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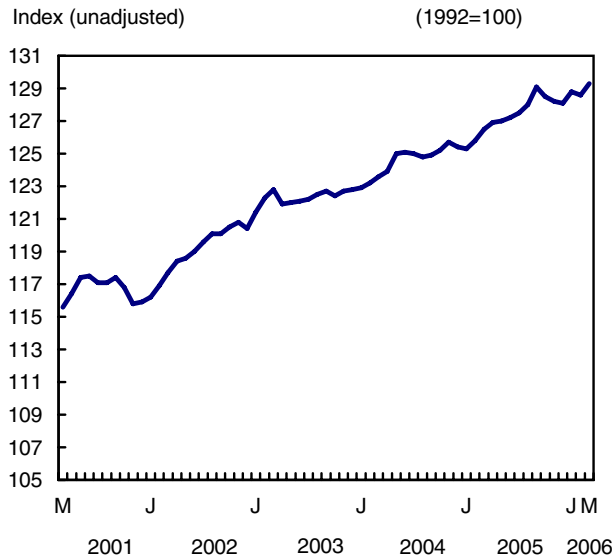
Releases

Consumer Price Index

March 2006

The 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) held steady at 2.2% in March 2006. Excluding energy, the CPI rose 1.7% between March 2005 and March 2006, up slightly from 1.6% in February.

The Consumer Price Index

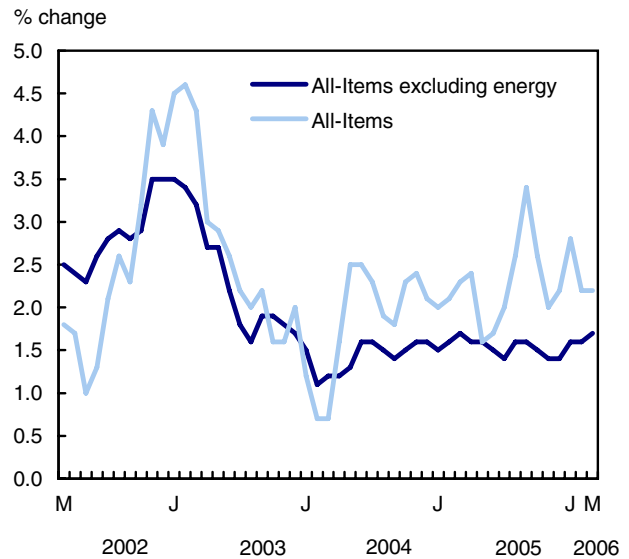


The All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada rose 1.7% on a 12-month basis, the same increase as in the previous two months.

On a monthly basis, the CPI rose 0.5% between February and March 2006, after decreasing 0.2% in the previous month. This increase was mainly due to rising gasoline prices. Excluding the energy components, the index rose 0.4%.

The All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada increased 0.4% between February and March, mainly due to price increases for women's clothing.

Percentage change from the same month of the previous year



The 12-month change in the CPI stays the same as last month

In March, consumers paid 2.2% more than in March 2005 for the goods and services included in the CPI basket, matching February's increase. Higher prices for gasoline, for the purchase and leasing of automobile vehicles and an increase in homeowners' replacement cost were partly offset by lower prices for computer equipment and supplies, as well as for women's and men's clothing.

Average gasoline prices were 7.4% higher in March compared to the same month a year ago, the same average 12-month increase as in February 2006. Higher prices occurred across the country with increases ranging from 5.7% in Newfoundland and Labrador to 9.1% in Alberta. In March, the average retail price for unleaded gasoline at a self service station in Toronto was 91.1 cents per litre compared to 83.8 cents in March 2005. In Montréal, the average price was 98.2 cents per litre this March compared to 91.4 cents per litre last March. For Vancouver, prices were 97.1 cents per litre compared to 92.0 cents for the same time last year.

The price of the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles rose 3.5% in March compared to one year ago.

