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Factory shipments fell for the first time in three months in January as petroleum refiners and manufacturers of transportation equipment, principally automobiles, extended maintenance down-time into the New Year.	
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Canada's net external liabilities fell to their lowest level in more than a quarter-century during the last three months of 2006, the result primarily of a weakening Canadian dollar. Net liabilities hit \$106.8 billion, down 17.4% from the third quarter, the fastest rate of decline on record.	
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Canadian Economic Observer

March 2007

The March issue of Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, *Canadian Economic Observer*, analyses current economic conditions, summarizes the major economic events that occurred in February and presents the feature article "Recent trends in output and employment". A separate statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and the major industrial nations.

The March 2007 Internet edition of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 20, no. 3 (11-010-XWB, free) is now available online from the *Publications* module of our website. The monthly paper version of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 20, no. 3 (11-010-XPB, \$25/\$243) will be available on March 22.

Visit *Canadian Economic Observer's* page online. From the *Summary tables* module of our website, under *Subject*, choose *Economic Accounts*, then click on the banner ad for *Canadian Economic Observer*.

For more information, contact Philip Cross (613-951-9162; ceo@statcan.ca), Current Economic Analysis Group.

Releases

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

January 2007

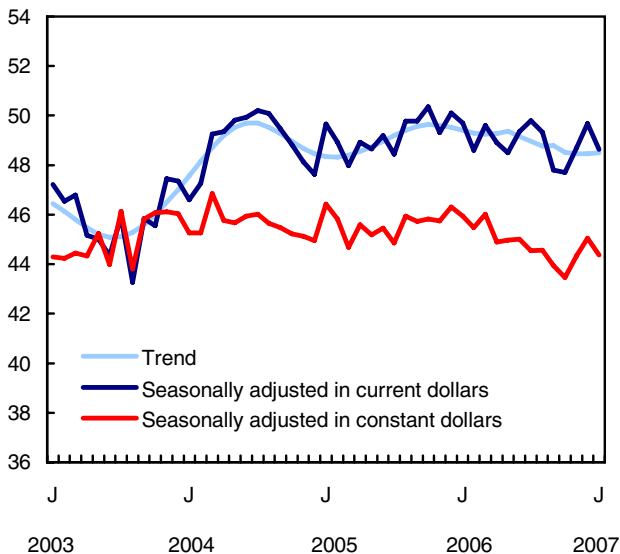
Factory shipments fell for the first time in three months in January as petroleum refiners and manufacturers of transportation equipment, principally automobiles, extended maintenance down-time into the New Year.

Manufacturers shipped goods worth an estimated \$48.6 billion in January, down 2.1% from the previous month and 2.1% less than in January last year.

January's decline put the brakes on back-to-back rallies in the last two months of 2006, and completely wiped out gains made in December.

Factory shipments down after year-end rally

\$ billions



Taking price fluctuations into account, the volume of shipments fell 1.5% to \$44.4 billion after showing strong growth in the two previous months.

Two sectors (transportation equipment and petroleum and coal industries) combined to account for the vast majority (96%) of January's decline.

Companies in the transportation sector shipped \$9.6 billion worth of goods in January,

Note to readers

Preliminary estimates are provided for the current reference month. Estimates, based on late responses, are revised for the three prior months.

Non-durable goods industries include food, beverage and tobacco products, textile mills, textile product mills, clothing, leather and allied products, paper, printing and related support activities, petroleum and coal products, chemicals, and plastics and rubber products.

Durable goods industries include wood products, non-metallic mineral products, primary metals, fabricated metal products, machinery, computer and electronic products, electrical equipment, appliances and components, transportation equipment, furniture and related products and miscellaneous manufacturing.

Unfilled orders are a stock of orders that will contribute to future shipments assuming that the orders are not cancelled.

New orders are those received whether shipped in the current month or not. They are measured as the sum of shipments for the current month plus the change in unfilled orders. Some people interpret new orders as orders that will lead to future demand. This is inappropriate since the "new orders" variable includes orders that have already been shipped. Readers should note that the month-to-month change in new orders may be volatile. This will happen particularly if the previous month's change in unfilled orders is closely related to the current month's change.

