



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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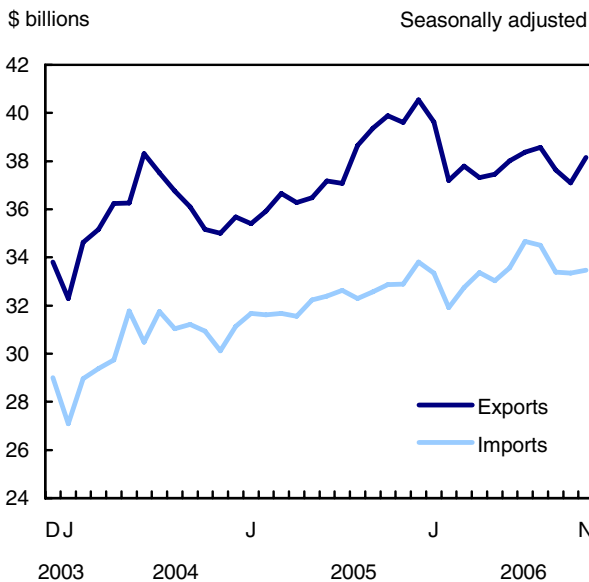
## Releases

### Canadian international merchandise trade

November 2006

Canada's merchandise exports rose 2.8% in November, halting two consecutive declines, with increases in all sectors but agriculture and forestry. Imports inched up 0.4% for the month.

#### Exports and imports



Companies exported merchandise worth \$38.1 billion in November while imports stood at \$33.5 billion.

As a result, Canada's merchandise trade surplus with the world widened to \$4.7 billion from \$3.8 billion in October.

Exports to the United States surged 3.6% to \$29.4 billion, with gains in exports of energy and autos. This was in contrast to a downward trend in exports to the United States that has dominated the second half of 2006 in the wake of retreating energy prices and falling shipments of lumber and autos.

In fact, these second-half declines, combined with rising demand for metals, chemicals and aircraft from countries other than the United States, have changed the composition of Canada's exports.

The United States, our biggest trading partner, accounted for only 77% of all merchandise exports in

#### Note to readers

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

International trade data for the United States, Japan and the United Kingdom are available on both a balance of payments basis as well as a customs basis. Trade data for all other individual countries are available on a customs basis only.

Starting with reference month September 2006, there will be a section in The Daily at the end of each quarter describing trends in trade between Canada and emerging economies, such as China. This section will discuss data which is on a customs basis and is not seasonally adjusted.

Please be advised that the International Trade Division is currently updating the base year for import and export price indices. This update will see the base year change from 1997 to 2002, and is being undertaken in collaboration with the System of National Accounts. Base year 2002 CANSIM tables will replace the current CANSIM tables 228-0035 to 228-0040 and 228-0044 to 228-0046 in mid-2007.

#### 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.

November, compared with 82% a year ago and 84% in November 2002. Exports to the United States were 1.7% lower in the first 11 months of 2006 compared with the same period a year earlier.

On the other hand, exports to countries other than the United States were up 13% for this 11-month period.

Exports to the European Union were up 15.7% compared with January to November 2005, thanks to higher exports of gold, uranium and aircraft. In terms of other Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, Mexico is the leading destination for exports, registering increases in iron and steel, telecommunications equipment, as well as auto parts.

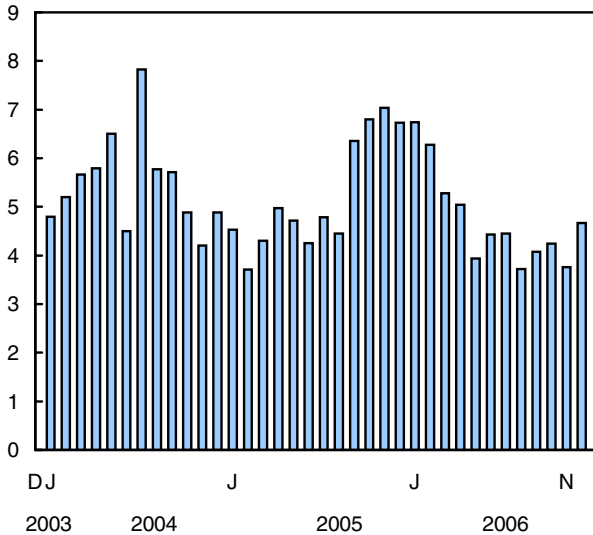
For the rest of the world, exports to India were also up, with wheat, aircraft and metal ores leading the way. Brazil and Russia have also shown large gains in 2006.