All provinces posted increases, with the most modest in Alberta (+3.0%) and the strongest in Manitoba (+5.5%).

Homeowners' replacement cost, which represents the worn out structural portion of housing, and is estimated using new housing prices (excluding land), increased by 6.0% between March 2005 and March 2006. All provinces showed increases with Alberta posting the highest (+20.2%). Since December 2005, the Alberta homeowners' replacement cost index has recorded 12-month increases above 10%, from 11.7% in December 2005 to above 20% in March 2006. Alberta also showed strong numbers for housing permits over the same period.

The index for computer equipment and supplies dropped 16.7% compared to March 2005. This index is at a level of 12.5 (1995=100).

Both women's and men's clothing posted lower prices compared to March 2005. Driven by imported products available to Canadian customers, lower prices for clothing items have been the usual trend over the last few years. The women's clothing index was 3.4% lower in March 2006 compared to March 2005 and the men's clothing index was 3.9% lower.

Six of the eight major components of the CPI showed higher prices in March 2006 than in March 2005. The indexes for shelter (+3.5%), transportation (+3.5%), food (+2.4%) and alcoholic beverages and tobacco products (+2.7%) exerted the strongest upward pressure. The indexes for clothing and footwear (-2.5%), and for recreation, education and reading (-0.2%) exerted downward pressure.

After decreasing in February, the CPI is up in March due to gasoline prices

Between February and March, the CPI rose by 0.5% from a level of 128.6 to 129.3 (1992=100). Increases in the prices of gasoline and women's clothing were offset in part by lower prices for fresh vegetables, for the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles and for fresh fruits.

Gasoline prices rose by 5.2% between February and March 2006, after having dropped by 6.8% in February. Except for Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island, all provinces recorded increases which ranged from 2.3% in New Brunswick to 8.1% in Manitoba. Crude oil prices fluctuated during the first half of March, but then steadily went up towards the end of the month. Price increases for crude oil and wholesale gasoline lead to higher retail prices paid at the pump in March.

In March, retailers usually introduce their summer collections which lead to higher prices as compared

to February. This year, the women's clothing index increased by 6.8% in March compared to a month earlier.

Exerting downward pressure on the All-items CPI, vegetable prices decreased by 6.5% in March. All categories of fresh vegetables posted lower prices but tomatoes and "other fresh vegetables" were the main contributors to the drop.

A 0.3% drop in the price for the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles was attributable to higher financial incentives offered in March by some automotive vehicle manufacturers.

All categories of fresh fruits recorded price declines in March, leading to a 3.1% fall in the fresh fruit index. This decrease was mainly caused by lower prices for oranges, as well as for "other fresh fruit" imported from South and Central America.

The seasonally adjusted CPI increased between February and March

Seasonally adjusted, the CPI increased by 0.2% between February and March 2006.

Upward pressure came from the indexes for transportation (+1.3%), shelter (+0.2%), clothing and footwear (+0.7%), alcoholic beverages and tobacco products (+0.7%), food (+0.1%), and health and personal care (+0.1%) indexes.

The seasonally adjusted index was pushed down by household operations and furnishings (-0.2%) and recreation, education and reading (-0.1%).

The All-items index excluding the eight volatile components

The All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada increased by 1.7% between March 2005 and March 2006. The main factors behind this increase were the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles (+3.5%), homeowners' replacement cost (+6.0%), electricity (+4.8%), and restaurant meals (+3.1%). The increase was moderated by a drop in computer equipment and supplies (-16.7%), women's clothing (-3.4%), men's clothing (-3.9%), and video equipment (-9.1%).

Between February and March 2006, the All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada increased by 0.4%. The main factors exerting upward pressure were women's clothing (+6.8%), automotive vehicle insurance premiums (+2.0%), and travel tours (+4.9%). Factors pushing the index downward were the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles (-0.3%), house and yard tools (-2.5%), and fresh or frozen beef (-1.1%).