Not all orders will be translated into Canadian factory shipments because portions of large contracts can be subcontracted out to manufacturers in other countries. Also, some orders may be cancelled.

down 6.0% from \$10.2 billion in December, which had been the highest level in a year. Transportation companies also reported a \$990 million decline in new orders in January.

Overall, shipments fell in 12 of 21 sectors, representing 57% of total output.

Shipments of durable goods dropped 2.8% to \$26.7 billion following a strong fourth quarter last year. Shipments of non-durable goods fell 1.3% to \$22.0 billion thanks to the decline in the petroleum and coal sector.

Manufacturing employment was unchanged in January as continued weakness in Ontario was offset by gains in Western Canada, particularly in Alberta and Manitoba, according to the Labour Force Survey. Employment in manufacturing has been on an upward trend in these provinces since February 2006.

Manufacturing shipments, provinces and territories

	December 2006 ^r	January 2007 ^p	December 2006 to January 2007
Seasonally adjusted			
	\$ millions		% change
Canada	49,689	48,634	-2.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	191	199	4.4
Prince Edward Island	128	127	-0.9
Nova Scotia	822	805	-2.0
New Brunswick	1,180	1,208	2.4
Quebec	11,955	11,515	-3.7
Ontario	24,496	23,676	-3.3
Manitoba	1,271	1,254	-1.3
Saskatchewan	835	931	11.5
Alberta	5,318	5,440	2.3
British Columbia	3,484	3,470	-0.4
Yukon	3	3	12.7
Northwest Territories including Nunavut	7	6	-18.8

^r revised

^p preliminary

Transportation halts after fourth-quarter comeback

Maintenance down-time beyond the normal holiday break for workers on car and truck assembly lines put the brakes on following a fourth-quarter comeback in the transportation equipment sector.

The biggest decline in the transportation sector occurred among car and truck manufacturers, whose output tumbled 8.0% to \$5.1 billion.

At the same time, aerospace shipments fell 8.6% to \$1.3 billion, following two consecutive gains.

Shipments of petroleum and coal products were down 8.1% in January, partly because of a 4.0% drop in prices, coupled with lower volume shipments from Canadian refineries.

Excluding the impact of the declines in transportation equipment and petroleum and coal, shipments in all other industries edged down 0.2% on small and widely dispersed movements.

Shipments down in six provinces, including the industrial heartland

Manufacturing shipments fell in six provinces in January, including the industrial heartland of Ontario and Quebec. However, the overall picture was mixed in Ontario and Quebec, where output fell in 11 of 21 industries in Ontario, and 12 of 21 in Quebec.

Shipments in Ontario tumbled 3.3% to \$23.7 billion. More than half the decline was due to falling output in the transportation equipment sector, where shipments returned to normal levels after a \$439-million gain in December. Other factors in transportation included

weaker demand for trucks and falling sales in the motor vehicle parts manufacturing industry.

Ontario industries also recorded sizable decreases in output in petroleum and coal, plastics and rubber and machinery manufacturing industries.

In Quebec, shipments fell 3.7% to \$11.5 billion as declines in the petroleum and coal, primary metals and the transportation equipment industries offset other gains. Shipments in the primary metals industry declined 2.8% to \$1.7 billion in January, but this level was 12.5% higher than levels in January 2006. In the transportation equipment industry, shipments were off 7.3% to \$1.4 billion. Again, this level was up 3.9% from January last year.

In Alberta, shipments rose 2.3% to \$5.4 billion as 13 of 21 industries reported increases. The largest jump was in machinery manufacturing, mainly for oil and gas extraction, where output rose 18.6%. Other significant contributors to the increase were the chemicals and primary metals industries. These gains were offset by declines in the petroleum and coal products and the miscellaneous manufacturing industries.

In British Columbia, shipments slipped 0.4% to \$3.5 billion with 12 of 21 industries reporting declines. The most significant drop was miscellaneous manufacturing, which includes such diverse industries as medical equipment and supplies, jewellery, sporting goods and office supplies; where output tumbled 29.4% to \$76 million. This decline was partially offset by gains in output in the printing and paper industries and a 21.1% increase in the transportation equipment industry.

