



The Daily

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Releases

Canada's international transactions in securities, January 2007	2
Fuelled by record high investment in foreign bonds, Canadians added \$7.8 billion worth of foreign securities to their holdings in January, the 24th consecutive month of buying. Meanwhile, foreign investors sold off \$3.8 billion worth of Canadian securities, over half being outstanding bonds.	
Wholesale trade, January 2007	5
Following a strong end to 2006, wholesalers began the year on a subdued note, as weaker deliveries of automotive products and personal and household goods pushed overall sales lower.	
Primary iron and steel, January 2007	9
Commercial and Institutional Consumption of Energy Survey, 2005	9
Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins, January 2007	9
Monthly Survey of Large Retailers, January 2007	9

New products

11



Releases

Canada's international transactions in securities

January 2007

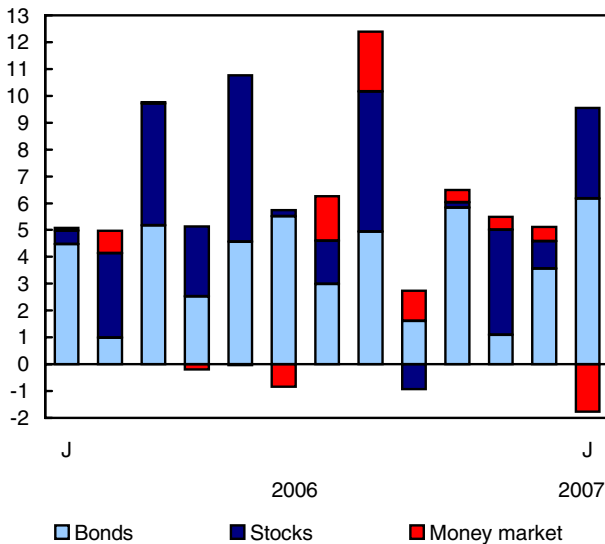
Fuelled by record high investment in foreign bonds, Canadians added \$7.8 billion worth of foreign securities to their holdings in January. This represented the 24th consecutive month of buying for Canadians, with investments totalling \$77.9 billion in 2006.

In January, foreign investors sold off \$3.8 billion worth of Canadian securities, over half being outstanding bonds. This followed a \$3.1 billion divestment the month before, due to sizable bond retirements.

Canadian portfolio investment in foreign securities

\$ billions

Reverse of balance of payments signs



Record purchase of foreign bonds

Canadians bought a record \$6.2 billion worth of foreign bonds in January, adding to last year's record purchases of \$43.2 billion. Over 70% of January's investment was in overseas bonds, a record \$4.4 billion, of which \$3.0 billion was in Maple bonds. In addition, Canadians invested \$1.6 billion in US Maple bonds in January.

Related market information

In January, Canadian short-term **interest rates** increased by only 1 basis point to 4.17% while US short-term rates increased 13 basis points to 4.98%. Continuing to favour investment in the United States, the resulting differential increased to 81 basis points.

Both Canadian and US long-term interest rates increased in January. Canadian rates increased 12 basis points to 4.17% while US rates climbed 17 basis points to 4.83%. As a result, the differential between the two countries widened further to 66 basis points.

Canadian **stock prices** increased for the fourth month in a row as the S&P/TSX Composite Index closed January at a record 13,034.1, an increase of 1.0% from the month before. Meanwhile, US stock prices rose for the eighth straight month as the Standard and Poor's Composite Index ended the month at 1,438.2, up 1.4% from December's close.

The **Canadian dollar** fell for the fifth consecutive month in January, down 0.85 US cents. The dollar ended the month at 84.96 US cents, the lowest month end since November 2005.

Definitions

The data series on international security transactions cover portfolio transactions in stocks, bonds and money market instruments for both Canadian and foreign issues.

Stocks include common and preferred equities, as well as warrants.

Debt securities include bonds and money market instruments.

Bonds have an original term to maturity of more than one year.

Money market instruments have an original term to maturity of one year or less.