Energy

After an 8.1% rise between February 2005 and February 2006, the energy index rose 7.4% between March 2005 and March 2006.

Although all components contributed to the increase in the energy index in March 2006, the gasoline index (+7.4%) was again the main factor, followed by natural gas (+14.4%), electricity (+4.8%), fuel oil (+8.0%), and fuel, parts and supplies for recreational vehicles (+6.2%).

The energy index rose by 2.3% on a monthly basis, largely under the influence of gasoline prices (+5.2%). Except for the fuel, parts and supplies for recreational vehicles index, which increased 2.4%, all other indexes fell or were unchanged. The natural gas index and fuel oil index both decreased by 1.2%, while electricity prices were unchanged from last month.

Available on CANSIM: tables 326-0001, 326-0002, 326-0009, 326-0012 and 326-0016 to 326-0018.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2301.

More information about the concepts and use of the CPI are also available online in *Your Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (62-557-XIB, free).

Available at 7 a.m. online under *Today's news releases from The Daily*, then *Latest Consumer Price Index*.

The March 2006 issue of the *Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 85, no. 3 (62-001-XIB, \$9/\$83; 62-001-XPB, \$12/\$111) is now available. See *How to order products*.

The Consumer Price Index for April will be released on May 18.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, call Client Services Unit (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division.

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Consumer Price Index and major components
(1992=100)

	Relative importance ¹	March 2006	February 2006	March 2005	February to March 2006	March 2005 to March 2006
unadjusted						
					% change	
All-items	100.00	129.3	128.6	126.5	0.5	2.2
Food	16.89	130.2	130.2	127.1	0.0	2.4
Shelter	26.75	127.3	127.1	123.0	0.2	3.5
Household operations and furnishings	10.58	116.5	116.6	115.7	-0.1	0.7
Clothing and footwear	5.37	103.3	100.4	106.0	2.9	-2.5
Transportation	19.79	153.5	151.5	148.3	1.3	3.5
Health and personal care	4.52	121.9	121.7	120.0	0.2	1.6
Recreation, education and reading	11.96	126.6	125.9	126.8	0.6	-0.2
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	4.13	150.2	148.9	146.3	0.9	2.7
All-items (1986=100)		165.6				
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1992		77.3	77.8	79.1		
Special aggregates						
Goods	48.84	124.1	123.2	121.8	0.7	1.9
Services	51.16	135.0	134.5	131.9	0.4	2.4
All-items excluding food and energy	74.27	125.2	124.7	123.4	0.4	1.5
Energy	8.84	168.5	164.7	156.9	2.3	7.4
All-items excluding the 8 most volatile components ³	82.75	128.5	128.0	126.4	0.4	1.7

- 2001 CPI basket weights at June 2004 prices, Canada - Effective July 2004. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 (<http://www.statcan.ca/english/sdds/index.htm>).
- Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.
- Excluded from the All-items CPI are the following eight volatile components, as defined by the Bank of Canada: fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuel; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies. The Bank of Canada further adjusts this series to obtain their measure of core inflation, which also excludes the effect of changes in indirect taxes. For data and information on core inflation, please consult the Bank of Canada Web site (www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm).

Consumer Price Index by province, and for Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit
(1992=100)

	March 2006	February 2006	March 2005	February to March 2006	March 2005 to March 2006
unadjusted					
				% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador	127.4	127.1	125.0	0.2	1.9
Prince Edward Island	129.9	130.4	126.7	-0.4	2.5
Nova Scotia	131.3	130.5	128.2	0.6	2.4
New Brunswick	129.4	128.9	126.6	0.4	2.2
Québec	125.2	124.8	122.9	0.3	1.9
Ontario	130.7	129.6	127.8	0.8	2.3
Manitoba	132.4	131.9	130.0	0.4	1.8
Saskatchewan	133.8	133.4	131.6	0.3	1.7
Alberta	137.0	136.2	132.7	0.6	3.2
British Columbia	126.3	125.8	124.1	0.4	1.8
Whitehorse	124.5	124.6	122.2	-0.1	1.9
Yellowknife	124.5	124.8	122.0	-0.2	2.0
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	103.7	103.7	101.8	0.0	1.9

