



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, February 20, 2007

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## Releases

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Consumers paid 1.2% more for the goods and services they purchased between January 2006 and January 2007, a somewhat slower pace than the one of 1.6% in December. A reduction in gasoline prices helped offset the impact of rising housing costs.	
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## Releases

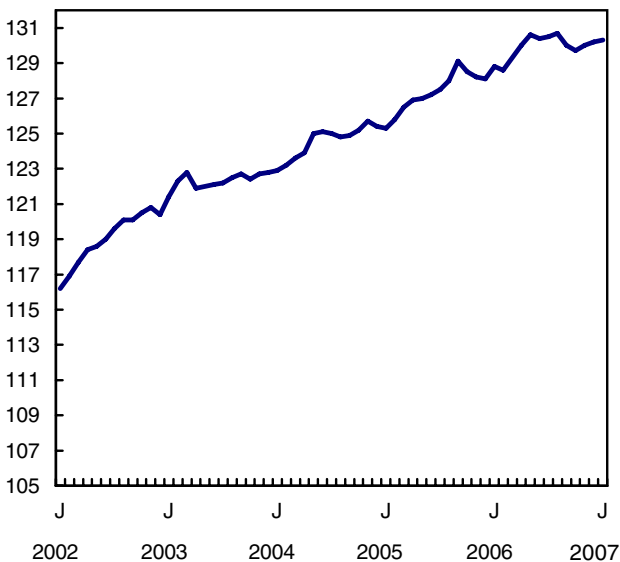
### Consumer Price Index

January 2007

Consumers paid 1.2% more for the goods and services they purchased between January 2006 and January 2007, a somewhat slower pace than the one of 1.6% in December.

#### Consumer Price Index

Index (not seasonally adjusted) (1992=100)



Lower gasoline prices helped offset the impact of rising housing costs and slowed the increase in the all-items Consumer Price Index (CPI). The increase remained below 2.0% for a fifth consecutive month.

Excluding energy, the all-items index rose 1.8% in January 2007 compared with January 2006, up marginally from the 1.7% increase posted in the previous month.

The core CPI, used by the Bank of Canada to monitor its inflation-control target, rose by 2.1% between January 2006 and January 2007, following a 2.0% increase in December.

On a monthly basis, the all-items index edged up 0.1% in January 2007, following two consecutive monthly gains of 0.2%.

Also on a monthly basis, the all-items index excluding energy increased 0.2%, after a drop of 0.1%

in December. The core index followed suit, rising 0.1%, compared to December's 0.2% decline.

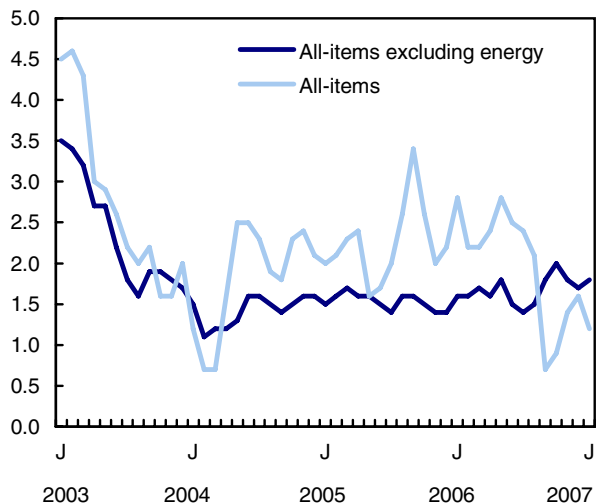
In January, Statistics Canada announced a major update of the CPI to reflect changes in the spending patterns of Canadian households. This update, which will occur on June 19, 2007, is designed to ensure the CPI's reliability as a measure of inflation, a statistical series deflator and a tool for indexing various payments and transfers. For more information, consult the article released in *The Daily* on January 23, 2007 entitled: "Consumer Price Index: A preview of the upcoming basket update".

#### The 12-month change: Continued upward pressure from higher housing costs

The 12-month change in the all-items index again grew at the fastest pace in Alberta. Prices there rose 3.9% on average in January 2007 compared with January 2006. However, this was a slower rate of growth than the 12-month gain of 4.7% posted in December 2006.