Manitoba shipments fell 1.3% to \$1.3 billion as declines in the primary metals and transportation industries more than offset gains in food shipments. Saskatchewan shipments jumped 11.5% to \$931 million on strong production of foodstuffs.

Shipments by manufacturers in the Atlantic provinces grew by 0.8% to \$2.3 billion in January. Newfoundland and Labrador and New Brunswick both reported significant increases.

New orders tumble for transportation equipment

New factory orders declined 2.3% in January, slipping to \$49.7 billion. This was led by a \$990 million plunge in new orders for transportation equipment industries.

Orders rose in 16 of 21 industries, with the largest gain in the computer and electronics industry (+23.4%).

This was offset by declines in the motor vehicle and motor vehicle body and trailer manufacturing industries, where new orders fell by a combined \$488 million.

Unfilled orders for aerospace at highest level in over four years

Unfilled orders increased 2.6% to \$44.4 billion, the highest level since August 2002.

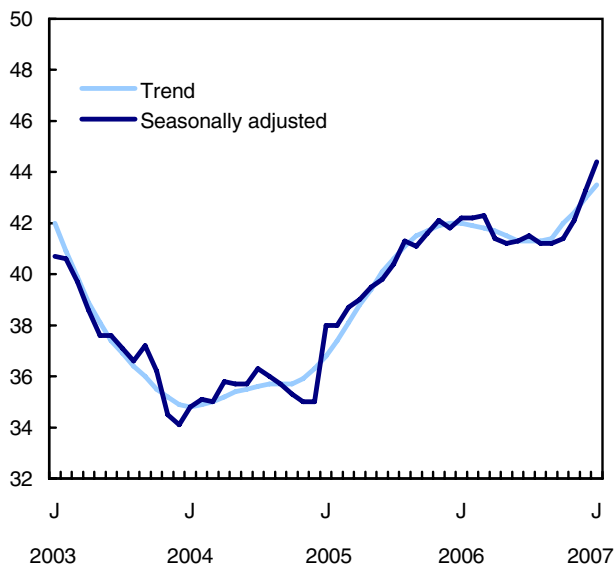
The transportation equipment sector, in particular aerospace and motor vehicles, typically accounts for half of all unfilled orders in the manufacturing sector.

Unfilled orders increased by \$523 million in the transportation equipment industry in January. Unfilled orders in the aerospace industry rose by \$490 million to their highest level in four years.

At the same time, unfilled orders for machinery increased 2.9% to \$6.0 billion, the highest level in six years.

Unfilled orders rising for three years

\$ billions



Inventories increase slightly

Total inventories for manufacturers rose 0.1% to \$63.1 billion in January, the sixth increase in the last seven months to just below recent high levels.

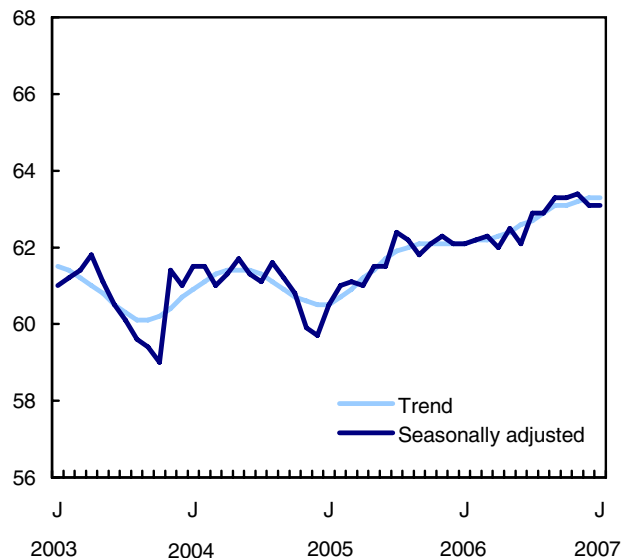
An unseasonably warm December and early January in eastern North America allowed inventories of petroleum and coal products to rise in January. In spite of lower shipment levels in January, slow sales of motor vehicles led to higher inventories.

Companies in 12 of 21 industries reduced their inventories, with primary metals and plastics accounting for most of the drop.

By stage of fabrication, goods in process inventories have eased lower in five of the last six months. Inventories of raw materials increased after a four month slide, while finished products inventories fell 1.1% after rising steadily over the last six months of 2006.

