Catalogue 11-001-XIE (Français 11-001-XIF) ISSN 1205-9137

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, May 1, 2007
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Education Matters: Insights on education, learning and training in Canada

May 2007

This issue of Statistics Canada's free online publication *Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada* contains two articles.

The first article "Children with disabilities and the educational system – a provincial perspective" documents differences across provinces in the education of children who have physical, cognitive and behavioural disabilities. It explores the extent to which they attend regular school classes and have access to special education services. It also examines differences in the opinions of parents on whether their special-needs children were being encouraged to reach their full potential in school.

The second article, "Are 5-year-old children ready to learn at school? Family income and home environment contexts", reports on a recent study that analyzed the impact of activities in a child's home environment on the child's readiness to learn. These activities include daily reading and positive parent-child interaction. It found that children in lower-income households were less likely to have exposure to these activities. But, those who did were more ready to learn than those who did not.

The publication *Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada*, vol. 4, no. 1 (81-004-XIE, free), is now available on our website. From the *Publications* module, choose *Free Internet publications*, then *Education*, and finally *Education Matters*.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-4441; *educationstats@statcan.ca*), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

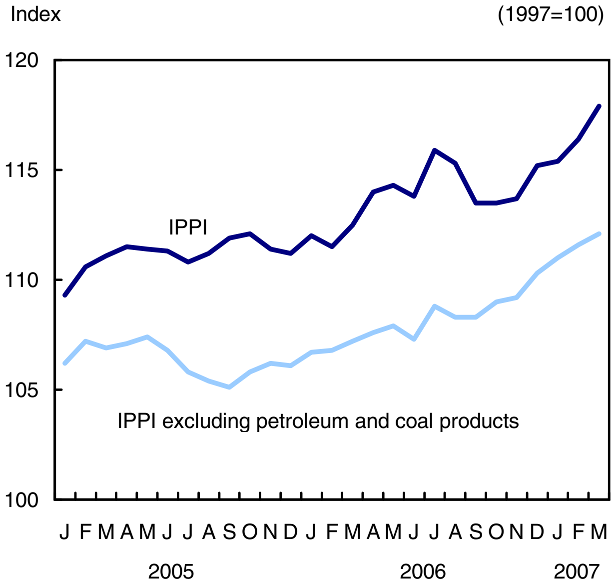
Releases

Industrial product and raw materials price indexes

March 2007

Prices for petroleum and primary metal products caused prices for manufactured goods to surge in March. Raw material prices were pushed up mainly by prices for non-ferrous metals.

Prices for manufactured goods continue to increase



From February to March, prices charged by manufacturers, as measured by the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI), registered a fifth consecutive monthly increase. The 1.3% rise in the index mainly reflected the strength of prices for petroleum and coal products and primary metal products.

On a 12-month basis, the IPPI rose by 4.8%, the strongest advance since October 2004. The upward pressure came largely from higher prices for primary metal products and petroleum and coal products. The upward movement was tempered by a drop in prices for lumber and other wood products.

From February to March, the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) rose 1.3%, down from the 2.5% increase observed in February. The monthly increase in the index was mainly attributable to non-ferrous metals. All raw material groups posted gains, except for vegetable products and non-metallic minerals.

Note to readers

The ***Industrial Product Price Index*** *(IPPI) reflects the prices that producers in Canada receive as the goods leave the plant gate. It does not reflect what the consumer pays. Unlike the Consumer Price Index, the IPPI excludes indirect taxes and all the costs that occur between the time a good leaves the plant and the time the final user takes possession of it, including the transportation, wholesale, and retail costs.*

