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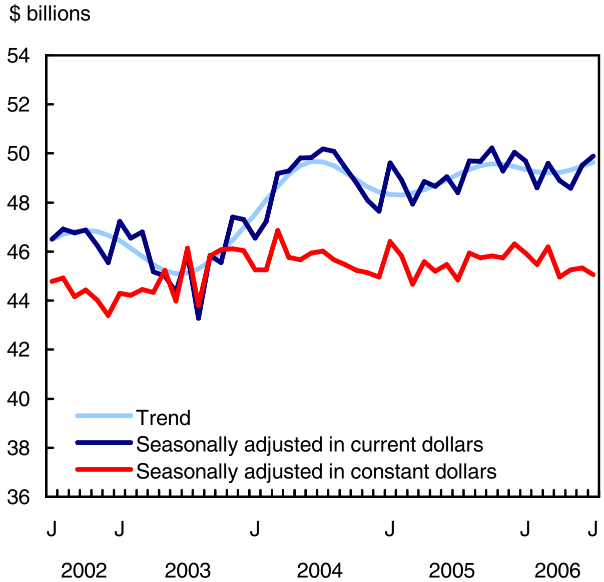
Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

July 2006

Shipments from Canadian factories hit their highest level so far in 2006 in July, but the gain was mainly the result of strong increases in commodity prices.

Canadian manufacturers shipped goods worth $49.9 billion, up 0.8% from June. However, if price increases were taken into account, the overall volume of shipments actually declined 0.6% to $45.1 billion.

Shipment values up, volumes down



Constant dollar shipments (taking price fluctuations into account) in July 2006 were 0.5% higher than they were in July last year, but little growth is seen when comparing the first seven months of 2006 to the same period in 2005.

Shipments increased in 11 of 21 manufacturing industries in July. Durable goods shipments fell only slightly, as decreases in the aerospace and auto parts industries were not completely offset by increases in the automotive, machinery and computer and electronics industries.

Benchmarking of the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

With the July 2006 release, data on shipments, inventories and orders from January 2002 to June 2006 have been updated to reflect the previously published levels from the Annual Survey of Manufactures (ASM). This benchmarking of Monthly Survey of Manufacturing (MSM) data to the ASM is done regularly once the latest ASM data are available.

While benchmarking can affect the levels of the data (i.e. the values may be higher or lower than previously published by the MSM), historical month-to-month movements are preserved, as much as possible. Please note that the primary objective of the MSM is to track month-to-month changes to feed the monthly gross domestic product industry estimates (produced by the Industry Accounts Division) while the primary objective of the Annual Survey of Manufacturers is to measure industry levels.

***Non-durable goods** industries include food, beverage and tobacco products, textile mills, textile product mills, clothing, leather and allied products, paper, printing and related support activities, petroleum and coal products, chemicals, and plastics and rubber products.*

***Durable goods** industries include wood products, non-metallic mineral products, primary metals, fabricated metal products, machinery, computer and electronic products, electrical equipment, appliances and components, transportation equipment, furniture and related products and miscellaneous manufacturing.*

***Unfilled orders** are a stock of orders that will contribute to future shipments assuming that the orders are not cancelled.*

***New orders** are those received whether shipped in the current month or not. They are measured as the sum of shipments for the current month plus the change in unfilled orders. Some people interpret new orders as orders that will lead to future demand. This is inappropriate since the "new orders" variable includes orders that have already been shipped. Readers should note that the month-to-month change in new orders may be volatile. This will happen particularly if the previous month's change in unfilled orders is closely related to the current month's change.*

Not all orders will be translated into Canadian factory shipments because portions of large contracts can be subcontracted out to manufacturers in other countries. Also, some orders may be cancelled.

Prices boost petroleum and chemicals manufacturing

July's gain was almost entirely attributed to the strong performance in the petroleum sector, where shipments rose to their highest level on record. This resulted from restored levels of capacity and price increases fuelled by conflict in the Middle East. Excluding petroleum and coal products, manufacturing shipments would have fallen 0.2% in July.

Petroleum products shipments increased 8.4% to $5.8 billion in July after rising 14.8% the previous month. This pushed the value of non-durable goods up 1.8% to $23.1 billion. Prices of petroleum products rose by 5.2% in July, augmenting an already strong increase in production.

In addition, the chemical manufacturing industry had its best month for shipments in 2006, while automotive products also had higher than normal shipments.

