



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Leading indicators

April 2007

The leading indicator rose 0.4% in April, matching its increase in March as well as its average gain in 2006. Household spending slowed from its recent torrid pace, while manufacturing continued to recover from a prolonged slump.

For the second straight month, none of the three manufacturing components fell. New orders posted the largest gain with a 0.9% increase. Aircraft and autos led this advance. The steady growth of orders in 2007 was reflected in a rebound in manufacturing shipments, which helped stabilize the ratio of shipments to inventories. The average workweek also edged up.

Financial market conditions continued to strengthen, with the stock market setting new record highs. Prices rose across the board in April, unlike previous gains which often were concentrated in metals and energy.

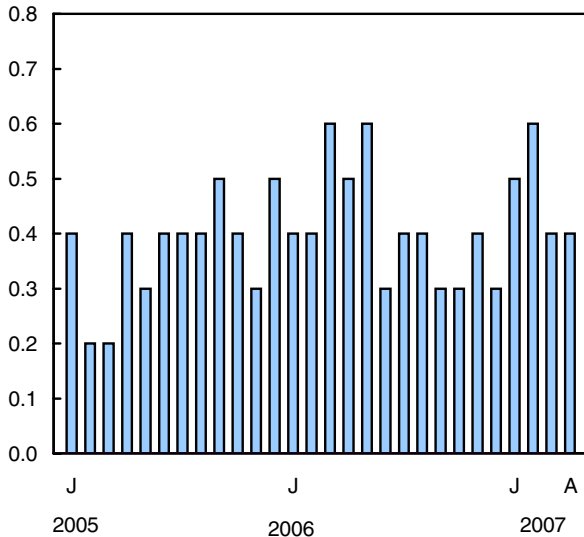
Household spending was mixed. Furniture and appliance sales continued to expand steadily. Housing levelled off, largely because housing starts returned to more normal levels after receiving a boost from the unseasonably warm start to the year. Purchases of other durable goods fell for a second straight month, largely due to slower auto sales.

Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1601.

Composite leading indicator

Smoothed percentage change



For more information on the economy, consult the May 2007 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 20, no. 5 (11-010-XWB, free), available from the *Publications* module of our website. A printed version (11-010-XPB, \$25/\$243) will be available soon.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Philip Cross (613-951-9162; ceo@statcan.ca), Current Economic Analysis Group.

□

Leading indicators

	November 2006	December 2006	January 2007	February 2007	March 2007	April 2007	Last month of data available % change
Composite leading indicator (1992=100)	220.1	220.7	221.9	223.3	224.2	225.2	0.4
Housing index (1992=100) ¹	139.8	139.3	143.4	144.0	144.8	144.7	-0.1
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,769	2,781	2,794	2,805	2,820	2,827	0.2
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	12,158	12,373	12,565	12,817	12,981	13,114	1.0
Money supply, M1 (\$ millions, 1992) ²	155,228	157,277	159,525	161,732	162,507	163,104	0.4
US Conference Board leading indicator (1992=100) ³	126.7	126.7	126.8	127.0	126.9	126.9	0.0
Manufacturing							
Average workweek (hours)	38.3	38.3	38.3	38.3	38.4	38.6	0.5
New orders, durables (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	26,078	25,819	25,868	26,290	26,507	26,752	0.9
Shipments/inventories of finished goods ⁴	1.85	1.83	1.82	1.81	1.81	1.81	0.00 ⁵
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	2,589	2,604	2,615	2,638	2,663	2,681	0.7
Other durable goods sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	8,729	8,752	8,801	8,852	8,819	8,787	-0.4
Unsmoothed composite leading indicator	221.8	222.4	225.7	225.6	225.3	226.7	0.6

1. Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).
2. Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.
3. The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.
4. The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the second preceding month.
5. Difference from the previous month.

Study: The busy lives of teens 2005

Despite the stereotypical image of nonchalant, lounging teenagers, many teens carry a heavier load than people give them credit for, according to a new study.

In fact, compared with nine other countries (with time-use surveys) from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Canadian teens ranked first in terms of average hours spent on unpaid and paid labour during the school week.

Furthermore, averaged over the week, including school and non-school days, teens did an average of 7.1 hours of unpaid and paid labour per day in 2005. This 50-hour workweek was virtually the same as that of adult Canadians aged 20 to 64 doing the same activities.

The study, published today in the online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, is based on time use data from the 2005 General Social Survey. The data allowed a detailed examination of one 24-hour day.

The study found that the vast majority of teens aged 15 to 19 living at home with their parents attend school. In 2005, these teenagers did an average of 9.2 hours of school work, homework, paid work and housework on school days and 3.5 hours on weekends.

The time teens spent on these skill-enhancing activities is arguably a positive investment in their long-term personal and economic well-being. However, not surprisingly, the relatively high workloads involved do result in some stress.

For example, 16% considered themselves workaholics, 39% felt under constant pressure to accomplish more than they could handle, and nearly two-thirds (64%) cut back on sleep to get things done.

Also, only 45% of teens with high stress reported being very happy and/or very satisfied with life, significantly lower than that of teens with little or no stress (around 72%).

