

Statistics Canada

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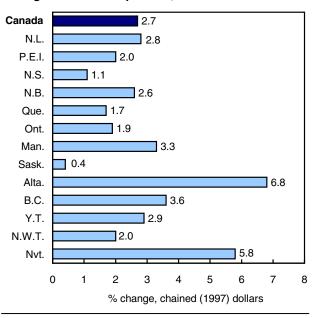
Releases

Provincial and territorial economic accounts

2006 (preliminary)

Alberta, the economic powerhouse, led the country in economic growth for the third consecutive year in 2006. Economic growth was generally more vigorous among western provinces than in central and eastern provinces in 2006.

Real gross domestic product, 2006



Overall, real gross domestic product (GDP) for Canada eased slightly from 2.9% in 2005 to 2.7% in 2006. Across the country, investment, trade and financial services all contributed as service production generally outpaced goods production.

National labour income grew 6.1% and consumer spending rose 4.1%, while home building reached a new peak in 2006.

Economic growth in Alberta (+6.8%) was more than double the national average. Alberta maintained its impressive lead over other provinces for the third consecutive year. Oil prices continued to rise throughout 2006, spurring investment in Alberta's oil sands, which in turn benefited most areas of the economy.

Much of the rest of Canada lagged the national pace, as a 6.8% gain in the value of the Canadian dollar

Note to readers

Percentage changes for expenditure-based and industry-based statistics (such as consumer expenditures, investment, exports, imports, production and output) are calculated using volume measures, that is, adjusted for inflation. Percentage changes for income-based statistics (such as personal income, labour income and corporate profits) are calculated using nominal values, that is, not adjusted for inflation.

More detailed analysis on today's releases from the national accounts, including additional charts and tables, can be found in the 2006 preliminary estimates issue of Provincial and Territorial Economic Accounts Review (13-016-XWE).

Preliminary estimates of provincial and territorial economic accounts for 2006 are included with this release. No revisions have been made to data for previous years. Revised estimates for 2003 to 2006 will be published in the fall.

Please see the Canadian Economic Accounts re-referencing note for information on the gross domestic product re-referencing exercise that will be published on May 31, 2007.

and higher oil prices hampered production, especially in manufacturing. Lower US demand also restrained exports. After Alberta, the only other provinces that managed to top the 2006 national growth rate were Newfoundland and Labrador (+2.8%), Manitoba (+3.3%) and British Columbia (+3.6%).

Goods production puts on a strong showing in Western Canada

Economic growth in Alberta was well above the Canadian average for the fourth year in succession. Oil prices continued to advance in 2006, spurring corporate profits and business investment, which, in turn, stimulated labour income and spending.

The buoyant economic conditions and a low unemployment rate (3.4%) attracted people from across Canada. The province's infrastructure strained to accept 57,000 inter-provincial migrants. Residential construction increased 8.1%, and consumer spending accelerated for the third consecutive year, to 7.9%. The gain in 2006 was particularly important among durable goods (+15%).

Manufacturing activity in Alberta jumped 7.6% after a 6.3% increase in 2005, with most of the growth coming from petro-chemical industries, or those supplying machinery and equipment to the burgeoning oil sands infrastructure projects.

The full benefit of oil sands investment has yet to be seen, but in 2006 the production slowdowns of the prior year were overcome as oil extraction output rose 3.5% and exports of oil products moved in step.

Output in Manitoba advanced 3.3% after a 2.7% increase in 2005, reflecting the best crop in three years. The ideal growing conditions in 2006 allowed for strong exports of canola and wheat.

Low interest rates and a solid employment picture continued to stimulate demand for new housing and consumer spending on durable goods. Business investment in non-residential structures leapt ahead 32%, with building projects in Winnipeg and additions to the electric power infrastructure.

British Columbia outpaced the national average growth for the fifth consecutive year with a 3.6% increase in 2006, slightly behind the 3.7% increase in 2005.

Forestry output increased moderately, but continued strength in the Canadian dollar and lower US demand restrained wood exports. Pulp and paper exports meanwhile benefited from a strengthening of world demand.

The construction industry benefited from the investment surrounding the 2010 Olympics. Services activities outpaced goods production in 2006. Lower output of coal and electricity restrained growth in the goods sector.

Labour income growth and continued low unemployment boosted home building. Consumer spending, particularly on durable goods, rose sharply as new homeowners increased their spending on home furnishings.

Saskatchewan's economic production grew modestly in 2006 (+0.4%), a slowdown from 3.1% in 2005. Production of uranium, potash and wheat fell. Corporate profits remained strong, however, as world demand for these products kept prices high.

