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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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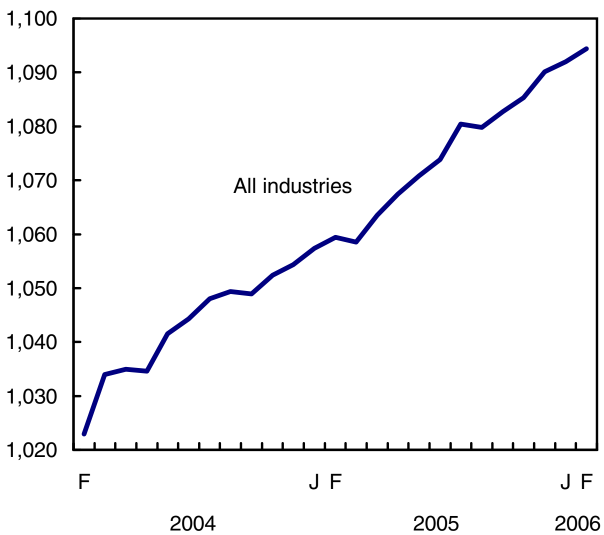
Releases

Releases

Gross domestic product by industry
February 2006

The Canadian economy grew by 0.2% in February, the same pace as in the previous month. While economic activity was bolstered by a rebound in utilities and strength in wholesale sales, finance and construction, it was slowed by a drop in output in the mining and oil and gas extraction sector and in manufacturing.

Sustained growth in economic activity



Construction still robust

Construction rose 0.6% in February. Residential building construction advanced for a sixth consecutive month, gaining 1.0%. The demand for single-family homes grew substantially in Alberta, British Columbia and Quebec. Non-residential building construction grew by 0.7%. All types of non-residential buildings (industrial, commercial and institutional) advanced. Engineering, repairs and other construction activities (+0.3%) also increased, boosted by activity in Western Canada.

Note to readers

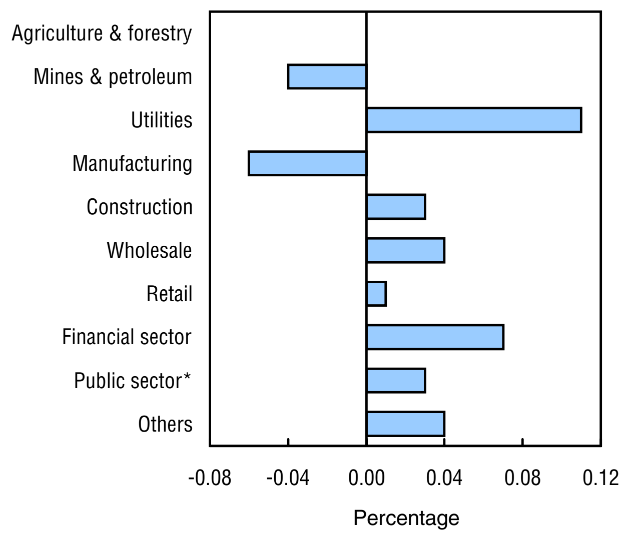
The monthly gross domestic product (GDP) by industry data are chained volume estimates with 1997 as their reference year. This means that the estimates for each industry and aggregate are obtained from a chained volume index multiplied by the industry's value added in 1997. For the period 1997 to 2002, the monthly estimates are benchmarked to annually chained Fisher volume indexes of GDP obtained from the constant-price input-output tables. For the period starting with January 2003, the estimates are derived by chaining a fixed-weight Laspeyres volume index to the prior period. The fixed weights are the industry output and input prices of 2002. This makes the monthly GDP by industry estimates more comparable with the expenditure-based GDP data, chained quarterly.

Revisions

With this release of monthly GDP by industry, revisions have been made back to January 2005.

For more information about monthly GDP by industry, see the new National Economic Accounts module (http://www.statcan.ca/nea).

Main industrial sectors' contribution to total growth



* Education, health and public administration.

Stock market activity supports growth in the financial sector

On the strength of buoyant stock markets, the financial sector gained 0.4% in February. For the third time in the past four months, stockbrokers' activity grew substantially (+1.8%). Real estate brokers' output grew less, increasing only 0.2%, in line with the home resale market.