After school attendance, homework was the most time-consuming unpaid activity for teens, with 60% doing an average of 2 hours and 20 minutes every day.

Family environment is a strong predictor of this activity. Teens were significantly more likely to do homework and more of it if both parents had a university education, if they lived in a two-parent intact family (where a divorce has not taken place), and if their parents were foreign-born.

Interestingly, boys with Canadian-born parents did significantly less homework than girls in similar families, and less than either girls or boys with immigrant parents. Also important, teens with demanding paid jobs (20 hours or more per week) did significantly less homework than those not employed.

Age and type of day (school versus non-school) were strongly significant predictors of teens being involved in daily paid work. Paid work was the only productive activity that increased over time.

Although some studies have shown part-time student employment to be positively linked with personal responsibility, dependability and future productivity, an excess of it can interfere with school. Furthermore, this

study shows that teenagers with long paid workweeks reported higher levels of personal stress.

Nearly 4 in 10 teens did some housework daily, averaging about one hour. Although overall gender differences have narrowed over the past 20 years, in 2005, girls with immigrant parents did significantly more housework than boys in such families.

Time spent on housework was also higher in rural areas and in two-parent blended families.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3701 and 4503.

The article "The busy lives of teens" is now available in the May 2007 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 8, no. 5 (75-001-XWE, free), from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Katherine Marshall (613-951-6890; katherine.marshall@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division. ■

Study: Canada's oil and gas industries 1997 to 2006

A growing demand for energy, coupled with an increase in prices, has led to consistent growth in Canada's oil and gas sector during the past 10 years, according to a new study.

The study, published in the online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, analyzes economic activity in three components of the sector—upstream, midstream and downstream—as well as trends in employment between 1997 and 2006.

In 2006, the contribution of the oil and gas sector to Canada's gross domestic product exceeded \$40 billion (in 1997 dollars). In addition, during the past decade, employment in the industry increased at a somewhat faster pace than the national average.

Total employment in all oil and gas industries amounted to roughly 298,000 in 2006, a 22% increase from 1997, a slightly faster gain than the average of 20% for the economy as a whole.

In the upstream component, which covers oil and gas exploration, extraction and production, employment increased at three times that pace, about 65%, from 107, 000 to roughly 177,000. The majority (75%) of the jobs were in Alberta, with its vast oil and gas reserves.

The impact on wages was pronounced. In 1997, employees in oil and gas extraction earned 58% more

per hour than the average worker. By 2006, this gap had widened to 80%.

For example, workers in oil and gas extraction earned on average about \$30.36 an hour in 2006, compared with \$16.73 for the labour market as a whole.

In terms of volume, crude oil production rose 21% between 1997 and 2005. In 1997, total crude production amounted to just under 112.7 million cubic metres, with a value of \$15.9 billion. By 2005, the volume had increased to 136.2 million cubic metres, and the value had nearly tripled to \$45.2 billion.

Natural gas production increased by about 8% in terms of volume, but because of higher prices, the value rose by more than 312%.

The midstream component of the industry includes pipelines, rail, truck and tanker transportation, and storage. The downstream component consists of refining and marketing, and includes refineries, gas distribution utilities, oil product wholesalers, service stations and petrochemical companies.

Combined, these two components contributed about \$10.8 billion to Canada's gross domestic product in 2006, and employed around 121,000 people.

Canada is currently the world's eighth-largest producer of crude oil, pumping out about 2.5 million barrels a day. Current world demand is about 84 million barrels, while production stands at about 86 million barrels.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2148, 2191, 2446 and 2447.

The article "Fuelling the economy" is now available in the May 2007 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 8, no. 5 (75-001-XWE, free), from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Cara Williams (613-951-6972; cara.williams@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division. ■

Aircraft movement statistics: Major airports April 2007

For the eleventh consecutive month, aircraft take-offs and landings at Canadian airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers and flight service stations increased in year-over-year monthly comparisons. These 96 airports reported 505,135 movements in April

compared with 484,635 movements at 97 airports in April 2006, an increase of 4.2% (+20,500 movements).

Itinerant movements (flights from one airport to another) increased by 1.8% (+6,144 movements) in April compared with the same month a year earlier.

Local movements (flights that remain in the vicinity of the airport) increased by 9.5% (+14,356 movements) in April compared with April 2006.

Available on CANSIM: tables 401-0007 to 401-0020.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2715.

The April 2007 issue of *Aircraft Movement Statistics*, Vol. 1, no. 4 (51-007-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 Client Services (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; transportationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Natural gas liquids and liquefied petroleum gases

October to December 2006

Data on the supply and demand for natural gas liquids and liquefied petroleum gases are now available up to December 2006.

Available on CANSIM: table 132-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 7524.

For more information, or to inquire 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. ■

New products

Aircraft Movement Statistics: NAV CANADA Towers and Flight Service Stations, April 2007, Vol. 1, no. 4
Catalogue number 51-007-XWE
 (free).

Perspectives on Labour and Income, Vol. 8, no. 5
Catalogue number 75-001-XWE
 (free).

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Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six rides on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses and relatively weak gains in 1995 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during PM 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, Apr 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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