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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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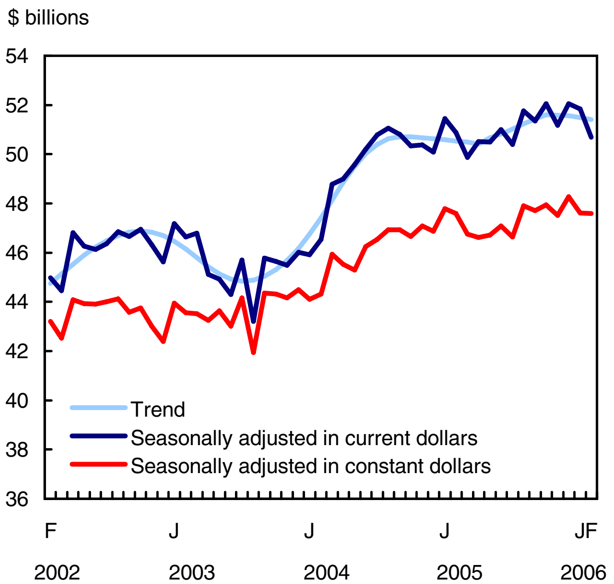
Releases

Releases

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing
February 2006

In February, lower prices for several resource-based industries contributed to a sizeable drop in manufacturing shipments and a spike in the inventory-to-shipment ratio.

Shipments take a dive in February



Shipments tumbled 2.2% to $50.7 billion in February, the third decline in the last four months. Although wide ranging, the decrease was largely attributable to lower industrial prices for petroleum, wood and chemical products.

Consequently, the sharp drop in shipments boosted the inventory-to-shipment ratio to 1.31 from 1.27 in January. In recent months, the volatility of shipments has caused the ratio to vary more than usual. February's ratio is equal to that of the recent high set in July 2005.

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

Manufacturing activity pulls back in most industries

Accounting for 64% of total shipments, 16 of the 21 industries posted decreases in February. A portion of the drop was concentrated in industries where prices have fallen in recent months. Excluding the petroleum and coal products, wood products and chemical products industries, shipments declined only 0.8%.

At 1997 prices, manufacturers maintained shipment volumes at January's level of $47.6 billion, thus production remained stable.

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.

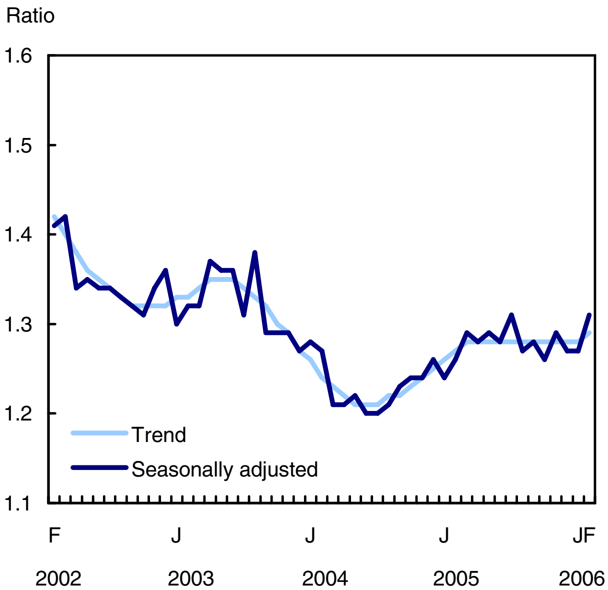
Warmer-than-normal winter temperatures helps some manufacturers, hinders others

North America's warmer-than-usual winter in 2006 has contributed to a marked decline in demand for petroleum and related products in recent months. As a result, global supplies of petroleum products have improved and by mid-February, the price of crude oil closed below US $58 per barrel for the first time in two months.

Widespread decreases in production at Canada's refineries contributed to a 10.2% plunge in shipments of petroleum and coal products in February. Shipments fell back to $4.4 billion, due in part to a 5.0% drop in petroleum prices.

Shipments of wood products fell 7.3% to $2.8 billion, giving back most of the gains posted in January (+3.5%) and December (+4.6%), a period of rising prices for lumber products.

