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The first increase in spending in a year and a half by American travellers in Canada more than offset the jump to record spending by Canadians in both the United States and overseas in the second quarter. As a result, Canada's international travel deficit fell to \$1.8 billion.

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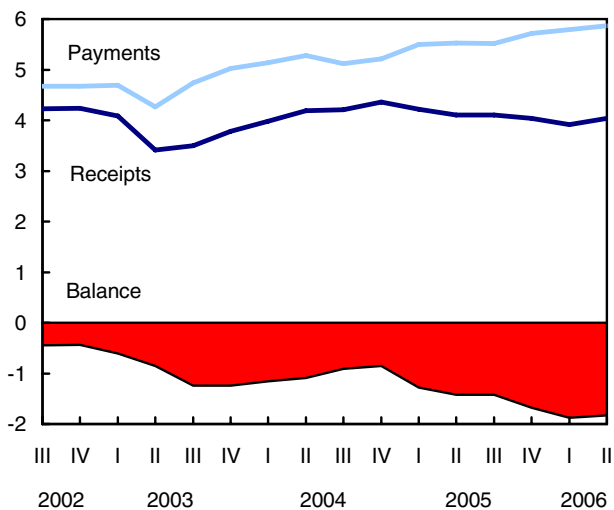
International travel account

Second quarter 2006 (preliminary)

The first increase in spending in a year and a half by American travellers in Canada more than offset the jump to record spending by Canadians in both the United States and overseas in the second quarter. As a result, Canada's international travel deficit fell to \$1.8 billion.

Increase in foreign travel spending in Canada halts rising deficit

\$ billions



The deficit (the difference between spending by Canadian residents abroad and spending by foreigners in the country) fell by \$43 million in the second quarter. Prior to this quarter, the deficit had jumped by more than \$1.0 billion since the end of 2004.

Foreign spending in Canada increased for the first time since the fourth quarter of 2004, climbing 3.1% to \$4.0 billion in the second quarter of 2006.

Meanwhile, Canadian spending abroad reached an unprecedented \$5.9 billion in the second quarter, up 1.4% from the previous quarter. Spending abroad has increased in 10 of the last 12 quarters.

Note to readers

This international travel account analysis is based on preliminary quarterly data, seasonally adjusted unless otherwise stated. Amounts are in Canadian dollars and are not adjusted for inflation.

Receipts represent spending by foreigners travelling in Canada, including education spending and medical spending.
Payments represent spending by Canadian residents travelling abroad, including education spending and medical spending.

Overseas countries are those other than the United States.

Deficit with the United States drops for the first time in nearly two years

Canada's travel deficit with the United States fell \$67 million to \$1.1 billion during the second quarter, the first decline since the third quarter of 2004. The decline was fuelled by an increase in spending by American travellers in Canada.

American residents spent an estimated \$2.2 billion in Canada during the second quarter, up 4.0% from the first quarter and the first time since the end of 2004 that spending in Canada by American travellers had increased.

The higher spending was the result of increased overnight travel from the United States. Americans made 3.5 million overnight trips to Canada in the second quarter, up 2.5% from the previous quarter.

In the opposite direction, Canadian travellers spent a record \$3.3 billion in the United States during the second quarter, up 0.6% or \$19 million more than the previous high set during the first quarter of this year.

Overnight travel to the United States by Canadian residents climbed to a 10-year high in the second quarter, up 0.3% to 3.9 million trips.

The Canadian dollar averaged US 89 cents during the second quarter, up 2.9% from the previous quarter and the highest level since the late 1970s.

Record Canadian spending overseas pushes deficit with overseas countries to an all-time high

Canada's travel deficit with overseas countries hit an all-time high of \$744 million during the second quarter, as spending by Canadian travellers overseas reached unprecedented levels.

The \$24 million increase in the deficit was sparked by a 2.4% gain in spending by Canadian residents overseas, which reached \$2.6 billion. Aside from the previous quarter, Canadian travel spending overseas

has increased in every period since the third quarter of 2004.

Record overnight travel overseas contributed to the record spending, as 1.7 million Canadians took overnight trips to non-US destinations, up 3.0% from the previous quarter.