- View the geographical details for the city of Whitehorse, the city of Yellowknife and the town of Iqaluit.
- Part of the increase first recorded in the shelter index for Yellowknife for December 2004 inadvertently reflected rent increases that actually occurred earlier. As a result, the change in the shelter index was overstated in December 2004, and was understated in the previous two years. The shelter index series for Yellowknife has been corrected from December 2002. In addition, the Yellowknife All-items CPI and some Yellowknife special aggregate index series have also changed. Data for Canada and all other provinces and territories were not affected.

Electronic commerce and technology

2005

Online sales recorded their fourth consecutive year of strong double-digit growth in 2005, but e-commerce still accounted for just over 1% of total operating revenues for private firms.

Combined private and public sector online sales increased 38.4% to \$39.2 billion. Online sales by private firms increased 37.2% to \$36.3 billion, while those by the public sector increased 55.4% to \$2.9 billion.

Value of Internet sales

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	Internet sales with or without online payment				
	\$ millions				
Private sector	6,336.6	10,815.3	18,164.4	26,438.0	36,267.7
Public sector	180.3	263.6	756.5	1,881.5	2,924.7
Total	6,516.9	11,078.9	18,920.9	28,319.5	39,192.4

This was the fourth year in a row that the overall value of e-commerce sales in Canada increased by 38% or more. To put this into perspective, the increase in online sales was six times the rise in overall retail sales in Canada in 2005.

Large firms, those with over 100 employees, continue to make up the majority of online sales, accounting for 62% of total online sales. In addition, 16% of large firms sell online, compared to only 7% of private firms overall.

The robust growth in the value of online sales was in stark contrast to stagnation in the adoption of basic information and communication technologies (ICTs).

For example, in 2005, 82% of all private sector firms used the Internet, unchanged from the previous year. About 38% had a Web site, up only slightly from 37%.

This stability suggests that these basic technologies have reached at least a temporary saturation point in the Canadian market, much like the use of personal computers did a couple of years earlier. In effect, Canadian businesses have crossed the digital divide and now have the capability to engage in e-business activities.

Most online sales to Canadian firms and households

Increasingly, Canadian firms are making online sales to domestic as opposed to foreign customers. Only 18% of the value of e-commerce sales were reported as exports in 2005, down from a high of 28% in 2002.

The two sectors least likely to make online sales outside the country in 2005 were retail trade and

Note to readers

Data in this release are from the 2005 Survey of Electronic Commerce and Technology, which included the entire economy, except for local governments. The survey covered about 19,000 enterprises.

Electronic commerce is defined as sales over the Internet, with or without online payment. Included is the value of orders received where the commitment to purchase is made via the Internet. Sales using electronic data interchange over proprietary networks and transactions conducted on automatic teller machines are excluded.

The value of financial instruments transacted on the Internet such as loans and stocks are not considered e-commerce sales, but the service charges received for conducting these transactions over the Internet are included.

wholesale trade. Each sent only about 12% of the value of their online sales abroad.

In contrast, the manufacturing sector sent nearly one-half of its online sales to foreign clients.

Four industrial sectors dominate online marketplace

For the third consecutive year, four sectors led the way in terms of value of online sales: wholesale trade, retail trade, transportation and warehousing, and manufacturing.

These four sectors maintained the same share of overall online sales in 2005 as in 2004, accounting for 68% of overall sales by private firms. In total, these four sectors were responsible for e-commerce valued at \$24.7 billion, up 38% from 2004.

Although the percentage of retailers selling online did not rise in 2005, the value of retail sales online grew considerably.

Wholesalers and firms in transportation and warehousing each reported \$7.2 billion in e-commerce sales in 2005. Each accounted for 20% of total online sales.

