



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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Releases

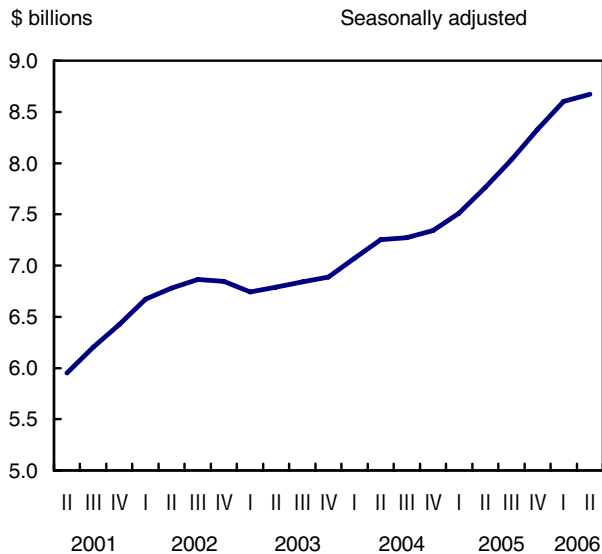
Investment in non-residential building construction

Second quarter 2006

Investment in non-residential building construction hit a record high for the 13th consecutive quarter between April and June, thanks largely to huge gains in British Columbia and Alberta.

Investment in the three non-residential components combined (industrial, commercial and institutional) reached \$8.7 billion, up 0.9% from the first quarter.

Investment in non-residential building construction continues to grow



The biggest contributor was record spending in the two westernmost provinces. If Alberta and British Columbia were excluded from the national figure, the investment in non-residential construction would have declined 0.5% instead of rising 0.9%.

Nationally, investment reached a new record in two of the three components: commercial and institutional.

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 are benchmarked to Statistics Canada's System of National Accounts of non-residential building investment series.

For the purpose of this release, the census metropolitan area of Ottawa-Gatineau is divided into two areas: Ottawa-Gatineau (Que. part) and Ottawa-Gatineau (Ont. part).

Second-quarter investment in commercial buildings rose 0.7% to \$4.9 billion, while institutional investment increased 3.5% to \$2.3 billion. Investment in the industrial component declined 2.7% to \$1.4 billion.

Provincially, the largest contributions to the quarterly increase (in dollars) in the investment in non-residential construction came from Alberta (+8.8% to \$1.6 billion) and British Columbia (+4.6% to \$1.2 billion), the result of big gains in the commercial and institutional components.

Western Canada's dynamic economy continued to spark the non-residential sector. Other contributing factors were a strong labour market, which culminated in May's record surge in full-time jobs, and strong consumer demand for durable goods. In contrast, the picture in the rest of the country was less rosy, as shipments declined for a third month this year.

Locally, 14 of the 28 census metropolitan areas recorded gains; the strongest was in Calgary where investment rose 12.7% to \$606 million. In contrast, investment in Toronto fell sharply as a result of a marked decline in all three components.

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

	Second quarter 2005	First quarter 2006	Second quarter 2006	First quarter to second quarter 2006
Seasonally adjusted				
	millions of dollars			% change
St. John's	57	65	55	-15.0
Halifax	117	118	137	16.4
Saint John	17	25	26	6.0
Saguenay	13	33	26	-22.6
Québec	151	174	161	-7.8
Sherbrooke	27	28	31	11.9
Trois-Rivières	24	34	30	-12.5
Montréal	731	701	659	-6.0
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	313	373	396	6.4
Ottawa-Gatineau (Que. part)	63	57	49	-13.6
Ottawa-Gatineau (Ont. part)	251	316	347	10.0
Kingston	41	31	23	-23.5
Oshawa	118	106	92	-13.4
Toronto	1,634	1,604	1,533	-4.4
Hamilton	134	154	162	5.1
St. Catharines-Niagara	73	57	64	11.0
Kitchener	170	130	123	-5.3
London	143	119	100	-16.1
Windsor	66	90	84	-7.5
Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury	33	28	24	-12.9
Thunder Bay	23	30	37	22.9
Winnipeg	155	206	207	0.9
Regina	60	76	74	-3.0
Saskatoon	55	87	97	11.4
Calgary	457	538	606	12.7
Edmonton	283	431	424	-1.5
Abbotsford	35	46	64	38.5
Vancouver	565	667	684	2.5
Victoria	65	74	81	9.9

Note: Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.

Investment in office buildings at all-time high in Western Canada

Investment in commercial construction projects advanced for the 11th straight quarter as a result of robust activity in office building construction sites in Western Canada.