Exports to China have registered an increase over 2005 levels. Canada's exports of metals to China, such as nickel, have recorded a large jump. This has been

partially offset by declines in agricultural materials, such as potash.

### Trade balance

\$ billions



### Automotive products lead increase in exports

Exports of automotive products, after cooling for several months as a result of production slowdowns and plant retooling, showed strength in October and November. In contrast to October, when trucks alone pushed up auto export values, increases in cars, trucks and parts accounted for the rise in November.

Exports of industrial goods hit a record high of \$8.5 billion in November, as a result of a 3.1% increase for the month. Metals and alloys accounted for most of the gain, rising 8.3% to \$3.2 billion on the strength of nickel exports. Exports of uranium to the United States and United Kingdom also contributed to the advance.

The export story for 2006 has certainly been industrial goods and materials, specifically metals. Exports of industrial goods for the January to November period of 2006 are 11.3% greater than during the same period in 2005. Also, since June, industrial goods have been the highest value export sector, rising above machinery and equipment.

Energy and machinery and equipment also registered gains in November, with steady agricultural exports and declining forestry exports rounding out the export report card.

Energy export values were up 3.7% in November to \$6.4 billion. An increase in exports of petroleum and

coal products, specifically, ultra low sulphur diesel to the United States, secured the rise. Gas stations in the United States were mandated as of mid-October to make available this fuel, which has a sulphur content of less than 15 parts per million.

Natural gas values increased 1.8% for the month following two declines, while crude values remained unchanged after three consecutive decreases.

In machinery and equipment, a 7.2% rise in aerospace products exports assured the gain. For the year, aircraft exports are up with increased demand from the European Union and Asia compensating for a large drop in exports to the United States.

Exports of agricultural products remained at \$2.7 billion, with a slight decline in wheat and fish exports being offset by an increase in barley, other cereal preparations and live animals.

Forestry exports were down 2.2% in November, continuing the downward trend that has dominated 2006.

### Imports show slight gain

Energy imports, as well as automotive imports, were up in November, allowing total import values to edge up 0.4% despite a large drop in industrial goods and materials.

After reaching a record high level in October, industrial goods and materials were down 4.4% in November to \$6.9 billion dollars. Imports of metals and metal ores declined 7.9% and chemicals and plastics fell 3.8% for the month, following large orders of zinc, copper, as well as chemicals for pharmaceutical manufacturing in October.

Imports of energy products registered gains of 8.3% in November to reach \$2.6 billion, following large drops in September and October. Imports were up for crude petroleum, heating and diesel fuel, as well as natural gas, however, values remained well below the August record high for energy imports of \$3.4 billion.

A 6.1% increase in imports of motor vehicle parts pushed imports of automotive products up for the month. Imports of parts have registered declines since July. Imports of passenger autos and trucks were down 0.7% and 1.3% respectively.

Imports of consumer goods inched up to a record high of \$4.4 billion on the strength of toys and televisions. In contrast, imports of machinery and equipment were down 0.4% to \$9.6 billion.

Imports of agricultural products were stable at \$2.0 billion. Within agricultural products, coffee imports grew 7.4% to \$348 million; however, this increase was offset by widespread declines in other agricultural products.

**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 November 2006 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 60, no. 11 (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-XWE, free).

The publication is available free in PDF format on the morning of release.

For more information on products and services, contact Anne Couillard (toll-free 1-800-294-5583; 613-951-6867). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Diana Wyman (613-951-3116), International Trade Division. □

