

Statistics Canada

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Releases

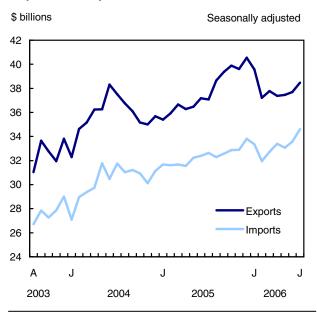
Canadian international merchandise trade

July 2006

Canada's merchandise trade surplus edged down for the second consecutive month in July as imports increased at a slightly faster pace than exports, particularly from the United States.

Canadian companies exported \$38.5 billion worth of merchandise, up 2.1% from June, and they imported \$34.6 billion worth, a 3.1% gain.

Exports and imports



The resulting merchandise trade surplus amounted to \$3.9 billion in July, down from a revised \$4.1 billion in June and \$4.4 billion in May.

Exports were up for the third consecutive month, and imports for the second. This marked a turnaround from the considerable downward movements earlier this year.

Canada's merchandise trade surplus with the United States fell from \$8.0 billion to \$7.9 billion as

Note to readers

Merchandise trade is one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services.

Balance of payments data are available for the United States, Japan and the United Kingdom. Trade data for all other individual countries are available on a customs basis only.

Revisions

In general, merchandise trade data are revised on an ongoing basis for each month of the current year. Customs basis data are revised for the previous data year each quarter.

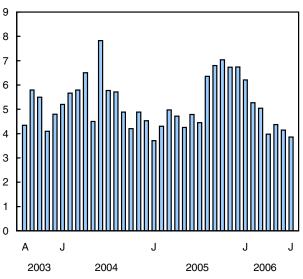
Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs forms, replacement of estimates with actual figures, changes in classification of merchandise based on more current information, and changes to seasonal adjustment factors.

Revised data are available in the appropriate CANSIM tables.

imports rose faster than exports. At the same time, the merchandise trade deficit with all other countries widened from \$3.9 billion in June to \$4.0 billion.

Trade balance

\$ billions



Exports: Machinery and equipment, energy, industrial goods lead growth

July's largest boost came from machinery and equipment, where exports were up 4.9% to \$8.1 billion. The sector advanced primarily on the strength of aircraft and other transportation equipment, which moved up 15.3%.

Within aircraft and other transportation equipment, exports of aircraft, engines and parts surged 27.1%, reflecting recent significant production gains in the industry. Also supporting July's growth were gains in industrial and agricultural machinery (+4.2%), and other machinery and equipment (+1.2%).

Machinery and equipment exports have been on an upward trend since mid-2003.

Canadian companies exported \$7.8 billion worth of energy products in July, up 4.6% from June, their second consecutive monthly gain. The bulk of the strength came from crude petroleum, where exports surged 6.8% to a record high \$3.5 billion. Natural gas exports, which had been on a downward trend since October 2005, increased 4.0%, while other energy products posted their second straight monthly growth, edging up 1.6%.

Exports of industrial goods and materials advanced for a third straight month, rising 3.7% to a record high \$8.1 billion. Metals and alloys, the largest component of the sector, posted their fifth consecutive advance on the strength of record-setting performances by nickel and alloys (+100.5%), copper and alloys (+3.6%), zinc and alloys (+5.2%), and other iron and steel and alloys (+16.9%). In July, nickel and alloys prices jumped 21.8%.

Exports of chemicals, plastics and fertilizers rose 2.1%, while exports of metal ores halted three consecutive monthly increases with an 8.0% drop.

In the agricultural and fishing products sector, exports rebounded following three straight monthly declines, rising 9.8% in July. The bulk of the growth in the month came from products such as rapeseed, crude vegetable products, and other food, feed, beverage and tobacco.

Other consumer goods exports moved up 7.5% following a 2.6% decline in June. This sector, which accounts for less than 4.0% of total exports, has remained relatively unchanged since mid-2003.