Shipments of transportation equipment declined slightly. The largest gain in the sector occurred in automotive manufacturing, where shipments rose 2.7% to $5.0 billion, as auto assembly plants took shorter than usual shutdowns in July.

Aerospace production slipped by 1.5% to $1.2 billion. Most other transportation industries declined in July.

Commodity prices boost provincial shipments

Provincially, July was marginally positive for Ontario. The three Prairie provinces and New Brunswick posted very strong gains in shipments. Quebec shipments fell slightly while British Columbia and Newfoundland and Labrador provided the main off-setting declines.

Quebec shipments fell marginally to $12.1 billion, mainly because of decreases in shipments of transportation equipment (-11.4%) and plastics and rubber products (-8.5%). Petroleum and coal products increased 3.6% while computer and electronic equipment were up 13.9%. Electrical equipment, appliance and component manufacturing increased 11.8%.

Manufacturing shipments in Ontario rose by 0.2% to $24.2 billion. The transportation industry, which accounts for nearly a third of Ontario's manufacturing output, increased 0.8% to $7.8 billion. Automotive manufacturing gained 2.8% to $4.9 billion while the petroleum industry in Ontario posted another solid month, increasing by 8.4% following a 7.1% advance in June. While machinery manufacturing also registered larger than normal gains of 4.0%, primary metals and fabricated metal products shipments declined.

Shipments of petroleum and coal products dominated the manufacturing sector in Alberta, which increased by 4.6% to $5.7 billion. The petroleum and coal industry posted very strong gains of 14.8% to slightly over $1.3 billion and the chemicals industry increased 2.6% to $1.3 billion. However, food shipments declined 6.3% to $724 million.

Manitoba benefited from rising commodity prices, contributing to a 10.1% rise in provincial manufacturing shipments to $1.3 billion.

New Brunswick's petroleum and coal industry accounted for over half of total provincial shipments, the main contributor to a 6.7% increase to $1.4 billion.

Newfoundland and Labrador's 8.7% decline in shipments was mainly due to a 27.2% decrease in food production, while British Columbia shipments fell 3.8% to $3.4 billion — largely as a result of a 12.1% drop in paper production and a 4.6% slowdown in wood products.

Manufacturing shipments, by province and territory

	June 2006[r]	July 2006[p]	June to July 2006
	Seasonally adjusted		
	$ millions		% change
Canada	**49,519**	**49,891**	**0.8**
Newfoundland and Labrador	164	150	-8.7
Prince Edward Island	102	101	-0.5
Nova Scotia	776	781	0.6
New Brunswick	1,291	1,378	6.7
Quebec	12,068	12,051	-0.1
Ontario	24,114	24,160	0.2
Manitoba	1,180	1,299	10.1
Saskatchewan	861	888	3.1
Alberta	5,419	5,671	4.6
British Columbia	3,537	3,404	-3.8
Yukon	2	2	-5.2
Northwest Territories including Nunavut	5	8	50.1

r *revised*
p *preliminary*

Inventories increase in metals and transportation

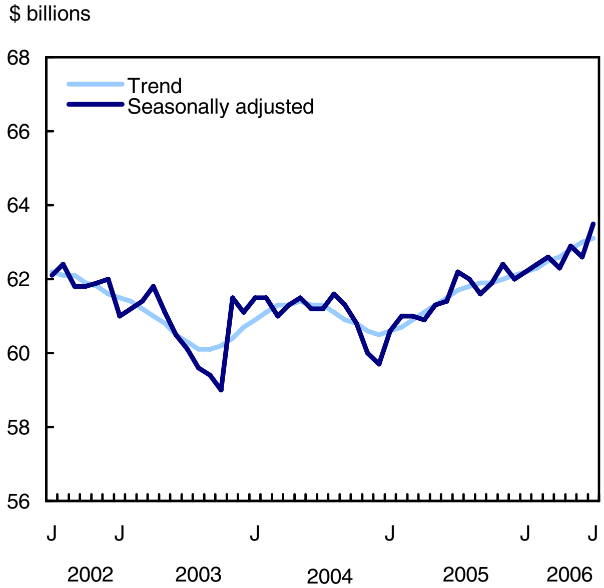
Manufacturers' total inventories increased by $924 million to $63.5 billion in July, following a small decline last month. Transportation inventories rose 3.5% to $8.7 billion, mainly as a result of an 11.3% jump in automotive and a 6.4% increase in auto parts. Inventories of primary metals rose 3.0% to $6.6 billion. Fabricated metal product inventories increased 2.5% to $4.3 billion. Inventory in all three stages of production, (raw materials, goods in process and finished products) increased in July.