**Merchandise trade**

	October 2006 <sup>r</sup>	November 2006	October to November 2006	November 2005 to November 2006	January to November 2005	January to November 2006	January–November 2005 to January–November 2006
Seasonally adjusted, \$ current							
	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		% change
<b>Principal trading partners</b>							
<b>Exports</b>							
United States	28,378	29,409	3.6	-9.2	335,460	329,845	-1.7
Japan	953	925	-2.9	6.3	9,434	9,836	4.3
European Union <sup>1</sup>	2,816	3,114	10.6	29.1	26,386	30,536	15.7
Other OECD countries <sup>2</sup>	1,730	1,848	6.8	35.9	13,977	16,460	17.8
All other countries	3,225	2,848	-11.7	9.8	27,253	30,541	12.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,101</b>	<b>38,144</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>-3.7</b>	<b>412,514</b>	<b>417,218</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>Imports</b>							
United States	21,728	22,072	1.6	1.5	237,333	240,650	1.4
Japan	967	839	-13.2	-5.7	10,257	10,804	5.3
European Union <sup>1</sup>	3,537	3,679	4.0	11.9	35,126	38,582	9.8
Other OECD countries <sup>2</sup>	2,111	1,895	-10.2	-3.5	22,020	21,465	-2.5
All other countries	5,003	4,993	-0.2	-0.3	49,661	55,847	12.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,345</b>	<b>33,477</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>354,397</b>	<b>367,346</b>	<b>3.7</b>
<b>Balance</b>							
United States	6,650	7,337	...	...	98,127	89,195	...
Japan	-14	86	...	...	-823	-968	...
European Union <sup>1</sup>	-721	-565	...	...	-8,740	-8,046	...
Other OECD countries <sup>2</sup>	-381	-47	...	...	-8,043	-5,005	...
All other countries	-1,778	-2,145	...	...	-22,408	-25,306	...
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,756</b>	<b>4,667</b>	...	...	<b>58,117</b>	<b>49,872</b>	...
<b>Principal commodity groupings</b>							
<b>Exports</b>							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,674	2,673	0.0	0.0	27,562	28,786	4.4
Energy products	6,170	6,398	3.7	-19.9	78,170	78,851	0.9
Forestry products	2,658	2,599	-2.2	-14.0	33,493	30,663	-8.4
Industrial goods and materials	8,275	8,530	3.1	16.8	77,336	86,070	11.3
Machinery and equipment	8,004	8,225	2.8	2.0	86,579	87,545	1.1
Automotive products	6,534	6,888	5.4	-12.7	80,255	75,274	-6.2
Other consumer goods	1,567	1,613	2.9	10.6	15,868	16,348	3.0
Special transactions trade <sup>3</sup>	704	769	9.2	4.9	7,551	7,961	5.4
Other balance of payments adjustments	514	447	-13.0	-6.9	5,698	5,718	0.4
<b>Imports</b>							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,988	1,988	0.0	6.4	20,149	21,388	6.1
Energy products	2,352	2,548	8.3	-22.1	30,608	31,403	2.6
Forestry products	264	257	-2.7	2.0	2,883	2,808	-2.6
Industrial goods and materials	7,231	6,916	-4.4	7.7	71,482	76,485	7.0
Machinery and equipment	9,681	9,647	-0.4	3.0	101,248	104,326	3.0
Automotive products	6,418	6,569	2.4	1.9	71,755	72,587	1.2
Other consumer goods	4,398	4,417	0.4	3.8	45,239	47,290	4.5
Special transactions trade <sup>3</sup>	394	504	27.9	37.7	4,155	4,169	0.3
Other balance of payments adjustments	619	630	1.8	-2.0	6,878	6,889	0.2

<sup>r</sup> revised

... figures not appropriate or not applicable

1. Includes Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom.

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

3. These are mainly low valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.



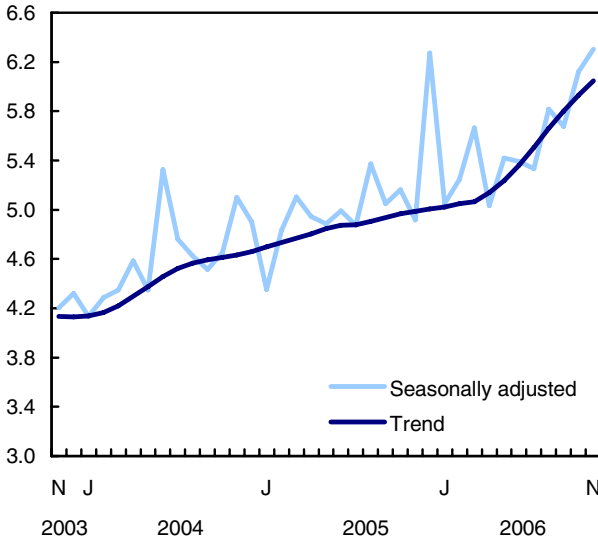
## Building permits

November 2006

It took Canada's contractors only 11 months in 2006 to set a new annual record for the total value of building permits, thanks to strong residential and non-residential sectors. In November alone, municipalities issued \$6.3 billion in building permits, a record monthly high.