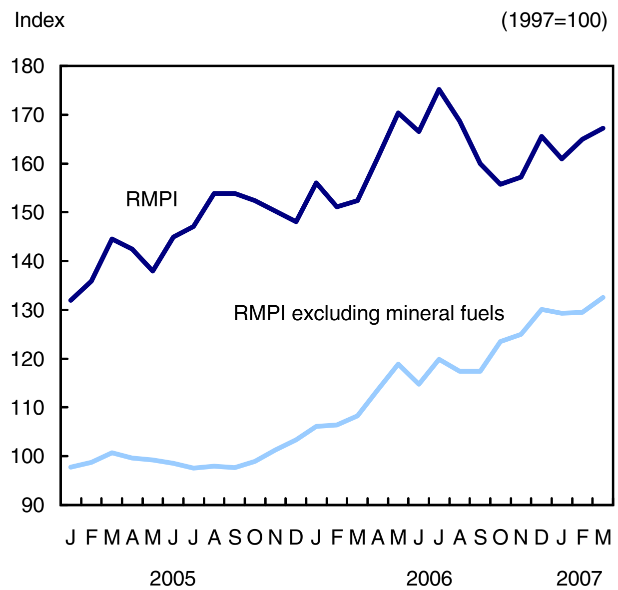
Canadian producers export many goods. They often quote their prices in foreign currencies, particularly for motor vehicles, pulp, paper, and wood products. Therefore, a rise or fall in the value of the Canadian dollar against its US counterpart affects the IPPI.

The ***Raw Materials Price Index*** *(RMPI) reflects the prices paid by Canadian manufacturers for key raw materials. Many of these prices are set in a world market. Unlike the IPPI, the RMPI includes goods not produced in Canada.*

Compared to March of last year, raw materials cost plants 9.7% more, a rate of increase greater than those posted in January and February. The rise in the index was mainly led by non-ferrous metals and was slowed by mineral fuels.

In March, the IPPI was 117.9 (1997=100), up from February's level of 116.4. The RMPI was 167.2 (1997=100), up from February's revised level of 165.0.

Raw materials prices increase again



IPPI: Price index pushed up by petroleum products and primary metals

Month over month, manufacturers' prices were mainly propelled by rising prices for petroleum and coal products and primary metal products.

The prices for petroleum and coal products jumped 8.9%, following the 4.7% increase recorded in February. March's rise is the greatest month-over-month change recorded since April 2006. Prices for petroleum products were pushed up by geopolitical tensions and a slowdown in the activity of some refineries. If the prices for petroleum and coal products had been excluded, the IPPI would have increased 0.4% rather than rising 1.3%.

The prices for primary metal products increased 3.8 % in March, after advancing 2.4% in February. Prices for metal products were pushed up by the strong economic activity in Asian countries, as well as by the seasonal factor of domestic demand and a decline in inventories. In March, the index was boosted by a surge in prices for nickel products (+18.5%) and, to a lesser extent, by the appreciation of copper and copper alloy products (+6.8%). Nickel prices continued to rise toward a new historic peak, and the level of the index for March was more than double the average for 2006.

In March, the rise in the IPPI was slowed slightly by decreases in prices for electrical and communication products (-0.8%), motor vehicles (-0.2%) and pulp and paper products (-0.3%).

IPPI: Primary metals strengthen their leading position in the 12-month change

The IPPI was up 4.8% from March 2006 to March 2007, the highest rate of increase since the peak recorded in October 2004. The Industrial Product Price Index was boosted by rising prices for primary metals and for petroleum and coal products and, to a lesser extent, by increased prices for pulp and paper products, meat, fish and dairy products, as well as fruit, vegetables and feed products. The IPPI excluding petroleum and coal grew at a pace comparable to that in February. If the prices for petroleum and coal products had been excluded, the year-over-year rise in the IPPI would have been 4.6% in March.

Prices for primary metals were up 26.6% compared to March 2006. Year-over-year price advances were observed for nickel products (+213.0%), copper and copper alloy products (+32.8%), refined zinc products (+43.9%) and precious metal basic manufactured shapes (+43.8%).

The annual rate of growth in the IPPI was slightly mitigated by lower prices for lumber and other wood products (-3.7%) and rubber, leather and plastic products (-1.4%).