Inventories continue upward trend

\$ billions



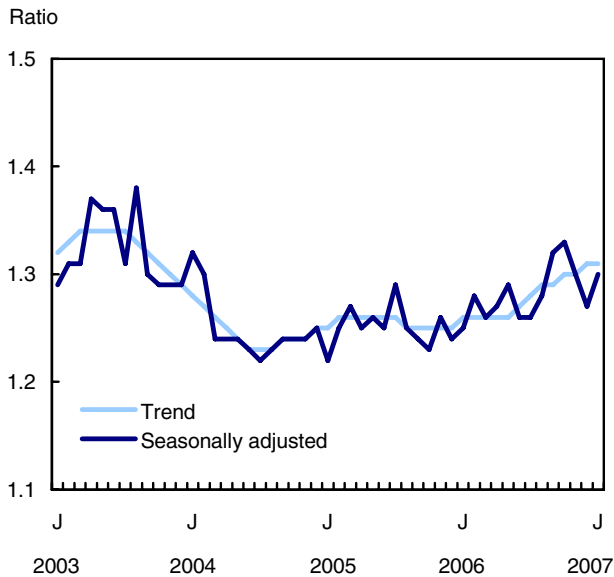
Inventory-to-shipment ratio increase as shipments falter

The inventory-to-shipment ratio increased to 1.30 from 1.27 in December. The ratio had reached a peak of 1.33 in October, rising for three consecutive months before slipping in November.

Compared to a year ago, manufacturers shipped \$1.2 billion less in January 2007 while holding nearly \$1 billion more inventory. Finished product inventories stand \$317 million higher in January 2007 compared to a year ago.

The inventory-to-shipment ratio is a key measure of the time, in months, that would be required to exhaust inventories if shipments were to remain at their current level.

Inventory-to-shipment ratio rises on shipments decline



Available on CANSIM: tables 304-0014, 304-0015 and 377-0008.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2101.

All data are benchmarked to the 2004 Annual Survey of Manufactures.

Data from the February Monthly Survey of Manufacturing will be released on April 17.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; fax: 613-951-9499; manufact@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of the release, contact Michael Scrim (613-951-3197, scrimic@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

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Shipments, inventories and orders in all manufacturing industries

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders		Inventories-to-shipments ratio		
	Seasonally adjusted										
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change			
January 2006	49,668	-0.9	62,066	0.0	42,179	1.0	50,094	0.7	1.25		
February 2006	48,479	-2.4	62,216	0.2	42,183	0.0	48,483	-3.2	1.28		
March 2006	49,469	2.0	62,292	0.1	42,308	0.3	49,594	2.3	1.26		
April 2006	48,827	-1.3	62,003	-0.5	41,386	-2.2	47,905	-3.4	1.27		
May 2006	48,505	-0.7	62,495	0.8	41,154	-0.6	48,273	0.8	1.29		
June 2006	49,356	1.8	62,132	-0.6	41,298	0.4	49,474	2.5	1.26		
July 2006	49,805	0.9	62,898	1.2	41,485	0.5	49,992	1.0	1.26		
August 2006	49,326	-1.0	62,935	0.1	41,207	-0.7	49,048	-1.9	1.28		
September 2006	47,791	-3.1	63,302	0.6	41,202	0.0	47,786	-2.6	1.32		
October 2006	47,701	-0.2	63,303	0.0	41,403	0.5	47,903	0.2	1.33		
November 2006	48,687	2.1	63,378	0.1	42,096	1.7	49,380	3.1	1.30		
December 2006	49,689	2.1	63,069	-0.5	43,308	2.9	50,902	3.1	1.27		
January 2007	48,634	-2.1	63,146	0.1	44,419	2.6	49,745	-2.3	1.30		

