measurement of Fraud in Canada* (85-569-XIE, free) is now available. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Justice*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Information and Client Services (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. ■

National Construction Industry Wage Rate Survey

2005

Data from the 2005 National Construction Industry Wage Rate Survey are now available for British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

The three most highly-paid construction occupations in British Columbia for which data are available were: elevator constructors who received $36.35 an hour on average as the most frequently paid wage rate; refrigeration and air conditioning mechanics ($29.94); and tower crane operators ($28.82).

The lowest paid occupations were trade helpers/labourers who received $17.34 an hour, traffic accommodation persons ($17.53) and trade helpers/labourers with first-aid certificate ($18.77). All were well above the provincial minimum wage of $8 an hour.

The surveyed occupations were selected in consultation with union and employer representatives from the construction industry. Because of their smaller populations, fewer occupations could be covered in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Among the occupations for which data are available, the highest paid construction workers in Northwest Territories were plumbers at $29.82 an hour, and the lowest, trade helpers/labourers at $16.80. The same pattern occurred in Nunavut. Plumbers received $23.61, and trade helpers/labourers, $16.94.

The survey covered establishments in the construction industry with six or more employees. The establishments were asked to provide wage rates for employees working full-time in selected occupations and to indicate whether the workers were unionized.

Data were collected for work on institutional or commercial construction sites only. For occupations with a compulsory trade licence, information was collected only for workers with the requisite licence.

Note: This survey is conducted on behalf of the Labour Branch of Human Resources and Social Development Canada to help establish wage schedules for workers on federal construction projects. The survey is conducted region by region moving sequentially across the country. Quebec and Yukon, where wage rates are established by the provincial or territorial government, are excluded. The next round of the survey will be conducted in 2006 and will cover Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2935.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Luke Pelot, (613-951-1002; *luke.pelot@statcan.ca*), Small Business and Special Surveys Division.

For information or requests concerning the wage schedules developed from this survey data for workers on federal construction projects, contact Claude Saint-Jean, (819-953-3183; *claude.stjean@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca*), Human Resources and Social Development Canada. ■

Commercial Software Price Index

February 2006

The Commercial Software Price Index (CSPI) is a monthly series measuring the change in the purchase price of pre-packaged software typically bought by businesses and governments. The CSPI (2001=100) for February was 68.7, down 2.0% from January.

This index is available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: table 331-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5068.

For more information on these indexes, contact Client Services (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; *infounit@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Fred Barzyk (613-951-2493; *fred.barzyk@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. ■

New products

Analysis in Brief: "Canadian retailers competing for the consumer's food dollar", 2005, no. 38
Catalogue number 11-621-MIE2006038
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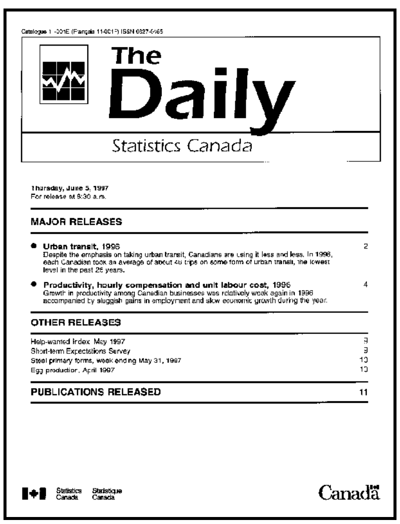
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