Stronger than usual demand raises new orders

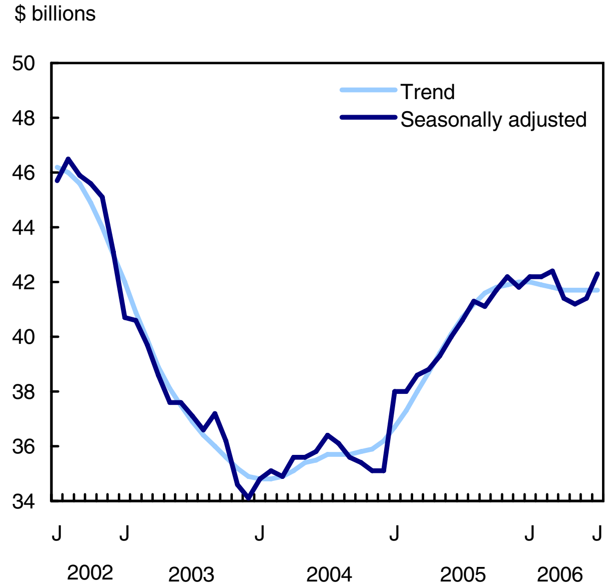
The fabricated metals and automotive industries pushed new orders up 2.2% to $50.8 billion in July, while aerospace cooled off after two exceptional months. In spite of the drop in aerospace orders, the rest of the transportation industries were responsible for a 3.0% increase to $10.1 billion. Auto manufacturers took on new orders for models and saw their order books grow by 5.1% to $5.0 billion. Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia experienced higher than normal demand for fabricated metals.

Overall, the trend for new orders remained steady and positive, increasing 0.4%.

Transportation and metals drive inventory increase



Unfilled orders near three year high



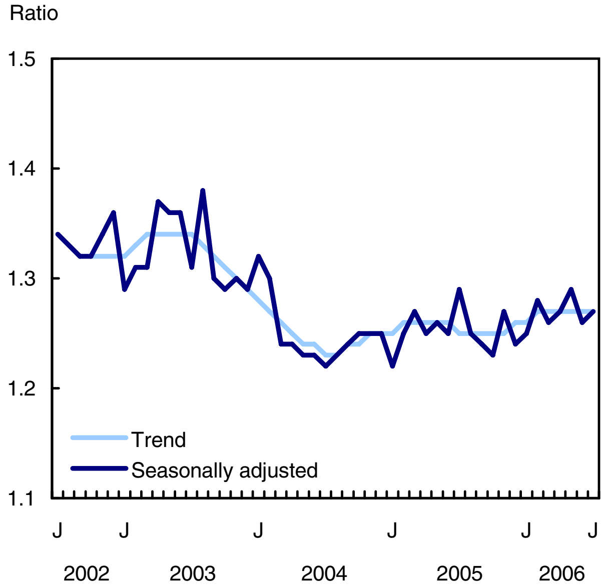
Transportation equipment behind rise in unfilled orders

Unfilled orders rose 2.1% to $42.3 billion. Despite falling in recent months, unfilled orders regained some ground to just under the record level seen in March of this year. Unfilled orders in July are 4.2% higher compared to one year ago. July's increase was concentrated in the transportation industry, which increased 3.6% to $21.3 billion. The aerospace industry built on June's success, rising 1.2% to $14.1 billion while unfilled orders for motor vehicles slipped 2.3% to $1.5 billion.

Inventory-to-shipment ratio holds steady

The inventory-to-shipment ratio rose to 1.27 in July from 1.26 a month earlier, as did the finished-product inventory-to-shipment ratio which increased to 0.44 in July from 0.43. The inventory-to-shipment ratio is a key measure of the time, in months, that would be required to exhaust inventories if shipments were to remain at their current level.

Inventory-to-shipment ratio trend stable



Manufacturing employment continues to recede

According to the Labour Force Survey for July, manufacturing continued to experience weakness as employment fell by an estimated 33,000, bringing total losses since the end of 2002 to 224,000 or 9.6%. The losses in July were felt most strongly in Ontario and Quebec.

Available on CANSIM: tables 304-0014, 304-0015 and 377-0008.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2101.

All data are benchmarked to the 2004 Annual Survey of Manufactures.