Manufacturing industries except motor vehicle, parts and accessories

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders	
	Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
January 2006	42,034	-0.1	59,053	-0.0	39,771	0.8	42,358	1.8
February 2006	40,787	-3.0	59,329	0.5	39,652	-0.3	40,669	-4.0
March 2006	42,086	3.2	59,496	0.3	39,552	-0.3	41,985	3.2
April 2006	41,432	-1.6	59,275	-0.4	38,668	-2.2	40,548	-3.4
May 2006	41,330	-0.2	59,782	0.9	38,422	-0.6	41,084	1.3
June 2006	41,966	1.5	59,464	-0.5	38,722	0.8	42,239	2.8
July 2006	42,448	1.2	59,959	0.8	38,988	0.7	42,715	1.1
August 2006	42,103	-0.8	60,119	0.3	38,965	-0.1	42,080	-1.5
September 2006	40,959	-2.7	60,394	0.5	39,271	0.8	41,265	-1.9
October 2006	40,996	0.1	60,345	-0.1	39,860	1.5	41,585	0.8
November 2006	41,222	0.6	60,484	0.2	40,769	2.3	42,130	1.3
December 2006	41,738	1.3	60,248	-0.4	42,095	3.3	43,064	2.2
January 2007	41,214	-1.3	60,207	-0.1	43,105	2.4	42,224	-2.0



Canada's international investment position

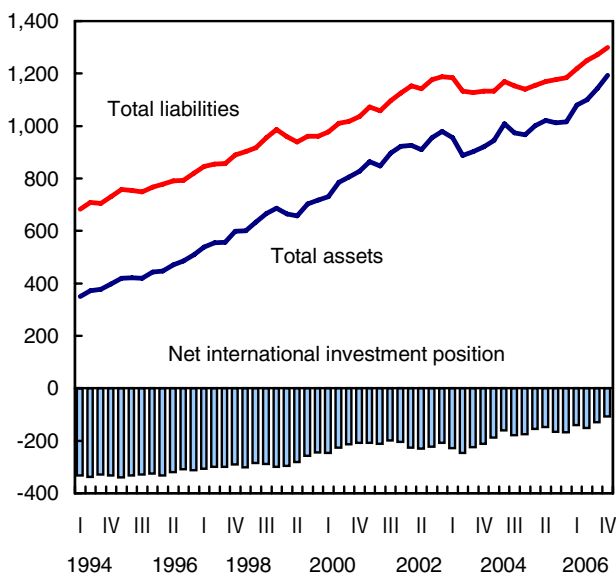
Fourth quarter 2006

Canada's net external liabilities fell to their lowest level in more than a quarter-century during the last three months of 2006, the result primarily of a weakening Canadian dollar.

The country's net liabilities hit \$106.8 billion, down 17.4% from the third quarter, the fastest rate of decline on record.

Canada's international investment position

\$ billions



The level at the end of 2006 was lower than the level registered at the end of 1980. At that time, for each dollar of international assets, Canada had \$2 of liabilities with non-residents. At the end of 2006, Canada owed only \$1.09 to non-residents for each dollar in international assets.

Net liabilities represented only 7.3% of gross domestic product at the end of the fourth quarter, the lowest proportion ever. This was down from 9.0% in the third quarter and far below the peak of 44.3% in 1994.

The weakening of the Canadian dollar had a much stronger positive impact on Canada's international assets than on its liabilities, accelerating the downward trend of Canada's net external liabilities.

The value of Canada's international assets reached \$1,192.8 billion at the end of 2006, up \$49.5 billion, or 4.3%, from the third quarter. The major reason for the increase was the weakening dollar,

Currency valuation

The value of assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currency are converted to Canadian dollars at the end of each period for which a balance sheet is calculated. Most of Canada's foreign assets are denominated in foreign currencies while less than half of our international liabilities are in foreign currencies.

When the Canadian dollar is appreciating in value, the restatement of the value of these assets and liabilities in Canadian dollars lowers the recorded value. The opposite is true when the dollar is depreciating.

which added \$54.5 billion to the value of Canadian assets held abroad.

On the other hand, international liabilities rose by 2.1% to \$1,299.6 billion. Again, a good portion of the increase was due to changes in valuation driven by the exchange rate. Other factors were large takeover transactions and strong acquisitions of Canadian bonds, but these were partially offset by a large decline in deposits.

The Canadian dollar lost ground against major foreign currencies. It depreciated by 8.2% against the pound sterling, 7.8% against the euro, 6.4% against the Swiss franc, 3.3% against the Japanese yen and 4.1% against the US dollar.

