



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Friday, January 19, 2007**

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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## Releases

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### Wholesale trade

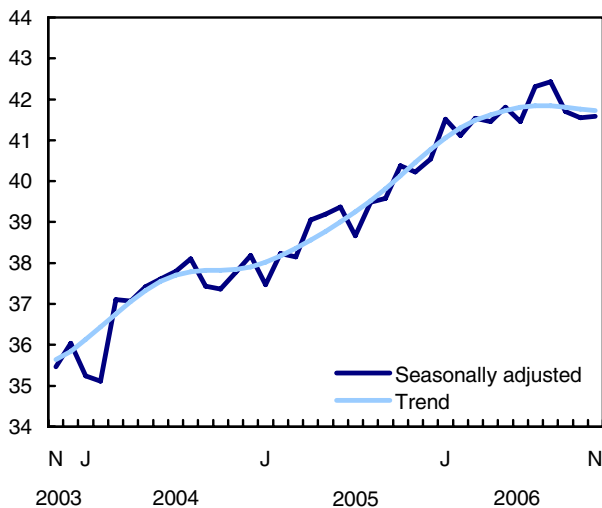
November 2006

The economic picture for Canada's wholesalers brightened slightly in November, thanks to a modest increase in the automotive sector and a pre-Christmas boost for wholesalers of personal and household goods.

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#### Wholesale sales up slightly following two months of declines

\$ billions



Wholesalers sold an estimated \$41.6 billion worth of goods in November, a gain of only 0.1% from October. But it did halt a mini-slide of two consecutive months.

Sales in constant dollars, which exclude the effects of price fluctuations, also rose by 0.1% in November.

Overall, four out of the seven wholesale sectors posted increases during November, led by wholesalers of automotive products and personal and household goods. Sales in the automotive products sector alone rose 1.5%, halting a three-month decline.

But these gains were mostly offset by declines in the "other products" sector and the farm product sector.

The overall trend for wholesale sales deteriorated somewhat during late summer and early fall, the result in large part of the weakness in the motor vehicle industry.

However, thanks to the strong gains accumulated in the first eight months of the year, wholesalers are still on track to record healthy growth for 2006.

### Automotive sector halts three-month slide

Following a three-month slide between July and October when sales declined a cumulative 20%, the automotive products wholesalers saw a modest uptick in November as sales increased 1.5% to \$7.6 billion.

Motor vehicles, which account for around 80% of sales in this sector, rose 1.6%, while sales of motor vehicle parts and accessories were up 1.3%.

November's increase in motor vehicle sales coincided with a pickup in passenger car exports, which rose for the second time in three months. Nevertheless, auto exports have remained on a downward trend throughout the year, in line with the weakening of the US auto market.

Domestic auto sales, on the other hand, continued to fare well, with the latest release of the New Motor Vehicle Sales Survey reporting a 3.0% rise in November. Preliminary December figures from this survey indicate that 2006 will be the second best sales year on record in Canada.

### Personal and household product sector paints a contrasting picture

Overall sales in the personal and household products sector rose 1.0% during November to \$6.2 billion. However, there were mixed fortunes for the trade groups within this sector, as robust sales of household and personal goods contrasted with declines in the pharmaceutical and apparel groups.

Wholesalers of household and personal products recorded their third increase in four months in November, as sales jumped 6.3% to \$2.8 billion. Higher demand for home entertainment equipment was behind much of the November increase. Within this category, sales of flat panel televisions have been especially high of late thanks to significant price declines that have brought them within the reach of a larger number of consumers. With producers and retailers battling for market share, prices are expected to continue falling over the coming year.

The pharmaceutical trade group saw its largest monthly decline in three years in November, down 2.8% to \$2.6 billion. While this was the second consecutive monthly drop for this trade group, the longer term trend remains strong, thanks in part to the increasing demand for prescription drugs. According to the latest release of the Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey, sales of prescription drugs were 12.8% higher in the third quarter of 2006 compared to the same quarter in 2005.

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### Sales of "other products" down for third consecutive month

Sales in the "other products" sector fell 3.2% to over \$4.9 billion, the largest monthly decline since June 2005. This sector consists primarily of agricultural products, chemicals, recycled materials and paper products.

Lower sales of agricultural supplies (primarily fertilizers) were behind the latest monthly drop, which was the third in a row for this sector.