Wholesale trade continues to grow

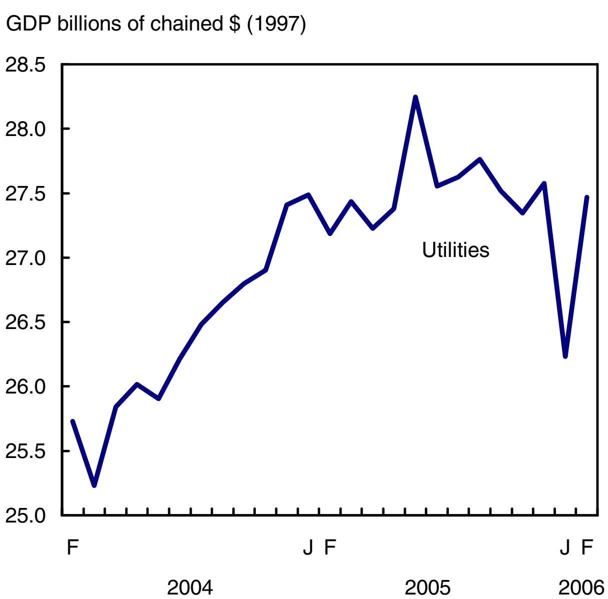
Continuing its surge of the past two months, wholesale trade grew 0.6% in February. Growth was recorded mainly by wholesalers of computers and electronic equipment, and of office equipment, but also by wholesalers of motor vehicles. The main sources of decline came from a steep drop in apparel sales, as well as from a decrease in sales of machinery and equipment.

Unlike in the previous four months, retail trade grew only 0.2% in February. An upswing in sales at supermarkets, gasoline stations and pharmacies was almost entirely offset by sharply reduced results for sporting good stores but more importantly by new car dealers. Excluding motor vehicle sales, overall retail sales advanced 1.1%.

Energy sector rebounds

Following a 3.0% drop resulting from especially mild weather in January, the energy sector grew 1.1% in February. Electric power generation and transmission (+5.1%) and natural gas distribution (+4.6%) contributed much to the sector's rebound, making up most of the ground lost in January.

Utilities rebound as the weather returns to normal



Oil and natural gas extraction was down (-1.2%) for a second consecutive month, mainly because of unscheduled maintenance both in the Alberta tar sands and on the East Coast. The drop in natural gas extraction was attributable to mild weather conditions, which have kept existing inventories at much higher levels than usual.

Apart from activities related to energy resources, mining was down a substantial 2.1%. Potash producers, who were carrying large inventories and waiting for new supply contracts, cut back their output by nearly 15% for a second consecutive month. Base metal mining declined 2.3%, in turn causing a drop in the non-ferrous metal refining industry (-1.9%). By contrast, the mining of iron ore (+1.1%) and miscellaneous non-metallic minerals (+4.6%) advanced, only partially offsetting the losses in the mining sector.

Industrial production (the output of factories, mines and utilities) remained unchanged in February. The marked drop in mining activity (including oil and gas extraction) and the slowdown in manufacturing output were offset by a strong upswing in utilities. In the United States, industrial production grew 0.5%, with a strong advance in utilities partially offset by a reduction in mining and manufacturing output.

Rebound in motor vehicle output fails to offset drop in output of non-durable goods

Manufacturing output fell 0.4% in February. Of the 21 major groups, 11 registered declines, accounting for 49% of total manufacturing output. The overall output of non-durable goods receded 1.7%. Except for beverages and tobacco products and leather and allied products, all major non-durable groups declined. Durable goods advanced 0.5%, propelled by metal products (+2.0%) and computer products (+1.1%) manufacturing. A rebound in the production of motor vehicles (+4.5%), and increases in the production of motor vehicle bodies and trailers as well as of gasoline engines and engine parts, contributed substantially to the strong showing of durable goods. The manufacture of aerospace products, railroad rolling stock and ship and boat building also contributed to the growth.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1301.

The February 2006 issue of *Gross Domestic Product by Industry*, Vol. 20, no. 2 (15-001-XIE, free) is now available in electronic format. To obtain an issue, visit the *Our Products and services* page of our Web site.

Prices will continue to be charged for electronic products that require manual intervention by Statistics Canada staff (e.g., CD-ROM files which have to be mailed, e-mailed or faxed to clients), database services (CANSIM), and other priced datasets which are available on the Internet.

Data on gross domestic product by industry for March 2006 will be released on May 31.