Meanwhile, travellers from overseas countries spent an estimated \$1.8 billion in Canada during the second quarter, up 2.0% from the previous quarter. Spending by overseas travellers in Canada had fallen the previous two quarters after having steadily increased since the second quarter of 2003, at the height of the SARS crisis.

The increase in travel spending from overseas occurred despite a 0.4% drop in the number of overnight trips originating from non-US countries, which reached 1.1 million during the second quarter.

The value of the Canadian dollar fell against the British pound sterling and the euro during the second quarter, but edged up slightly against the Japanese yen.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3152 and 5005.

The international travel account for the third quarter will be released on November 28.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Eric Desjardins (613-951-1781; eric.desjardins@statcan.ca) or Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-9169; fax: 613-951-2909; cult.tourstats@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

International travel account receipts and payments

	Second quarter 2005 ^r	First quarter 2006 ^r	Second quarter 2006 ^p	First to second quarter 2006
Seasonally adjusted ¹				
	\$ millions			% change
United States				
Receipts	2,274	2,134	2,220	4.0
Payments	3,090	3,290	3,309	0.6
Balance	-815	-1,156	-1,089	
All other countries				
Receipts	1,832	1,780	1,816	2.0
Payments	2,437	2,500	2,560	2.4
Balance	-604	-720	-744	
Total				
Receipts	4,107	3,914	4,036	3.1
Payments	5,526	5,790	5,869	1.4
Balance	-1,420	-1,876	-1,833	

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Data may not add to totals due to rounding.

Characteristics of international travellers

First quarter 2006 (preliminary)

Overnight travel and spending by visitors from the United States to Canada both fell in the first quarter — the fourth consecutive year-over-year quarterly decrease.

The Canadian dollar and gasoline prices were both higher in the first quarter than they were in the same quarter of 2005.

Only 1.9 million US residents took overnight trips to Canada during the first quarter, the first time in eight years that the number of US tourists fell below the two million mark during a first quarter.

Every state among the top 10 states of origin for overnight travel to Canada except California (+11.9%) recorded a year-over-year decline in the first quarter. Pennsylvania recorded the largest decrease among the top 10 with a 22.0% decline in the number of overnight trips. Washington remained at the top of the list with 291,000 residents making trips to Canada.

Overnight travel both by air and by car fell between January and March, the fourth consecutive year in which the number of first-quarter overnight car trips fell. Gasoline prices were on average 20.7% higher in the United States and 12.1% higher in Canada in the first quarter, compared with the same quarter of 2005.

According to trip purpose, travel for pleasure was the hardest hit category. American residents made fewer than 900,000 overnight pleasure trips to Canada in the first quarter, down 12.7% compared to the one million plus trips made during the same period last year. The other two major categories, business and visiting friends and relatives, also posted year-over-year declines in overnight trips.

Americans spent less than \$1.0 billion in Canada, down 10.1% from the first quarter of 2005.

Travel south of the border: A spot in the sun

Overnight travel to the United States rose 4.3% from a year earlier to 3.5 million trips — the highest level for a first quarter in over a decade.

First quarter Canadian travel to the United States increased for the third consecutive year, mirroring increases in the loonie. The Canadian dollar was valued at US 86.6 cents in the first quarter, up 6.3% compared to the same quarter in 2005.

Florida continued to be the most visited state as nearly 900,000 Canadian tourists travelled to the Sunshine State. Although Florida and California saw 2.6% and 13.4% fewer visitors from Canada

respectively, the southern states remained popular with Canadian tourists.

Nevada and Arizona combined saw about 500,000 Canadian overnight visits in the first quarter of this year, placing fifth and sixth respectively among the top states visited by Canadians. Both Nevada (+20.8%) and Arizona (+44.4%) saw more Canadian tourists between January and March compared to the same period in 2005.

Pleasure trips, which accounted for 56.3% of overnight Canadian travel to the United States, rose 3.3% from the first quarter of 2005. During the same time, the number of business trips jumped 10.7%. Trips to visit friends and relatives, however, declined 2.6% compared to the first quarter of 2005.