RMPI: Higher prices for non-ferrous metals

In March, raw material prices rose 1.3%, down from the rate of 2.5% recorded in February.

Mineral fuels were up a modest 0.3%, following a rise of 5.5% in February. The price for natural gas advanced 1.5%, as a result of colder-than-expected weather and a decline in inventories. The price for crude oil remained unchanged. Without mineral fuels, the RMPI would have increased 2.3% from February instead of rising 1.3%.

Prices for non-ferrous metals climbed 4.4% after two consecutive monthly declines. In March, the rise in prices was attributable to radioactive concentrates (+13.3%), nickel concentrates (+18.9%), copper concentrates (+8.2%), copper and copper alloys scrap (+10.2%) and lead concentrates (+4.8%).

Aside from non-ferrous metals, the prices for animals and animal products increased 1.9% and contributed significantly to the rise in the index. Weak supply and anticipation of the Easter holiday exerted upward pressure on the prices of cattle for slaughter and poultry.

On a12-month basis, raw material prices rose 9.7% in March, up from the 9.2% recorded in February and up substantially from the 3.1% registered in January. Without mineral fuels, the RMPI would have risen 22.3% instead of 9.7%.

Non-ferrous metals accounted for most of the 12-month increase, with prices rising 50.8%, mainly on the strength of year-over-year increases in the prices for radioactive concentrates and concentrates of zinc, nickel, lead and copper.

Prices were also up over the previous year in the case of vegetable products (+19.7%), wood (+12.1%), animals and animal products (+4.2%) and ferrous materials (+12.1%).

However, prices for mineral fuels were down 2.2%, owing to a drop in the price for natural gas (-18.6%), while crude oil prices rose 1.2%. Year over year, natural gas prices declined for a ninth month in a row, but the decrease was less pronounced than those recorded in the first two months of the year.

Impact of exchange rate

The value of the Canadian dollar against the US dollar rose 0.2% from February to March. Consequently, without the effect of the exchange rate, the change in the IPPI would have remained the same at 1.3%.

On a 12-month basis, the value of the Canadian dollar fell 0.9% against the US dollar. If the impact of the exchange rate had been excluded, producer prices would have risen 4.5% between March 2006 and March 2007, rather than actually advancing 4.8%.

Prices for intermediate goods increase for a second consecutive month

Prices for intermediate goods rose 1.4% from February to March. The majority of the increase in the prices for intermediate goods was attributable almost exclusively to petroleum products and primary metal products. Modest declines were registered by electrical and communication products, pulp and paper products, chemical products and lumber products.

Producers of intermediate goods received 6.6% more for their products in March 2007 than in March 2006. Higher prices were observed for primary metal products, petroleum products, pulp and paper products, fruit, vegetables and feed products and meat, fish and dairy products.

A few price decreases moderated this year-over-year growth, in particular declines for lumber products and rubber, leather and plastic products.

Increase in petroleum prices a determining factor in the change in finished product prices

Prices for finished products rose 1.0% from February to March, on the strength of petroleum and coal products and, to a lesser extent, meat, fish and dairy products. However, the increase in prices for finished products was slightly diminished by lower prices for motor vehicles.

Since March 2006, prices for finished products have risen 1.8%. Price increases were noted for petroleum and coal products, meat, fish and dairy products, tobacco products, fruit, vegetables and feed products, chemical products, beverages, electrical and communication products as well as motor vehicles.

Available on CANSIM: tables 329-0038 to 329-0049 and 330-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2306 and 2318.

The March 2007 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011-XWE, free) will soon be available.

The industrial product and raw material price indexes for April will be released on May 30.

For more information, or to inquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9606, fax: 613-951-1539; *prices-prix@statcan.ca*) or Sandrine Prasil (613-951-4409; *sandrine.prasil@statcan.ca*), Prices Division.