Big jump in the inventory-to-shipment ratio



Following a lacklustre 2005, the price of lumber products began to pick up in the latter months of the year as demand widely improved. Again, the warmer-than-normal winter has contributed to an active construction industry so far this winter. In addition, the rebuilding efforts in the wake of the destruction from last fall's hurricane season in the southern United States have also generated a need for Canadian lumber in recent months.

In February, demand for softwood lumber and particleboard began to weaken, contributing to lower lumber prices and the decline in shipments.

Other industries reporting lower shipments in February included food manufacturing (-3.2%) and primary metals (-2.2%).

Higher shipments of automobiles partly offset a weak month

Shipments of motor vehicles bounced back 3.4% to $5.6 billion in February, the first increase in four months. The increase reflected more of a return to normal activity following some temporary slowdowns of assembly lines in January.

Despite the increase, shipments of motor vehicles remained well off levels of last year. For the first two months of 2006, shipments were 9.7% below the level for the same period one year ago.

Most provinces post lower shipments in February

Only Newfoundland and Labrador, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut registered higher shipments in February. Lower shipments by nondurable goods industries largely contributed to the weak month for most provinces.

Quebec's manufacturers reported a $338 million drop in shipments (-2.7%) to $12.0 billion. Declines in shipments of petroleum, food and wood products pulled down manufacturing activity in Quebec for the third time in the last four months.

The petroleum and primary metals industries contributed to Ontario's $200 million (-0.8%) decrease in manufacturing activity to $25.4 billion, while British Columbia's manufacturing sector posted a $129 million (-3.4%) drop in shipments to $3.7 billion. The wood products industry was largely responsible for the first decrease in British Columbia in five months.

Manufacturing shipments, provinces and territories

	January 2006[r]	February 2006[p]	January to February 2006
	seasonally adjusted		
	$ millions		% change
Canada	**51,832**	**50,694**	**-2.2**
Newfoundland and Labrador	206	210	1.8
Prince Edward Island	121	112	-7.9
Nova Scotia	805	762	-5.3
New Brunswick	1,270	1,163	-8.4
Quebec	12,349	12,012	-2.7
Ontario	25,607	25,406	-0.8
Manitoba	1,163	1,079	-7.3
Saskatchewan	1,017	894	-12.1
Alberta	5,452	5,344	-2.0
British Columbia	3,834	3,706	-3.4
Yukon	2	2	-14.9
Northwest Territories including Nunavut	5	5	9.0

r *Revised.*
p *Preliminary.*

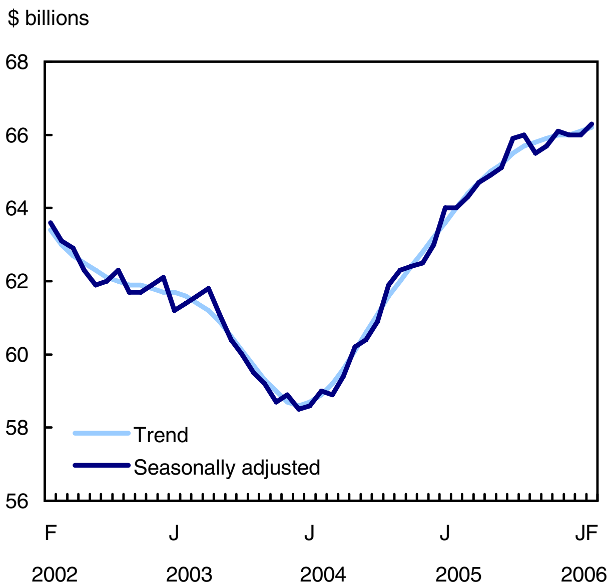
Manufacturers boost inventories of raw materials

Manufacturers' inventories continued their steady climb, rising 0.3% to $66.3 billion in February. The trend for inventories has been positive for over two years.

