



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Current economic conditions	2
Maintenance Enforcement Survey: Child and spousal support, 2005/2006	2
Commercial Software Price Index, November 2006	3
Cement, November 2006	3

New products	4
---------------------	----------



Current economic conditions

The economy continued to slow in the fall, with the gross domestic product (GDP) unchanged in October after contracting in September. Manufacturing, notably autos, was the weakest sector, while slower auto sales also dampened retail sales.

Several signs at year end were indicating that the slump in GDP growth would not be prolonged. This was summarized by the sharp improvement in the leading indicator, whose growth in November nearly doubled to a six-month high. While components such as the stock market and consumer services remained strong, there was a significant turnaround in the leading indicator for the US. This has already begun to translate into higher orders for Canada's manufactured goods. The profit margins of manufacturers also received a boost from the loonie, which fell to a 12-month low early in 2007.

The US economy improved on a number of fronts. Retail sales strengthened in November, while an upturn in auto assemblies led a gain in industrial production. Falling energy prices triggered a sharp reduction in both the trade deficit and inflation. Most significantly, the US housing market stabilized, at least temporarily, after provoking much of the US slowdown in 2006. Home sales posted back-to-back gains, helping to whittle down the large backlog of unsold homes, as households responded to lower house prices and mortgage rates.

The housing market in Canada also improved, with a second straight increase in both housing starts and sales in November. Household demand was stimulated by a continued buoyant labour market. Employment posted another modest gain in December, with factories increasing payrolls for a second straight month. This is consistent with the data in the leading indicators that suggested manufacturing activity was firming at year-end. The stock market also ended the year with a flourish, hitting another record to cap a fourth straight year of double-digit growth.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1301, 1901, 2152, 2306, 2406 and 3701.

The January 2007 online issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 20, no. 1 (11-010-XWB, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. This issue summarizes the major economic events that occurred in December and presents an article entitled "Work hours instability".

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. ■

Maintenance Enforcement Survey: Child and spousal support

2005/2006

The report *Child and Spousal Support: Maintenance Enforcement Survey Statistics, 2005/2006*, available today, provides data on the collection and enforcement of child and spousal support payments for cases enrolled with maintenance enforcement programs.

These programs were created in each province and territory during the 1980s and 1990s to assist recipients in obtaining their support payments without having to go before the courts. They handle an estimated 50% of all support orders and agreements in Canada. The results of the Maintenance Enforcement Survey include cases enrolled in maintenance enforcement programs only, and should not be generalized to all support orders in Canada.

Programs vary in a number of important aspects, such as client profile, enforcement powers and practices, and whether or not cases are automatically enrolled with the program at the time of the order. These differences between programs have important implications for interpreting the survey data, and may be a major reason for varied results between programs.

The report includes data for Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and Yukon. Combined, they represent about 95% of Canada's population.

As of March 31, 2006, there were nearly 407,800 cases enrolled in a maintenance enforcement program in these 10 reporting jurisdictions. About 2,600 cases were enrolled in Prince Edward Island, 18,200 in Nova Scotia, 12,800 in New Brunswick, 106,200 in Quebec, 175,000 in Ontario, 7,600 in Saskatchewan, 46,000 in Alberta, 38,400 in British Columbia, 600 in the Northwest Territories and 400 in Yukon.

The vast majority of cases involved a support amount for children. On March 31, 2006, the proportion of cases with a support amount for children ranged from 90% of cases in Saskatchewan to 98% of cases in British Columbia and the Northwest Territories.

In 2005/2006, a large proportion of cases in all reporting programs had a regular monthly payment of \$400 or less. In March 2006, this percentage varied from 43% of cases in the Northwest Territories to 69% in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. In all programs, cases that required a monthly payment greater than \$1,000 represented 5% or less of the caseload.

In the majority of cases enrolled with a maintenance enforcement program, the payors made their regular

monthly payment in full. In March 2006, the proportion making their full regular payment ranged from 56% to 78% of cases in the 10 maintenance enforcement programs. In most jurisdictions, the percentage of cases in compliance has steadily increased since March 2002.

Payors who do not make their full monthly payment will sometimes make a partial payment. This will be reflected in the proportion of total regular payments that is collected. During 2005/2006, maintenance enforcement programs collected the majority of the regular monthly payments that were due. Of the seven jurisdictions that provided these data, the percentage of the regular amount collected ranged from 61% in the Northwest Territories to 90% in Quebec.

Many cases already had arrears (that is, money owing from previous missed payments) when they first registered with a program. Between 46% and 72% of cases enrolled in the six reporting programs had arrears owing when they enrolled in the program. In most jurisdictions, the payors in half of these cases had either paid off or reduced arrears owing by the end of 2005/2006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3324.

The report *Child and Spousal Support: Maintenance Enforcement Survey Statistics, 2005/2006* (85-228-XIE, free) is now available from our website. From the *Publications* module of our website, choose *Free internet publications* then *Justice*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Information and Client Services (toll-free 1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. ■

Commercial Software Price Index

November 2006

The Commercial Software Price Index (CSPI) is a monthly series measuring the change in the purchase price of pre-packaged software typically bought by businesses and governments. The CSPI for November was 68.0 (2001=100), down 0.1% from October.

This index is available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: table 331-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5068.

For more information on these indexes, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; prices-prix@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Neil Killips (613-951-5722; neil.killips@statcan.ca), Prices Division. ■

Cement

November 2006

Data on cement are now available for November.

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0060 and 303-0061.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2140.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

New products

Canadian Economic Observer, Vol. 20, no. 1
Catalogue number 11-010-XWB
(free).

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

Building Permits, November 2006, Vol. 50, no. 11
Catalogue number 64-001-XWE
(free).

Catalogue numbers with an -XWE, -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette; -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc and -XBB or -XBE a database.

Child and Spousal Support: Maintenance Enforcement Survey Statistics, 2005/2006
Catalogue number 85-228-XIE
(free).

How to order products

To order by phone, please refer to:

- The title
- The catalogue number
- The volume number
- The issue number
- Your credit card number.

From Canada and the United States, call: **1-800-267-6677**
From other countries, call: **1-613-951-2800**
To fax your order, call: **1-877-287-4369**
For address changes or account inquiries, call: **1-877-591-6963**

To order by mail, write to: Statistics Canada, Finance, 6th floor, R.H. Coats Bldg., Ottawa, K1A 0T6.
Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 6% GST and applicable PST.

To order by Internet, write to: infostats@statcan.ca or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *For sale*.

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.

The Daily
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, 65th Calendar Year, an average of about 45 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
- **Steel primary forms, year ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **529 indicator, April 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <http://www.statcan.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by e-mail, send an e-mail message to listproc@statcan.ca. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2007. All rights reserved. The content of this electronic publication may be reproduced, in whole or in part, and by any means, without further permission from Statistics Canada, subject to the following conditions: that it be done solely for the purposes of private study, research, criticism, review or newspaper summary, and/or for non-commercial purposes; and that Statistics Canada be fully acknowledged as follows: Source (or "Adapted from", if appropriate): Statistics Canada, year of publication, name of product, catalogue number, volume and issue numbers, reference period and page(s). Otherwise, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, by any means—electronic, mechanical or photocopy—or for any purposes without prior written permission of Licensing Services, Client Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0T6.