#### Percentage change from the same month of the previous year

% change



The 12-month change in the all-items index also surpassed the national average in January 2007 in British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces posted gains below the national all-items CPI.

Nationally, the continued pressure of prices in the owned accommodation sector remained the key factor in the 12-month increase in the all-items CPI in January. This sector includes mortgage interest cost and homeowner's replacement cost. However, those gains were mitigated by declines in the price of gasoline and natural gas.

The 12-month rise in mortgage interest cost continued the upward climb begun in 2006, reaching 5.1% in January 2007. This was a slight increase from the 4.9% growth posted in the previous month.

The growth in the homeowner's replacement cost index, which represents the worn-out structural portion of housing and is estimated using new housing prices (excluding land), slowed somewhat. Prices rose only 7.6% between January 2006 and January 2007 after two consecutive months of 8.2% growth. The 12-month increase had reached a high of 8.8% in September and October 2006 before starting to ease off in November 2006.

The dizzying surge in homeowner's replacement cost in Alberta has slowly abated since September 2006, when the 12-month change reached a record high of 48.6%. Nonetheless, in January 2007, this index rose by 37.1% in Alberta, with Saskatchewan trailing far behind with an increase of 13.5%. Elsewhere in Canada, this index posted somewhat smaller increases.

The increase in the price of food purchased in restaurants, cigarettes and electricity also contributed to the 12-month hike in the all-items index.

All Canadian drivers, except those in British Columbia, enjoyed a drop in gasoline prices between January 2006 and January 2007. The price of gasoline fell 7.6% on average across Canada compared to January 2006.

This decline was attributable to the fact that prices in January 2007 are being compared to those in January 2006, when they had taken a 19.2% leap mainly because of the unstable international geopolitical situation.

The largest declines in gasoline prices occurred in Ontario, New Brunswick and Quebec. Drivers in British Columbia paid 6.4% more for gasoline in January than a year earlier.

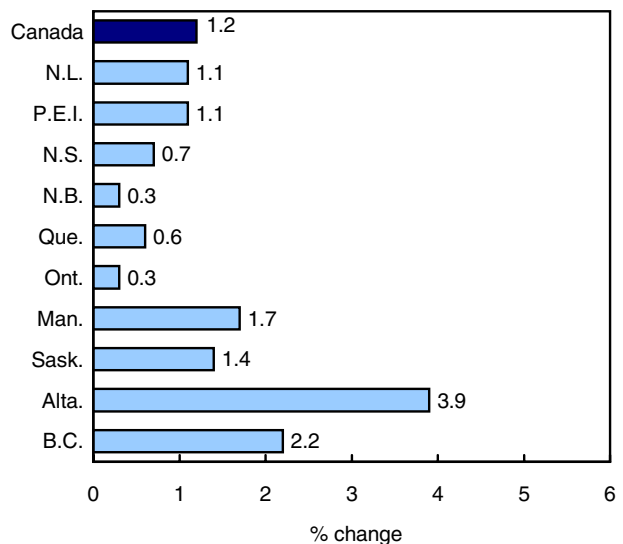
A decline in natural gas prices also reduced energy costs in January. On a 12-month basis, the price of

natural gas plummeted by 21.5%. This was the largest decrease since September 2002, and came on the heels of six consecutive declines. Seasonal temperatures and high stocks of this energy component kept natural gas prices low in January 2007.

Natural gas prices fell across the country, but declines in Ontario and Alberta were especially significant.

Lower prices for purchasing and leasing vehicles, fresh vegetables and computer equipment and supplies also exerted downward pressure on the all-items index in January 2007.

**Percentage change in the all-items index from the same month of the previous year, Canada and provinces**



**Month-over-month: Declines in gasoline prices slow down the monthly index growth**

Monthly increases in the price of fresh vegetables, women's clothing and non-alcoholic beverages were almost entirely offset by declines in the price of gasoline and travel tours between December 2006 and January 2007.

The price of fresh vegetables rose by 7.0% in January. The increase in the price of potatoes, carrots, onions, mushrooms and broccoli, among others, pushed up this index. Seasonal effects, which are normally observed in January, contributed to the higher prices.