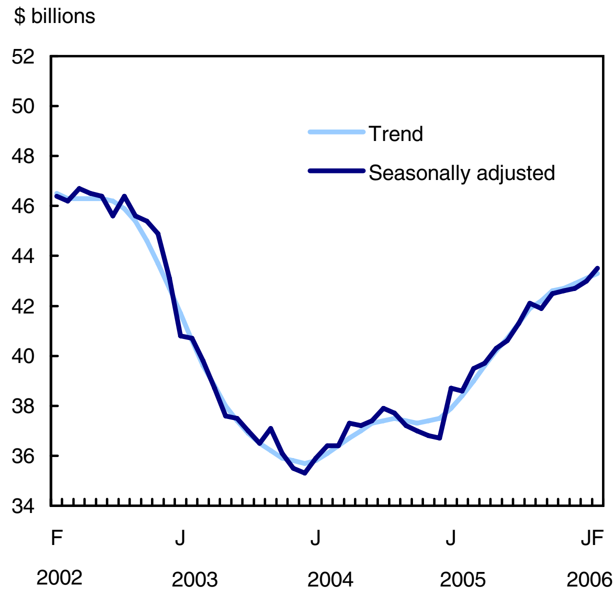
All three stages of fabrication increased in February. In anticipation of future shipments, manufacturers boosted their raw material inventories by 0.4% to $28.7 billion, the fourth increase in five months.

Goods-in-process (+0.3%) and finished product (+0.2%) inventories also closed the month on a slightly higher note.

Inventories continue to climb



Manufacturers continue to bulk-up unfilled orders



More orders on manufacturers' books

Manufacturers' books continued to fill with contracts as the backlog of unfilled orders rose another 1.0% to $43.5 billion in February, the fifth increase in a row. Unfilled orders, which have been on an upward trend for just over one year, have risen 12.5% in value compared to February 2005.

The span of February's increase in orders was extensive, with sizeable gains reported by the fabricated metal products (+5.0%), railroad rolling stock (+3.5%) and the heavy duty truck (+8.5%) industries.

The heavy duty truck industry has posted a significant comeback over the last year. Pent-up demand, particularly from the United States, was reflected in the strong surge of orders for Canadian-made vehicles. Recently, some manufacturers have expanded their operations, and others intend to boost plant capacity in the near future.

In February, unfilled orders for heavy duty trucks stood at $1.4 billion, the highest level since September 2000 and more than double the level of unfilled orders posted just two years ago.

New orders take a hit in February

While manufacturers' unfilled orders continued to rise in February, new orders took a dive. New orders received fell by 2.1% to $51.1 billion, the lowest point since last July. Manufacturers' new orders have been trending down since the fall of 2005.

The aerospace (-16.5%) and primary metals (-2.3%) industries were largely responsible for February's drop in contracts received, although they were partly offset by higher orders for railroad rolling stock (+118.8%) and heavy duty trucks (+3.3%).

Job losses mount

Manufacturers continued to shed jobs in March (-12,000), according to the latest Labour Force Survey. Since the end of 2002, employment in manufacturing has fallen by 8.2% with 189,000 fewer people working on the factory floor.

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 March *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* will be released on May 15.

The 2005 annual review of manufacturing shipments will soon be available.

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	
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	51,176	-1.7	66,112	0.7	42,602	0.3	51,315	-2.4	1.29
December 2005	52,051	1.7	65,977	-0.2	42,686	0.2	52,135	1.6	1.27
January 2006	51,832	-0.4	66,042	0.1	43,045	0.8	52,191	0.1	1.27
February 2006	50,694	-2.2	66,254	0.3	43,455	1.0	51,105	-2.1	1.31

Manufacturing industries except motor vehicle, parts and accessories

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders	
	seasonally adjusted							
	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change
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	42,863	-0.8	62,317	0.8	40,412	0.2	42,960	-1.8
December 2005	43,569	1.6	62,212	-0.2	40,395	-0.0	43,553	1.4
January 2006	43,802	0.5	62,288	0.1	40,673	0.7	44,079	1.2
February 2006	42,479	-3.0	62,603	0.5	40,979	0.8	42,785	-2.9

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Study: The year in review: The revenge of the old economy
2005

Economic developments in Canada last year were again largely shaped by the global economy. This reflects the historic changes taking place as a result of globalization, notably the integration of Asia into the world economy.

Canada's economy is undergoing rapid and profound changes, and not just between booming resources and construction and declines in some manufacturing industries. The energy sector is developing new sources, while manufacturing itself was being buoyed by the strength in resources and investment demand. And all sectors have to deal with a shift in trade flows to Asia.