Heavy investment in foreign stocks

Canadian investors resumed their heavy purchases of foreign equities and bought \$3.4 billion worth in January, following investment of \$1.0 billion in December. January's acquisitions were almost equally split between US and overseas stocks, while December saw investment concentrated on US stocks. Shares of foreign manufacturing firms and retailers topped the investment list.

Canadians sell foreign money market paper

Canadians reduced their holdings of foreign money market paper by \$1.8 billion in January, a sharp turn from the trend of heavy purchases in 2006 amounting to a record \$6.4 billion. January saw residents

divest \$1.5 billion in overseas paper, largely due to sizable retirements of corporate paper.

Substantial divestment of outstanding Government of Canada bonds

Non-residents sold off \$3.1 billion worth of Canadian bonds, nearly 90% (\$2.7 billion) were outstanding Government of Canada bonds. This followed December's divestment totalling \$3.3 billion, mainly due to retirements of federal government bonds (\$2.2 billion). The differential on long-term interest rates for government issues continued to favour investment in the United States at 66 basis points.

Most of January's sell-off of outstanding bonds was Canadian-dollar denominated (\$2.1 billion). With a depreciating Canadian dollar, new issues of US-dollar denominated bonds placed abroad were reduced significantly in January, especially those issued by Federal Government Enterprises and corporations. Net retirements over the month were largely in US-dollar denominated bonds (\$1.2 billion).

On a regional basis, American and European investors sold off \$3.1 billion and \$1.1 billion worth respectively. Investors from emerging economies, on the other hand, purchased Canadian bonds for a 5th consecutive month, buying nearly \$1.0 billion worth in January.

Foreign investors sell off Government treasury bills

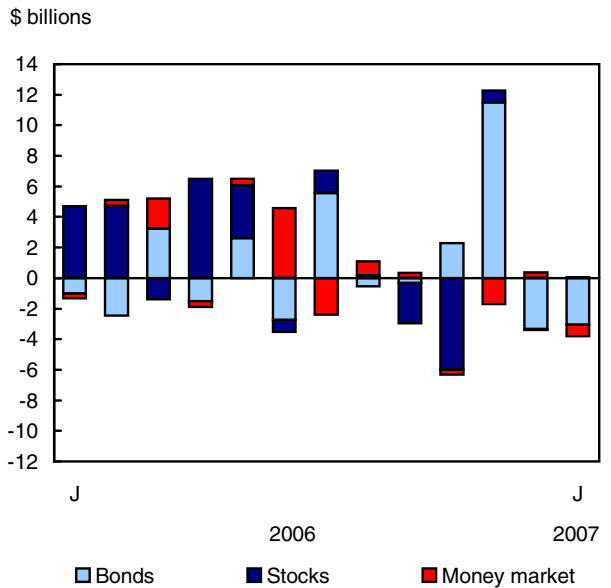
Non-residents sold off \$764 million worth of Canadian money market paper in January, after buying \$366 million over the previous month. January's disposition was focused in federal government treasury bills (\$880 million) and corporate paper (\$223 million), partly offset by a \$246 million investment in provincial government paper.

Investment in Canadian shares flat

Despite increasing Canadian stock prices, foreign investment in Canadian equities experienced a second consecutive month of little change in January. While holdings of outstanding shares barely changed over the month, non-residents added \$86 million worth of new shares to their portfolios. On a regional basis,

demand for Canadian stocks shifted during the month with American investors buying \$1.2 billion worth, while investors from Europe and emerging economies sold off Canadian shares worth a similar amount.

Foreign portfolio investment in Canadian securities



Available on CANSIM: tables 376-0018 to 376-0029, 376-0042, 376-0058 and 376-0063.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1535.

The January 2007 issue of *Canada's International Transactions in Securities* (67-002-XWE, free) will soon be available.