Although the overall trend for this sector has been rising over the past year, not all wholesalers in this sector have participated in the rise. While wholesalers of agricultural supplies have seen lower sales over the first 11 months of the year, with lower fertilizer prices partly to blame, wholesalers of recycled metals have seen their receipts soar in line with strong increases in metal prices.

### Farm product sector ends string of recent gains

November was also a weak month for the farm products sector, as sales declined 5.3% to \$461 million, ending a string of five consecutive monthly increases. Wholesalers of live animals, which make up around half of the overall sales in this sector, were responsible for most of the drop. While wholesalers in this sector have benefited from the opening of the US border to Canadian cattle in mid-2005, the failure to lift restrictions on older cattle mean that the industry has yet to attain the sales levels prior to the bovine spongiform encephalopathy scare.

### Gains for wholesalers in Ontario and Quebec

Ontario and Quebec, which together account for around 70% of all wholesale sales, recorded the most significant gains in dollar terms in November.

Following three months of declines, sales in Ontario rose by 1.0% to \$20.9 billion in November. The turnaround in the automotive sector, which was a major factor behind the previous declines, explains most of November's uptick in sales.

Sales in Quebec rose for the third time in four months in November, up 1.1% to \$7.9 billion. The food sector, which makes up around one-quarter of all wholesale sales in this province, accounted for the lion's share of the growth, but wholesalers of motor vehicles

and building supplies also had a good month. After faltering a little at the beginning of the year, the trend for sales in Quebec has been rising.

The picture in British Columbia was less rosy, as the province recorded its largest monthly decline since April 2003. The drop was concentrated in the ever volatile "other products" sector. Despite the large drop in November, the province is on course to record another healthy year of growth, thanks in large part to strong sales of building materials and machinery and electronic equipment.

Other notable declines were in Nova Scotia (-4.2%), where the drop was broadly based, and Manitoba (-3.9%), where lower sales of agricultural products and machinery and equipment broke a string of three consecutive monthly increases.

### Inventories continue string of recent rises

Inventories rose for the fifth time in the last six months in November, up 0.9% to \$53.8 billion. With sales remaining essentially flat during the month, the inventory-to-shipment ratio edged up for the fourth consecutive month to 1.29 in November, its highest level since August 2003.

Overall, 8 out of 15 trade groups recorded higher inventory levels in November, with motor vehicles and machinery and equipment posting the largest increases.

Also noteworthy was the fact that inventories of metal products fell during the month for the first time since January 2006.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 081-0007 and 081-0010.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.**

The November 2006 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008-XWE, free) will soon be available.

Wholesale trade estimates for December will be released on February 19.

For data or general information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; [wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca](mailto:wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marc Atkins (613-951-0291; [marc.atkins@statcan.ca](mailto:marc.atkins@statcan.ca)), Distributive Trades Division.

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**Wholesale merchants' inventories and inventory-to-sales ratio**

	November 2005	August 2006 <sup>r</sup>	September 2006 <sup>r</sup>	October 2006 <sup>r</sup>	November 2006 <sup>p</sup>	October to November 2006	November 2005 to November 2006	October 2006 <sup>r</sup>	November 2006 <sup>p</sup>
	Wholesale inventories					Inventory-to-sales ratio			
	Seasonally adjusted								
	\$ millions					% change			
<b>Inventories</b>	<b>48,691</b>	<b>52,973</b>	<b>52,886</b>	<b>53,339</b>	<b>53,806</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>1.28</b>	<b>1.29</b>
Farm products	191	197	197	202	205	1.5	7.4	0.42	0.44
Food products	4,324	4,383	4,280	4,301	4,305	0.1	-0.4	0.61	0.61
Alcohol and tobacco	282	286	283	272	267	-1.8	-5.3	0.41	0.40
Apparel	1,611	1,674	1,658	1,660	1,653	-0.4	2.6	2.23	2.33
Household and personal products	3,411	3,902	3,881	3,849	3,875	0.7	13.6	1.45	1.37
Pharmaceuticals	3,137	3,140	3,175	3,265	3,236	-0.9	3.1	1.20	1.23
Motor vehicles	4,360	4,974	4,854	5,003	5,224	4.4	19.8	0.84	0.86
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,256	3,347	3,289	3,338	3,328	-0.3	2.2	2.13	2.09
Building supplies	5,138	5,629	5,596	5,708	5,740	0.6	11.7	1.60	1.60
Metal products	2,298	2,990	3,003	3,020	2,943	-2.5	28.0	2.41	2.48
Lumber and millwork	1,050	1,033	1,052	1,082	1,090	0.8	3.8	1.11	1.09
Machinery and equipment	9,380	11,073	11,259	11,346	11,612	2.3	23.8	2.76	2.80
Computer and other electronic equipment	1,494	1,612	1,591	1,603	1,602	-0.1	7.2	0.60	0.60
Office and professional equipment	2,481	2,668	2,692	2,742	2,725	-0.6	9.9	1.32	1.32
Other products	6,279	6,065	6,074	5,950	6,001	0.9	-4.4	1.16	1.21