Manufacturing of machinery and equipment in Saskatchewan benefited from Alberta's robust investment picture. Labour income strength contributed to home building and a pick up in consumer spending.

Energy costs, foreign competition and the exchange rate squeeze Central Canada

As the fortunes of the western provinces hinged on resource production, Central Canada felt the pinch of high fuel prices on economic activity. In addition, a strong Canadian dollar dampened export demand and therefore goods production.

In Ontario, growth reached 1.9% in 2006, weaker than the 2.8% advance in 2005. In manufacturing, production dropped in 14 of 21 major industry groups resulting in the steepest decline in manufacturing (-3.5%) in several years. Motor vehicle producers curtailed production and parts producers were particularly hard hit by US market conditions.

The weakness in the manufacturing sector was not felt throughout the economy, as service production

benefited from continued labour income strength and ongoing construction investment.

Ontario supplied many of the migrants to Alberta's booming economy. Overall strength in the service producing industries allowed the unemployment rate to fall to 6.3%.

Quebec's economy grew 1.7% in 2006 after posting a 2.2% increase in 2005. Production of services outpaced goods as manufacturing edged down 0.2%. The decline was muted by buoyant export markets for aerospace products. Primary metal production picked up as world prices remained high, and pharmaceutical manufacturers recovered from three years of decline.

Not all manufacturers benefited as Quebec's forest and paper industry was hard hit with mill closures and layoffs. Exports of wood and paper products declined precipitously.

Overall, labour income remained strong, and personal expenditure built on increases of 2005.

In Atlantic Canada, activity picked up in Newfoundland and Labrador and New Brunswick

The Newfoundland and Labrador economy advanced 2.8% in 2006, compared to 0.4% in 2005. The first full year of production at the Voisey's Bay nickel mine and the White Rose oil field contributed largely to the advance. Corporate profits benefited from high commodity prices. Consumers took advantage of continued low interest rates and accelerated expenditures.

After increasing 0.3% in 2005, the New Brunswick economy rose 2.6% in 2006. A recovery in pulp and newsprint prices in 2006 spurred the re-opening of two mills, and helped manufacturing advance.

More jobs and labour income gains led to higher new motor vehicle sales for the first time in four years. Investment grew sharply in 2006, as a number of building projects reached completion.

A recovery in agriculture helped Prince Edward Island's economy rise 2.0% in 2006, comparable to the 2.1% growth in 2005. The potato crop recovered from a poor 2005 harvest, fuelling gains in consumer spending. Home-building waned in the province but construction workers turned to a number of building projects, including a wind farm at the east end of the island.

Economic output in Nova Scotia rose 1.1% in 2006, compared to 1.6% the previous year. Manufacturing activity fell for the second consecutive year as production slowed in rubber and plastic industries and labour unrest hampered wood product fabrication.

The province benefited from a number of construction projects in the Halifax area. Labour income advances filtered through to consumer spending, particularly on big ticket items.

A solid year for all three territories

Advances in territorial economic growth were almost entirely hinged on resources, in particular on mineral extraction and exploration.

The Nunavut economy grew by 5.8%, its best performance since 2002 and a turnaround from the decline of 1.1% in 2005. Jericho, Canada's third diamond mine, began production in January of 2006 and accounted for corporate profit growth and a resurgence in exports. As in the other territories, mineral exploration benefited from high commodity prices.

The Northwest Territories' economy advanced 2.0% in 2006, an improvement over 2005 (+0.1%). Diamond mining fell slightly in 2006 but mineral and oil exploration flourished in the Northwest Territories, particularly along the Mackenzie Valley corridor. Construction investment also advanced at the Snap Lake diamond mine.

Output in the Yukon advanced 2.9% after the torrid (+5.2%) pace of 2005. High commodity prices spurred exploration activity, particularly for gold, zinc, uranium and copper. The investment activity gave a lift to wholesalers as demand for machinery and equipment increased. New store openings paralleled growth in labour income.

Products, services and contact information

Detailed analysis and tables

All of Statistics Canada's information and data on the System of National Economic Accounts are available through the *National Economic Accounts* web module, accessible from the home page of the agency's website.

More detailed analysis on today's releases from the national accounts, including additional charts and tables, can be found in the 2006 preliminary estimates issue of *Provincial and Territorial Economic Accounts Review*, Vol. 3, no.1 (13-016-XWE), now available online. From the *Publication* page, choose *Free Internet publications*, then *National accounts*.