On the downside, exports of automotive products fell 7.2% to \$6.3 billion in the wake of a significant drop in sales of automotive products to the United States in June. The largest contributors to July's decline were passenger autos and chassis (-10.3%), and motor vehicle parts (-6.1%). Trucks and other motor vehicles exports edged down 1.2%.

Except for a small increase in June, exports of forestry products have been falling since February this

year, declining 1.2% in July. Wood pulp and other wood products fell 3.0%. Newsprint and other paper, which dropped 1.4%, have been on a declining path since early 2001 because of falling demand for newsprint in the United States, coupled with the rising popularity of the internet in disseminating news. Lumber and sawmill products declined for the sixth straight month in July (-0.5%) in the wake of falling construction spending in the United States.

Imports: Automotive products, machinery and equipment spur broad-based growth

July's gain in merchandise imports was broad-based as all commodity groups except for forestry products and other consumer goods were on the rise.

The biggest boost came from the automotive products sector, where imports increased 11.2% to \$7.3 billion, their highest level since December 2002. After two consecutive months of declines, imports of trucks and other motor vehicles surged 19.4% to a record high \$1.6 billion.

Imports of passenger autos and chassis increased 17.5% following two consecutive contractions. Motor vehicle parts (+3.7%) posted their second monthly gain. Imports of automotive products have been virtually flat since mid-2004, as trucks and other motor vehicles have risen, while motor vehicle parts have declined, and passenger autos and chassis have been relatively stable.

Energy imports edged up 0.7% as prices rose 4.6% while volume fell 3.8%. A 1.1% rise in crude petroleum imports was partly offset by a 0.2% decline in other energy products.

Imports of machinery and equipment moved up 1.3% to \$9.5 billion following a small drop in June. The volume of imports in the sector has been rising steeply since early 2003, coinciding with the rising value of the Canadian dollar. July's gain was supported by advances in industrial and agricultural machinery (+3.6%) and by other machinery and equipment (+1.6%), and office machines and equipment (+1.0%).

A 4.2% decline in imports of aircraft and other transportation equipment, following two consecutive increases, partly offset the overall growth of the sector.

Imports of industrial goods and materials rose 1.2%, recouping about half the ground lost in June. This came on the heels of increases in manufacturing activity in Canada.

Imports of agricultural and fishing products registered their fifth consecutive gain, rising 3.8% to a record high \$2.0 billion. Contributing to the surge were fruits and vegetables (+1.9%) and other agricultural and fishing products (+4.6%).

On the negative side, imports of forestry products fell 5.4%, while other consumer goods slipped 0.5%.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001 to 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The July 2006 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 60, no. 7 (65-001-XIB, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. The publication includes tables by commodity and country on a customs basis. Current account data (which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, service

transactions, investment income and transfers) are available quarterly in *Canada's Balance of International Payments* (67-001-XIE, free).

Merchandise trade data are available in PDF format on the morning of release.

For more information on products and services, contact the Marketing and Client Services Section (toll-free 1-800-294-5583). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jafar A. Khondaker (613-951-9786), International Trade Division.