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

**Wholesale merchants' sales**

	November 2005	August 2006 <sup>r</sup>	September 2006 <sup>r</sup>	October 2006 <sup>r</sup>	November 2006 <sup>p</sup>	October to November 2006	November 2005 to November 2006
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
<b>Total, wholesale sales</b>	<b>40,227</b>	<b>42,430</b>	<b>41,705</b>	<b>41,553</b>	<b>41,584</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>3.4</b>
<b>Farm products</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>-5.3</b>	<b>-10.3</b>
<b>Food, beverages and tobacco products</b>	<b>7,357</b>	<b>7,807</b>	<b>7,728</b>	<b>7,671</b>	<b>7,694</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Food products	6,689	7,139	7,068	7,015	7,034	0.3	5.2
Alcohol and tobacco	668	668	659	656	660	0.5	-1.2
<b>Personal and household goods</b>	<b>6,110</b>	<b>6,128</b>	<b>6,086</b>	<b>6,116</b>	<b>6,174</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Apparel	907	732	728	743	710	-4.4	-21.7
Household and personal products	2,603	2,686	2,641	2,657	2,825	6.3	8.5
Pharmaceuticals	2,600	2,710	2,717	2,716	2,639	-2.8	1.5
<b>Automotive products</b>	<b>7,674</b>	<b>8,163</b>	<b>7,774</b>	<b>7,528</b>	<b>7,641</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Motor vehicles	6,023	6,564	6,162	5,959	6,052	1.6	0.5
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	1,651	1,599	1,612	1,568	1,589	1.3	-3.8
<b>Building materials</b>	<b>5,681</b>	<b>5,794</b>	<b>5,838</b>	<b>5,801</b>	<b>5,788</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>1.9</b>
Building supplies	3,406	3,549	3,601	3,570	3,596	0.7	5.6
Metal products	1,192	1,273	1,241	1,252	1,187	-5.1	-0.4
Lumber and millwork	1,082	972	996	979	1,005	2.7	-7.2
<b>Machinery and electronic equipment</b>	<b>8,131</b>	<b>8,939</b>	<b>8,684</b>	<b>8,839</b>	<b>8,876</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>9.2</b>
Machinery and equipment	3,854	4,162	4,047	4,108	4,143	0.9	7.5
Computer and other electronic equipment	2,466	2,706	2,599	2,655	2,674	0.7	8.4
Office and professional equipment	1,811	2,071	2,038	2,075	2,059	-0.8	13.7
<b>Other products</b>	<b>4,760</b>	<b>5,150</b>	<b>5,132</b>	<b>5,113</b>	<b>4,950</b>	<b>-3.2</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Total: Excluding automobiles</b>	<b>32,552</b>	<b>34,267</b>	<b>33,931</b>	<b>34,026</b>	<b>33,943</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>4.3</b>
<b>Sales, province and territory</b>							
Newfoundland and Labrador	216	232	226	236	235	-0.3	8.9
Prince Edward Island	36	34	35	34	38	9.3	4.9
Nova Scotia	532	563	563	557	534	-4.2	0.2
New Brunswick	402	410	409	413	416	0.6	3.5
Quebec	7,782	7,909	7,829	7,846	7,931	1.1	1.9
Ontario	20,119	21,345	20,811	20,704	20,918	1.0	4.0
Manitoba	1,105	997	1,029	1,031	990	-3.9	-10.4
Saskatchewan	1,201	1,212	1,248	1,162	1,162	0.1	-3.2
Alberta	4,766	5,202	5,244	5,177	5,203	0.5	9.2
British Columbia	4,035	4,490	4,273	4,362	4,129	-5.3	2.3
Yukon	12	11	11	10	7	-29.0	-41.0
Northwest Territories	19	22	24	20	20	-1.5	7.9
Nunavut	2	2	2	2	2	-3.9	-6.3

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary



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## Canadian potato production

2006 (revised)

Revised data are now available for the 2006 estimates of potato production for four provinces. These revisions are a result of the availability of additional survey and administrative data since the release of preliminary figures in November 2006.