Provincial economic accounts

Available on CANSIM: tables 384-0001, 384-0002, 384-0004 to 384-0013 and 384-0036.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1303, 1401, 1402 and 1902.

With this release, preliminary estimates have been made for 2006 without revisions to previous years. The

provincial and territorial economic accounts includes estimates of the income and the expenditure based gross domestic product (GDP), real GDP, contributions to percent change in real GDP, implicit price indexes, sources and disposition of personal income and government detail tables.

The government detail tables have not been updated with this release, their 2005 estimates will be included in the fall release. Summaries by sub-sector of government (federal, provincial, local, Canada Pension Plan and Quebec Pension Plan) are provided in tables 6 to 10. Revenue side details are presented in tables 11 to 13. Table 11 disaggregates direct taxes, social insurance contributions and transfers paid by persons to government. Table 12 presents the components of taxes on production and products, while Table 13 lists the sources of government investment income. On the expenditure side, the major transfers to persons are presented in Table 14 while subsidies and capital transfers, to both the personal and business sectors, can be found in Table 15. Finally, Table 16 lists the most important current transfers between levels of governments.

Provincial Economic Accounts, Tables and Analytical Document, Preliminary Estimates, 2006 (13-213-PPB, \$54) is now available. The accounts can also be obtained on diskette (13-213-DDB, \$428). The diskette can also be purchased at a lower cost seven business days after the official release date (13-213-XDB, \$86). To purchase any of these products, contact the client services officer (613-951-3810; iead-info-dcrd@statcan.ca), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

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

Provincial gross domestic product by industry

Available on CANSIM: tables 379-0025 and 379-0026.

To purchase data on provincial gross domestic product by industry at basic prices, contact the client services officer (toll-free 1-800-887-IMAD; iad-info-dci@statcan.ca, Industry Accounts Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bruce Cooke (613-951-9061; cookeb@statcan.ca), Industry Accounts Division.

Local government finance: Assets and liabilities

December 31, 2004

The net financial debt of local governments, defined as the excess of liabilities over financial assets, hit \$8.8 billion at December 31, 2004, down 9% (\$875 million) from a year earlier.

The level of financial assets stood at \$58.9 billion, while total liabilities reached \$67.7 billion. Quebec registered the highest net financial debt at \$15.1 billion.

At the end of 2004, local governments in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and Nunavut were for the past four years in a position where their financial assets exceeded liabilities.

Among the provinces, local governments in Quebec had the highest per capita net financial debt in 2004 at \$1,992, followed by Newfoundland and Labrador at \$1,499 and Prince Edward Island at \$703.

These statistics are based on annual reports of municipalities and school boards as well as provincial and territorial government reports dated December 31, 2004. Data were converted to Statistics Canada's Financial Management System.

Note: The Financial Management System (FMS) provides a standardized presentation of government accounting for the federal, provincial, territorial and local

governments in Canada. The individual governments' accounting systems are not directly comparable because the policies and structure of governments differ. The FMS adjusts data from governments Public Accounts and other records to provide detailed data that permit inter-government comparisons as well as national aggregates that are consistent over time. As a result, FMS statistics may not accord with the figures published in government financial statements.

Click on the new *National Economic Accounts* module, accessible from the home page of our website, for an up-to-date portrait of national, provincial, territorial and local economies and their structure.

Available on CANSIM: table 385-0014.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1709.

Data are available through custom tabulation. For more information, or general enquiries on the products or services of the Public Institutions Division, contact Jo-Anne Thibault (613-951-0767; *jo-anne.thibault@statcan.ca*).

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Aldo Diaz (613-951-8563) or Diana-Lynn Walters (613-951-1833), Public Institutions Division.

Excess of liabilities over financial assets

Province/territory	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
			\$ millions	3		
Newfoundland and Labrador	731	726	729	768	767	772
Prince Edward Island	43	47	45	64	70	97
Nova Scotia	360	326	357	334	309	306
New Brunswick	357	328	355	393	421	454
Quebec	15,075	14,763	15,719	16,276	15,027	15,106
Ontario	-65	378	-1,995	-2,925	-3,428	-3,759
Manitoba	471	558	437	312	444	427
Saskatchewan	-707	-730	-734	-859	-892	-932
Alberta	383	-668	-1,194	-961	-1,275	-1,621
British Columbia	-1,851	-2,443	-1,074	-1,248	-1,742	-2,019
Yukon	-27	-21	-16	-16	-16	-20
Northwest Territories	25	9	3	3	2	3
Nunavut	-7	-13	-10	-6	-9	-11
Net financial debt	14,788	13,260	12,622	12,135	9,678	8,803