Retailers reported online sales of \$5.4 billion, about 15% of the total. This was an increase from \$3.0 billion online in 2004. Manufacturers reported e-commerce valued at \$4.9 billion, about 14% of the total.

Use of broadband reaches threshold

The proportion of Canadian firms using the Internet in 2005 was unchanged from the previous year. However, those users were more likely to use a broadband connection.

In 2005, 81% of private Canadian firms used a high-speed link to the Internet. This growth is impressive when compared to 2001, when less than

one-half of private firms using the Internet had a broadband connection.

Private firms using high speed Internet

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	%				
Low-speed	46.8	36.6	27.5	20.2	18.4
High-speed	48.4	58.4	66.3	71.7	81.0

Large firms in Canada have embraced high-speed Internet universally. About 79% of small firms, those with fewer than 20 employees, now are using broadband Internet such as cable, digital subscriber line or a T1 connection. This compares with only 70% in 2004.

Firms that use broadband technology have shown a greater likelihood of using other advanced ICTs such as an Intranet, an Extranet or a Web site. Broadband is an enabler of these technologies, eliminating the bottleneck that may be placed on a firm using a restrictive Internet connection such as dial-up.

Nature of products sold and business values limit electronic commerce

Firms in the private sector identified two major factors as barriers to conducting sales over the Internet. Over 50% of these organizations felt that the products they sell do not lend themselves to Internet transactions. In addition, just over 35% preferred to maintain their current business model.

For these firms, the change to an e-business model simply may be something they are not comfortable with. They are not prepared to deal with possible technical headaches and see no reason to change from a model that is already in place.

Only 18% of respondents felt that security concerns were a reason not to conduct e-commerce. This proportion has remained constant since 2002.

Web sites, e-mail and Internet use consistent with previous year

The percentage of private firms that had a Web site in 2005 edged up to 38% from 37% in 2004. Those sectors that were most likely to have firms with a Web site included education, information and cultural industries, and manufacturing.

Among businesses in the retail trade sector, 42% had a Web site, up from 38% in 2004.

The penetration of e-mail use and Internet use by Canadian firms remained constant in 2005. The steady nature of these numbers indicates that both the market and the use of these technologies have matured.

As with many new technologies, the adoption of ICTs has an ebb and flow that is readily apparent. Early adopters have already put these technologies in place and there is a limited population of firms left to follow suit. Therefore, growth in the adoption of the technology has been curtailed.

Available on CANSIM: tables 358-0007 to 358-0011 and 358-0014 to 358-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4225.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bryan van Tol (613-951-6663, bryan.vantol@statcan.ca) or Mark Uhrbach (613-951-2856, mark.uhrbach@statcan.ca) Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division.

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Purchasing over the Internet

	2003	2004	2005
Enterprises that use the Internet to buy goods or services			
	%		
Forestry, logging and support activities	21.7	31.0	34.9
Mining and oil and gas extraction	31.3	37.3	42.7
Utilities	50.8	55.8	54.6
Construction	26.1	30.7	30.2
Manufacturing	47.8	53.4	51.6
Wholesale trade	45.7	50.8	53.5
Retail trade	34.8	42.6	45.3
Transportation and warehousing	27.0	29.9	29.7
Information and cultural industries	56.9	67.9	67.1
Finance and insurance	37.5	51.6	54.2
Real estate and rental and leasing	23.1	27.2	30.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	59.9	61.0	60.2
Management of companies and enterprises	24.1	24.7	29.3
Administration and support, waste management and remediation services	36.8	40.7	45.4
Educational services (private sector)	44.7	64.6	65.5
Health care and social assistance (private sector)	32.1	39.5	41.9
Arts, entertainment and recreation	43.7	59.4	47.8
Accommodation and food services	22.4	26.6	28.6
Other services (except public administration)	27.6	34.3	40.0
All private sector	37.3	42.5	43.4
All public sector	68.5	77.4	82.5