	June	July	June	July	January	January	January–July
	2006 ^r	2006	to July	2005 to	to July	to July	2005 to
			2006	July	2005	2006	January-July
			Seas	2006 onally adjuste	d, \$ current		2006
	\$ million	าร	% chan	ge	\$ millio	ons	% change
Principal trading partners							
Exports							
United States	29,833	30,546	2.4	1.1	207,332	212,635	2.6
Japan	980	845	-13.8	-2.1	5,833	6,103	4.6
European Union	2,907	2,665	-8.3	3.7	16,447	18,724	13.8
Other OECD countries ¹	1,501	1,473	-1.9	34.4	8,480	9,599	13.2
All other countries	2,482	2,946	18.7	26.3	16,897	18,477	9.4
Total	37,703	38,476	2.1	3.8	254,990	265,541	4.1
Imports United States	21.803	22.688	4.1	3.6	150.544	152.593	1.4
Japan	1.002	980	-2.2	8.6	6.524	6.894	5.7
European Union	3,609	3,609	0.0	17.1	22,210	24,292	9.4
Other OECD countries ¹	1,988	2,058	3.5	0.2	14,167	13,744	-3.0
All other countries	5.158	5.279	2.3	12.2	30.341	35,141	15.8
Total	33,559	34,613	3.1	6.1	223,785	232,663	4.0
Balance							
United States	8,030	7,858			56,788	60,042	
Japan	-22	-135			-691	-791	
European Union	-702	-944			-5,763	-5,568	
Other OECD countries ¹	-487	-585			-5,687	-4,145	
All other countries Total	-2,676 4,144	-2,333 3,863			-13,444 31,205	-16,664 32,878	
Principal commodity groupings	7,177	3,003	•••		31,203	32,070	
Exports Agricultural and fishing products	2,375	2,608	9.8	7.6	17,121	17,932	4.7
Energy products	7.432	7.775	4.6	5.6	44.313	51,781	16.9
Forestry products	2,780	2,745	-1.3	-6.3	21,634	20,073	-7.2
Industrial goods and materials	7,847	8,139	3.7	13.9	49,034	52,676	7.4
Machinery and equipment	7,723	8,099	4.9	4.7	54,969	55,169	0.4
Automotive products	6,832	6,337	-7.2	-7.2	49,523	48,999	-1.1
Other consumer goods	1,419	1,525	7.5	9.2	10,119	10,099	-0.2
Special transactions trade ²	730	728	-0.3	4.1	4,714	5,068	7.5
Other balance of payments adjustments	567	520	-8.3	-7.5	3,561	3,747	5.2
Imports							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,913	1,986	3.8	9.1	12,740	13,362	4.9
Energy products	3,250	3,272	0.7	16.6	18,534	20,203	9.0
Forestry products	256 6 997	242	-5.5 1.2	-8.0 7.0	1,884 45.669	1,764	-6.4 5.9
Industrial goods and materials	6,887 9,371	6,969 9,494	1.2 1.3	7.0 0.8	45,669 63.825	48,357 65,679	5.9 2.9
Machinery and equipment Automotive products	9,371 6,540	9,494 7,269	1.3	0.8 8.6	63,825 45,452	46,535	2.9
Other consumer goods	4,307	4,286	-0.5	4.4	28,670	29,818	4.0
Special transactions trade ²	4,307	4,280	7.1	23.7	2.686	2,657	-1.1
Other balance of payments adjustments	613	641	4.6	-0.3	4,324	4,286	-0.9

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figures not appropriate or not applicable

Includes Australia, Canada, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Switzerland and Turkey.

^{2.} These are mainly low valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.

Stocks of grain

As of July 31, 2006

Total stocks of grains and oilseeds, including commercial and on-farm inventories, remained at levels well above their 10-year averages as of July 31, 2006, according to a survey of Canadian grain farmers and commercial grain holders.

On the Prairies, on-farm stock estimates of wheat excluding durum, barley, flaxseed and canola were all up over 2005. Stocks of durum wheat were at record high levels. Field peas, which hit a record high as of July 31, 2005, held steady at this peak, while oat stocks declined.

Total stocks of major and special crops at July 31

Crop	2005	2006	10-year	2005
			average	to
				2006
	thous	sands of t	onnes	% change
Total wheat	7,922	9,743	7,292	23.0
Wheat excl. durum	5,435	6,477	5,463	19.2
Barley	3,435	3,289	2,417	-4.3
Durum wheat	2,487	3,266	1,829	31.3
Canola	1,587	2,019	1,017	27.2
Oats	974	872	779	-10.5
Dry field peas	595	480	336	-19.3
Lentils	245	475	124	93.9
Flaxseed	24	336	156	1,300.0
Mustard seed	194	190	93	-2.1
Canary seed	168	190	80	13.1
Sunflower seed	18	27	31	50.0

Farm stocks of corn in the East fell from July 2005, while stocks of soybeans jumped to a record high, surpassing the previous record set just in 2005.