Canadian holdings of foreign bonds up significantly

Canadian holdings of foreign bonds increased a significant 14.1% to \$128.5 billion at the end of 2006, compared with the third quarter. These holdings have shown steady increases for the past two years, resulting in a doubling of the position since the end of 2004.

While the majority of these bonds, about \$75.5 billion, were issued by the United States, issues by overseas residents increased by more than 25% to \$53.1 billion.

Driven by these increases, total Canadian portfolio investment abroad reached \$356.2 billion, representing almost 30% of Canada's international assets.

Strong rise in the value of Canadian direct investment abroad

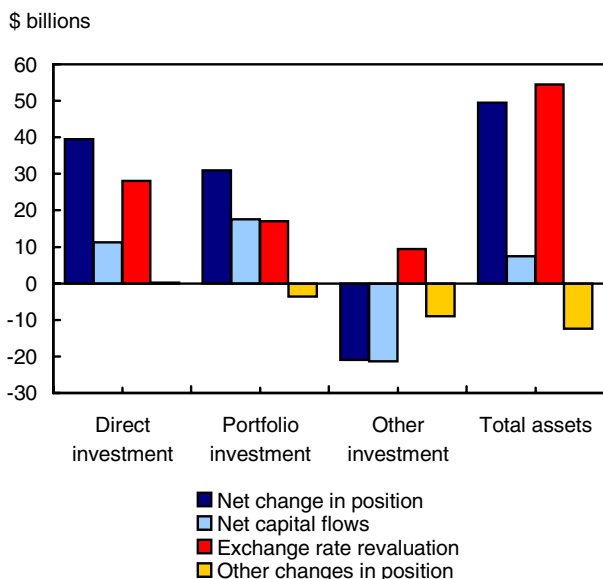
Canadian direct investment abroad reached \$533.9 billion at the end of 2006, up 8.0% from the third quarter. This increase was fuelled largely by the weakening of the Canadian dollar, but also by additional investment into foreign economies.

More than half of direct investment abroad is located outside of the United States. The value of direct investment in these countries reached \$297.0 billion, up 8.9% from the third quarter.

Canadian deposit assets were down sharply and the level of loan assets decreased marginally, while

Canada's official international reserves showed a slight increase.

Contributors to net change in asset values between the third and fourth quarter of 2006



Another strong increase in foreign direct investment in Canada

Foreign direct investment in Canada jumped by another \$14.7 billion at the end of 2006, fuelled by foreign acquisitions of Canadian companies.

This came on the heels of a \$14.9 billion increase at the end of the third quarter. Year-end positions on foreign direct investment reached \$464.2 billion.

However, the net direct investment position (the difference between Canadian direct investment abroad and foreign direct investment in Canada) increased to \$69.7 billion. This indicates a stronger increase in the value of Canadian direct investment abroad.

Substantial increase in foreign holdings of Canadian bonds

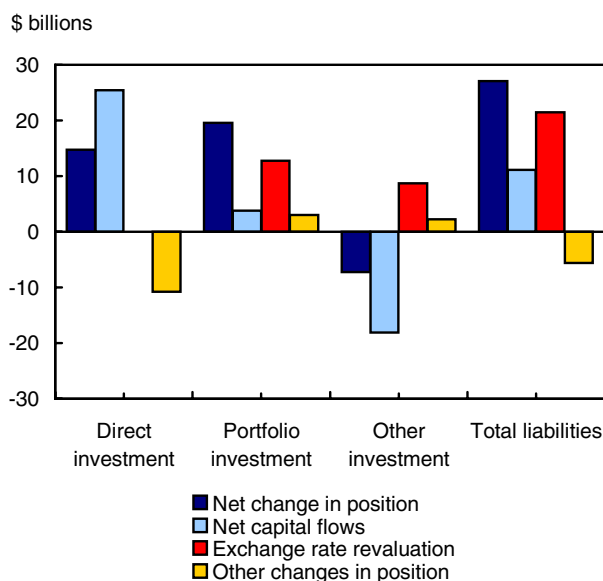
Foreign holdings of Canadian bonds reached \$398.5 billion at the end of 2006, up \$22.7 billion from the end of September. It represented the strongest increase in five years and was driven by large transactions and the weakening of the Canadian dollar.