Despite the increase in the price of gasoline, overnight car trips by Canadians to the United States rose 2.8% to over 1.7 million compared to the first quarter of 2005. The number of overnight trips taken by air also rose by 8.0%. The almost 1.7 million plane trips taken by Canadians to the United States was the highest figure ever recorded for a first quarter.

Canadian spending in the United States rose 7.4% to about \$2.9 billion. Average spending per trip edged up from \$807 to \$831.

Canadians travelling overseas in record numbers

Canadians also set a new record for the number of trips to overseas nations between January and March this year.

Canadian residents made 2.2 million overnight trips to overseas countries during the first three months of 2006, a first-quarter high and a 6.8% increase from the previous record set in the same quarter last year.

The top three most visited overseas countries for Canadians were Mexico, Cuba and the Dominican Republic. Although travel to Mexico fell 14.5% compared to the first quarter of last year, this was offset by a 33.9% increase in Canadian tourists to Cuba during the same period.

The United Kingdom and France rounded out the top five most visited overseas countries for Canadians in the first quarter of this year. In comparison to the first quarter of 2005, travel to the Caribbean (+13.5%) and Central America (+2.4%) increased while travel to Europe (-8.3%) declined.

During their travels in overseas countries, Canadians spent an estimated \$2.8 billion, up 2.6% from the first three months of last year and a new record for the first quarter of the year.

Fewer overseas visitors coming to Canada

While Canadians were travelling in record numbers overseas, the number of overseas visitors to Canada declined in the first quarter.

An estimated 617,000 overseas tourists came to Canada between January and March, down 0.5% compared to the same period in 2005.

The United Kingdom remained the top overseas country of origin with 125,000 overnight trips to Canada. Japan remained steady in second spot with 60,000 tourists coming to Canada.

Overall, overseas residents spent an estimated \$816 million on overnight trips in Canada, down 8.1% from the first quarter of 2005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3152.

This release summarises data now available from the International Travel Survey. Tables, various statistical profiles and micro-data files of characteristics of international travellers using preliminary first quarter 2006 data as well as revised 2005 data are now available on request.

Data on characteristics of international travellers for the second quarter 2006 will be released on November 28.

To obtain one or more of these products, contact Client Services (toll-free 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 Kremerik (613-951-4240; fax: 613-951-2909; frances.kremerik@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

Top states of origin from US residents travelling to Canada

State	Overnight trips			Expenditures		
	First quarter 2005 ^r	First quarter 2006 ^p	First quarter 2005 to first quarter 2006 % change	First quarter 2005 ^r	First quarter 2006 ^p	First quarter 2005 to first quarter 2006 % change
	thousands			\$ millions		
Washington	303	291	-3.9	101	101	0.7
New York	283	268	-5.0	90	88	-3.0
Michigan	288	251	-13.0	88	67	-23.5
California	108	121	11.9	76	84	9.6
Pennsylvania	103	80	-22.0	57	45	-20.2
Massachusetts	91	79	-12.7	46	33	-27.5
Ohio	81	77	-4.7	35	37	5.4
Maine	63	57	-9.6	26	24	-9.3
Illinois	58	52	-11.2	34	40	15.8
New Jersey	56	48	-14.7	35	28	-19.9

^r revised

^p preliminary

Top US states visited by Canadian residents

State	Overnight visits			Expenditures		
	First quarter 2005 ^r	First quarter 2006 ^p	First quarter 2005 to first quarter 2006	First quarter 2005 ^r	First quarter 2006 ^p	First quarter 2005 to first quarter 2006
	thousands		% change	\$ millions		% change
Florida	921	897	-2.6	915	914	-0.1
New York	363	406	12.0	119	133	11.6
Washington	310	315	1.8	61	66	8.4
California	326	282	-13.4	308	248	-19.3
Nevada	224	270	20.8	166	227	37.4
Arizona	159	230	44.4	177	256	44.6
Michigan	226	214	-5.4	42	44	6.0
South Carolina	164	167	1.8	91	105	15.4
Georgia	164	167	1.9	39	30	-21.4
Pennsylvania	152	151	-0.8	17	24	40.4