Data from the August Monthly Survey of Manufacturing will be released on October 16.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; fax: 613-951-9499; *manufact@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of the release, contact Daryl Keen (613-951-1810, *keendar@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

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Shipments, inventories and orders in all manufacturing industries

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders		Inventories-to-shipments ratio
	Seasonally adjusted								
	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	
July 2005	48,398	-1.3	62,232	1.4	40,603	1.6	49,026	-1.4	1.29
August 2005	49,688	2.7	61,990	-0.4	41,324	1.8	50,408	2.8	1.25
September 2005	49,676	-0.0	61,596	-0.6	41,085	-0.6	49,438	-1.9	1.24
October 2005	50,219	1.1	61,915	0.5	41,674	1.4	50,807	2.8	1.23
November 2005	49,282	-1.9	62,370	0.7	42,156	1.2	49,764	-2.1	1.27
December 2005	50,053	1.6	62,041	-0.5	41,805	-0.8	49,701	-0.1	1.24
January 2006	49,736	-0.7	62,220	0.2	42,179	1.1	50,194	0.8	1.25
February 2006	48,596	-2.3	62,428	0.3	42,164	-0.0	48,581	-3.2	1.28
March 2006	49,550	2.0	62,647	0.4	42,376	0.5	49,763	2.4	1.26
April 2006	48,915	-1.3	62,320	-0.5	41,438	-2.2	47,977	-3.6	1.27
May 2006	48,578	-0.7	62,884	0.9	41,243	-0.5	48,382	0.8	1.29
June 2006	49,519	1.9	62,622	-0.4	41,413	0.4	49,690	2.7	1.26
July 2006	49,891	0.8	63,546	1.5	42,296	2.1	50,774	2.2	1.27

Manufacturing industries except motor vehicle, parts and accessories

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders	
	Seasonally adjusted							
	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change
July 2005	40,626	-0.9	59,091	1.2	38,370	1.3	41,116	-1.4
August 2005	41,237	1.5	58,901	-0.3	39,122	2.0	41,989	2.1
September 2005	41,751	1.2	58,491	-0.7	38,920	-0.5	41,549	-1.0
October 2005	41,850	0.2	58,933	0.8	39,558	1.6	42,488	2.3
November 2005	41,311	-1.3	59,424	0.8	39,989	1.1	41,743	-1.8
December 2005	42,012	1.7	59,111	-0.5	39,516	-1.2	41,539	-0.5
January 2006	42,147	0.1	59,234	0.1	39,775	0.9	42,507	2.0
February 2006	40,924	-2.9	59,531	0.5	39,635	-0.4	40,785	-4.1
March 2006	42,186	3.1	59,906	0.6	39,621	-0.0	42,171	3.4
April 2006	41,535	-1.5	59,617	-0.5	38,718	-2.3	40,632	-3.6
May 2006	41,398	-0.3	60,193	1.0	38,503	-0.6	41,183	1.4
June 2006	42,161	1.8	59,988	-0.3	38,828	0.8	42,485	3.2
July 2006	42,496	0.8	60,683	1.2	39,777	2.4	43,445	2.3

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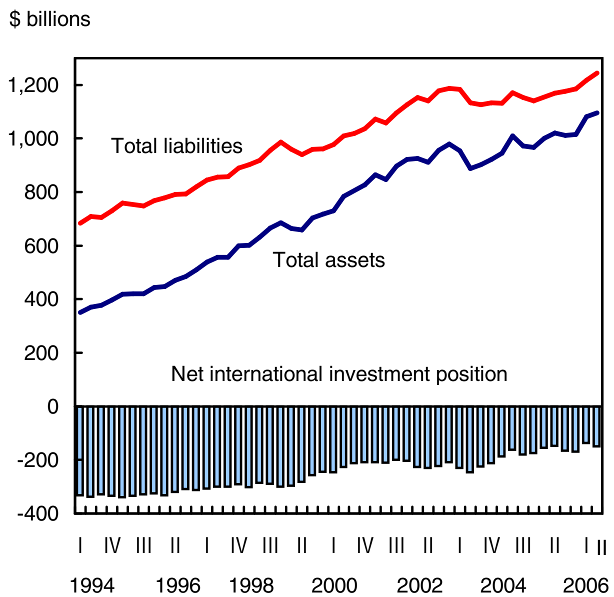
Canada's international investment position

Second quarter 2006

Canada's net liability to foreign residents increased by $12.5 billion in the second quarter, mostly as a result of valuation changes from a rising Canadian dollar.