After three uninterrupted months of decline, the price of women's clothing jumped 3.9% in January. This increase indicated a return to normal prices after the termination of discounts on women's lines in effect since October 2006.

The price of non-alcoholic beverages rose by 7.2% between December 2006 and January 2007, consistent with historical trends. This followed price declines in the previous month that reflected holiday promotions.

The price of gasoline fell 3.1% between December and January, exerting a strong downward pull on the all-items CPI, mainly in Ontario and Quebec. Consumers in the provinces west of Manitoba and those in New Brunswick had to pay slightly more to fill their vehicles in January.

Canadians are more inclined to purchase travel tours in the first three months of the year, so the CPI records these prices for January, February and March.

This year, the price of package travel tours fell by 11.2% in January compared to March of the previous year. Prices fell in every province in January, with declines ranging from 12.9% in Ontario to 3.7% in Manitoba. The index normally falls in January when the demand for travel tours is at its lowest in the high season.

To a lesser extent, the price of air transportation, sports and athletic equipment and natural gas also had a moderating impact on the all-items CPI between December and January.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 326-0001, 326-0002, 326-0009, 326-0012 and 326-0015 to 326-0018.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2301.**

More information about the concepts and use of the CPI are also available online in *Your Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (62-557-XIB, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

Available at 7 a.m. online under *The Daily* module of our website.

The January 2007 issue of the *Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 86, no. 1 (62-001-XWB, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. A paper copy is also available (62-001-XPB, \$12/\$111). A more detailed analysis of the CPI is available in this publication. See *How to order products*.

The February 2007 Consumer Price Index will be released on March 20.

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

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**Consumer Price Index and major components**  
(1992=100)

	Relative importance <sup>1</sup>	January 2007	December 2006	January 2006	December 2006 to January 2007	January 2006 to January 2007
Unadjusted						
					% change	
<b>All-items</b>	<b>100.00<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>130.3</b>	<b>130.2</b>	<b>128.8</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Food	16.89	133.5	132.2	130.4	1.0	2.4
Shelter	26.75	130.7	130.5	127.2	0.2	2.8
Household operations and furnishings	10.58	116.5	116.3	116.4	0.2	0.1
Clothing and footwear	5.37	99.1	98.4	99.0	0.7	0.1
Transportation	19.79	152.3	153.4	154.2	-0.7	-1.2
Health and personal care	4.52	122.7	122.7	121.3	0.0	1.2
Recreation, education and reading	11.96	125.4	126.5	125.2	-0.9	0.2
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	4.13	153.5	152.2	148.3	0.9	3.5
All-items (1986=100)		166.9				
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1992		76.7	76.8	77.6		
<b>Special aggregates</b>						
Goods	48.84	123.0	122.8	124.2	0.2	-1.0
Services	51.16	138.2	138.3	134.1	-0.1	3.1
All-items excluding food and energy	74.27	126.4	126.4	124.3	0.0	1.7
Energy	8.84	162.2	164.8	171.9	-1.6	-5.6
Core CPI <sup>3</sup>	82.75	129.9	129.8	127.2	0.1	2.1

- 2001 CPI basket weights at June 2004 prices, Canada : Effective July 2004. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 at (<http://www.statcan.ca/english/sdds/index.htm>).
- Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.
- The measure of Core CPI excludes from the all-items CPI the effect of changes in indirect taxes and eight of the most volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada: fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuel; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies. For additional information on Core CPI, please consult the Bank of Canada website (<http://www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm>).