^r revised

^p preliminary

Overnight travel between Canada and other countries

	Trips				Expenditures			
	Fourth quarter 2005 ^r	First quarter 2005 ^r	First quarter 2006 ^p	First quarter 2005 to first quarter 2006	Fourth quarter 2005 ^r	First quarter 2005 ^r	First quarter 2006 ^p	First quarter 2005 to first quarter 2006
	thousands			% change	\$ millions			% change
Canadian trips abroad	4,277	5,452	5,739	5.3	3,923	5,477	5,749	5.0
To the United States	3,060	3,383	3,530	4.3	1,945	2,731	2,932	7.4
To other countries	1,217	2,069	2,210	6.8	1,979	2,747	2,817	2.6
Travel to Canada	3,248	2,720	2,527	-7.1	2,185	1,955	1,775	-9.2
From the United States	2,466	2,100	1,911	-9.0	1,199	1,067	959	-10.1
From other countries	782	620	617	-0.5	987	888	816	-8.1

^r revised

^p preliminary

Overnight travel between Canada and other countries

	Trips			Expenditures		
	2004 ^r	2005 ^r	2004 to 2005	2004 ^r	2005 ^r	2004 to 2005
	thousands		% change	\$ millions		% change
Canadian trips abroad	19,595	21,091	7.6	17,475	18,965	8.5
To the United States	13,856	14,862	7.3	8,664	9,537	10.1
To other countries	5,739	6,229	8.5	8,811	9,428	7.0
Travel to Canada	19,032	18,612	-2.2	13,557	13,229	-2.4
From the United States	15,088	14,390	-4.6	8,168	7,463	-8.6
From other countries	3,944	4,222	7.0	5,389	5,766	7.0

^r revised

Employment Insurance

June 2006 (preliminary)

The seasonally adjusted number of Canadians receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits fell 0.5% from May to 480,870, the fifth consecutive monthly decrease.

The decline in June was due to decreases in Ontario (-1.6%), Quebec (-1.2%) and British Columbia (-0.3%). The number of regular beneficiaries in British Columbia has fallen for 10 consecutive months, while in Quebec they have fallen to their lowest level in five and a half years.

Regular benefit payments totalled \$689.3 million in June, while 232,620 people made initial and renewal claims.

Note: Employment Insurance Statistics Program data are produced from an administrative data source and may, from time to time, be affected by changes to the *Employment Insurance Act* or administrative procedures.

The number of beneficiaries for this month is a measure of all persons who received Employment

Insurance benefits from the 14th to the 20th of the month. This coincides with the reference week of the Labour Force Survey. The regular benefit payments figure measures the total of all monies paid to individuals from the 1st to the end of the month.

Available on CANSIM: tables 276-0001 to 276-0006, 276-0009, 276-0011, 276-0015 and 276-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2604.

Data on Employment Insurance for July will be released on September 26.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-4090 or toll-free 1-866-873-8788; labour@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091), Labour Statistics Division.

Employment Insurance statistics

	June 2006	May 2006	June 2005	May to June 2006	June to June 2006
Seasonally adjusted					
				% change	
Regular beneficiaries	480,870 ^P	483,440 ^r	521,310	-0.5	-7.8
Regular benefits paid (\$ millions)	689.3 ^P	608.0 ^r	697.4	13.4	-1.2
Initial and renewal claims received ('000)	232.6 ^P	222.4 ^r	225.6	4.6	3.1
Unadjusted					
All beneficiaries ('000) ¹	632 ^P	690.8 ^P	687.1		
Regular beneficiaries ('000)	381.8 ^P	430.5 ^P	414.7		
Initial and renewal claims received ('000)	190.5	172.1	181.8		
Payments (\$ millions)	959.5	1,096.2	995.3		
Year-to-date (January to June)					
			2006	2005	2005 to 2006
					% change
Claims received ('000)			1,234.9	1,293.5	-4.5
Payments (\$ millions)			7,943.2	8,067.0	-1.5

^r revised

^P preliminary

1. "All beneficiaries" includes all claimants receiving regular benefits (for example, as a result of layoff) or special benefits (for example, as a result of illness) and are representative of data for the Labour Force Survey reference week, which is usually the week containing the 15th of the month.