The strengthening of the Canadian dollar against the US dollar had a much stronger negative impact on Canada's international assets than on its international liabilities.

Canada's international investment position



Canada's net external liability (the difference between its external assets and liabilities) amounted to $148.8 billion at the end of the second quarter. This was 9.2% higher than the revised level of $136.3 billion at the end of the previous quarter, which was the lowest since the end of 1981.

The value of international assets rose $14.8 billion to $1,096.5 billion at the end of June. Net transactions of $47.9 billion that occurred during the quarter were partly offset by the dollar, which removed $28.2 billion from the value of these assets.

At the same time, Canada's international liabilities increased by $27.3 billion to $1,245.3 billion. Net transactions of over $50 billion more than offset the effect of the strengthening dollar which removed $15.1 billion from the position.

Net external liabilities represented 10.4% of Canada's gross domestic product (GDP) at the end of the second quarter, up from 9.6% in the previous quarter.

Estimates at market value

As of the first quarter of 2005, total portfolio investment (equities, bonds and money market instruments) are available at market value. Annual market value estimates of foreign direct investment are also available and were released earlier this year. These additional series are part of a multi-year initiative to improve the international investment position information. The following analysis focuses on the book value series, however, and this practice will continue until a full set of market value estimates becomes available.

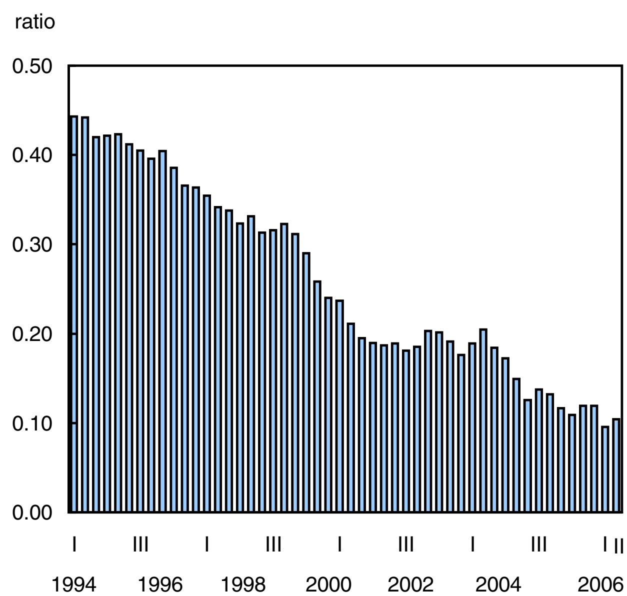
Currency valuation

The value of assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currency are converted to Canadian dollars at the end of each period for which a balance sheet is calculated. Most of Canada's foreign assets are denominated in foreign currencies while less than half of our international liabilities are in foreign currencies.

When the Canadian dollar is appreciating in value, the restatement of the value of these assets and liabilities in Canadian dollars lowers the recorded value. The opposite is true when the dollar is depreciating.

The Canadian dollar gained 4.6% against its US counterpart during the quarter, but lost ground against the euro and the pound sterling.

Canada's net international liability to GDP



Assets: Foreign bond holdings rise, Canadian direct investment abroad declines

Canadian holdings of foreign bonds increased significantly during the second quarter, rising nearly 10% to $102.8 billion. These holdings have been substantially up each quarter for the past two years. As a consequence, Canadian investors have more than doubled their total assets in foreign bonds since the beginning of 2004.

Holdings of foreign stocks declined slightly to $192.5 billion, down $1.5 billion from the end of March, mostly as a result of the strengthening Canadian dollar. At the same time, holdings of foreign money market paper decreased by $1.4 billion to $12.7 billion.

The stronger Canadian dollar had a significant impact on the total value of Canadian direct investment abroad, which fell by $3.2 billion to $475.3 billion at the end of June. The exchange rate revaluation removed $14.1 billion from asset values while net transactions accounted for $11.0 billion.

Canadian direct investment in the United States decreased $6.3 billion to $213.2 billion. At the same time, Canadian direct investment in all other countries increased to $262.1 billion. Direct investments in the United States represented about 45% of all direct investments abroad.

Increase in foreign direct investment in Canada

Foreign direct investment in Canada increased $7.5 billion to $433.8 billion at the end of the second quarter. Of the total, direct investments from the United States amounted to $276.7 billion.