Any period of rapid change triggers fear, and last year was no different. The rising dollar raised widespread concerns about the erosion of our industrial base. Soaring energy prices recalled the economic slowdown triggered by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) price hikes in the 1970s. The spread of avian flu to many parts of the world resonated strongly with Canadians, after the SARS outbreak in 2003.

So far, none of these worries have been justified. Despite dislocations in some sectors, Canada overall rode a wave of prosperity to a 30-year low in unemployment, record equity and housing prices, and rising government and trade surpluses. This was especially true in Western Canada, which was uniquely positioned to profit from its resources and its geographic proximity to the United States and China.

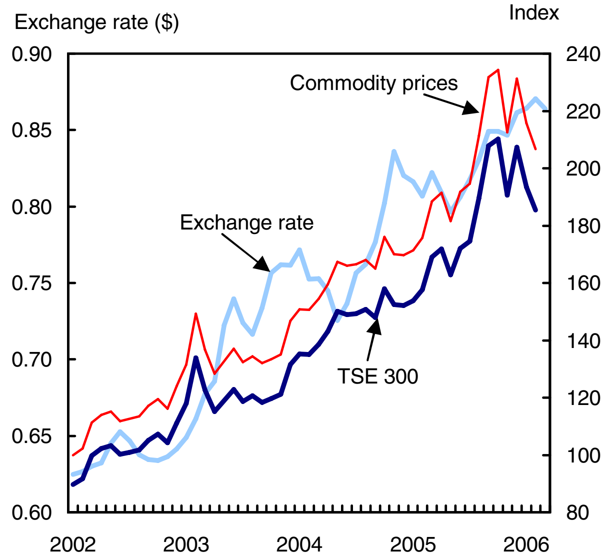
Prices in commodity markets rose sharply for a third straight year, initially led by energy and more recently by mining products. These increases were reflected in higher stock market prices and the exchange rate. This encouraged more investment, which late last year passed household spending as the engine of growth.

Not all sectors profited equally from these changes. Some manufacturers were squeezed by the combination of soaring input costs and the rising loonie, notably forestry and clothing.

But overall, 62% of industries boosted output last year, little changed from 64% in 2004 and above its long-term average of 59%. As a result, the economy was increasingly pushing against its capacity limits, especially in Western Canada.

Some trends remained unchanged. Inflation stayed low, keeping interest rates near their historic lows. And old habits were hard to break: Canadians continued to buy trucks and sport utility vehicles in increasing numbers, and energy consumption grew despite high prices.

Commodity prices pushed up the stock market and the exchange rate



Energy dominates major trends, but it also is changing rapidly

The energy sector dominated most economic trends. Energy exports single-handedly lifted the trade surplus to a record high. Armed with bulging profits and attracted by bright prospects, energy companies again drove the upturn in business investment. Corporate income taxes and royalties from energy buoyed government surpluses. Energy was also behind the pre-eminence of the West in regional growth.

The face of the energy industry itself is changing rapidly. Conventional supplies of oil and gas are dwindling, especially as conventional fields in the West yielded less output in 2004 and 2005. Instead, producers shifted to offshore and non-conventional supplies.

This has been most evident in oil, where the oilsands now account for 42% of all domestic oil output. At $9.8 billion, investment in the oilsands jumped 55% last year.

Natural gas production too is moving to non-conventional sources. All of the increase in output since 2004 has come from coal-based methane, as conventional supplies have begun to dwindle. Investment intentions for coal gas hit $1.3 billion for 2006.

These new sources require large investments to carry and process oil and gas, implying energy will dominate investment for years. Already, the rapid development of the oilsands has created the need for new pipeline capacity, with investment plans up 83% for 2006.

The acceleration of business investment over the last three years has played an important role in the continuing growth of manufacturing, despite the rapid rise in the loonie. Shipments of investment-related industries have grown by 17% since 2002, the fastest gains outside of petroleum and metals.

Mining and transportation also surge

The boom in oil and gas spread to other sectors. Prices for a wide range of metals hit record highs. Non-metallic minerals also shared in the wealth, reflecting renewed interest in uranium and potash and the continued development of diamond fields in Canada's north.

Mining jobs rebounded 16% last year, while investment in mining jumped 20%. Non-metallic minerals led the increase, especially potash and diamonds.