Data on Canada's international transactions in securities for February will be released on April 18.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-1855; infobalance@statcan.ca.) To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Yiling Zhang (613-951-2057), Balance of Payments Division

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Canada's international transactions in securities

	October 2006	November 2006	December 2006	January 2007	2005	2006
	\$ millions					
Foreign investment in Canadian securities	-4,049	10,537	-3,053	-3,764	8,472	27,854
Bonds (net)	2,295	11,481	-3,349	-3,062	-1,183	13,293
Outstanding	2,264	4,656	-572	-2,040	4,278	11,551
New issues	3,440	9,818	4,378	700	33,603	43,134
Retirements	-3,795	-3,370	-5,923	-2,362	-39,402	-41,713
Change in interest payable ¹	385	377	-1,233	639	339	323
Money market paper (net)	-352	-1,741	366	-764	522	3,746
Government of Canada	-398	-1,006	1,036	-880	1,435	3,717
Other	46	-735	-670	116	-914	29
Stocks (net)	-5,992	797	-69	62	9,133	10,814
Outstanding	3,216	1,068	-644	-24	13,165	21,145
Other transactions	-9,208	-271	575	86	-4,032	-10,331
Canadian investment in foreign securities	-6,486	-5,497	-5,117	-7,769	-51,652	-77,866
Bonds (net)	-5,836	-1,089	-3,568	-6,169	-27,615	-43,233
Stocks (net)	-192	-3,912	-1,011	-3,379	-21,947	-28,263
Money market paper (net)	-457	-496	-538	1,778	-2,089	-6,370

1. Interest accrued less interest paid.

Note: A minus sign indicates an outflow of money from Canada, that is, a withdrawal of foreign investment from Canada or an increase in Canadian investment abroad.

Wholesale trade

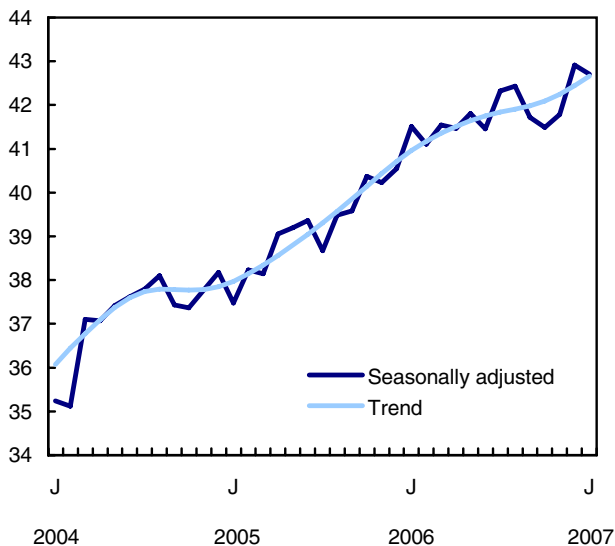
January 2007

Following a strong end to 2006, wholesalers began the year on a subdued note, as weaker deliveries of automotive products and personal and household goods pushed overall sales lower.

Wholesale sales declined 0.5% in January to \$42.7 billion, reversing some of the 2.7% gain made in December. Significant drops in the automotive products (-4.6%) and personal and household goods (-4.5%) sectors were behind all of decline in January. Both of these sectors had posted substantial gains in December.

Wholesale sales off to a slow start in 2007

\$ billions



The remaining five wholesale sectors, representing 67% of overall sales, all registered increases in January, led by the building materials and machinery and electronic equipment sectors.

Ontario bore the brunt of the decline in January, reversing most of the gains it had made in the previous two months. Most other provinces and territories recorded higher sales in January, with notable increases coming in both the Prairie and Atlantic provinces.

Sales in constant dollars, which remove the effects of price fluctuations to isolate the change in volumes, were unchanged in January.

Automotive sector reverses course after a strong December

After posting a substantial increase in December (helped in part by the introduction of new models) the automotive sector reversed course in January, dropping 4.6% to \$8.0 billion. Lower sales of motor vehicles (-5.6%) were entirely to blame, as sales of motor vehicle parts and accessories remained essentially unchanged (-0.1%).

The drop in motor vehicle sales reduced by more than half the strong gains made in December, and continues a recent pattern of large monthly swings. While such swings are not that unusual in this trade group, the North American industry is facing a particularly challenging period at present as automakers struggle to adapt their product lines to meet consumer demands for more fuel efficient vehicles.