The net direct investment position (the difference between Canadian direct investment abroad and foreign direct investment in Canada) declined to $41.5 billion at the end of June. This was a $10.7 billion reduction from the previous quarter.

Foreign holdings of Canadian stocks increased $3.3 billion to a record $113.6 billion. Foreign investors bought Canadian shares during the quarter even though the S&P/TSX composite index lost over 4% between March and June.

Substantial decline in foreign holdings of Canadian bonds

Foreign holdings of Canadian bonds reached $369.1 billion at the end of June, down $10.9 billion from the end of March.

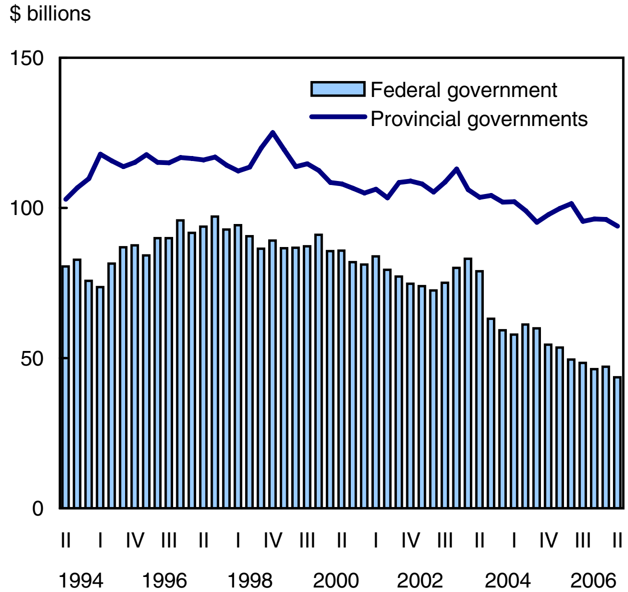
Foreign investors reduced their holdings of federal government bonds by $3.5 billion to $43.6 billion. This was the lowest level in almost two decades, as the federal government continued to pay down its external debt.

At the same time, foreign investors also reduced their holdings of provincial government bonds by $2.2 billion to $93.9 billion, the lowest level since the end of 1993.

Foreign investors made significant investments in Canadian money market paper for a third consecutive quarter. As a result, foreign holdings of Canadian money market paper increased $4.1 billion to $27.0 billion.

Finally, Canadian deposit liabilities to non-residents increased $20.3 billion to $235.8 billion.

Portfolio investment position in Canadian bonds



Available on CANSIM: tables 376-0055 to 376-0057 and 376-0059.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1537.

The second quarter 2006 issue of *Canada's International Investment Position* (67-202-XIE, free) will be available soon.

For general information, contact Client Services (613-951-1855; *infobalance@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the methods, concepts or data quality of this release, contact Éric Simard (613-951-7244) or Christian Lajule (613-951-2062), Balance of Payments Division.

Canada's international investment position at period-end

	Fourth quarter 2003	Fourth quarter 2004	Fourth quarter 2005	First quarter 2006	Second quarter 2006
	$ billions				
Assets					
Canadian direct investment abroad	411.9	451.4	465.1	478.5	475.3
Portfolio investment abroad					
Foreign bonds	45.7	58.6	82.4	93.5	102.8
Foreign bonds at market value	48.9	62.9	88.8	99.0	107.9
Foreign stocks	196.9	195.6	189.2	194.0	192.5
Foreign stocks at market value	357.6	384.4	422.8	459.4	441.3
Foreign money market	11.0	11.1	13.1	14.1	12.7
Foreign money market at market value	11.0	11.1	13.1	14.1	12.7
Other investment					
Loans	51.1	49.8	48.3	63.6	67.0
Deposits	103.6	109.4	120.7	133.9	143.5
Official international reserves	45.7	40.3	38.0	42.1	40.3
Other assets	55.8	50.1	59.3	61.9	62.3
Total assets					
at book value	921.6	966.4	1,016.0	1,081.7	1,096.5
with portfolio investment at market value	1,085.5	1,159.5	1,256.1	1,352.6	1,350.4
Liabilities					
Foreign direct investment in Canada	364.7	381.0	415.6	426.3	433.8
Portfolio investment					
Canadian bonds	404.3	398.1	380.0	380.0	369.1
Canadian bonds at market value	434.5	429.6	407.0	401.7	382.5
Canadian stocks	84.7	104.2	107.6	110.3	113.6
Canadian stocks at market value	196.4	250.1	314.7	346.2	341.0
Canadian money market	21.4	19.6	20.8	22.9	27.0
Canadian money market at market value	21.5	19.7	20.9	23.0	27.2
Other investment					
Loans	53.3	40.2	36.1	40.0	43.5
Deposits	183.1	176.0	201.6	215.5	235.8
Other liabilities	21.7	22.0	22.8	22.9	22.4
Total liabilities					
at book value	1,133.3	1,141.0	1,184.5	1,218.0	1,245.3
with portfolio investment at market value	1,275.2	1,318.5	1,418.7	1,475.7	1,486.3
Net international investment position					
at book value	-211.6	-174.6	-168.5	-136.3	-148.8
with portfolio investment at market value	-189.7	-159.0	-162.6	-123.1	-135.9