**Consumer Price Index by province, and for Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit<sup>1</sup>**  
(1992=100)

	January 2007	December 2006	January 2006	December 2006 to January 2007	January 2006 to January 2007
Unadjusted					
				% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador	128.5	128.1	127.1	0.3	1.1
Prince Edward Island	131.2	131.3	129.8	-0.1	1.1
Nova Scotia	131.8	131.9	130.9	-0.1	0.7
New Brunswick	129.5	129.4	129.1	0.1	0.3
Quebec	125.7	125.5	124.9	0.2	0.6
Ontario	130.4	130.6	130.0	-0.2	0.3
Manitoba	134.3	133.7	132.1	0.4	1.7
Saskatchewan	135.4	134.6	133.5	0.6	1.4
Alberta	142.4	141.8	137.1	0.4	3.9
British Columbia	128.4	128.3	125.6	0.1	2.2
Whitehorse	125.9	125.1	125.1	0.6	0.6
Yellowknife <sup>2</sup>	126.7	126.1	124.9	0.5	1.4
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	106.4	105.7	103.5	0.7	2.8

- View the geographical details for the city of Whitehorse, the city of Yellowknife and the town of Iqaluit .
- Part of the increase first recorded in the shelter index for Yellowknife for December 2004 inadvertently reflected rent increases that actually occurred earlier. As a result, the change in the shelter index was overstated in December 2004, and was understated in the previous two years. The shelter index series for Yellowknife has been corrected from December 2002. In addition, the Yellowknife all-items CPI and some Yellowknife special aggregate index series have also changed. Data for Canada and all other provinces and territories were not affected.

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## Travel between Canada and other countries December 2006

Travel to Canada climbed to a five-month high in December, with gains in both same-day and overnight travel from the United States, as well as increased travel from overseas.

Residents of the United States took an estimated 1.1 million same-day car trips to Canada in December, up 2.5% from November. This was the second consecutive monthly increase. (Unless otherwise specified, monthly data are seasonally adjusted.)

However, for 2006 as a whole, the number of same-day car trips from the United States fell 12.5% to 13.7 million, the lowest level since record-keeping started in 1972. Same-day car travel reached a high of 27.3 million trips in 1999.

American travellers made 1.2 million overnight trips to Canada in December, a 2.9% jump from November and the highest level since June. Overnight travel by car, plane and other means of transportation all posted figures higher than the previous month.

Travel from overseas countries reached its highest monthly level in over two years in December, a 2.5% gain to 389,000. Travel from the United Kingdom, Canada's most important overseas market, increased slightly to 74,000. Among the top 12 markets, only Japan recorded a decline in travel to Canada (-3.7%), while travel from Taiwan soared 36.0%.

In the opposite direction, travel to overseas countries by Canadian residents reached unprecedented levels in December, up 2.0% to 597,000 trips. Annually, the number of trips by Canadians to non-US destinations has risen in 14 of the last 15 years (2002 being the exception).

For 2006 as a whole, Canadians made a record 6.7 million trips overseas, up 8.0% from 2005.

Travel to the United States also increased compared to November, as the gain in same-day car travel more than offset the drop in overnight travel south of the border. Canadians took over 2.0 million same-day car trips to the United States, up 2.8% from November and the highest monthly figure in over five years.

However, overnight travel to the United States slipped, with Canadian tourists taking 1.4 million trips south of the border, down 1.2% from the 13-year high observed in November. Overnight travel by car decreased 2.1% while travel by plane edged up 0.7%.

The Canadian dollar fell for the third consecutive month in December, slipping 1.5% to 86.7 US cents. It also declined compared to other major international currencies, such as the British pound sterling, the euro and the Japanese yen.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 427-0001 to 427-0006.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5005.**

The December 2006 issue of *International Travel, Advance Information*, Vol. 22, no. 12 (66-001-PWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For general information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-9169; fax: 613-951-2909; [cult.tourstats@statcan.ca](mailto:cult.tourstats@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Eric Desjardins (613-951-1781; [eric.desjardins@statcan.ca](mailto:eric.desjardins@statcan.ca)), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

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**Travel between Canada and other countries**