Total wheat stocks up; durum wheat a record

Total Canadian wheat stocks, which include on-farm stocks and commercial stocks, were estimated at 9.7 million tonnes, an increase of 23.0% or 1.8 million tonnes over July 2005.

On-farm Prairie inventories of wheat excluding durum were up 30.2% from July 2005 to 2.7 million tonnes. Farmers reported increases in Saskatchewan and Alberta to amounts more than double the 10-year average, while a slight decrease was reported in Manitoba.

Total stocks of durum wheat rose 31.3% to 3.3 million tonnes, easily surpassing the previous record of 2.9 million tonnes set in 2001.

On-farm durum stocks rose in a similar fashion, up 64.2% to 1.7 million tonnes, well ahead of the record set in 1980 of 1.2 million tonnes.

Durum producers in Saskatchewan and Alberta reported they held record amounts of durum. On-farm

Note to readers

The July Farm Survey of 17,600 farm operators was conducted by telephone from July 28 to August 6. Farmers were asked to report the amounts of grains, oilseeds and special crops in on-farm storage.

Commercial stocks of western grains originate mainly from the Canadian Grain Commission. Commercial stocks of special crops originate from a survey of handlers and agents of special crops.

stocks in Saskatchewan were up 57.0% to 1.4 million tonnes, while Alberta farmers reported an increase of 155,000 tonnes to 300,000 tonnes.

Feed grains stocks remain above 10-year average

Total stocks of barley on July 31 were off 4.3% to 3.3 million tonnes, but still well above the 10-year average of 2.4 million tonnes.

Prairie on-farm stocks rose by 240,000 tonnes to 2.9 million tonnes. In Manitoba, stocks were off 90,000 tonnes to 260,000 tonnes, while in Alberta they rose 130,000 tonnes to 1.3 million tonnes. In Saskatchewan, stocks rose 18.2% to a record 1.3 million tonnes. The previous record of 1.1 million tonnes was set in 2005.

Total stocks of oats fell 10.5% to 872,000 tonnes. On-farm stocks fell in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, but rose slightly in Alberta. This resulted in a 10.3% loss to 695,000 tonnes at the Prairie level, just above the 10-year average.

Canola stocks just shy of a record high

Total stocks of canola were 2.0 million tonnes, up 27.2% from 2005 and not far off the record high of 2.2 million tonnes set in 2000. Increases were reported in commercial stocks and at the Canada farm level, the result of record production in 2005.

Increases in on-farm stocks were reported in Saskatchewan and Alberta, with a small decline in Manitoba.

The largest advance occurred in Saskatchewan, where an increase of 150,000 tonnes pushed the estimate to 610,000 tonnes. The 10-year average is a mere 283,000 tonnes.

Total stocks of flaxseed rebound

Total stocks of flaxseed surged by 312,000 tonnes from the record low of 24,000 set in 2005 to 336,000 tonnes, well above the 10-year average of 156,000 tonnes.

An increase in commercial stocks and in on-farm stocks in Manitoba and Saskatchewan made up the increase, which was a function of strong production in 2005 and stable demand for the product.

In Saskatchewan, where most of Canadian flaxseed is grown, on-farm stocks were up 180,000 tonnes to 195,000 tonnes, eclipsing the old record high of 170,000 tonnes set in 2000.

Dry field pea stocks drift lower

Total stocks of field peas fell 115,000 tonnes to 480,000 tonnes, which was still well above the 10-year average of 336,000 tonnes.

Commercial stocks dropped sharply while on-farm stocks remained high. Prairie on-farm stock levels were unchanged from the 2005 record. Stock estimates in Alberta rose to a new record, while Saskatchewan dry pea volumes remained unchanged from last year's record, and Manitoba stock estimates fell.