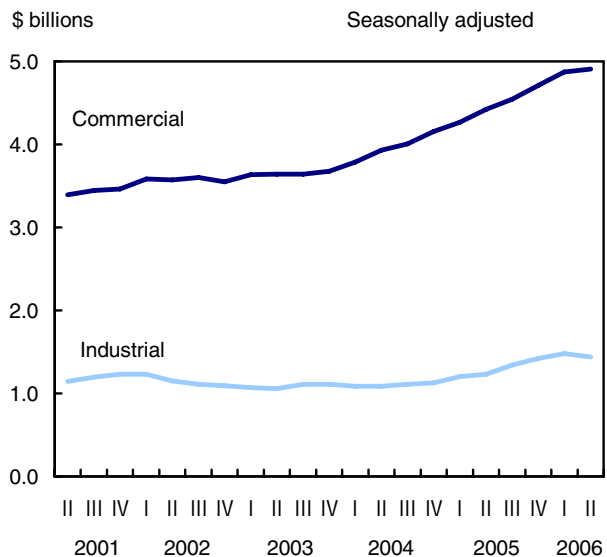
Provincially, the largest contributions to the quarterly increase (in dollars) in the commercial investment occurred in Alberta (+7.5% to \$993 million) and in

British Columbia (+3.8% to \$704 million). Both were record high levels.

After hitting a record high in the first quarter, Ontario recorded the most significant decline in the wake of a slowdown in investment in office buildings, restaurants and warehouses construction.

A decline in vacancy rates and healthy economic growth in British Columbia and Alberta continued to fuel office building construction.

Investment in commercial buildings increases slightly during the second quarter

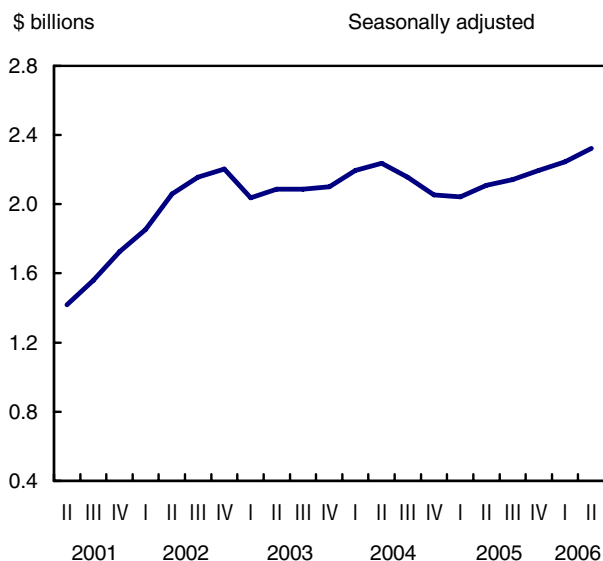


Institutional: New record level due to gains in the hospital category

Stronger investment in health care facilities accounted for the largest part of the 3.5% increase in institutional investment between April and June, a fifth consecutive increase.

The largest gains occurred in British Columbia and Alberta, where the investment rose 9.6% to \$387 million and 10.8% to \$331 million respectively. Ontario and Quebec, however, recorded the largest declines.

Spending on health care buildings fuels institutional investment



Investment was up in 19 census metropolitan areas. Ottawa led the growth for a second straight quarter (+21.7% to \$159 million) as a result of investments in health care facilities.

The largest drop occurred in the Toronto area where investment in all institutional construction projects declined, except for religious buildings.

Slowdown in industrial investment

Investment in industrial construction fell 2.7%, halting eight consecutive quarters of steady gains. Investment fell in every category of industrial construction. Despite the decline, the \$1.4 billion total was 10.9% higher than the average quarterly level recorded in 2005.

Investment in industrial construction declined in seven provinces and territories during the second quarter. The largest quarterly decrease (in dollars) occurred in Quebec (-8.7% to \$499 million). In contrast, Alberta, Ontario and Prince Edward Island showed increases in industrial construction investment.

Overall, 11 census metropolitan areas recorded gains in investment. Calgary recorded the largest increase in industrial construction spending, which hit \$56 million. Montréal posted the largest reduction.

In the second quarter, manufacturers continued to face increased production costs, stronger global competition and the appreciation of the Canadian dollar. Also, the industrial capacity utilization rate among Canadian industries edged down in the first three months of 2006.