Foreign investors increased their holdings in bonds of private corporations by \$13.2 billion to \$172.8 billion and in provincial government bonds by \$6.4 billion to \$102.0 billion.

On the other hand, foreign holdings of Canadian equities and Canadian money market instruments both declined at the end of the year, to reach \$112.5 billion and \$24.5 billion respectively.

Canadian deposit liabilities to non-residents decreased by \$8.5 billion to \$228.9 billion.

Contributors to net change in liability values between the third and fourth quarter of 2006



Available on CANSIM: tables 376-0055 to 376-0057 and 376-0059.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1537.

The fourth quarter 2006 issue of *Canada's International Investment Position* (67-202-XWE) will be available soon.

For general information, contact Client Services (613-951-1855; infobalance@statcan.ca). To enquire about the methods, concepts or data quality of this release, contact Éric Simard (613-951-7244) or Christian Lajule (613-951-2062), Balance of Payments Division.

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Canada's international investment position at period-end

	Fourth quarter 2005	First quarter 2006	Second quarter 2006	Third quarter 2006	Fourth quarter 2006
	\$ billions				
Assets					
Canadian direct investment abroad	465.1	479.5	479.5	494.3	533.9
Portfolio investment abroad					
Foreign bonds	82.4	93.5	103.0	112.6	128.5
Foreign bonds at market value	88.8	99.0	108.2	121.3	138.2
Foreign stocks	189.2	193.9	193.1	195.0	208.2
Foreign stocks at market value	422.8	459.4	442.7	470.3	536.5
Foreign money market	13.1	14.1	12.7	17.6	17.6
Foreign money market at market value	13.1	14.1	12.7	17.7	19.6
Other investment					
Loans	48.3	61.8	65.0	72.8	71.8
Deposits	120.7	134.0	146.0	150.3	127.9
Official international reserves	38.0	42.1	40.3	40.1	41.0
Other assets	59.3	61.0	59.4	60.5	62.1
Total assets					
at book value	1,016.0	1,080.0	1,099.1	1,143.3	1,192.8
with portfolio investment at market value	1,256.1	1,350.9	1,353.9	1,427.3	1,530.9
Liabilities					
Foreign direct investment in Canada	415.6	427.5	434.6	449.5	464.2
Portfolio investment					
Canadian bonds	380.0	381.2	371.9	375.8	398.5
Canadian bonds at market value	407.0	403.0	385.5	400.3	423.9
Canadian stocks	107.6	110.3	114.3	114.2	112.5
Canadian stocks at market value	314.7	346.1	342.4	346.3	373.2
Canadian money market	20.8	22.9	27.1	25.9	24.5
Canadian money market at market value	20.9	23.0	27.2	26.1	24.7
Other investment					
Loans	36.1	39.4	42.9	47.5	48.2
Deposits	201.6	215.4	236.2	237.4	228.9
Other liabilities	22.8	23.2	22.6	22.3	22.9
Total liabilities					
at book value	1,184.5	1,219.7	1,249.6	1,272.6	1,299.6
with portfolio investment at market value	1,418.7	1,477.5	1,491.4	1,529.4	1,586.0
Net international investment position					
at book value	-168.5	-139.7	-150.5	-129.3	-106.8
with portfolio investment at market value	-162.6	-126.6	-137.5	-102.1	-55.0



Employer pension plans (trusteed pension funds)

Third quarter 2006

The value of retirement savings of 4.6 million Canadian workers with trusteed pension plans rebounded between July and September last year, following its first decline in seven quarters.

Market value of assets amounted to \$854.9 billion in the third quarter of 2006, up 4.4% from the second quarter. This followed a 2.1% decline in the previous quarter, which reflected the performance of Canadian stocks in the Toronto Stock Exchange.

Over 40% of the value of funds assets were held in stocks and equity funds in the third quarter. Bonds and bond funds accounted for 33%, real estate 6%, short-term investments 4%, mortgages 1% and other assets 16%.

Pension fund assets in foreign holdings have increased 5% in the last two years. Investments in foreign holdings, particularly stocks, now account for 29% of pension funds assets, while the proportion of domestic holdings has declined to 71% since the first half of 2005.