Internet use and presence of Web sites

	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
	Enterprises that use the Internet			Enterprises with a Web site		
	%					
Forestry, logging and support activities	71.5	77.7	81.9	13.9	16.2	19.3
Mining and oil and gas extraction	89.7	87.3	94.0	24.8	32.3	30.5
Utilities	95.1	99.8	95.6	63.7	71.9	53.4
Construction	73.8	76.7	72.1	29.0	24.5	24.8
Manufacturing	90.4	90.7	90.0	56.9	57.9	58.1
Wholesale trade	88.9	91.1	91.2	44.6	51.3	52.4
Retail trade	75.2	81.1	83.8	36.6	38.2	41.9
Transportation and warehousing	64.6	70.3	74.9	16.8	18.7	18.5
Information and cultural industries	93.7	94.3	95.0	62.3	71.3	74.6
Finance and insurance	80.5	90.3	87.9	53.4	60.3	55.8
Real estate and rental and leasing	66.9	73.1	71.1	26.0	27.5	29.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	94.5	93.6	93.7	35.4	39.3	42.2
Management of companies and enterprises	67.7	62.5	62.0	20.2	22.8	26.7
Administration and support, waste management and remediation services	79.8	83.0	83.1	34.6	40.0	38.0
Educational services (private sector)	92.9	94.4	96.8	71.6	77.7	82.9
Health care and social assistance (private sector)	77.7	83.2	84.3	21.8	26.0	26.4
Arts, entertainment and recreation	86.8	88.9	91.1	51.6	53.0	59.3
Accommodation and food services	59.8	63.6	64.5	26.2	29.0	33.8
Other services (except public administration)	68.4	74.3	76.1	33.3	35.0	38.4
All private sector	78.3	81.6	81.6	34.1	36.8	38.3
All public sector	100.0	99.9	99.6	92.7	92.4	94.9

Current economic conditions

Alberta and British Columbia increasingly dominated economic growth early in 2006. Two-thirds of the 101,000 jobs added in the first three months of the year were in these provinces, all in full-time jobs. British Columbia's unemployment rate fell to a record low of 4.4%.

The booming economy of these two provinces exercised an increasing pull on population, with gains in the last 12 months of 2.9% in Alberta and 1.8% in British Columbia. Ontario and Quebec both posted increases of 1.7%, while in the six smaller provinces, the overall gain was only 0.1%.

Retail sales in British Columbia rose 2.4% in January, their strongest advance in a year, and housing starts jumped by 25% in February. Exports slowed, largely due to copper. This appears to be related to the end of strikes in South America in January.

Shipments continued to increase on the Prairies in January, posting their 12th gain in 13 months. Manitoba registered the most rapid increase (+9.8%). Shipments of non-metallic minerals, the materials most used in construction along with wood, continued to grow steadily, increasing 50% in one year. The same was true in Saskatchewan for electrical products, which have also advanced 50% in the past year. In Alberta, shipments held onto their 4.4% gain in December. Household demand was also strong in Alberta: retail sales surged, while housing starts approached historic highs.

Services and resources continued to propel growth in Quebec. Refineries again boosted manufacturing shipments. The value of gasoline shipments in Quebec exceeded the value in Ontario for the first time. The tourism industry and office tower construction in the Montréal area caused monthly building permits to jump 12% compared with the previous month, and 40% year-over-year. Retail sales rose 0.8%. Trade and construction have dominated employment growth since last fall.

Ontario continued to lag slightly, with shipments down 2.1% owing to weakness in the auto sector. However, new motor vehicle sales started the year on a positive note with a monthly increase of 1.4% in January, their third gain in four months. Retail sales continued to advance strongly despite high gasoline prices. A decline in housing starts was related to a return to more reasonable weather in February.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1301, 1901, 2152, 2306, 2406 and 3701.