Corn for grain stocks slightly lower in Quebec and Ontario; soybeans at record high

On-farm stocks of corn for grain in Quebec fell 5.3% to 900,000 tonnes, down from the record of 950,000 tonnes set in 2005. The 10-year average is 524,000 tonnes.

In Ontario, on-farm corn stocks were also off slightly to 1.2 million tonnes, down 4.0% from the record of 1.3 million tonnes set in 2005. The 10-year average is 753,000 tonnes.

On-farm stocks of soybeans jumped in Ontario and Quebec, setting records in both provinces. Stocks of Ontario soybeans jumped 50.0% to 225,000 tonnes, surpassing the previous record of 150,000 tonnes set in July 2005. Quebec soybean volumes also reached record levels, rising 57.1% to 55,000 tonnes. The previous record of 40,000 tonnes was set in 2001.

Commercial stocks of corn and soybeans will be published in the *September Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops* on October 5.

Available on CANSIM: tables 001-0040 to 001-0042.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3401, 3403, 3443, 3464 and 3476.

Supply-disposition tables are available by subscription. (22F0002XFB, \$200) and are also available on CANSIM (Tables 001-0041 and 001-0042).

The publication *Field Crop Reporting Series:* Stocks of Canadian Grain at July 31, 2006, Vol. 85, no. 6 (22-002-XIB, free) is now available from the *Publication* module of our website. A paper version (22-002-XPB, \$17/\$95) is also now available. See *How to order products*.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact David Burroughs (613-951-5138; dave.burroughs@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.

New Housing Price Index

July 2006

The cost of new housing rose significantly in July with Alberta continuing to drive up the national figures. The New Housing Price Index rose by 1.1% over the previous month to 143.5 (1997=100), continuing the trend of consecutive monthly increases of at least one percent. Compared to one year ago, contractors' selling prices have increased 10.8%.

Prices advanced in 17 of the 21 metropolitan areas surveyed. Calgary continued to lead the way with a monthly increase of 4.6% followed by St. John's (+2.9%), Edmonton (+1.9%), Hamilton (+1.6%), Regina (+1.2%) and Saskatoon (+1.0%). Increasing costs for construction materials and labour rates, combined with strong market conditions, accounted for most of the increases. Calgary and Edmonton continued to experience strong demand plus land shortages and prolonged construction times, which also contributed to the increases.

Other noteworthy gains were observed in Ottawa–Gatineau (+0.8%), London (+0.8%), Windsor (+0.7%) and Winnipeg (+0.6%) where construction material and labour costs contributed to the increases. Monthly increases were also registered in Halifax, Charlottetown, Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton,

Toronto and Oshawa, St. Catharines–Niagara, Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury and Thunder Bay and Vancouver. Of the 17 metropolitan areas showing increases, land prices rose in 15.

Two metropolitan areas registered no monthly change while Kitchener (-0.1%) and Victoria (-0.6%) posted decreases due to competitive pricing.

As was the case for the last eight months, Calgary (+56.0%) posted the largest 12 month increase for new homes. Edmonton was next (+29.7%) followed by Winnipeg (+9.7%), Saskatoon (+9.5%) and Regina (+9.3%).

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.

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

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; *randy.sterns@statcan.ca*), Prices Division.

New housing	price	indexes
(1997=100)		

	July	July	June
	2006	2005	to
		to	July
		July	2006
		2006	
		% change	
Canada total	143.5	10.8	1.1
House only	153.3	11.6	0.9
Land only	124.2	8.9	1.4
St.John's	131.8	5.2	2.9
Halifax	130.7	6.7	0.4
Charlottetown	117.5	2.9	0.5
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton	113.2	3.7	0.5
Québec	142.5	6.5	0.0
Montréal	147.8	4.5	0.0
Ottawa-Gatineau	159.5	2.8	3.0
oronto and Oshawa	137.8	3.6	0.4
lamilton	143.4	6.0	1.6
St. Catharines–Niagara	144.8	5.3	0.2
Citchener	137.1	4.3	-0.1
ondon	131.9	3.9	3.0
Vindsor	106.0	0.2	0.7
Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury and Thunder Bay	101.3	0.8	0.2
Vinnipeg	145.3	9.7	0.6
Regina	155.8	9.3	1.2
askatoon	138.1	9.5	1.0
Calgary	226.5	56.0	4.6
dmonton	178.7	29.7	1.9
ancouver and a second s	112.0	5.4	0.8
/ictoria	117.4	3.9	-0.6