### The total value of permits reaches a new peak

\$ billions



Between January and November 2006, contractors took out permits worth \$61.1 billion. This cumulative total was 0.5% higher than the previous record of \$60.8 billion, which was for 2005 as a whole.

In the non-residential sector, the 11-month total for permits has already hit a record \$23.2 billion. This was 5.3% higher than the previous mark for 2005 as a whole. The cumulative value of permits in the residential sector was just short of a new peak.

Six provinces have already set records in the value of building permits for 2006: Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. This was also the case for all census metropolitan areas west of Ontario.

The biggest increase occurred in Alberta, which is in the midst of an unprecedented economic boom. Contractors there took out more than \$12.6 billion in permits between January and November 2006, 24.1% more than the record total for 2005 as a whole.

### Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

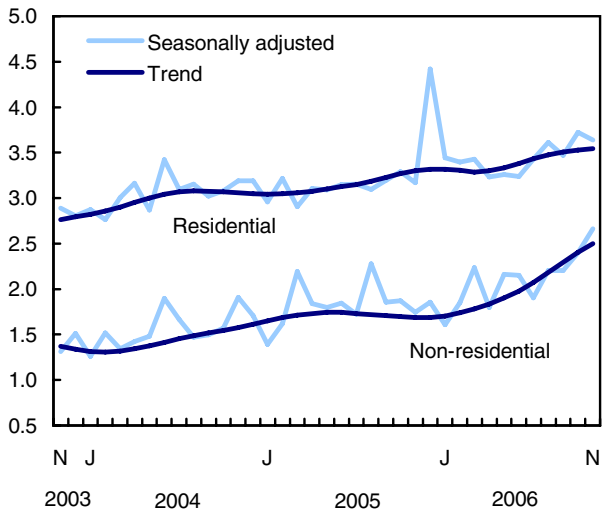
The Building Permits Survey covers 2,380 municipalities representing 95% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 5% of the population are very small, and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total.

The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (e.g., waterworks, sewers or culverts) and land.

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

### Fourth consecutive monthly increase in the non-residential sector

\$ billions



### Record November thanks to huge gain in non-residential sector

The value of building permits issued by municipalities forged a record high in November, thanks to a blistering gain in the non-residential sector.

In total, municipalities issued \$6.3 billion worth of building permits, up 3.0% from October. This level was 0.5% above the previous record monthly high set in December 2005.

The value of non-residential permits set a record high for a second consecutive month in November.

Construction intentions in the non-residential sector increased 11.1% to \$2.7 billion, the fourth consecutive monthly gain.

However, in the housing sector, the value of permits fell 2.2% from October to \$3.6 billion, as the value of both single- and multi-family permits declined. Even so, this level was the third highest on record, surpassed only by levels in October 2006 and December 2005.

In November, the monthly value of building permits reached new highs in British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador and New Brunswick.

British Columbia registered the biggest monthly gain (in dollars) in the total value of permits for November, fuelled by an increase in the value of multi-family permits.

Marked increases in the value of non-residential permits in Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador and New Brunswick also largely contributed to the overall increase.

### **Residential sector: Both single- and multi-family permits decline**

The value of multi-family permits declined 4.1% in November to \$1.4 billion. This decline followed a 24.4% gain in October. Despite the retreat, the level in November was 18.8% higher than the average monthly level since the beginning of the year.

The value of single-family permits edged down 0.9% to \$2.2 billion, the third consecutive monthly retreat.

All provinces, except for British Columbia and Manitoba, recorded a decline in the value of housing permits in November. The largest declines (in dollars) occurred in Ontario and Quebec.

A huge demand for new multi-family dwellings in British Columbia largely softened the drop in the value of housing permits in the rest of Canada. Without British Columbia, the value of residential permits at the national level would have declined 9.4% instead of 2.2%.

From January to November, municipalities have approved 217,235 new dwelling units, up 3.5% from the total for the first 11 months of 2005.

The number of multi-family units rose 7.2% to 106,840, while the number of single-family units remained virtually unchanged at 110,395.

Several factors contributed to the continued strength in Canada's housing market throughout 2006. They included strength in full-time employment, rising disposable income, high levels of immigration along with tight apartment vacancy rates in several centres, and a dynamic economy in Western Canada.