Excess of liabilities over financial assets: Per capita

Province/territory	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004		
	\$							
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,379	1,388	1,402	1,480	1,481	1,499		
Prince Edward Island	316	346	328	467	507	703		
Nova Scotia	385	349	382	357	330	327		
New Brunswick	475	437	473	523	560	604		
Quebec	2,052	1,999	2,115	2,176	1,995	1,992		
Ontario	-6	32	-166	-240	-277	-301		
Manitoba	411	485	379	269	380	364		
Saskatchewan	-700	-729	-736	-863	-896	-940		
Alberta	128	-220	-385	-305	-399	-498		
British Columbia	-459	-601	-262	-301	-416	-476		
Yukon	-900	-700	-533	-533	-516	-645		
Northwest Territories	610	220	73	71	47	70		
Nunavut	-259	-464	-357	-207	-310	-367		
Net financial debt	483	429	404	384	303	273		

Aircraft movement statistics 2006

Canadian airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers and flight service stations recorded almost 5.7 million take-offs and landings in 2006, up 2.0% from 2005.

Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International (+1.4%) and Vancouver International (-0.1%) led the 98 airports in total movements, recording 417,378 movements and 322,514 movements, respectively. Winnipeg/St. Andrews (96,070 movements) recorded the strongest increase (+42.5%) in movements in 2006 compared with 2005. Prince Albert (+23.3%) and Fort McMurray (+22.1%) also showed substantial growth in 2006. Sydney (-86.9%) and Campbell River (-22.4%) showed the largest declines in 2006 over 2005.

Itinerant movements (flights from one airport to another) showed an increase of 2.0% compared with 2005. Winnipeg/St. Andrews (+35.2%), Prince Albert (+27.0%), Dawson Creek (+26.3%) and Fort McMurray (+25.3%) showed substantial growth from 2005. Sydney (-86.4%) and Roberval (-24.8%) showed the largest declines in itinerant movements in 2006 compared to 2005.

Local movements (flights that remain in the vicinity of the airport) recorded an increase of 2.3% compared with 2005. Boundary Bay (112,655 movements) and Abbotsford (94,647 movements) led the airports in local movements. Iqaluit (+97.3%), Timmins (+93.5%), Edmonton City Centre (+78.4%) showed the largest gains in local movements compared with 2005.

Statistics for the Canadian airports without air traffic control towers are also available. These 108 airports reported 0.61 million take-offs and landings in 2006.

Available on CANSIM: tables 401-0023 to 401-0036.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2715.

The annual report Aircraft Movement is Statistics (TP577, free) now available on Transport Canada's website (http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/Report/TP577/tp577.htm).

For more information on this website, contact Michel Villeneuve (613-990-3825; *villenm@tc.gc.ca*), Transport Canada.

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), Transportation Division.

Farm Product Price Index

February 2007

Prices farmers received for their commodities rose 5.9% in February from the same month a year earlier, boosted by rising crop prices and a slight increase in overall livestock and animal product prices.

Prices for crops were 14.9% higher in February than they were a year earlier, according to the Farm Product Price Index (FPPI). This was the sixth consecutive month of year-over-year increases and the fourth consecutive double-digit increase. After slumping to very low levels during the 2005/2006 crop year (August to July), crop prices surged to their highest level since the fall of 2004.

Prices rose 1.0% in February for the overall livestock and animal product index, as gains in hogs, poultry and dairy outweighed decreases recorded in cattle and calves and eggs.

On a monthly basis, prices farmers received for their commodities rose 2.7% in February over January.

The FPPI (1997=100) stood at 100.7 in February, up over the revised January index of 98.1.

Prices for livestock and animal products rose 3.8% in February from the revised January index, as all livestock categories were up. Increases ranged from 1.0% for poultry to 8.3% for hogs.

Hog prices rose in February for the third consecutive month after declining for five months, however, they are still not back to the level reached last summer. Prices found support from continued strong demand, while severe winter weather in some parts of the country slowed hog deliveries to the processors.

Cattle and calf prices were up 3.6% in February, the second monthly increase, after dropping to a recent low in December 2006. Supply concerns stemmed from a United States Department of Agriculture *Cattle on Feed* report, which put January placements 23% below last year's level and severe winter weather.

Prices farmers received for crops were up 1.5% from January, as an increase in grain, oilseed and specialty crop prices offset the slip in fruit, vegetable and potato prices.

Grain and oilseed prices continued their upward trend, which is driven by the growing demand from the biofuel sector. However, at this time of the year, markets also begin to react to weather reports and their affects

on the upcoming growing season. Prices have gained support from reports of drought conditions in Australia and concerns of the effects of cold weather and snow cover on the US winter wheat crop.