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	June 2006 ^P	May to June 2006	June to June 2006
Seasonally adjusted			
	% change		
Canada	480,870	-0.5	-7.8
Newfoundland and Labrador	39,270	7.9	2.7
Prince Edward Island	8,960	9.5	3.7
Nova Scotia	29,610	2.5	-2.9
New Brunswick	34,330	5.4	-2.4
Quebec	169,020	-1.2	-6.5
Ontario	123,210	-1.6	-7.3
Manitoba	10,660	1.4	-13.2
Saskatchewan	9,730	1.8	-10.4
Alberta	18,210	0.4	-17.1
British Columbia	41,340	-0.3	-17.6
Yukon	820	1.2	-11.8
Northwest Territories	670	0.0	-10.7
Nunavut	390	-2.5	0.0

^P preliminary

Note: The number of beneficiaries includes all claimants who received regular benefits for the Labour Force Survey reference week, usually containing the 15th day of the month.

Restaurants, caterers and taverns

June 2006 (preliminary)

Total estimated sales of the restaurants, caterers and taverns industry increased 4.8% from June 2005 to \$3.5 billion. (Data are neither seasonally adjusted, nor adjusted for inflation).

The largest year-over-year increases, at the provincial level, were recorded in Saskatchewan (+12.6%), Alberta (+9.2%) and British Columbia (+7.5%). Ontario and Quebec, representing 39.6% and 21.5% of the industry in June, recorded respective increases of 3.1% and 3.9%.

The increase in sales, at the national level, was due to higher sales at limited service (+8.9%) and full service restaurants (+1.3%). These two sectors

accounted for 86% of industry sales in June. Food service contractors (+13.2%) and caterers (+10.2%) also posted higher sales. These two sectors accounted for 7.7% of the industry sales in June.

Available on CANSIM: table 355-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2419.

For more information, to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality, or to obtain the new methodology paper about the survey, contact Mathieu Thomassin (613-951-1069; fax: 613-951-6696; mathieu.thomassin@statcan.ca), Service Industries Division. □

Food services sales

	June 2005 ^r	May 2006 ^r	June 2006 ^p	June 2005 to June 2006
Not seasonally adjusted				
	\$ thousands			% change
Total, food services sales	3,337,492	3,398,613	3,497,627	4.8
Full-service restaurants	1,601,023	1,561,970	1,621,072	1.3
Limited-service restaurants	1,272,953	1,355,580	1,385,722	8.9
Food service contractors	160,394	180,431	181,507	13.2
Social and mobile caterers	79,202	76,909	87,297	10.2
Drinking places	223,921	223,723	222,029	-0.8
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland and Labrador	40,482	38,285	40,959	1.2
Prince Edward Island	13,680	12,854	12,895	-5.7
Nova Scotia	79,247	77,783	81,894	3.3
New Brunswick	59,447	56,079	58,739	-1.2
Quebec	724,103	721,854	752,560	3.9
Ontario	1,342,037	1,339,997	1,383,490	3.1
Manitoba	81,679	86,576	86,675	6.1
Saskatchewan	77,479	83,975	87,215	12.6
Alberta	382,003	418,189	416,952	9.1
British Columbia	526,148	553,259	565,839	7.5
Yukon	3,275	2,688	3,179	-2.9
Northwest Territories	7,375	6,692	6,837	-7.3
Nunavut	539	382	393	-27.1

^r revised

^p preliminary



New products

The Dairy Review, April-June 2006, Vol. 67, no. 2
Catalogue number 23-001-XIB
(free).

Dairy Statistics, Vol. 1, no. 2
Catalogue number 23-014-XIE
(free).

Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution, 2004
Catalogue number 57-202-XIE
(free).

Employment, Earnings and Hours, June 2006,
Vol. 84, no. 6
Catalogue number 72-002-XIB
(free).

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

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

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