A spin-off of increased demand for commodity exports was a rebound in transportation. Rail and water were particularly strong due to the transport of commodities. The West Coast also saw shipping increase rapidly as imports from China grew. In addition, air transport completed its recovery from the post-9/11 downturn in international travel.

Nowhere was the pre-eminence of the oil and gas, mining and transportation industries more evident than in profits. The operating profits of these industries soared by $16.2 billion last year, 80% of all profit growth.

Flush with cash, it is not surprising that these three industries led investment growth, with double-digit gains in 2004 and 2005 expected to continue this year. Together, they account for 35% of all business investment plans in 2006.

The increase in total corporate profits owes much to dealings with the rest of the world. Rising export prices added $12 billion to corporate coffers, equivalent to over half of profit growth last year. Firms also continued to benefit from lower import prices. An 11.8% drop in prices for machinery and equipment since 2002, mostly due to a stronger dollar, has saved firms over $10 billion.

Are resources more prone to the boom-bust cycle?

The growth of the resource sector has revived fears that the current boom will quickly revert to the bust of previous cycles (notably for energy). However, solid arguments can be made that prices will stay "stronger for longer."

The current boom is rooted in the integration of Asia into the global economy. Previous jumps in energy prices were driven by cuts to supply, whereas the current surge was driven by continued strong demand. High prices also reflect that major oil discoveries are occurring only in expensive locations, such as offshore or the oilsands.

The recent boom-bust cycles for oil and gas have been no more severe than for other sectors of the economy. Indeed, the spectacular bubble and subsequent train wreck for information and communications technologies manufacturing at the turn of the millennium is now the standard for instability against which all cycles are measured.

The auto sector has also had more severe cycles in output in the last three decades. The average cycles for housing were even more wrenching. By comparison, the cyclical ups and downs in oil and gas drilling (by far the most volatile part of the energy sector) were smaller on average.

Households are not too affected by higher energy bills

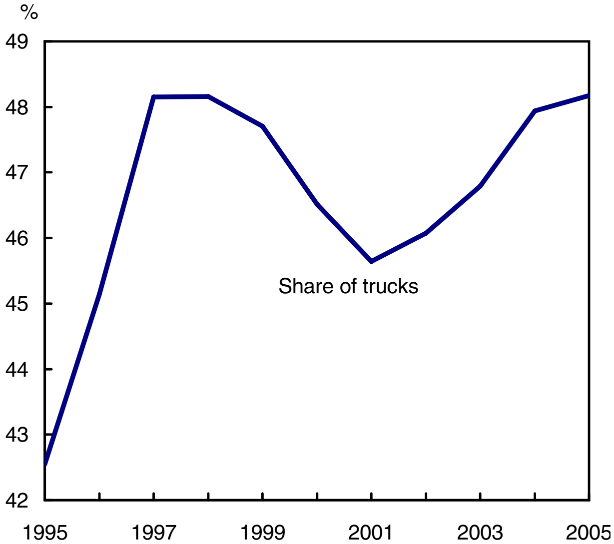
Meanwhile, consumers were surprisingly unaffected by the hike in energy costs. Energy bills as a share of household income rose only slightly, from 6.2% in 2004 to 6.7% in 2005, mostly due to gasoline. The relatively small increase reflects only modest hikes for electricity, which cushioned the impact on heating bills from the jump for oil and gas. As well, it also reflects a further pickup in incomes.

Despite higher energy prices, Canadians showed little drive to become more energy efficient. Gasoline consumption last year was essentially unchanged, despite the 13% spike in prices. Meanwhile, overall vehicle sales rose for the first time in three years.

While Americans did reverse their 25 year-long trend to buying more trucks (which include vans and sport utility vehicles) than cars, Canadians refused to change their buying patterns: trucks accounted for 48.2% of vehicle sales last year, up from 47.9% the year before.

The resilience of demand for trucks was led by Alberta, where they accounted for a record two-thirds of all sales. Still, the share of trucks actually edged up elsewhere, notably in British Columbia and Ontario, to 45.7% at the national level.

The share of truck sales increases despite higher gas prices



Growth tilted to the West

One of the most striking features of last year's growth was its concentration in Alberta and British Columbia, led by investment and exports. This raised employment and incomes.