### **Non-residential: Strong rebound in institutional, industrial components**

Strong growth in both the value of institutional and industrial permits was the main factor behind the new monthly record in the non-residential sector.

Permits in the institutional sector rebounded a spectacular 33.0% to \$670 million, after falling 22.8% in October. It was a fourth monthly increase over the last five months, and was largely the result of higher construction intentions for medical and educational buildings. Nine provinces showed gains in the institutional sector.

In the industrial sector, the value of permits surged 37.4% to \$506 million. The big gain, which followed a 10.2% decline in October, was the result of large increases in the manufacturing and utility building categories.

Six provinces and two territories showed increases in the value of industrial permits in November. The largest gain (in dollars) was recorded in Ontario (+68.0% to \$220 million). In contrast, Quebec showed the biggest decline on the heels of a 65.9% gain in October.

In the commercial sector, intentions fell 2.5% to \$1.5 billion in November, after setting a record high in October. The lower demand for permits associated with office and recreation buildings was behind this decline.

Despite the retreat, the level of commercial building permits in November remained 25.1% higher than the average monthly level in 2006.

Provincially, the biggest gain (in dollars) in the non-residential sector occurred in Ontario, where all three components (commercial, industrial and institutional) increased. In contrast, the largest decline (in dollars) occurred in Quebec, the result of a huge drop in the commercial and industrial components.

At the national level, the cumulative value of non-residential permits was up 15.0% from the first 11 months of 2005.

All three components increased. Intentions in the commercial sector rose 20.4% to \$13.1 billion; those in the industrial sector were up 10.9% to \$4.1 billion, while the institutional sector rose 7.1% to \$6.0 billion.

Several economic factors were consistent with a fertile environment for the non-residential sector, including growth in consumer spending and declining vacancy rates for office buildings. In addition, corporate operating profits hit a record high in the third quarter of 2006.

### **Metropolitan areas: Strongest growth in western centres**

Overall, 22 out of the 28 metropolitan areas showed gains in their cumulative value of permits.

The largest gain (in dollars) occurred by far in Calgary (+43.0% to \$5.0 billion), followed by Vancouver and Edmonton.

All metropolitan areas west of Ontario already reached new annual record with still one month to be accounted for. The huge demand for new residential and non-residential space was behind these tremendous results.

All metropolitan areas showing a decline were in Ontario with the exception of Québec.

Available on CANSIM: tables 026-0001 to 026-0008, 026-0010 and 026-0015.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The November 2006 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001-XWE, free) will be available soon.

The December 2006 building permit estimate will be released on February 6.

To order data, contact Jasmine Gaudreault (613-951-6321 or toll-free 1-800-579-8533; [bdp\\_information@statcan.ca](mailto:bdp_information@statcan.ca)). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

### Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area<sup>1</sup>

	October 2006 <sup>r</sup>	November 2006 <sup>p</sup>	October to November 2006	January to November 2005	January to November 2006	January–November 2005 to January–November 2006
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change		
St. John's	23.2	88.3	281.2	320.1	374.6	17.0
Halifax	74.7	60.9	-18.5	549.6	609.3	10.9
Saint John	13.0	21.4	65.0	135.4	173.3	28.0
Saguenay	18.0	28.7	60.0	158.9	190.9	20.1
Québec	106.1	71.3	-32.8	1,073.9	1,061.7	-1.1
Sherbrooke	49.2	23.1	-53.0	217.8	288.8	32.6
Trois-Rivières	27.1	16.2	-40.5	175.6	234.9	33.8
Montréal	606.2	462.7	-23.7	5,457.8	5,492.0	0.6
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	209.7	182.2	-13.1	2,114.2	2,048.4	-3.1
Ottawa–Gatineau (Que. part)	65.3	46.4	-28.9	382.0	484.4	26.8
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ont. part)	144.4	135.8	-6.0	1,732.2	1,564.0	-9.7
Kingston	9.2	42.5	361.7	177.9	242.5	36.3
Oshawa	56.8	76.9	35.4	875.3	820.7	-6.2
Toronto	1,092.4	926.8	-15.2	9,529.2	10,057.2	5.5
Hamilton	84.9	124.6	46.8	1,024.4	906.9	-11.5
St. Catharines–Niagara	27.2	43.4	59.7	468.6	487.7	4.1
Kitchener	75.4	76.1	1.0	814.1	842.1	3.4
London	67.7	80.7	19.1	754.5	840.9	11.5
Windsor	23.9	22.7	-4.9	488.8	472.6	-3.3
Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury	31.7	19.5	-38.4	168.6	218.2	29.5
Thunder Bay	14.7	5.6	-61.6	117.8	85.8	-27.2
Winnipeg	51.7	101.5	96.5	632.6	834.3	31.9
Regina	40.9	27.9	-31.8	256.3	346.4	35.2
Saskatoon	33.7	21.6	-36.0	323.1	388.8	20.3
Calgary	488.3	489.1	0.2	3,473.7	4,966.9	43.0
Edmonton	349.8	386.8	10.6	2,611.1	3,300.0	26.4
Abbotsford	21.7	41.5	90.9	291.9	341.8	17.1
Vancouver	647.7	932.9	44.0	5,151.9	6,136.2	19.1
Victoria	119.0	45.8	-61.5	679.2	735.1	8.2