The print version of the April 2006 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 19,

no. 4 (11-010-XPB, \$25/\$243) is now available. See *How to order products*. This issue summarizes the major economic events that occurred in March and presents two feature articles. The first is entitled "The year in review: The revenge of the old economy" and the second, "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. ■

Travel between Canada and other countries February 2006

While Canadian residents set a new record for trips to overseas countries in February, same-day car travel from the United States fell to its lowest monthly level on record.

A record high 547,000 Canadians travelled to overseas countries. This represented a 1.5% gain from January, the third consecutive monthly increase. (Unless otherwise specified, monthly data are seasonally adjusted whereas exchange rates are not).

Same-day car travel from the United States to Canada dropped to its lowest level on record in February, falling below the 1.2 million mark for the first time ever.

In addition, the estimated 1.1 million overnight trips taken by American residents to Canada was the lowest monthly level in almost nine years. Overall, only 2.4 million American residents took trips to Canada in February, down 2.3% from the month before and the lowest month on record since May 1979.

The Canadian dollar was worth 87.0 US cents on average in February, up 0.7% compared to January. The loonie also gained against the euro, British pound sterling and Japanese yen.

Canadians made fewer than 3.2 million trips to the United States during February, down 7.1% from January.

The number of same-day car trips by Canadians fell 8.0% to just under 1.9 million, the lowest level since June last year. In addition, they made fewer than 1.3 million trips of one night or more, a 5.7% decline.

Although Canadians travelled overseas in record numbers, the same could not be said for overseas visitors to Canada. The number of visitors from overseas countries to Canada dropped 3.3% to about 369,000, its lowest level in over a year.

Travel from 9 of Canada's top 12 overseas markets fell in February, the largest decline (-9.0%) recorded by Mexico. Travel from the biggest market, the United Kingdom, was down 6.5%.

However, the number of visitors from Hong Kong rose 9.3%, the largest gain among Canada's most important overseas markets.

Available on CANSIM: tables 427-0001 to 427-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5005.

The February 2006 issue of *International Travel, Advance Information*, Vol. 22, no. 2 (66-001-PIE, \$7/\$59) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For general information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-2909; cult.tourstats@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Frances Kremarik (613-951-4240; frances.kremarik@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

Travel between Canada and other countries

	January	February	January	February	February
	2006 ^r	2006 ^p	to	2006	2005
	seasonally adjusted		February	unadjusted	
	'000		% change	'000	% change
Canadian trips abroad¹	3,953	3,717	-6.0	3,171	2.2
to the United States	3,414	3,170	-7.1	2,520	1.0
to Other Countries	539	547	1.5	652	7.0
Same-day car trips to the United States	2,014	1,853	-8.0	1,509	0.5
Total trips, one or more nights	1,879	1,810	-3.7	1,605	4.8
United States ²	1,340	1,263	-5.7	953	3.3
Car	781	728	-6.8	410	0.7
Plane	467	443	-5.3	500	7.1
Other modes of transportation	91	92	1.6	44	-10.3
Other countries ³	539	547	1.5	652	7.0
Travel to Canada¹	2,876	2,806	-2.4	1,825	-11.6
from the United States	2,494	2,437	-2.3	1,620	-12.7
from Other Countries	382	369	-3.3	206	-1.9
Same-day car trips from the United States	1,221	1,197	-2.0	929	-12.7
Total trips, one or more nights	1,525	1,477	-3.2	835	-10.5
United States ²	1,151	1,116	-3.1	632	-12.9
Car	718	682	-4.9	381	-11.6
Plane	305	307	0.5	208	-12.3
Other modes of transportation	128	126	-1.4	43	-25.0
Other countries ³	374	361	-3.6	203	-2.1
Most important overseas markets⁴					
United Kingdom	74	69	-6.5	45	-10.5
Japan	37	37	-0.3	21	-2.6
France	30	29	-2.9	23	0.5
Germany	28	27	-3.5	12	-1.4
Mexico	20	18	-9.0	8	21.4
South Korea	16	17	7.1	10	10.7
Australia	16	15	-2.8	8	-11.5
China	10	11	6.3	6	15.6
Hong Kong	9	10	9.3	6	-33.3
Netherlands	10	9	-7.8	4	-7.9
India	9	8	-4.5	4	30.9
Taiwan	9	8	-3.4	4	-21.7

^p Preliminary.