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

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

	September 2005[r]	October 2005[r]	November 2005[r]	December 2005[r]	January 2006[r]	February 2006[p]	February 2006	February 2005 to February 2006
	seasonally adjusted							
	month-to-month % change						millions of dollars[1]	% change
All Industries	**-0.1**	**0.3**	**0.2**	**0.4**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**1,094,431**	**3.3**
Goods-producing industries	**-0.3**	**0.5**	**-0.0**	**0.7**	**-0.5**	**0.1**	**345,608**	**2.5**
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	1.2	-1.8	-1.0	-1.0	1.5	0.0	25,216	2.5
Mining and oil and gas extraction	0.7	0.1	1.1	0.6	-2.5	-0.8	40,061	3.4
Utilities	0.5	-0.9	-0.6	0.8	-4.9	4.7	27,467	1.0
Construction	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	66,531	6.9
Manufacturing	-1.2	1.0	-0.4	0.9	0.1	-0.4	185,647	0.9
Services-producing industries	**0.0**	**0.2**	**0.4**	**0.3**	**0.5**	**0.3**	**749,779**	**3.7**
Wholesale trade	0.7	0.9	-1.1	1.5	1.6	0.6	71,250	9.3
Retail trade	-2.2	1.5	1.3	0.3	0.8	0.2	63,619	3.0
Transportation and warehousing	0.7	-0.2	0.1	0.5	-0.1	0.1	53,041	4.0
Information and cultural industries	-0.4	0.1	0.0	-0.3	0.8	0.4	44,957	3.1
Finance, insurance and real estate	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.4	218,582	3.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	46,630	2.6
Administrative and waste management services	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.0	24,234	3.6
Education services	-0.1	-1.9	1.9	0.1	0.4	-0.2	47,440	1.9
Health care and social assistance	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.4	63,334	3.7
Arts, entertainment and recreation	0.4	1.1	0.3	0.5	-2.0	-0.9	9,501	1.0
Accommodation and food services	1.1	0.2	1.1	0.4	0.6	0.4	23,755	2.9
Other services (except public administration)	0.0	-0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	26,287	1.8
Public administration	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	59,265	2.4
Other aggregations								
Industrial production	-0.6	0.6	-0.1	0.8	-0.9	0.0	254,510	1.4
Non-durable manufacturing industries	-1.0	-0.0	-0.4	0.3	0.5	-1.7	72,305	-1.9
Durable manufacturing industries	-1.4	1.6	-0.4	1.3	-0.1	0.5	113,092	2.8
Business sector industries	-0.1	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.2	932,802	3.4
Non-business sector industries	0.1	-0.4	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.2	162,164	2.8
Information and communication technologies industries	-0.9	0.4	0.4	-0.6	1.3	0.8	63,197	5.0
Energy sector	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.5	-3.0	1.1	65,055	3.2

r *Revised.*
p *Preliminary.*
1. *Millions of chained dollars (1997), seasonally adjusted at annual rates.*

■

Study: A review of wholesale trade
2005

In 2005, Canada's wholesale trade industry recorded its best performance of the past six years in constant dollars, with much of the impetus coming from the four westernmost provinces, according to a new study reviewing last year's wholesale performance.

Wholesalers, who are a key link between manufacturers and the marketplace, sold merchandise worth more than $470 billion last year, up 5.4% from 2004. However, when adjusted for inflation, the gain was 7.8%, indicating that last year's increase in value was mainly the result of higher volumes.

During the past three years, wholesale companies in Western Canada have experienced the strongest growth.

The study found that sales among wholesalers in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia have risen at an average annual rate of 9.1%. In 2005, wholesalers in these four provinces together accounted for 60% of the total increase in wholesale sales nationally.

Moreover, all three Prairie provinces recorded double-digit growth rates in wholesale sales last year.

The growth of wholesale sales in British Columbia has exceeded the Canadian average since 2002. In 2005, the province's wholesalers sold $47 billion worth of merchandise, a healthy 8.6% increase, compared with the national average of 5.4%.

Quebec wholesalers sold merchandise worth nearly $91 billion in 2005, a 5.7% increase, slightly higher than the national average.

In Ontario, a poor performance in the automotive sector put the brakes on wholesale growth in the province. Ontario's huge wholesale trade industry experienced a growth rate of only 2.2% in sales last year, less than half the rate of growth of 5.5% in 2004. Excluding the motor vehicle sector, wholesale sales in this province grew by 4.3%, getting closer to the national average.