Revenues amounted to \$20.7 billion in the third quarter, and expenditures \$9.8 billion, for a net income of \$10.9 billion. This was down from net income of \$17.6 billion in the previous quarter.

The decline reflects losses on the sale of securities and a 26% reduction in employer contributions following large special payments for unfunded liabilities in the previous two quarters.

Pension benefits paid to retirees climbed to \$7.5 billion in the third quarter. Benefit payments have been increasing steadily over the last few years. Year-to-date payments are up 6% over values in 2005 and 7.5% over 2004.

About 4.6 million Canadian workers are members of trusteed plans. Of these, 2.5 million are public sector workers in municipal, provincial, and federal governments and enterprises, crown corporations, government boards, commissions and agencies, and public educational and health institutions. Private sector workers make up the remaining 2.1 million.

A further one million workers have employer pension plans funded by government consolidated revenue funds, or by insurance company contracts.

(Data in this release refer only to the trusteed plans, and all values are in current dollars).

Available on CANSIM: tables 280-0002 to 280-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2607.

With the release of data today, all quarters back to the first quarter of 2005 have been revised.

For more information about the current survey results and related products and services, or to inquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-7355 or toll-free 1-888-297-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division. ■

Construction Union Wage Rate Index

February 2007

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in February compared to the January level of 138.0 (1992=100). The composite index increased 1.9% compared with the February 2006 index (135.4).

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes on a 1992=100 time base are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0003 and 327-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2307.

The first quarter 2007 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XWE, free) will be available in June.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality for this release, contact Client Services Unit, Prices Division (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539, prices-prix@statcan.ca), or Louise Chainé (613-951-3393). ■

Food services and drinking places 2005

The food services and drinking places industry edged ahead in 2005, as operating revenue reached \$38.9 billion, up 4.0% from 2004. While the industry continued to advance, the pace of growth was more moderate than the revised 6.0% gain observed in 2004.

A generally strong economy, with notable increases in consumer spending and personal disposable income, helped stimulate the growth in 2005. While all regions experienced solid growth in 2004, stronger regional differences emerged in 2005.

The Prairie provinces and British Columbia led the way in 2005, with operating revenues increasing by 6.0% and 5.9% respectively. High commodity prices spurred economic expansion while at the same time attracting Canadians from other regions, increasing the demand for services. Although limited by weakness in the manufacturing sector, Quebec (+5.1%) achieved strong growth in food services and drinking places while growth in Ontario was only 2.2%. In Atlantic Canada, limited economic and population growth meant only a minor increase (+0.3%), while the territories experienced a decline (-4.4%). The majority of revenue in the industry was generated by sales of food and non-alcoholic beverages at 84% followed by sales of alcoholic beverages (14%).

Operating profit margins inched up to 3.8% in 2005 (up from 3.7% in 2004), as growth of operating revenue just outpaced that of operating expenses. The majority of expenses in the industry come from the cost of goods sold (37%) and labour costs (32%), with rental and leasing costs a distant third at 8%.

Buoyed by impressive results for food service contractors, the special food services segment of the industry (comprised of contractors, social caterers and mobile food services) showed the most growth in operating revenue in 2005, up 9.1% versus 2004. Full-service restaurants (+4.9%) and limited-service restaurants (+3.5%) experienced moderate growth,

while drinking places contracted by 4.0%. Overall, the industry remains dominated by full-service and limited-service restaurants, which together account for 84% of operating revenues generated.

Results from the 2005 Annual Survey of Food Services and Drinking Places are now available. These data provide information on the industry's operating revenue, operating expenses, salaries and wages and operating margin. Data for 2004 have been revised to reflect more accurate coverage of the target population for this industry.

Available on CANSIM: table 355-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4704.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Chris Maloney (613-951-0237; fax: 613-951-6696; chris.maloney@statcan.ca) or Roland Boudreau (613-951-3145; roland.boudreau@statcan.ca), Service Industries Division. ■

Flows and stocks of fixed residential capital 2006

The annual fixed residential capital flows and stocks series at the provincial level for 2006 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 030-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5016.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; bdp_information@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

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
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