Personal and household goods sector declines after a strong holiday season

Sales of personal and household goods declined 4.5% in January to \$6.1 billion, bringing to an end a string of three consecutive monthly increases. Two of the three trade groups in this sector posted lower sales, with only the apparel trade group showing a gain.

The largest drop (-7.6%) came in the household and personal products trade group, where monthly receipts hit their lowest level since July 2006. Nevertheless, sales in this trade group remained significantly higher than a year ago thanks to very strong retail sales, which last year posted their best performance since 1997.

Pharmaceutical wholesalers gave up most of the gains they made in December, as January sales fell 3.7%. This was only the second decline in the past six months for this group, which continues to benefit from increasing consumer expenditures on pharmaceutical products.

Following a very strong December, apparel wholesalers posted another solid increase (+3.9%) in January, as monthly sales hit their highest level in a year. This was the third increase in four months for this trade group, which had seen a significant decline in sales in early 2006.

Building materials' sector makes a strong start to the year

Wholesalers of building materials made a strong start to the year, up 3.3% to \$6.3 billion. All three trade groups advanced, with the strongest growth coming from the lumber and millwork and building supplies trade groups.

January's rise in lumber sales (+9.9%) was the highest monthly increase in over three years for this

trade group, and also marked the fifth increase in six months. However, the recent increases come after a series of significant declines which had seen lumber sales fall by some 20% in the first half of 2006.

Much of this lumber is exported and exports have also picked up somewhat of late after hitting a three and a half year low in November 2006.

Machinery and electronic equipment sector boosted by higher computer sales

Sales in the machinery and electronic equipment sector increased by 1.3% in January to \$8.9 billion, more than reversing the small decline in December.

The biggest increase in this sector came in the computer and other electronic equipment trade group (+2.7%), which rose for the third time in four months, with the machinery and equipment trade group (+0.9%) accounting for most of the remaining growth.

Sales in this sector have done particularly well over the past three years, as Canadian businesses have taken advantage of the strong Canadian dollar to invest in new equipment (much of which is priced in US dollars). In December, machinery and equipment imports surpassed the \$10.0 billion mark — a level not seen since the record high in November 2000 during the peak of the information and technology boom.

According to the survey of private and public investment intentions for 2007, overall investment in machinery and equipment is projected to grow by a further 4.5% this year.

Sales decline concentrated in Ontario, while most other provinces increase

Ontario (-3.2%) bore the brunt of the decline in January, reversing much of the gain made over the previous two months. The drop was largely attributable to lower sales of motor vehicles.

The decline in Ontario masked an otherwise healthy month for the rest of the country, as wholesale sales in both the Prairie (+4.7%) and Atlantic (+5.1%) provinces recorded strong advances.

Most of the gains in the Prairie region came in Alberta (+4.7%), which benefited from strong sales of food products and building materials. January's increase was the highest in the province since April 2005 and

follows a slight easing of growth in the last quarter of 2006.

January also proved to be a good month for wholesalers in Manitoba (+8.3%), as the province registered its largest monthly increase since April 2004. Stronger sales of machinery and equipment and "other products" (mainly agricultural products) were behind much of the January increase.

In the Atlantic provinces, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island all recorded healthy increases in sales. Newfoundland and Labrador, which has led the region in growth over the past two years, was the only province to register a decline.

Inventories resume their rise after December drop

Following a significant decline in December, inventories resumed their upward momentum in January, rising 0.8% to \$54.1 billion.

Overall, 10 out of 15 trade groups, representing some 75% of inventories, reported higher inventories in January, with the most significant increases coming in the household and personal products, food and motor vehicle parts and accessories trade groups.

After registering a fairly large drop in December, the inventory-to-sales ratio moved back up from 1.25 to 1.27 in January. There has been a significant rise in the ratio over the past six months, prior to which the ratio had remained fairly stable since February 2005. The ratio measures the amount of time (in months) that it would take to exhaust inventories at the current rate of sales.

Available on CANSIM: tables 081-0007 to 081-0010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

The January 2007 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008-XWE, free) will soon be available.

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

For data or general information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; 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), Distributive Trades Division.