Wholesalers in the Atlantic provinces recorded a decline in activity for the second year in a row in 2005, as sales rose in only Newfoundland and Labrador.

At the national level, the companies most responsible for last year's gain were those in the machinery and electronic equipment sector, which includes products such as heavy industrial equipment as well as computers and office and professional equipment. This sector represented barely one-fifth of all wholesale sales last year, but it accounted for nearly one-third of the year-over-year growth according to the results of the study.

For a second consecutive year, businesses made huge investments in machinery and electronic equipment. Wholesale sales in this sector exceeded $95 billion, up 8.6% from 2004 and well above the national average of 5.4%.

The study also showed that wholesalers in the building materials sector recorded sales of more than $66 billion last year, up 8.5% from 2004. However, this rate of growth was less than half the increase of 20.0% during the previous year.

Nevertheless, sales rose in all groups in the building materials sector in 2005.

Several key factors had an impact on the wholesale trade industry in 2005. They included notably lower prices on certain products resulting in part from the stronger Canadian dollar against the American greenback; increased investment by business; the reopening of the American border on July 18 to trade of live cattle under 30 months of age; the decline in residential housing starts in Canada; and China's growing role in the world economy either for exports of Canadians goods and imports of Chinese products.

The study also notes that the wholesale trade industry makes a substantial contribution to the Canadian economy. On average, it employed more than 739,000 Canadians in 2005, and it accounted for over 6.4% of Canada's economic output as measured by gross domestic product.

> ***Note to readers***
>
> *Unless otherwise specified, all data are in current dollars; that is, they have not been adjusted for inflation.*

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

The analytical article "Between the producer and retailer: A review of wholesale trade for 2005" (11-621-MIE2006040, 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 Jean Lebreux (613-951-4907), Distributive Trades Division. ■

Payroll employment, earnings and hours

February 2006 (preliminary)

The average weekly earnings of payroll employees edged up 0.1% to $745.88 (seasonally adjusted) in February, up $1.11 from January.

Industries with notable increases included accommodation and food services (+2.1%), real estate, rental and leasing (+1.1%), and educational services (+1.0%). Lower earnings were observed in management of companies and enterprises (-1.3%), and arts, entertainment, and recreation (-1.9%).

Among the provinces, Quebec (+0.9%), Manitoba (+0.9%), Newfoundland and Labrador (+0.6%), and New Brunswick (+0.6%) showed the largest increases.

Payroll employment for the month increased by 34,600 jobs, to stand at 13,922,000, largely the result of gains in Alberta (+16,400), Ontario (+12,900), and British Columbia (+6,800).

The average hourly earnings for hourly paid employees rose 1.0% to $18.48 in February.

The average weekly hours for hourly paid employees edged down 0.6% in February to 31.7 hours.

Available on CANSIM: tables 281-0023 to 281-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2612.

Detailed industry data, data by size of enterprise based on employment, and other labour market indicators will soon be available in the monthly publication *Employment, Earnings and Hours* (72-002-XIB, free).

Data on payroll employment, earnings and hours for March 2006 will be released May 29.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-2869; *labour@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Peter Lorenz (613-951-4167), Labour Statistics Division. □