□

Industrial product price indexes

(1997=100)

	Relative importance	March 2006	February 2007[r]	March 2007[p]	March 2006 to March 2007	February to March 2007
					% change	
Industrial product price index (IPPI)	**100.00**	**112.5**	**116.4**	**117.9**	**4.8**	**1.3**
IPPI excluding petroleum and coal products	**94.32**	**107.2**	**111.6**	**112.1**	**4.6**	**0.4**
Aggregation by commodities						
Meat, fish and dairy products	5.78	106.3	110.9	111.1	4.5	0.2
Fruit, vegetables, feeds and other food products	5.99	104.3	108.1	108.1	3.6	0.0
Beverages	1.57	122.1	123.7	124.2	1.7	0.4
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.63	188.0	203.4	203.4	8.2	0.0
Rubber, leather and plastic fabricated products	3.30	118.8	117.1	117.1	-1.4	0.0
Textile products	1.58	100.5	100.7	100.7	0.2	0.0
Knitted products and clothing	1.51	104.7	104.3	104.3	-0.4	0.0
Lumber and other wood products	6.30	90.4	87.2	87.1	-3.7	-0.1
Furniture and fixtures	1.59	117.5	118.9	118.9	1.2	0.0
Pulp and paper products	7.23	103.5	108.8	108.5	4.8	-0.3
Printing and publishing	1.70	115.8	117.4	117.4	1.4	0.0
Primary metal products	7.80	125.8	153.5	159.3	26.6	3.8
Metal fabricated products	4.11	122.0	124.0	124.2	1.8	0.2
Machinery and equipment	5.48	107.3	108.0	107.9	0.6	-0.1
Motor vehicles and other transport equipment	22.16	93.8	94.3	94.1	0.3	-0.2
Electrical and communications products	5.77	93.7	95.2	94.4	0.7	-0.8
Non-metallic mineral products	1.98	119.3	121.6	121.6	1.9	0.0
Petroleum and coal products[1]	5.68	210.1	206.5	224.8	7.0	8.9
Chemicals and chemical products	7.07	123.7	125.4	125.3	1.3	-0.1
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.40	112.3	115.5	115.4	2.8	-0.1
Miscellaneous non-manufactured products	0.38	214.1	358.5	395.5	84.7	10.3
Intermediate goods[2]	**60.14**	**115.3**	**121.2**	**122.9**	**6.6**	**1.4**
First-stage intermediate goods[3]	7.71	130.5	160.8	167.0	28.0	3.9
Second-stage intermediate goods[4]	52.43	113.0	115.2	116.2	2.8	0.9
Finished goods[5]	**39.86**	**108.4**	**109.3**	**110.4**	**1.8**	**1.0**
Finished foods and feeds	8.50	113.0	115.1	115.3	2.0	0.2
Capital equipment	11.73	101.0	101.8	101.7	0.7	-0.1
All other finished goods	19.63	110.8	111.3	113.5	2.4	2.0

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
1. *This index is estimated for the current month.*
2. *Intermediate goods are goods used principally to produce other goods.*
3. *First-stage intermediate goods are items used most frequently to produce other intermediate goods.*
4. *Second-stage intermediate goods are items most commonly used to produce final goods.*
5. *Finished goods are goods most commonly used for immediate consumption or for capital investment.*

Raw Materials price indexes

(1997=100)

	Relative importance	March 2006	February 2007[r]	March 2007[p]	March 2006 to March 2007	February to March 2007
					% change	
Raw materials price index (RMPI)	**100.00**	**152.4**	**165.0**	**167.2**	**9.7**	**1.3**
Mineral fuels	35.16	247.8	241.6	242.3	-2.2	0.3
Vegetable products	10.28	82.2	98.8	98.4	19.7	-0.4
Animals and animal products	20.30	104.9	107.3	109.3	4.2	1.9
Wood	15.60	74.2	82.9	83.2	12.1	0.4
Ferrous materials	3.36	124.4	137.4	139.5	12.1	1.5
Non-ferrous metals	12.93	160.5	231.8	242.1	50.8	4.4
Non-metallic minerals	2.38	141.7	146.2	146.2	3.2	0.0
RMPI excluding mineral fuels	**64.84**	**108.3**	**129.5**	**132.5**	**22.3**	**2.3**

r *revised*
p *preliminary*

■

Road motor vehicle registrations

2006 (preliminary)

On average, 20.1 million road motor vehicles were registered in Canada in 2006.