Investment in non-residential building construction

	Second quarter 2005	First quarter 2006	Second quarter 2006	First quarter to second quarter 2006
Seasonally adjusted				
	millions of dollars			% change
Canada	7,763	8,601	8,674	0.9
Newfoundland and Labrador	82	85	79	-6.5
Prince Edward Island	29	38	37	-2.0
Nova Scotia	211	226	243	7.5
New Brunswick	141	171	176	3.3
Quebec	1,399	1,442	1,383	-4.1
Ontario	3,283	3,417	3,365	-1.5
Manitoba	251	278	277	-0.3
Saskatchewan	172	238	234	-1.7
Alberta	1,182	1,495	1,627	8.8
British Columbia	944	1,169	1,223	4.6
Yukon	15	16	17	7.9
Northwest Territories	34	22	12	-45.7
Nunavut	21	5	1	-82.8

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*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; bdp_information@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

New Housing Price Index

May 2006

New house prices continued to rise rapidly in May, with the strongest increases in Alberta. The New Housing Price Index rose by 1.3% over the previous month to 140.0 (1997=100). Compared to one year ago, contractors' selling prices have increased 9.1%.

Prices advanced in 16 of the 21 metropolitan areas surveyed. Calgary continued to lead the way with a monthly increase of 5.4% followed closely by Edmonton (+5.3%). Charlottetown (+1.3%), Winnipeg (+1.1%) and Kitchener (+1.0%) also registered significant increases. High demand for new housing, higher material and labour costs and increased land values were cited as the main reasons for these increases. High fuel costs, which affected transportation costs, were also cited as a factor in Calgary and Edmonton. In Charlottetown, some builders reported higher marketing costs.

Other noteworthy gains were observed in St. Catharines–Niagara (+0.7%) and Ottawa–Gatineau (+0.6%) where good demand pushed prices up. Increased costs associated with moving into new phases were another factor in Ottawa–Gatineau. Monthly increases were also noted in St. John's,

Halifax, Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton, Québec, Montréal, Toronto and Oshawa, Windsor, Regina and Vancouver. Of the 16 metropolitan areas showing increases, land prices rose in 12.

Two metropolitan areas registered no monthly change while London (-0.8%), Victoria (-0.3%) and Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury and Thunder Bay (-0.1%) posted decreases due to competitive pricing.

Compared to one year ago, Calgary (+41.3%) had the largest increase for new homes, followed by Edmonton (+24.4%), Winnipeg (+11.7%), Halifax (+6.8%), Regina and Saskatoon (+6.7% each).

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.

The first quarter 2006 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XIE, free) will soon be available.

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.

New housing price indexes (1997=100)

	May 2006	May 2005 to May 2006	April to May 2006
	% change		
Canada total	140.0	9.1	1.3
House only	149.7	9.4	1.1
Land only	120.8	7.9	1.5
St. John's	128.3	2.4	0.5
Halifax	130.1	6.8	0.3
Charlottetown	116.9	2.8	1.3
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton	112.8	4.0	0.3
Québec	142.0	6.1	0.5
Montréal	147.6	4.6	0.4
Ottawa–Gatineau	158.2	3.3	0.6
Toronto and Oshawa	136.7	4.0	0.3
Hamilton	140.2	3.9	0.0
St. Catharines–Niagara	143.6	4.6	0.7
Kitchener	137.2	5.1	1.0
London	131.1	3.1	-0.8
Windsor	104.9	-0.8	0.4
Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury and Thunder Bay	101.4	1.3	-0.1
Winnipeg	143.8	11.7	1.1
Regina	152.1	6.7	0.3
Saskatoon	134.6	6.7	0.0
Calgary	202.6	41.3	5.4
Edmonton	167.5	24.4	5.3
Vancouver	111.2	5.0	0.3
Victoria	117.9	6.2	-0.3

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

Access to health care services

January to December 2005

The new report, *Access to Health Care Services in Canada*, provides updated results of the experiences of patients waiting for care, based on 12 full months of data for 2005. Preliminary results from the first six months of data collection were reported in *The Daily* on January 31, 2006.

The updated report confirms that waiting times remain the number one barrier for Canadians who had difficulties in accessing specialized health care services last year.

Between 2003 and 2005, median waiting times for all specialized services under study remained relatively stable at between three and four weeks. (The median is the point where exactly one half of waiting times are higher and one half lower.) Most individuals reported they received care within three months, which was also relatively unchanged.

While most individuals who accessed a specialized service did not experience any difficulties, some did. An estimated 2.8 million people aged 15 or older visited a medical specialist in 2005. Of these, 19% reported that they faced difficulties accessing care.

Of the 1.6 million people who reported that they had non-emergency surgery, 13% reported that they had difficulty accessing care. Similarly, 13% of the 2.2 million people who accessed a diagnostic test also reported difficulties.

Data provided in this report on access to health care services are based on a sub-sample of the 2005 Canadian Community Health Survey, which focused on access to specialized services and first contact services. The specialized services include visits to a specialist for a new illness or condition, non-emergency surgery and selected diagnostic tests.