Average weekly earnings (including overtime) for all employees

Industry group (North American Industry Classification System)	February 2005	January 2006r	February 2006p	January to February 2006	February 2005 to February 2006	Year-to-date average 2006[1]
	seasonally adjusted					
	$			% change		
Industrial aggregate	**712.76**	**744.77**	**745.88**	**0.1**	**4.6**	**4.8**
Forestry, logging and support	911.56	952.04	955.97	0.4	4.9	5.0
Mining and oil and gas	1,294.08	1,328.17	1,330.35	0.2	2.8	2.7
Utilities	1,054.89	1,076.80	1,084.33	0.7	2.8	2.2
Construction	863.66	899.39	904.68	0.6	4.7	4.9
Manufacturing	867.75	901.45	900.15	-0.1	3.7	4.2
Wholesale trade	808.67	858.04	860.35	0.3	6.4	6.7
Retail trade	460.42	482.79	484.28	0.3	5.2	5.3
Transportation and warehousing	763.75	785.02	787.24	0.3	3.1	3.0
Information and cultural industries	849.27	919.24	919.72	0.1	8.3	8.6
Finance and insurance	905.69	938.88	938.33	-0.1	3.6	3.6
Real estate and rental and leasing	634.42	664.07	671.42	1.1	5.8	5.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	938.04	955.13	961.86	0.7	2.5	2.2
Management of companies and enterprises	879.26	957.59	944.68	-1.3	7.4	8.9
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	563.73	587.56	589.85	0.4	4.6	4.9
Educational services	792.56	829.94	837.90	1.0	5.7	5.2
Health care and social assistance	640.14	674.55	673.11	-0.2	5.2	5.6
Arts, entertainment and recreation	418.44	429.36	421.05	-1.9	0.6	2.6
Accommodation and food services	298.73	327.61	334.60	2.1	12.0	13.4
Other services (excluding public administration)	552.34	565.51	570.72	0.9	3.3	3.2
Public administration	889.80	914.84	916.77	0.2	3.0	3.2
Provinces and territories						
Newfoundland and Labrador	651.88	685.65	689.74	0.6	5.8	5.4
Prince Edward Island	563.55	584.42	581.62	-0.5	3.2	3.5
Nova Scotia	630.48	646.61	647.27	0.1	2.7	2.9
New Brunswick	653.12	677.46	681.19	0.6	4.3	4.4
Quebec	672.50	690.59	697.15	0.9	3.7	3.7
Ontario	752.09	785.39	786.75	0.2	4.6	4.7
Manitoba	650.42	663.86	669.87	0.9	3.0	2.8
Saskatchewan	655.48	690.95	688.25	-0.4	5.0	5.0
Alberta	756.43	790.70	794.72	0.5	5.1	5.1
British Columbia	697.55	741.04	742.82	0.2	6.5	6.4
Yukon	804.32	862.36	860.36	-0.2	7.0	6.9
Northwest Territories[2]	955.48	968.36	960.99	-0.8	0.6	2.1
Nunavut[2]	805.81	862.43	857.61	-0.6	6.4	7.3

r *Revised.*
p *Preliminary.*
1. *Rate of change for the first two months of 2006 compared to the same months for 2005.*
2. *Data not seasonally adjusted.*

Number of employees

Industry group (North American Industry Classification System)	December 2005	January 2006[r]	February 2006[p]	December 2005 to January 2006	January to February 2006	December 2005 to February 2006
				% change		
Industrial aggregate	**13,872.3**	**13,887.4**	**13,922.0**	**0.1**	**0.2**	**0.4**
Forestry, logging and support	63.3	63.3	63.8	0.0	0.8	0.8
Mining and oil and gas	172.4	171.7	175.7	-0.4	2.3	1.9
Utilities	121.5	120.5	120.5	-0.8	0.0	-0.8
Construction	690.7	690.2	692.2	-0.1	0.3	0.2
Manufacturing	1,948.4	1,943.6	1,949.7	-0.2	0.3	0.1
Wholesale trade	736.7	738.8	742.4	0.3	0.5	0.8
Retail trade	1,717.4	1,721.2	1,723.3	0.2	0.1	0.3
Transportation and warehousing	627.5	626.9	628.5	-0.1	0.3	0.2
Information and cultural industries	355.4	356.4	359.3	0.3	0.8	1.1
Finance and insurance	588.2	588.9	590.1	0.1	0.2	0.3
Real estate and rental and leasing	246.2	249.4	250.4	1.3	0.4	1.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	670.6	674.0	675.6	0.5	0.2	0.7
Management of companies and enterprises	96.5	95.9	98.2	-0.6	2.4	1.8
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	681.8	682.5	684.4	0.1	0.3	0.4
Educational services	1,004.5	1,011.1	1,013.4	0.7	0.2	0.9
Health care and social assistance	1,425.0	1,424.2	1,424.6	-0.1	0.0	0.0
Arts, entertainment and recreation	247.6	246.5	245.7	-0.4	-0.3	-0.8
Accommodation and food services	960.3	960.0	961.4	0.0	0.1	0.1
Other services (excluding public administration)	515.4	514.6	516.3	-0.2	0.3	0.2
Public administration	791.0	790.9	792.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Provinces and territories						
Newfoundland and Labrador	177.5	178.0	178.1	0.3	0.1	0.3
Prince Edward Island	64.3	59.9	60.5	-6.8	1.0	-5.9
Nova Scotia	395.5	395.5	395.2	0.0	-0.1	-0.1
New Brunswick	302.2	300.7	301.5	-0.5	0.3	-0.2
Quebec	3,213.6	3,210.0	3,204.0	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3
Ontario	5,389.3	5,395.8	5,408.7	0.1	0.2	0.4
Manitoba	538.2	535.9	538.6	-0.4	0.5	0.1
Saskatchewan	419.2	424.2	426.9	1.2	0.6	1.8
Alberta	1,576.5	1,579.6	1,596.0	0.2	1.0	1.2
British Columbia	1,747.9	1,755.1	1,761.9	0.4	0.4	0.8
Yukon	17.1	17.0	17.2	-0.6	1.2	0.6
Northwest Territories[1]	22.0	20.1	20.7	-8.6	3.0	-5.9
Nunavut[1]	11.3	11.3	11.4	0.0	0.9	0.9

