



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, February 12, 2007

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Non-residential Building Construction Price Index

Fourth quarter 2006

The composite price index for non-residential building construction increased 2.4% from the previous quarter to 149.4 (1997=100) in the fourth quarter, up 9.3% from the fourth quarter of 2005. The 2.4% increase was mostly the result of higher labour costs and the persistent strength of the non-residential building construction market, particularly in Western Canada.

Western Canada recorded the highest increases from the third quarter with Calgary posting a 5.9% increase, followed by Edmonton (+5.5%) and Vancouver (+4.0%). Smaller upward movements were recorded in Eastern Canada with Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario part, increasing 1.3%, followed by Toronto (+1.1%), Halifax (+0.8%) and Montréal (+0.4%).

Calgary also had the largest change (+18.8%) from the fourth quarter of 2005, followed by Edmonton (+16.6%), Vancouver (+12.9%), Toronto (+6.8%), Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario part (+6.4%), Halifax (+4.9%) and Montreal (+3.2%).

Note: Non-residential building construction price indexes provide an indication of changes in construction costs in six census metropolitan areas or CMAs (Halifax, Montréal, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver) and the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

Three construction categories (industrial, commercial and institutional buildings) are represented by selected models (a light factory building, an office building, a warehouse, a shopping centre and a school).

Besides the census metropolitan areas and composite indexes, a further breakdown of the changes in costs is available by trade group (structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical) within the building types.

These price indexes are derived from surveys of general and special trade group contractors. They report data on various categories of costs (material, labour, equipment, taxes, overhead and profit) relevant to the detailed construction specifications included in the surveys.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0039 and 327-0040.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2317 and 2330.

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

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Client Services Unit (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax 613-951-1539; prices-prix@statcan.ca), Prices Division.

Non-residential building construction price indexes¹

	Fourth quarter 2006	Fourth quarter 2005 to fourth quarter 2006	Third to fourth quarter 2006
	(1997=100)	% change	
Composite	149.4	9.3	2.4
Halifax	129.7	4.9	0.8
Montréal	134.9	3.2	0.4
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario part	144.0	6.4	1.3
Toronto	151.6	6.8	1.1
Calgary	166.3	18.8	5.9
Edmonton	160.5	16.6	5.5
Vancouver	147.5	12.9	4.0

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

Purchasing power parities

1992 to 2005

Understanding relative price differences is important for cross-country comparisons of productivity, economic performance and living standards.

Purchasing power parities are useful in this context as they provide estimates of relative purchasing power between two or more economies. In Canada's case, such comparisons are most important with the United States.

This report, "Purchasing power parities and real expenditures, United States and Canada, 1992 to 2005," updates the Canada/US bilateral study published in 2002. It provides the latest estimates of purchasing power parities, associated real expenditures and other related estimates for the United States relative to Canada for the period from 1992 to 2005.

The purchasing power parity for gross domestic product has been relatively stable for this 14-year period. From a low of US 81 cents for every Canadian dollar in 1992, it peaked at US 85 cents in 1998 and again in 2002, and settled at US 83 cents in 2005.

As the exchange rate was significantly less than this for most of the period under consideration, this means that the actual purchasing power of the Canadian dollar was higher, relative to that of the US currency, than the exchange rate suggested.

Estimates of the relative volume of gross domestic product per person for the United States compared with Canada have not fluctuated very much either. They have ranged from a high of 123 during the 1990s to a low of 117 in 2002. This means that the US economy has been producing between 17% and 23% more goods and services, on a per capita basis, than that of Canada. If the United States and Canadian economies produced the same amount, on a per capita basis, this ratio would be 100.

There are also 11 tables included with the paper, presenting gross domestic product and its major components under two different classification systems: the consumption and expenditure bases. In the former, data are presented according to the sector consuming the commodity, whereas in the latter, data are presented according to the purchaser.

The paper discusses how purchasing power parities are derived, what source data are used and the quality of the results. In addition, it explains revisions to previously published purchasing power parity data and differences with the results from the Eurostat–Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development purchasing power parities program.

Available on CANSIM: tables 380-0037, 380-0057 and 380-0058.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1901.

The paper "Purchasing power parities and real expenditures, United States and Canada, 1992 to 2005" is now available as part of the *Income and Expenditure Accounts Technical Series* (13-604-MIE2007053, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the information officer (613-951-3640; lead-info-dcrd@statcan.ca), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division. ■

Commercial Software Price Index

December 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 December was 68.2 (2001=100), an increase of 0.3% from November.

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 (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. ■

Travel Activities and Motivation Survey

January to June 2006

Data are now available from the Travel Activities and Motivation Survey: Public use microdata file, which was conducted between January and June 2006 on behalf of several federal, provincial and territorial agencies responsible for tourism.

The survey collected, among other things, information on Canadian residents' travel patterns during the past two years, their participation in

entertainment and recreational activities at home and while on an overnight trip, the reasons for travelling or not travelling in Canada, the types of accommodation used, the sources of travel planning information and their impressions of Canada.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4439.

For more information on related products and services, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-461-9050; 613-951-3321; fax: 613-951-4527; ssd@statcan.ca), Special Surveys Division. ■

Coal production

2006 (preliminary)

Data on the volume and value of coal production by province are now available for 2006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2177.

For more information, to order data, 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; energy@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

New products

Income and Expenditure Accounts Technical Series:
**"Purchasing power parities and real expenditures,
United States and Canada, 1992 to 2005", no. 53**
Catalogue number 13-604-MIE2007053
(free).

Income and Expenditure Accounts Technical Series:
**"Purchasing power parities and real expenditures,
United States and Canada, 1992 to 2005", no. 53**
Catalogue number 13-604-MPB
(free).

**The Canadian Productivity Review: "Depreciation
Rates for the Productivity Accounts", no. 5**
Catalogue number 15-206-XIE2007005
(free).

**Geography Working Paper Series: "How postal
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website (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *For sale*.

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Catalogue 11-001-XIE (F) (English) 11-001-XIE (F) (English) 11-001-XIE (F) (English) 11-001-XIE (F) (English)



Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.



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 20 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 was modestly 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** 9
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, Apr. 1997** 13

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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