Selected information is provided at the provincial level, thus allowing for a comprehensive assessment of access to health care across Canada.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3226.

The report *Access to Health Care Services in Canada*, January to December 2005, Vol. 1 (82-575-XIE, free) is now available on our website. From the *Our Products and Services* page, under *Browse our Free Internet Publications*, choose *Health*.

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Claudia Sanmartin (613-951-6059; fax: 613-951-3959; claudia.sanmartin@statcan.ca), Health Analysis and Measurement Group.

For more information regarding access to the 2005 Canadian Community Health Survey data, contact Ingrid Ledrou (613-951-6567; fax: 613-951-4198; ingrid.ledrou@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division. ■

Energy conservation systems and equipment

2004 (preliminary)

This release presents information on energy conservation technologies, innovation and greenhouse gas emissions and the use of environmental management practices by primary and manufacturing industries in Canada. The data were collected through the 2004 Survey of Environmental Protection Expenditures.

Businesses use energy conservation processes and technologies for a variety of reasons, such as reducing pollutants emitted, reducing costs, or improving productivity.

Over half of businesses (57%) surveyed in 16 primary and manufacturing industries used technologies and processes to reduce their energy consumption in 2004. One-third used an energy management or monitoring system, while 30% performed an energy audit between 2002 and 2004.

Waste energy recovery and reuse was used by 29% of businesses to reduce energy consumption. At the same time, less than 10% of businesses indicated the use of other renewable energy systems or technologies, such as solar and wind energy, biomass energy and small-scale hydroelectricity.

Establishments in the pulp, paper and paperboard industry were most likely to indicate the use of energy conservation processes and technologies. Just over one-third (35%) used cogeneration, 28% used fuel substitution, 74% used waste energy recovery and reuse, 55% had a waste-to-energy system using biomass, and 60% used an energy management system.

They were also most likely to have performed an energy audit between 2002 and 2004, as about 59% of companies did so.

Energy-related industries such as oil and gas extraction, petroleum and coal products and pipeline transportation were also more likely to indicate the use of various energy conservation processes and technologies.

Just over one-quarter of businesses in 16 primary and manufacturing industries used innovative systems or equipment between 2002 and 2004 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This was a slight increase

over the 2002 survey results. Of these, 14% indicated the impact on their emissions was large.

Fewer respondents in energy-related industries such as oil and gas extraction and pipeline transportation reported introducing innovative systems and equipment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions compared with previous survey results.

However, an increased number of establishments in non-energy related industries such as beverage and tobacco products and transportation equipment reported the introduction of innovative systems and equipment.

The 2004 Survey of Environmental Protection Expenditures also asked respondents to indicate what types of environmental management practices are in use at their establishments. These practices can be used to facilitate the reduction or prevention of pollution or to conserve resources.

While almost three-quarters of respondents indicated they used at least one environmental management practice, there was little change in participation rates from 2002.

The exceptions were the rate of participation in environmental voluntary agreements, which declined in 15 of 16 industry groups. In contrast, 13 of these groups reported an increase in the proportion of establishments that were ISO 14000 certified in 2004.

Tables from this data release are now available upon request. Information on pollution prevention and the obstacles and drivers to the adoption of greenhouse gas reduction technologies by primary and manufacturing industries are also available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1903.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jeff Fritzsche (613-951-2812) or the information officer (613-951-5220; environ@statcan.ca), Environment Accounts and Statistics Division. ■

Salary and salary scales of full-time teaching staff at Canadian universities 2005/2006 (preliminary)

Information is now available on the salaries of full-time teaching staff at 63 Canadian universities,

for the 2005/2006 academic year. The institutions that are included are all those that have completed the survey by mid June 2006.

This bulletin contains information on the salaries of full-time teaching staff at 29 Canadian universities, along with information on the salary scales for selected institutions for the 2005/2006 academic year. The institutions that have been included are those that have more than 100 staff. This information is collected annually under the Universities and Colleges Academic Staff System.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3101.

The report Salaries and Salary Scales of Full-time Teaching Staff at Canadian Universities, 2005-2006: Preliminary Report (81-595-MIE2006046, free) is now available on our website. From the Our Products and Services page, under Browse our Free Internet Publications, choose Education.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

Commercial Software Price Index May 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 May was 68.1, down 0.9% from April.

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 (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; infounit@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Neil Killips (613-951-5722; neil.killips@statcan.ca), Prices Division. ■

New products

Access to Health Care Services in Canada, January to December 2005, Vol. 1
Catalogue number 82-575-XIE
(free).

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

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Catalogue 11-001-XIE (if single) 11-001-XIE/0504-0507-01-01

The Daily
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 8, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took the average of about 100 on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 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.

OTHER RELEASES

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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-G, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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