Not surprisingly, retail sales in these two provinces dominated the national increase, contributing 38% of the overall gain. Housing starts in Alberta and British Columbia also outperformed the national average by a wide margin.

While other regions did not benefit as much from the resource and investment boom as Alberta and British Columbia, they did fare well in their own right. Quebec's unemployment hit a 30-year low of 8.3%, thanks to more jobs in construction and business services and a lower participation rate.

Ontario managed a respectable 1.3% gain in employment, with increases in construction and services outweighing losses in its industrial base. As a result, unemployment in Ontario was less than a point above its record low of 5.8% set in 2000.

Manufacturers in Ontario have benefited from rising investment demand. Indeed, a large majority of Ontario's manufactures (13 out of 16), outside of clothing, textiles and leather, posted higher shipments last year. Capital goods have risen nearly 10% since 2002.

Falling import prices save each household $300

Consumer price inflation remained low last year despite the surge in energy prices, an unprecedented phenomenon.

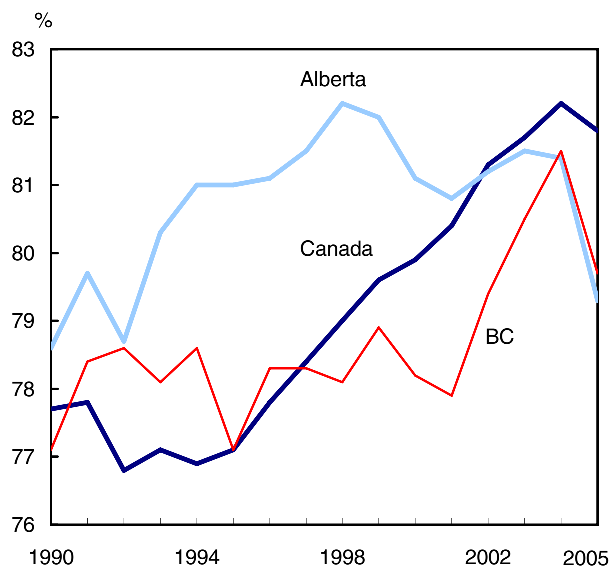
The restraint in prices originated in lower prices for goods with a large import content. A rising Canadian dollar and low-cost imports from Asia drove down the cost of goods such as clothing, household appliances and electronics.

Since 2003, prices for durable and semi-durable goods have fallen by 2.6% and 1.4% respectively. These lower prices saved consumers $3.5 billion on purchases of these items — equivalent to $294 for every household in Canada. This bonus of almost $300 per household is as much a symbol of Canada's prosperity from its rising terms of trade as the $400 cheques sent to every adult in Alberta epitomized its oil and gas wealth.

The participation rate contracts

The participation rate shrank last year, the first time it has contracted outside of a recession, despite low unemployment and rising wages. The decline was led by youths aged 15 to 24 years and adult women. For adult women, this is a notable break from decades of sustained increases.

Participation rates of women aged 25 to 44 years declines



The drop was concentrated in British Columbia and Alberta, falling almost two full points in both provinces, despite their tight labour market conditions. One explanation could be that incomes are so high that households no longer need two paycheques. Another is that child care coverage in Alberta is the lowest in Canada. Clearly, lack of demand is not the problem: the unemployment rate for these women is at a record low in both provinces.

The study "The year in review: The revenge of the old economy" is now available for free online. The study is also included in the April 2006 Internet edition of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 19, no. 4 (11-010-XIB, $19/$182), which is now available. See *How to order products*. The monthly paper version of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 19, no. 4 (11-010-XPB, $25/$243) will be available on April 20. This issue also presents another feature article entitled "Recent trends in corporate finance."

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Philip Cross (613-951-9162; *ceo@statcan.ca*), Current Economic Analysis Group. ■

Study: Productivity spillovers from foreign-controlled suppliers in manufacturing

1981 to 1997

The presence of foreign-controlled suppliers, especially those operating in science industries, can lead to faster productivity growth for Canadian producers located in downstream sectors, according to a new study.

The study takes a detailed look at the economic relationship between American and Canadian controlled manufacturing plants operating at different stages of the supply chain.