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

Study: Disability and well-being 1991

Canadians born with a disability are likely to be happier than individuals who experienced a disability later in life, according to a new study that explores the determinants of subjective well-being among people with disabilities.

The study found that well-being, measured as self-reported levels of happiness, is independent of the type of physical disability. However, people with mental disabilities have lower levels of well-being than those with physical disabilities. Also, people with more severe disabilities are less happy than those with less severe disabilities.

Overall, about 21% of people with disabilities reported being "very happy", 65% "pretty happy", and the remaining 14% "not too happy".

This study, published recently in the journal *Social Science & Medicine*, was based on data from the 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey. It focused on individuals with disabilities who were not living in an institution.

The sample consisted of individuals whose everyday activities were limited because of a physical or mental condition. These conditions included mobility, seeing, hearing, speaking, agility and mental disabilities.

This study was unique in that it used national data, considered various types of disabilities, and controlled for a broad range of socio-demographic factors related to happiness. Psychologists, sociologists and, more recently, economists, have studied subjective well-being in detail.

However, almost all the studies focused on the general population. A handful of studies focused on individuals with disabilities, but they were limited in that they were not population-based, and their focus was people with specific types of disabilities.

Approximately one-sixth of the Canadian population reported some type of disability in 1991. This proportion will rise in the future because the number of seniors is increasing sharply, and aging is associated with higher rates of disability.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3251.

The study "Impact of the timing, type and severity of disability on the subjective well-being of individuals with disabilities," was published in *Social Science & Medicine*, Vol. 63(2). An abstract is available, in English only, online (www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/02779536).

For more information about the concepts, methods or data, or to obtain a copy, contact Sharanjit Uppal (613-951-3887; *sharanjit.uppal@statcan.ca*), or Russell Wilkins (613-951-5305; *russell.wilkins@statcan.ca*), Health Analysis and Measurement Group.

Export and import price indexes July 2006

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1997=100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to July 2006 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted US price indexes (1997=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to July 2006. Included with the US commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and US-only Standard International Trade Classification section indexes.

Indexes for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups are also available now on a customs basis.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001 to 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The July 2006 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 60, no. 7 (65-001-XIB, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marketing and Client Services Section (toll-free 1-800-294-5583), International Trade Division.

Chain Fisher dollar export and import values

1997

The International Trade Division has now produced and will be updating and disseminating chain Fisher real dollar values (reference year 1997) for Canadian international merchandise exports and imports. This series is not available in CANSIM.

Interested users who wish to order are advised to contact the Marketing and Client Services Section (toll-free 1-800-294-5583). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bernard Lupien (613-951-6872), International Trade Division

New products

Field Crop Reporting Series, Vol. 85, no. 6 Catalogue number 22-002-XIB (free).

Field Crop Reporting Series, Vol. 85, no. 6 Catalogue number 22-002-XPB (\$17/\$95).

Industry Price Indexes, July 2006, Vol. 32, no. 7 Catalogue number 62-011-XIE (free).

Industry Price Indexes, July 2006, Vol. 32, no. 7 Catalogue number 62-011-XPE (\$24/\$233).

Canadian International Merchandise Trade, July 2006, Vol. 60, no. 7 Catalogue number 65-001-XIB (free).

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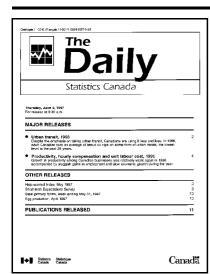
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