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

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

**Note:** Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.



**Value of building permits, by province and territory**

	October 2006 <sup>r</sup>	November 2006 <sup>p</sup>	October to November 2006	January to November 2005	January to November 2006	January–November 2005 to January–November 2006
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>6,120.8</b>	<b>6,303.6</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>54,483.7</b>	<b>61,058.6</b>	<b>12.1</b>
<b>Residential</b>	<b>3,722.4</b>	<b>3,639.7</b>	<b>-2.2</b>	<b>34,326.2</b>	<b>37,881.2</b>	<b>10.4</b>
<b>Non-residential</b>	<b>2,398.5</b>	<b>2,664.0</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>20,157.5</b>	<b>23,177.4</b>	<b>15.0</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	36.9	103.2	179.9	461.3	525.3	13.9
Residential	28.1	27.9	-0.8	305.1	310.9	1.9
Non-residential	8.8	75.3	760.1	156.2	214.4	37.3
Prince Edward Island	24.9	14.2	-42.9	226.8	198.1	-12.6
Residential	13.2	11.1	-15.8	117.1	120.8	3.2
Non-residential	11.7	3.1	-73.7	109.7	77.3	-29.5
Nova Scotia	127.9	110.6	-13.5	1,090.5	1,184.5	8.6
Residential	90.5	84.1	-7.1	713.8	809.2	13.4
Non-residential	37.4	26.5	-29.0	376.7	375.3	-0.4
New Brunswick	71.6	120.2	67.9	772.2	887.1	14.9
Residential	46.1	44.0	-4.7	438.1	476.9	8.9
Non-residential	25.5	76.2	199.4	334.1	410.2	22.8
Quebec	1,190.1	975.8	-18.0	10,421.3	10,877.5	4.4
Residential	772.8	649.8	-15.9	7,286.2	7,136.3	-2.1
Non-residential	417.3	326.0	-21.9	3,135.1	3,741.2	19.3
Ontario	2,000.1	2,050.5	2.5	21,237.1	21,431.0	0.9
Residential	1,270.6	1,135.6	-10.6	12,807.2	13,143.9	2.6
Non-residential	729.5	914.9	25.4	8,429.9	8,287.1	-1.7
Manitoba	93.5	138.4	48.1	1,035.2	1,281.7	23.8
Residential	65.8	78.1	18.7	634.3	761.5	20.1
Non-residential	27.7	60.3	118.1	400.9	520.2	29.7
Saskatchewan	97.1	97.1	0.0	809.4	1,067.3	31.9
Residential	54.5	46.8	-14.1	360.4	443.0	22.9
Non-residential	42.6	50.3	18.0	449.1	624.2	39.0
Alberta	1,313.6	1,300.3	-1.0	9,137.6	12,638.0	38.3
Residential	743.2	708.4	-4.7	5,390.8	7,604.5	41.1
Non-residential	570.4	591.9	3.8	3,746.8	5,033.5	34.3
British Columbia	1,156.1	1,372.7	18.7	9,141.0	10,778.2	17.9
Residential	631.8	840.1	33.0	6,193.8	6,989.3	12.8
Non-residential	524.3	532.6	1.6	2,947.2	3,788.9	28.6
Yukon	5.4	1.4	-73.6	70.1	92.1	31.3
Residential	3.5	1.1	-68.7	41.6	35.2	-15.4
Non-residential	1.9	0.3	-82.5	28.6	56.9	99.3
Northwest Territories	2.6	9.7	273.6	68.5	45.0	-34.3
Residential	1.1	3.5	215.8	27.6	20.0	-27.5
Non-residential	1.5	6.3	315.4	40.9	25.0	-39.0
Nunavut	1.2	9.5	661.8	12.6	52.9	318.9
Residential	1.2	9.2	637.8	10.4	29.6	185.6
Non-residential	0.0	0.3	...	2.3	23.3	932.7