□

Wholesale merchants' sales

	January 2006	October 2006 ^r	November 2006 ^r	December 2006 ^r	January 2007 ^p	December 2006 to January 2007	January 2006 to January 2007
seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
Total, wholesale sales	41,516	41,485	41,787	42,918	42,707	-0.5	2.9
Farm products	456	484	466	454	456	0.5	-0.1
Food, beverages and tobacco products	7,399	7,654	7,658	7,513	7,608	1.3	2.8
Food products	6,742	6,999	7,007	6,886	7,008	1.8	3.9
Alcohol and tobacco	657	656	651	627	600	-4.3	-8.6
Personal and household goods	5,958	6,123	6,189	6,430	6,144	-4.5	3.1
Apparel	957	750	735	789	820	3.9	-14.4
Household and personal products	2,419	2,650	2,812	2,833	2,618	-7.6	8.2
Pharmaceuticals	2,581	2,723	2,643	2,809	2,705	-3.7	4.8
Automotive products	8,593	7,436	7,714	8,353	7,972	-4.6	-7.2
Motor vehicles	7,072	5,870	6,148	6,822	6,441	-5.6	-8.9
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	1,522	1,565	1,566	1,532	1,531	-0.1	0.6
Building materials	5,917	5,842	5,902	6,055	6,253	3.3	5.7
Building supplies	3,546	3,577	3,624	3,623	3,702	2.2	4.4
Metal products	1,195	1,274	1,250	1,383	1,400	1.2	17.1
Lumber and millwork	1,176	990	1,028	1,048	1,152	9.9	-2.1
Machinery and electronic equipment	8,487	8,821	8,913	8,826	8,941	1.3	5.3
Machinery and equipment	4,064	4,102	4,197	4,184	4,222	0.9	3.9
Computer and other electronic equipment	2,539	2,651	2,681	2,650	2,723	2.7	7.2
Office and professional equipment	1,885	2,067	2,035	1,992	1,997	0.3	5.9
Other products	4,706	5,126	4,944	5,286	5,333	0.9	13.3
Total, excluding automobiles	32,923	34,049	34,073	34,564	34,735	0.5	5.5
Sales, province and territory							
Newfoundland and Labrador	224	237	244	261	254	-2.7	13.1
Prince Edward Island	35	34	38	40	43	8.6	24.1
Nova Scotia	538	556	532	522	570	9.2	5.9
New Brunswick	396	415	419	418	436	4.5	10.2
Quebec	7,685	7,828	7,924	7,988	7,967	-0.3	3.7
Ontario	21,166	20,689	21,002	22,030	21,333	-3.2	0.8
Manitoba	1,191	1,023	999	1,006	1,090	8.3	-8.5
Saskatchewan	1,013	1,168	1,188	1,249	1,275	2.1	25.9
Alberta	4,971	5,163	5,267	5,155	5,396	4.7	8.5
British Columbia	4,267	4,337	4,146	4,220	4,303	2.0	0.8
Yukon	11	10	7	10	15	45.5	38.4
Northwest Territories	19	20	19	19	25	29.4	35.2
Nunavut	1	2	1	2	2	8.6	24.1