Manitoba showed the greatest change. A small decrease in area planted and harvested, plus a 4% decrease in the yield, resulted in Manitoba's production now set at 21,735,000 cwt. (985,900 metric tonnes).

Production was revised up in three provinces. In Saskatchewan, both area and yield were revised up so production now amounts to 2,484,000 cwt (112,674 tonnes), up 8%.

In Quebec and Prince Edward Island, production was revised upward by less than 1%.

Overall, Canadian production was revised down by less than 1% from the November estimate to 110,125,000 cwt. (4,995,270 tonnes). Canadian potato production is now up 14% from 2005.

**Available on CANSIM: table 001-0014.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3401, 3407, 3446 and 3465.**

The January 2007 issue of *Canadian Potato Production*, Vol. 4, no. 3 (22-008-XWE, free) is now available. From the *Publications* module of our website under *Free internet publications*, choose *Agriculture*.

To obtain additional information, call Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Barbara McLaughlin (902-893-7251, [barbara.mclaughlin@statcan.ca](mailto:barbara.mclaughlin@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## Crushing statistics

December 2006

Oilseed processors crushed 332,352 metric tonnes of canola in December. Oil production totalled 145,538 tonnes while meal production amounted to 197,414 tonnes.

This was a record monthly canola crush, surpassing the previous record of 325,303 tonnes crushed in October 1998. The year-to-date canola crush was also a record.

**Available on CANSIM: table 001-0005.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3404.**

The December 2006 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007-XIB, free) will be available in February.

For general information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; [agriculture@statcan.ca](mailto:agriculture@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## Cereals and oilseeds review

November 2006

Data from the November 2006 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review*, Vol. 29, no. 11 (22-007-XIB, free) are now available from the *Publications* module of our website. This month's issue contains the annual processing supplement and an overview of December's market conditions.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3401, 3403, 3404, 3443, 3464 and 3476.**

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; [agriculture@statcan.ca](mailto:agriculture@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

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## Deliveries of major grains

December 2006

Data on major grain deliveries are now available for December.

**Available on CANSIM: table 001-0001.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3403, 3404 and 3443.**

The December 2006 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007-XIB, free) will be available in February.

For general information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; [agriculture@statcan.ca](mailto:agriculture@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division, ■

## Primary iron and steel

November 2006

Data on primary iron and steel for November are now available.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0048 to 303-0051.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2116 and 2184.**

The November 2006 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-XIE, free) will soon be available.

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

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## New products

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**Cereals and Oilseeds Review**, November 2006,  
Vol. 29, no. 11  
**Catalogue number 22-007-XIB**  
(free).

**Canadian Potato Production**, January 2007, Vol. 4,  
no. 3  
**Catalogue number 22-008-XWE**  
(free).

**Canada's International Transactions in Securities**,  
Vol. 72, no. 11  
**Catalogue number 67-002-XWE**  
(free).

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

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Document 1 - 2006: 07-00001-11-001-XIE-0001-0001-0001



Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997  
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**MAJOR RELEASES**

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

**OTHER RELEASES**

- Map-based Index, May 1997 3
- Short-term Expectations Survey 9
- Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 12
- Egg production, Apr. 8, 1997 12

**PUBLICATIONS RELEASED** 11

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*The Daily*, January 19, 2007

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**Release dates: January 22 to 26, 2007**

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(Release dates are subject to change.)

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<b>Release date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference period</b>
22	<b>Understanding regional differences in work hours</b>	2004
23	<b>Consumer Price Index</b>	December 2006
23	<b>Retail trade</b>	November 2006
23	<b>Employment Insurance</b>	November 2006
23	<b>Leading indicators</b>	December 2006
25	<b>Do universities benefit local youth?</b>	1981 to 2001
25	<b>Perspectives (January)</b>	2006
26	<b>Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation</b>	December 2006

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