	November 2006 <sup>r</sup>	December 2006 <sup>p</sup>	November to December 2006	December 2006	December 2005 to December 2006
	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted	
	'000		% change	'000	% change
<b>Canadian trips abroad<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>4,002</b>	<b>4,061</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>3,588</b>	<b>10.2</b>
To the United States	3,417	3,464	1.4	3,066	9.0
To other countries	585	597	2.0	522	17.5
Same-day car trips to the United States	1,969	2,024	2.8	1,992	6.9
Total trips, one or more nights	1,974	1,969	-0.2	1,529	14.4
United States <sup>2</sup>	1,388	1,372	-1.2	1,007	12.9
Car	804	787	-2.1	506	12.3
Plane	475	478	0.7	446	12.6
Other modes of transportation	109	106	-2.8	56	21.2
Other countries <sup>3</sup>	585	597	2.0	522	17.5
<b>Travel to Canada<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2,683</b>	<b>2,754</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2,181</b>	<b>-5.0</b>
From the United States	2,304	2,365	2.7	1,880	-6.3
From other countries	380	389	2.5	301	3.8
Same-day car trips from the United States	1,062	1,088	2.5	975	-11.3
Total trips, one or more nights	1,503	1,541	2.6	1,142	1.9
United States <sup>2</sup>	1,131	1,164	2.9	847	1.1
Car	687	708	3.0	530	2.5
Plane	311	316	1.8	275	-0.1
Other modes of transportation	133	140	5.3	42	-6.3
Other countries <sup>3</sup>	372	377	1.5	296	4.0
<b>Travel to Canada: Top overseas markets, by country of origin<sup>4</sup></b>					
United Kingdom	74	74	0.1	61	-4.4
France	33	34	2.3	26	17.3
Japan	31	30	-3.7	18	-22.5
Germany	26	28	10.2	15	12.3
Mexico	19	19	3.9	18	18.3
South Korea	19	19	0.2	15	17.3
Australia	17	18	7.1	18	3.2
China	12	13	4.2	10	14.8
Netherlands	10	10	3.6	6	4.1
Hong Kong	9	10	4.6	8	2.1
Taiwan	7	10	36.0	5	9.2
Italy	8	8	3.1	6	3.5

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

<sup>r</sup> revised

1. Totals exceed the sum of "same-day car trips" and "total trips, one or more nights" because they include all of the same-day trips.
2. Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.
3. Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.
4. Includes same-day and one or more night trips.

## Leading indicators

January 2007

The growth of the composite leading index returned to 0.5% in January, after a brief slowdown to 0.2% in December. Most of the acceleration originated in housing, where balmy weather early in the new year gave a boost to housing starts. Financial market conditions remained buoyant, while most other components posted slow, steady growth.

The housing index swung from a 0.5% decline in December to a 2.8% increase in January. All of the turnaround originated in housing starts, where the stimulus of mild weather did not last past the second week of January. Durable goods sales posted an increase of 0.4%, probably a better representation of the underlying trend in consumer spending.

The stock market also bolstered household wealth, hitting a new high in January. Growth shifted from metals and energy to sectors more dependent on domestic demand.

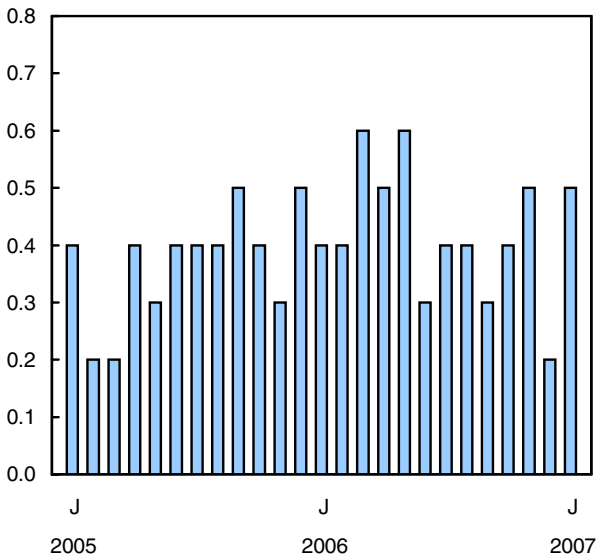
The leading indicator for the United States rose 0.1%, after a downward-revised 0.1% drop the month before. The gradual improvement in the outlook for our largest export market was reflected in an upturn in new orders from manufactured goods. Still, manufacturers struggled to keep inventories aligned with shipments, and continued to trim the workweek of employees.

**Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1601.**

### Composite leading indicator

Smoothed percentage change



A more detailed analysis of the components is available online. For more information on the economy, consult the February 2007 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 20, no. 2 (11-010-XWB, free), now available from the *Publications* module of our website. A printed version (11-010-XPB, \$25/\$243) is also available. See *How to order products*.