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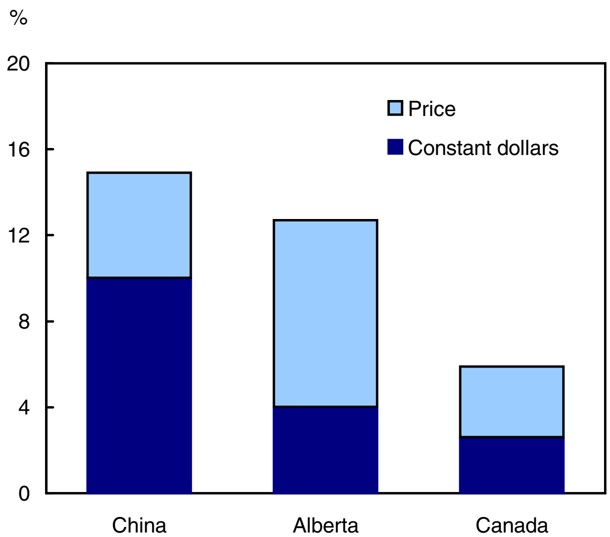
Study: The Alberta economic juggernaut
2005

Alberta is in the midst of the strongest period of economic growth ever recorded by any Canadian province, according to a new study released today in the *Canadian Economic Observer*.

Its nominal gross domestic product (GDP) rose 43% between 2002 and 2005, and there is no sign of slowing down so far in 2006. As a result of this unprecedented boom, Alberta has the highest share of its population employed and the lowest unemployment rate of any province or state in North America.

The 12.7% average annual growth of Alberta since 2002 compares favourably with China's 14.8%, the fastest rate among the world's large economies. But, while China's growth was mostly volume, Alberta's was mainly driven by higher export prices. Still, its 4% average increases in real GDP were the fastest in Canada after 2002.

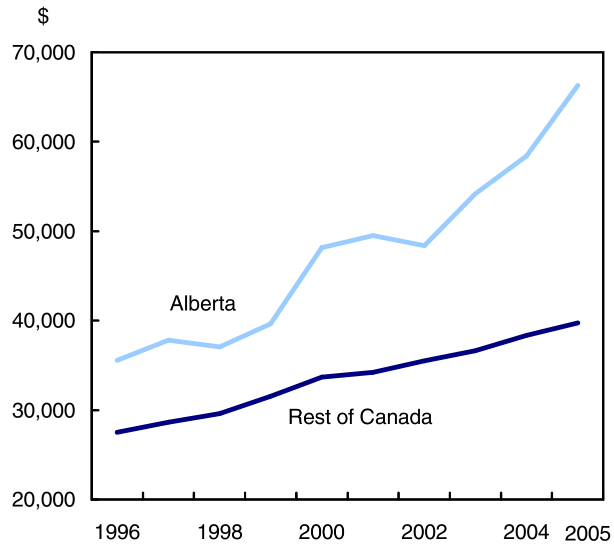
Alberta's gross domestic product growth between 2002 and 2005 approaches China's



Alberta's per capita GDP reached $66,275 in 2005, nearly double the average income in 1995 and 56% above the national average. This deviation from the national average is the largest ever posted by a Canadian province.

Profits in Alberta more than doubled from 2002 ($23.5 billion) to 2005 ($53.1 billion). Most of this increase reflects the soaring price of oil and gas exports. Alberta accounted for 27% of all profits in Canada in 2005, nearly double its share of national GDP.

Gross domestic product per capita in Alberta nearly doubled since 1995



Buoyed by ballooning profits, business investment expanded 37% over the last three years, including a 17% jump in volume last year. Firms plan to increase nominal outlays another 11% in 2006. Most of the growth of course was in the energy sector, especially the oilsands north of Edmonton. The investment boom shows no sign of ending anytime soon.