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

... figures not applicable

**Note:** Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.

## New Housing Price Index

November 2006

The cost of new housing rose again in November. Prices were up 0.5% nationally to reach 147.5 (1997=100). This resulted in a 12 month increase of 11.4% in contractors' selling prices.

Prices advanced in 15 of the 21 metropolitan areas surveyed. Edmonton had the largest monthly increase at 2.1%, followed by Regina (+1.9%), St. Catharines–Niagara (+1.3%) and Calgary (+1.1%). Higher costs for construction materials, labour rates and developer increased lot values were the contributing factors. Winter construction cost increases for excavating and concrete work were cited in Regina.

Gains were also observed in St. John's, Charlottetown, Halifax, Montréal, Ottawa–Gatineau, Toronto and Oshawa, Hamilton, Kitchener, Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury and Thunder Bay, Winnipeg and Vancouver. Of the 15 metropolitan areas showing increases, land prices rose in six.

### New housing price indexes

	November 2006	November 2005 to November 2006	October to November 2006
	(1997=100)	% change	
<b>Canada total</b>	<b>147.5</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>House only</b>	<b>157.3</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>Land only</b>	<b>128.2</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>1.0</b>
St. John's	132.2	4.3	0.6
Halifax	131.4	1.3	0.5
Charlottetown	118.0	2.1	0.6
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton	113.6	3.1	0.0
Québec	142.7	3.0	0.0
Montréal	150.3	4.5	0.6
Ottawa–Gatineau	161.3	3.3	0.4
Toronto and Oshawa	138.8	3.4	0.4
Hamilton	145.0	6.6	0.3
St. Catharines–Niagara	147.2	4.5	1.3
Kitchener	137.5	2.6	0.2
London	134.3	5.1	-1.0
Windsor	104.4	-1.2	-0.9
Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury and Thunder Bay	102.9	1.8	0.4
Winnipeg	148.4	9.2	0.6
Regina	159.4	10.2	1.9
Saskatoon	144.6	12.7	0.0
Calgary	238.2	49.8	1.1
Edmonton	204.7	42.8	2.1
Vancouver	116.1	8.5	0.1
Victoria	117.6	-0.3	0.0

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

Four metropolitan areas registered no monthly change. London (-1.0%) and Windsor (-0.9%) showed the only decreases.

Calgary (+49.8%) posted the largest 12 month increase followed closely by Edmonton (+42.8%). Saskatoon (+12.7%), Regina (+10.2%), Winnipeg (+9.2%) and Vancouver (+8.5%) also had noteworthy year-over-year gains.

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.**

The fourth quarter 2006 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XWE, free) will be available in April.

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; [Prices-prix@statcan.ca](mailto:Prices-prix@statcan.ca)) or Randy Sterns (613-951-8183; [randy.sterns@statcan.ca](mailto:randy.sterns@statcan.ca)), Prices Division. ■

## Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey

Third quarter 2006

For the first time since the beginning of 2005, retail spending on automotive fuels, oils and additives increased by less than 10% on a year-over-year basis. Consumers spent \$10.5 billion on automotive fuels, oils and additives in the third quarter of 2006, an annual increase of 7.5% compared to 26.0% for the same period last year. Meanwhile, according to the Consumer Price Index, the price of gasoline for the third quarter of 2006 increased by only 1.1% compared to an increase of 22.3% for the same period last year, which was influenced by Hurricane Katrina.

Overall, consumers spent \$103.1 billion on goods and services in retail stores in the third quarter of 2006, up 7.0% over the third quarter of 2005. Among major commodity groups, increases ranged from a high of 10.0% in health and personal care products to a low of 4.1% in food and beverages.