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](mailto:ceo@statcan.ca)), Current Economic Analysis Group. □



## Leading indicators

	August 2006	September 2006	October 2006	November 2006	December 2006	January 2007	Last month of data available % change
<b>Composite leading indicator (1992=100)</b>	<b>217.9</b>	<b>218.6</b>	<b>219.4</b>	<b>220.4</b>	<b>220.9</b>	<b>221.9</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Housing index (1992=100) <sup>1</sup>	142.4	141.3	140.4	139.8	139.1	143.0	2.8
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,733	2,747	2,756	2,769	2,781	2,795	0.5
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	11,893	11,810	11,930	12,158	12,373	12,565	1.6
Money supply, M1 (\$ millions, 1992) <sup>2</sup>	150,907	151,629	153,439	155,228	157,277	159,696	1.5
U.S. Conference Board leading indicator (1992=100) <sup>3</sup>	127.1	126.9	126.8	126.8	126.7	126.8	0.1
<b>Manufacturing</b>							
Average workweek (hours)	38.3	38.4	38.4	38.4	38.4	38.3	-0.3
New orders, durables (\$ millions, 1992) <sup>4</sup>	26,125	26,033	25,753	26,072	25,857	25,973	0.4
Shipments/inventories of finished goods <sup>4</sup>	1.86	1.87	1.87	1.85	1.84	1.82	-0.02 <sup>5</sup>
<b>Retail trade</b>							
Furniture and appliance sales (\$ millions, 1992) <sup>4</sup>	2,535	2,550	2,568	2,590	2,605	2,615	0.4
Other durable goods sales (\$ millions, 1992) <sup>4</sup>	8,477	8,590	8,685	8,725	8,749	8,788	0.4
<b>Unsmoothed composite leading indicator</b>	<b>219.8</b>	<b>218.9</b>	<b>221.7</b>	<b>222.3</b>	<b>221.9</b>	<b>224.8</b>	<b>1.3</b>

1. Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).

2. Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.

3. The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.

4. The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the second preceding month.

5. Difference from previous month.

## Crude oil and natural gas production

December 2006 (preliminary)

Provincial crude oil and marketable natural gas production data are now available for December.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2198.**

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

## Aircraft movement statistics

January 2007 (preliminary)

Aircraft take-offs and landings at the 42 Canadian airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers were up 8.0% in January over January 2006. This marks the eighth consecutive increase in year-over-year monthly comparisons.

Take-offs and landings reached 315,105 movements in January compared with 291,797 movements the same month a year earlier. The variations ranged from an rise of 99.6% for Moncton/Greater Moncton International to a 47.1% decline for Chicoutimi/St-Honoré. Overall, 28 reported increases in aircraft movements.

The January 2007 issue of *Aircraft Movement Statistics*, Vol. 6, no. 1 (51F0001PWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

**Available on CANSIM: table 401-0005.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2715.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141; fax: 613-951-0010; [aviationstatistics@statcan.ca](mailto:aviationstatistics@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

## Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins

December 2006

Data on industrial chemicals and synthetic resins are now available for December.

**Available on CANSIM: table 303-0014.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2183.**

The December 2006 issue of *Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins*, Vol. 49, no. 12 (46-002-XWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For general 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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**Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins**,  
December 2006, Vol. 49, no. 12  
**Catalogue number 46-002-XWE**  
(free).

**Aircraft Movement Statistics, Monthly**, January 2007,  
Vol. 6, no. 1  
**Catalogue number 51F0001PWE**  
(free).

**The Consumer Price Index**, January 2007, Vol. 86,  
no. 1  
**Catalogue number 62-001-XPB** (\$12/\$111).

**The Consumer Price Index**, January 2007, Vol. 86,  
no. 1  
**Catalogue number 62-001-XWB**  
(free).

**Wholesale Trade**, December 2006, Vol. 69, no. 12  
**Catalogue number 63-008-XWE**  
(free).

**International Travel: Advance Information**,  
December 2006, Vol. 22, no. 12  
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