Consumer spending in the province remains by far the strongest in Canada. So far this year, nominal retail sales are running an astonishing 17% ahead of 2005, on track for the best year of any province ever.

Despite this spending splurge, Albertans have the highest personal savings rate anywhere in Canada, at 5.1% last year. In fact, it was the only province other than Ontario where the savings rate was not negative.

Housing demand exploded 17% last year, partly because more people moved from other provinces. Housing starts in Alberta recently surpassed Quebec, despite having less than half its population, a testament to the rapid increase in Alberta's population. However, shortages have sent new housing prices soaring in 2006.

Over the last decade, Alberta has consistently had Canada's strongest labour market. When adjusted to a comparable basis with the United States (which excludes 15 year olds), Alberta's 2.9% unemployment rate in June was the lowest of any province or state in North America, while it had the highest employment rate at 71.7%.

Job growth since 2002 has been led by mining, which has jumped by 30,000 jobs (or 33%) over the last three years and by 71% since 1999. As a result, it is now the sixth largest employer in the province, up from twelfth in 1999. In the northeastern part of the province (which includes the oilsands), one in every five workers is employed by the oil and gas industry.

There are several manifestations of Alberta's labour scarcity. The latest Business Conditions Survey found that one-quarter of Alberta's manufacturers reported shortages of unskilled labour, up from just 2% as recently as 2003. Partly this reflects labour in relatively low paying areas such as farming, manufacturing and accommodation and food being siphoned off by the booming construction and mining sectors.

Alberta's hourly earnings now lead the country at $20.94, passing Ontario, which has traditionally had the highest wages. Hourly earnings in Alberta have risen by over 7% in the 12 months ending in June, including an increase of over 10% in Calgary. This reflects both wage hikes and jobs shifting to high-paying sectors.

Alberta's population has grown faster than any other province every year since 1996. This increase reflects large inflows of migrants from other provinces and a rising number of births (it is the only province where births have increased in absolute terms since 2000). Alberta attracts relatively few immigrants from abroad — they gravitate mostly to Toronto, Vancouver and Montréal.

Alberta has the youngest as well as the fastest growing adult population, with 57% of people in Alberta less than 45 years old last year. Ontario was next at 54%, while most of the other provinces were near 50%. Partly, this reflects more births, but mostly it is because migrants tend to be relatively young.

While the boom has brought unbridled prosperity to Alberta, some worrisome long-term effects have emerged. Most notably, rural Alberta has one of the highest rates of high school drop-outs in the country at about 25%, presumably spurred by the promise of attractive pay for relatively unskilled work. However, this leaves these youths ill-prepared to deal with the consequences of a slowdown in growth.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1901 and 3701.

The study "The Alberta economic juggernaut: The boom on the rose" is included in the September 2006 internet edition of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 19, no. 9 (11-010-XIB, free), which is now available online from the *Publications* module of our website. The monthly paper version of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 19, no. 9 (11-010-XPB, $25/$243) will be available Thursday, September 21.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Philip Cross (613-951-9162; *ceo@statcan.ca*), Current Economic Analysis Group. ■

New products

Canadian Economic Observer, Vol. 19, no. 9
Catalogue number 11-010-XIB
(free).

The Control and Sale of Alcoholic Beverages in Canada, 2005
Catalogue number 63-202-XIE
(free).

Imports by Commodity, July 2006, Vol. 63, no. 7
Catalogue number 65-007-XMB ($40/$387).

Imports by Commodity, July 2006, Vol. 63, no. 7
Catalogue number 65-007-XPB ($84/$828).

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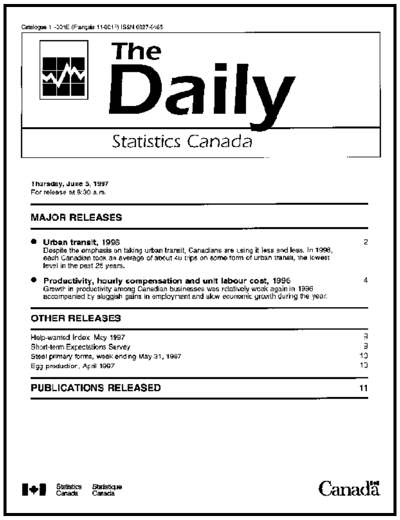
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- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
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