^r Revised.

1. Totals exceed the sum of "same-day car trips" and "total trips, one or more nights" because they include all of the same-day trips.
2. Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.
3. Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.
4. Includes same-day and one or more night trips.

Construction Union Wage Rate Index

March 2006

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in March compared to the February level of 135.0 (1992=100). The Composite index increased 2.4% compared with the March 2005 index (131.8).

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes on a 1992=100 time base are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0003 and 327-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2307.

The first quarter 2006 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XIE, \$20/\$59) will soon be available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services Unit (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), or Louise Chaîné (613-951-3393), Prices Division. ■

Aircraft movement statistics

March 2006 (preliminary)

The 42 Canadian airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers reported 363,844 aircraft take-offs and landings in March, up 1.6% compared with March 2005 (358,132 movements). Year-over-year increases in aircraft movements were reported by 26 of the airports in March 2006. The variations ranged from a 40.4% increase at Toronto/City Centre to a 39.5% decline at Sault Ste Marie.

Itinerant movements (flights from one airport to another) increased by 1.1% (+2,724 movements) in March compared with the same month a year earlier. Local movements (flights that remain in the vicinity of the airport) increased by 2.9% (+2,988 movements) in March compared with March 2005.

The top 10 airports in terms of volumes of itinerant movements in March showed year-over-year variations ranging from a 17.0% increase (+1,028 movements)

at Québec/Jean Lesage International to a decline of 11.9% (-958 movements) at Victoria International. Of the top 10 airports, 6 recorded increases in itinerant movements compared with 2 airports in February 2006.

The top 10 airports in terms of local movements showed year-over-year variations ranging from a 36.5% increase (+2,167 movements) at Calgary/Springbank to a decline of 22.3% (-1,224 movements) at Pitt Meadows. Of the top 10 airports, 8 recorded increases in local movements compared with 2 airports in February 2006.

The March 2006 issue of *Aircraft Movement Statistics* (51F0001PIE, TP1496, free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Free publications*, then *Transport and warehousing*.

Preliminary statistics for the 56 Canadian airports with NAV CANADA flight service stations are also available for March.

Available on CANSIM: table 401-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2715.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141; fax: 613-951-0010; aviationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Civil aviation operating statistics

July to December 2005

Monthly operational data on civil aviation are now available for July to December 2005.

Available on CANSIM: table 401-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5026.

July to December 2005 operational data on civil aviation for Air Canada and WestJet appear in the *Aviation: Service Bulletin*, Vol. 38, no. 1 (51-004-XIB, \$9), which is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Lund (613-951-0125; bob.lund@statcan.ca) or Lisa Di Piéto (613-951-0146; lisa.dipietro@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

New products

Canadian Economic Observer, April 2006, Vol. 19, no. 4
Catalogue number 11-010-XPB (\$25/\$243).

People, Products and Services, Agriculture Division, 2006
Catalogue number 21F0003GIE
(free).

Aircraft Movement Statistics, March 2006, Vol. 5, no. 3
Catalogue number 51F0001PIE
(free).

Aviation: Service Bulletin, Vol. 38, no. 1
Catalogue number 51-004-XIB (\$9).

The Consumer Price Index, March 2006, Vol. 85, no. 3
Catalogue number 62-001-XIB (\$9/\$83).

The Consumer Price Index, March 2006, Vol. 85, no. 3
Catalogue number 62-001-XPB (\$12/\$111).

New Motor Vehicle Sales, February 2006, Vol. 78, no. 2
Catalogue number 63-007-XIE (\$14/\$133).

International Travel, Advance Information, February 2006, Vol. 22, no. 2
Catalogue number 66-001-PIE (\$7/\$59).

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