Health and personal care products exhibited the strongest gain during the third quarter of 2006, advancing by 10.0% to \$8.4 billion. Sales of health and personal care products have grown faster than total retail sales for the last four quarters. Prescription and over-the-counter drugs are the driving forces behind this robust growth, climbing by 12.2% to \$5.6 billion. Prescription drugs advanced by 12.8% to \$4.6 billion while over-the-counter drugs, vitamins and other health supplements increased by 9.2% to \$1.0 billion. Health and personal care products accounted for eight cents of every retail dollar spent in the third quarter of 2006.

In the third quarter of 2006, retail sales for furniture, home furnishings and electronics products amounted to \$9.0 billion, a year-over-year increase of 9.2%. Sales of furniture, household appliances and electronics rose by 8.9%, thanks to a 14.8% increase in sales of household appliances. Sales of home furnishings grew by 10.1%. Sales of this commodity group have been growing at a brisk clip in 2006 after witnessing moderate increases in the previous three years.

Clothing, footwear and accessories had their strongest year-over-year growth in the third quarter of 2006 since the beginning of the series in 1998, with an 8.7% increase resulting in total sales of \$8.1 billion. The best performance in this category was by footwear, which grew by 10.5%. Sales of women's clothing rose by 9.1% while those of men's clothing were up by 6.9%. Lower prices for all categories of clothing and unseasonable weather patterns are among the factors that may have contributed to this strong performance. Clothing and accessories stores contribute to two-thirds of the sales of this category, while general merchandisers account for one-quarter of the sales.

Sales of motor vehicles, parts and services totalled \$22.8 billion in the third quarter of 2006, 6.5% more than the same quarter last year. The value of new vehicles sales rose by 5.7% on the strength of a 6.4% increase in new truck sales (which include minivans, sport utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and

buses), and new car sales, which increased 4.9%. Sales of used automotive vehicles posted a strong 8.3% year-over-year increase, which outpaced for the first time since the second quarter of 2002 the increases in new car sales.

Sales of food and beverages totalled \$21.9 billion, up 4.1% from the third quarter of 2005. Since the second quarter of 2005, the growth in sales of food and beverages has lagged behind total retail sales. Food sales rose by 3.8% while those of beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) rose by 5.1%.

**Note:** The Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey collects national level retail sales by commodity, from a sub-sample of businesses in the Monthly Retail Trade Survey. Quarterly data have not been adjusted for seasonality. All percentage changes are year-over-year.

**Available on CANSIM: table 080-0018.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2008.**

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; [retailinfo@statcan.ca](mailto:retailinfo@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Abdul Mohammed (613-951-7719), Distributive Trades Division.

**Sales by commodity, all retail stores**

	Third quarter 2005 <sup>r</sup>	Second quarter 2006 <sup>r</sup>	Third quarter 2006 <sup>p</sup>	Third quarter 2005 to third quarter 2006
Unadjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
<b>Commodity</b>				
Food and beverages	21,056	21,220	21,926	4.1
Health and personal care products	7,653	8,289	8,419	10.0
Clothing, footwear and accessories	7,448	7,991	8,094	8.7
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics	8,263	8,117	9,024	9.2
Motor vehicles, parts and services	21,401	23,720	22,784	6.5
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	9,752	10,067	10,482	7.5
Housewares	1,939	1,891	2,061	6.3
Hardware, lawn and garden products	7,074	8,842	7,691	8.7
Sporting and leisure goods	3,032	3,107	3,208	5.8
All other goods and services	8,745	9,972	9,392	7.4
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>96,363</b>	<b>103,217</b>	<b>103,080</b>	<b>7.0</b>

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

1. Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.

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## Farm product prices

November 2006

Prices received by farmers in November for grains, oilseeds, specialty crops, potatoes, cattle, hogs, poultry, eggs and dairy products are now available.

The Saskatchewan canola price in November was \$310.64 per tonne, up 10% from October and up 24% from November 2005 when the price was \$249.73.

The November slaughter calves price in Quebec was \$149.56 per hundredweight, up 0.4% from one month earlier and up 9% from the November 2005 price of \$137.69.

Farm commodity prices are now available on CANSIM. Over 35 commodities are available by province, some series going back 20 years.

**Available on CANSIM: table 002-0043.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3436.**

For more information, or to inquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-3445; fax: 204-983-7543; [gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca](mailto:gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## Export and import price indexes

November 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 November 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

November 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 now available 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 November 2006 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 60, no. 11 (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), or enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bernard Lupien (613-951-6872), International Trade Division. ■

## New products

**Industry Price Indexes**, November 2006, Vol. 32,  
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