Of these, 18.7 million (93%) were passenger cars and light vehicles such as pickup trucks and minivans. The remainder consisted of 80,000 buses, 485,000 motorcycles and mopeds, and just under 761,000 truck tractors and trucks (weighing at least 4 500 kilograms).

In addition to these road motor vehicles, 5.0 million trailers and 1.7 million off-road, construction and farm vehicles were also registered.

Provincial data are available on an annual and quarterly basis, permitting users to analyze seasonal variations.

Note: These data are not comparable with the motor vehicle registrations prior to 1999. Although the data still come from provincial and territorial governments, vehicle counts were tabulated from registration files used by the Canadian Vehicle Survey. A standardized methodology was applied to the files, providing more consistent results across provinces and territories.

Revisions have been made to the registrations for British Columbia for the years 2003 to 2005. These, in turn, affect the national totals for the same period.

Available on CANSIM: table 405-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2747.

Annual data for 2006 are now available for free from the *Summary tables* module of our website. Quarterly data are available upon request.

To order data, to obtain more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; *transportationstatistics@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Coal and coke statistics

February 2007

Data on coal and coke are now available for February.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2003 and 2147.

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; *energ@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Electric power statistics

February 2007

Data on electric power are now available for February.

Available on CANSIM: table 127-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2151.

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; *energ@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Asphalt roofing

March 2007

Data on asphalt roofing are now available for March.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0052.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2123.

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. ■

New products

Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada, Vol. 4, no. 1
Catalogue number 81-004-XIE
(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.

How to order products

To order by phone, please refer to:

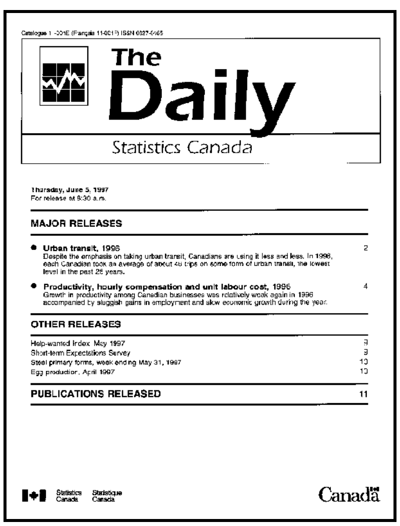
- The title
- The catalogue number
- The volume number
- The issue number
- Your credit card number.

From Canada and the United States, call:	**1-800-267-6677**
From other countries, call:	**1-613-951-2800**
To fax your order, call:	**1-877-287-4369**
For address changes or account inquiries, call:	**1-877-591-6963**

To order by mail, write to: Statistics Canada, Finance, 6th floor, R.H. Coats Bldg., Ottawa, K1A 0T6. Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 6% GST and applicable PST.

To order by Internet, write to: *infostats@statcan.ca* or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's website *(www.statcan.ca)*. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *For sale*.

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.



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.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at *http://www.statcan.ca*. To receive *The Daily* each morning by e-mail, send an e-mail message to *listproc@statcan.ca*. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2007. All rights reserved. The content of this electronic publication may be reproduced, in whole or in part, and by any means, without further permission from Statistics Canada, subject to the following conditions: that it be done solely for the purposes of private study, research, criticism, review or newspaper summary, and/or for non-commercial purposes; and that Statistics Canada be fully acknowledged as follows: Source (or "Adapted from", if appropriate): Statistics Canada, year of publication, name of product, catalogue number, volume and issue numbers, reference period and page(s). Otherwise, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, by any means—electronic, mechanical or photocopy—or for any purposes without prior written permission of Licensing Services, Client Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0T6.