It found that the presence of foreign-controlled plants operating in "upstream" industries (those that supply products and services) improves the productivity performance of Canadian producers in "downstream" sectors, that is, sectors that rely heavily on inputs from these supplier industries.

The study found that the benefits are particularly important for domestic producers that buy inputs from science-based industries, such as producers of machinery and equipment, electronics and chemicals.

A one percentage point gain in the foreign share of output in upstream science industries increases the productivity growth of downstream Canadian producers by 1.8 percentage points.

Foreign-controlled plants are a major force in Canada's manufacturing sector. Foreign-controlled producers account for over 50% of Canadian manufacturing output. The majority of this output is produced by affiliates of American multinationals.

Much of the foreign activity is concentrated in certain industries, such as transportation equipment, petroleum, chemicals and food industries. Still, foreign-owned producers have a significant presence in almost all manufacturing industries.

Indeed, all of the 22 manufacturing industries studied had at least 10% of their output produced by foreign-controlled firms, and 8 industries had 50% of their output produced by foreign-controlled firms.

Note: Plant data came from Statistics Canada's Annual Survey of Manufactures. The analysis was conducted for a balanced panel of 8,088 Canadian owned plants that stayed in the market between 1981 and 1997. A plant was deemed foreign-owned if more than 50% of its corporation's voting rights were known to be held outside of Canada, or were held by one or more Canadian corporations that were foreign-controlled.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2103.

The research paper *The Canadian Economy in Transition: Global Links: The Benefits to Domestically-controlled Plants from Inward Direct Investment: The Role of Vertical Linkages* (11-622-MIE2006010, free) is now available online. From *Our products and services page*, under *Browse our Internet publications,* choose *Free*, then *National accounts*.

More studies on multinationals are available free of charge in the analytical series *Update on Economic Analysis* on our Web site (11-623-XIE).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Alla Lileeva (613-951-5687) or Guy Gellatly (613-951-3758) of the Micro-economic Analysis Division. ■

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation

February 2006

Data on mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation are now available for February. Data are available upon request only.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2110.

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. ■

Dairy statistics

February 2006 (preliminary)

Dairy farmers sold 588 400 kilolitres of milk and cream to dairies in February, down 0.6% from February 2005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3430, 3431 and 3432.

The first quarter 2006 issue of *The Dairy Review* (23-001-XIB, $29/$96) will be available in May.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Anna Michalowska (613-951-2442; 1-800-465-1991; fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division. ■

Refined petroleum products

February 2006 (preliminary)

Data on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for February. Other selected data about these products are also available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

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

New products

Canadian Economic Observer, April 2006, Vol. 19, no. 4
Catalogue number 11-010-XIB ($19/$182).

The Canadian Economy in Transition: Global Links: The Benefits to Domestically-controlled Plants from Inward Direct Investment: The Role of Vertical Linkages, no. 10
Catalogue number 11-622-MIE2006010
(free).

Health Regions: Boundaries and Correspondence with Census Geography (Updates), 2005
Catalogue number 82-402-XIE
(free).

Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division Working Papers: Provincial Distribution of Federal Expenditures and Personnel on Science and Technology, 1997/1998 to 2003/2004, no. 1
Catalogue number 88F0006XIE2006001
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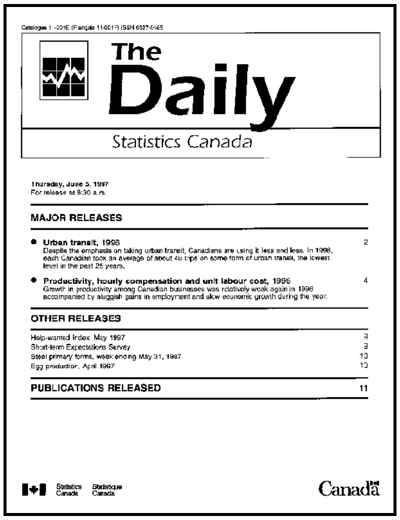
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- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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19	**Canada's international transactions in securities**	February 2006
19	**Leading Indicators**	March 2006
20	**Consumer Price Index**	March 2006
20	**Electronic commerce and technology**	2005
20	**Travel between Canada and other countries**	February 2006
21	**Retail trade**	February 2006
21	**Wholesale trade**	February 2006