^r revised

^p preliminary

Wholesale merchants' inventories and inventory-to-sales ratio

	January 2006	October 2006 ^r	November 2006 ^r	December 2006 ^r	January 2007 ^p	December 2006 to January 2007	January 2006 to January 2007	December 2006 ^r	January 2007 ^p
	Wholesale inventories					Inventory-to-sales ratio			
	seasonally adjusted								
	\$ millions					% change			
Inventories	49,793	53,325	53,874	53,609	54,050	0.8	8.5	1.25	1.27
Farm products	171	200	202	188	186	-1.1	8.8	0.41	0.41
Food products	4,379	4,304	4,314	4,254	4,370	2.7	-0.2	0.62	0.62
Alcohol and tobacco	278	274	270	280	289	3.2	4.1	0.45	0.48
Apparel	1,594	1,664	1,667	1,727	1,687	-2.3	5.8	2.19	2.06
Household and personal products	3,740	3,864	3,899	3,888	4,019	3.4	7.5	1.37	1.53
Pharmaceuticals	3,119	3,258	3,211	3,117	3,095	-0.7	-0.8	1.11	1.14
Motor vehicles	4,573	5,009	5,173	5,035	5,109	1.5	11.7	0.74	0.79
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,351	3,331	3,293	3,285	3,379	2.9	0.9	2.14	2.21
Building supplies	5,438	5,711	5,758	5,830	5,798	-0.6	6.6	1.61	1.57
Metal products	2,250	3,029	3,068	3,076	2,992	-2.7	32.9	2.22	2.14
Lumber and millwork	1,027	1,092	1,118	1,164	1,172	0.7	14.2	1.11	1.02
Machinery and equipment	9,749	11,316	11,590	11,508	11,599	0.8	19.0	2.75	2.75
Computer and other electronic equipment	1,489	1,603	1,586	1,618	1,624	0.4	9.1	0.61	0.60
Office and professional equipment	2,488	2,724	2,691	2,710	2,718	0.3	9.2	1.36	1.36
Other products	6,148	5,946	6,035	5,929	6,014	1.4	-2.2	1.12	1.13

^r revised
^p preliminary



Primary iron and steel

January 2007

Data on primary iron and steel for January 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 January 2007 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-XWE, 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), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Commercial and Institutional Consumption of Energy Survey

2005

The education sector consumed energy at a lower rate than most other businesses, institutions and organizations in 2005, according to data from the latest Commercial and Institutional Consumption of Energy Survey. This survey collected aggregate information on the types and quantities of energy consumed by commercial businesses and institutions in 2005.

Nationally, the survey found that religious organizations and "other services" had the lowest gross energy intensity at 1.25 gigajoules per square metre followed by schools with a gross energy intensity of 1.35 gigajoules per square metre. Hotels and restaurants continued to have the highest gross energy intensity at 2.31 gigajoules per square metre.

Hotel and restaurant energy intensities were lowest in Atlantic Canada and Quebec at 1.74 gigajoules per square metre and 1.78 gigajoules per square metre respectively. British Columbia had the highest energy intensity for this sector at 3.13 gigajoules per square metre, but also had the lowest energy intensity of only 1.02 gigajoules per square metre for the education sector in Canada.

Gross energy intensity is the total energy consumed by type of business, institution or organization at the national or provincial level, divided by the corresponding national or provincial floor area total in square metres.

Differences in gross energy intensity may be explained by the different natures of business conducted by different sectors. Sectors with higher energy

intensities tend to consist of establishments with longer operating hours or establishments that operate large pieces of machinery as part of their normal activities.

Conversely, sectors with lower energy intensities tend to consist of establishments that do not operate beyond core business hours or have little in the way of machinery besides general office equipment.

This survey was conducted on behalf of the Office of Energy Efficiency at Natural Resources Canada. Based upon the results, Natural Resources Canada will produce an analytical publication which will be available this summer on the Office of Energy Efficiency website.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5034.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-679-2746, sbss-info@statcan.ca), Small Business and Special Surveys Division.

For more information about Natural Resources Canada's energy efficiency programs, consult the Office of Energy Efficiency website (www.oe.nrcan.gc.ca/statistics). ■

Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins

January 2007

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

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0014.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2183.

The January 2007 issue of *Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins*, Vol. 50, no. 1 (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 (613-951-9497; toll-free 1-866-873-8789; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Monthly Survey of Large Retailers

January 2007

Data for the Monthly Survey of Large Retailers are now available for January.

Available on CANSIM: table 080-0009.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5027.

A data table is also available from the *Summary tables* module of our website.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Wendy Gibbard (613-951-0353), Distributive Trades Division. ■

New products

Oil and Gas Extraction, 2004
Catalogue number 26-213-XWE
 (free).

Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins,
 January 2007, Vol. 50, no. 1
Catalogue number 46-002-XWE
 (free).

Canada's International Investment Position, October
 to December 2006, Vol. 4, no. 4
Catalogue number 67-202-XWE
 (free).

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

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; -XVB or -XVE are electronic versions on DVD and -XBB or -XBE a database.

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The Daily
 Statistics Canada

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

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1997** 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, 1996** 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, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, 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.

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