Even though specialty crop production in Canada is well below that of wheat, it has grown significantly. Canada is among the world's largest producers and we are the largest exporter of dry peas, lentils, mustard seed and canary seed. Special crop prices have also trended up since the fall of 2006, supported by strong demand, production issues in some producing and importing countries and competition for acres in the upcoming crop year.

Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0021 and 002-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5040.

The February 2007 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 7, no. 2 (21-007-XWE, free) is now available. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *Free Internet publications*, choose *Agriculture*.

For general information or to order data, call (toll-free 1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-3445; fax: 204-983-7543; gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.

Farm Product Price Index

	February	January	February	February	January
	2006 ^r	2007 ^r	2007 ^p	2006 to	to
				February 2007	February 2007
	(1997=100)		% change	9	
Farm Product Price Index	95.1	98.1	100.7	5.9	2.7
Crops	86.0	97.3	98.8	14.9	1.5
Grains	76.2	82.9	83.9	10.1	1.2
Oilseeds	66.6	85.7	89.7	34.7	4.7
Specialty crops	72.3	96.7	107.2	48.3	10.9
Fruit	109.3	125.1	124.1	13.5	-0.8
Vegetables	116.0	118.6	118.4	2.1	-0.2
Potatoes	142.7	135.6	133.1	-6.7	-1.8
Livestock and animal products	102.9	100.1	103.9	1.0	3.8
Cattle and calves	108.1	98.3	101.8	-5.8	3.6
Hogs	69.0	70.8	76.7	11.2	8.3
Poultry	92.9	96.5	97.5	5.0	1.0
Eggs	97.2	92.5	95.6	-1.6	3.4
Dairy	131.3	132.4	136.7	4.1	3.2

revised

^p preliminary

Railway carloadings

February 2007

Rail freight fell considerably in February, partly as a result of a 15-day railway strike, which interrupted regular transportation patterns, as well as other factors.

Canada's railways carried 20.2 million metric tonnes of goods in February, compared with 23.1 million tonnes in January. February's carloadings were down 12.4% from January this year and down 4.7% from February 2006.

Commodities reported under the non-intermodal category went from 20.9 million metric tonnes to 18.1 million metric tonnes, a 13.1% decline from January. Loadings of containers and trailers on flat cars declined 6.1%.

While tonnage fell in many commodities because of the labour dispute and the shorter month, these two factors were not the only contributors.

Others included adverse weather on the West Coast, several derailments, and ongoing restructuring in sectors, such as the automotive and wood and paper industries, as well as fires that halted production in two oil refineries.

Freight coming from the United States, either destined for or passing through Canada, fell 9.5%

to 2.3 million metric tonnes. This decline was consistent with performances in past Februaries, but it was also a result of the other factors as well.

On a year over-year-basis, non-intermodal tonnage dropped 6.8% from February 2006, while intermodal loadings were virtually unchanged (-0.5%). Traffic received from the United States was up 8.7%.

Traffic received from Canadian connections, an indicator of the interaction between domestic railways, showed a 21.7% drop in tonnage compared with February 2006.

Available on CANSIM: table 404-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2732.

The February 2007 issue of *Monthly Railway Carloadings*, Vol. 84, no. 2 (52-001-XWE, free) is now available 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 Dissemination Unit (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 613-951-0009; transportationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division.

New products

Provincial and Territorial Economic Accounts Review, Vol. 3, no. 1, 2006 preliminary estimates Catalogue number 13-016-XWE (free).

Provincial Economic Accounts, Annual Estimates, 2006 Catalogue number 13-213-XDB (\$86).

Provincial Economic Accounts, Annual Estimates: Tables and Analytical Document, preliminary estimates 2006

Catalogue number 13-213-PPB (\$54).

Provincial Economic Accounts, Annual Estimates: Day of Release, 2006 Catalogue number 13-213-DDB (\$428).

Farm Product Price Index, February 2007, Vol. 7, no. 2 **Catalogue number 21-007-XWE** (free).

Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire, February 2007, Vol. 3, no. 2 Catalogue number 41-019-XWE (free).

Monthly Railway Carloadings, February 2007, Vol. 84, no. 2 Catalogue number 52-001-XWE (free).

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

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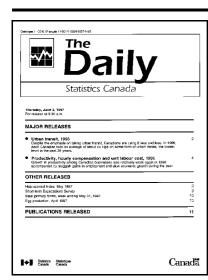
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