r *Revised.*
p *Preliminary.*
1. *Data not seasonally adjusted.*

■

Steel primary forms, weekly data
Week ending April 22, 2006 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending April 22 totalled 315 817 metric tonnes, down 0.6% from 317 768 tonnes a week earlier and down 0.9% from 318 839 tonnes in the same week of 2005.

The year-to-date total as of April 22 was 4 824 417 tonnes, down 3.7% from 5 007 751 tonnes in the same period of 2005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2131.

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. ■

Computer and peripherals price indexes
February 2006

The computer and peripherals price indexes (CPPI) are now available for February.

The index for commercial computers remained unchanged from January at 37.8 (2001=100). The index for consumer computers fell 1.9% to 20.5.

In the case of computer peripherals, monitor prices declined 0.2% to 63.0 and printer prices remained unchanged from January at 52.5.

These indexes are available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: tables 331-0001 and 331-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5032.

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. ■

Aircraft movement statistics: Major airports

February 2006

The February 2006 monthly report, Vol. 1 (TP141, free) is available on Transport Canada's Web site at the following URL (*http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/Report/tp141e/tp141.htm*).

Note: The TP 141 monthly report is issued in two volumes. Volume 1 presents statistics for the major Canadian airports (i.e., those with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers or flight service stations). Volume 2 presents statistics for the smaller airports (i.e., those without air traffic control towers). Both volumes are available free upon release on Transport Canada's Web site.

For more information about this Web site, contact Michel Villeneuve (613-990-3825; *villenm@tc.gc.ca*), Transport Canada.

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. ■

Asphalt roofing

March 2006

Data on asphalt roofing are now available for March.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0052.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2123.

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

New products

Analysis in Brief: "Between the producer and retailer: A review of wholesale trade for 2005", no. 40
Catalogue number 11-621-MIE2006040
(free).

Gross Domestic Product by Industry, February 2006, Vol. 20, no. 2
Catalogue number 15-001-XIE
(free).

Capital Expenditure Price Statistics, Fourth quarter 2006, Vol. 21, no. 4
Catalogue number 62-007-XIE
(free).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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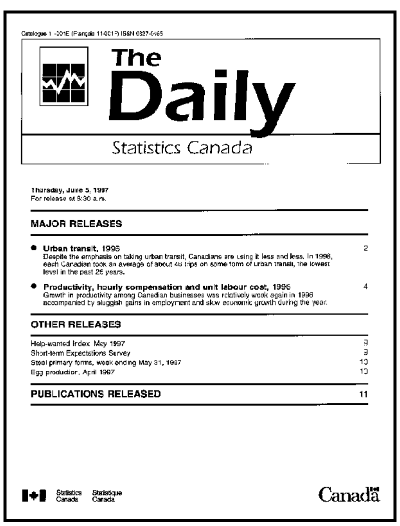
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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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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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3	**Foreign banks in Canada**	1997 to 2004
4	**Building permits**	March 2006
5	**Health reports**	
5	**Labour Force Survey**	April 2006
10	**Stocks of Canadian grain at March 31**	As of March 31, 2006
10	**New Housing Price Index**	March 2006
11	**Innovation capabilities: Comparing science and engineering employment in Canadian and US cities**	
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26	**Farm cash receipts**	First quarter 2006
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29	**Characteristics of international travellers**	Fourth quarter 2005
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30	**Industrial product and raw materials price indexes**	April 2006
30	**Balance of international payments**	First quarter 2006
30	**Employment Insurance**	March 2006
31	**National economic and financial accounts**	First quarter 2006
31	**Gross domestic product by industry**	March 2006