



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, August 21, 2007

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Consumer Price Index, July 2007	2
Consumer prices rose 2.2% in July compared with July 2006, identical to the increases of the three previous months. In July, consumer prices in Alberta posted the largest slowdown since October 2003.	
Retail trade, June 2007	6
Consumers took a shopping break in June following the largest monthly sales increase in almost a decade in May.	
Employment Insurance, June 2007	10
Leading indicators, July 2007	11
Machinery and equipment price indexes, second quarter 2007	12
Refined petroleum products, June 2007	13
Large urban transit, June 2007	13

New products	14
---------------------	----



Releases

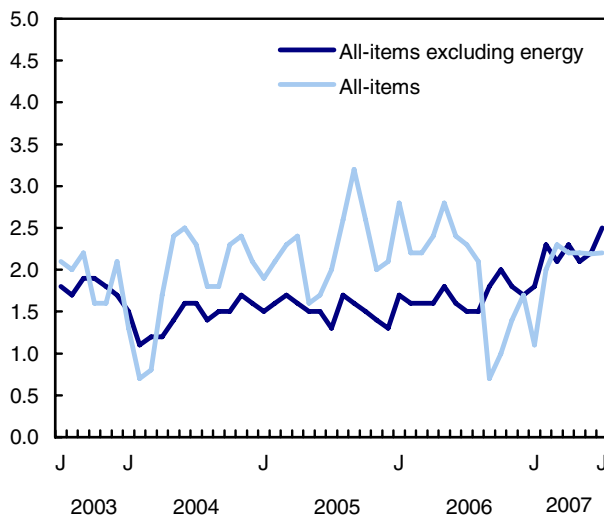
Consumer Price Index

July 2007

Consumer prices rose 2.2% in July compared with July 2006, identical to the increases of the three previous months.

Percentage change from the same month of the previous year

% change



For the fourth straight month, most of the average growth in consumer prices was attributable to costs associated with owned accommodation (+4.8%). Declines in prices for gasoline and computer equipment and supplies dampened the upward pressure on average prices.

The all-items index excluding energy rose 2.5% from July 2006 to July 2007, faster than in June (+2.2%).

The Bank of Canada's core index advanced 2.3% in July after posting a 2.5% increase in June. This index is used by the Bank of Canada to monitor the inflation control target.

The all-items index edged up 0.1% between June and July 2007 after falling 0.2% between May and June. Higher prices for women's clothing and traveller accommodation, and increased mortgage interest cost

were largely offset by lower prices for motor vehicle purchases and leases, natural gas and fresh vegetables.

The all-items index without energy and the core index both rose 0.1% between June and July 2007. These indexes were unchanged between May and June.

12-month change: Owned accommodation costs remain major contributor for a fourth straight month

The 12-month rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was mainly due to higher costs for owned accommodation and, to a lesser extent, food.

For the fourth straight month, owned accommodation costs were the main contributor to the year-over-year increase in the CPI.

The component that contributed the most to the increase of owned accommodation costs was mortgage interest cost, which rose 6.0%, faster than in June (+5.7%). This was the highest rate of growth posted since December 2000.

Higher mortgage rates fuelled the increase in mortgage interest cost. In previous months, the growth in mortgage interest cost had been mainly attributable to higher prices for new homes.

Homeowners' replacement cost also contributed to the increase in the CPI in July. This component, which represents the worn-out structural portion of housing and is estimated using new housing prices (excluding land), increased 6.2% between July 2006 and July 2007. This was up slightly from the 6.1% increase observed in June, a second consecutive acceleration for this component following eight months of slowdown.

In July, consumers spent 3.6% more for restaurant meals and 2.7% more for food purchased at grocery stores than in July 2006. In spite of this increase, fresh fruit prices were down 3.7% in July 2007 from July 2006.

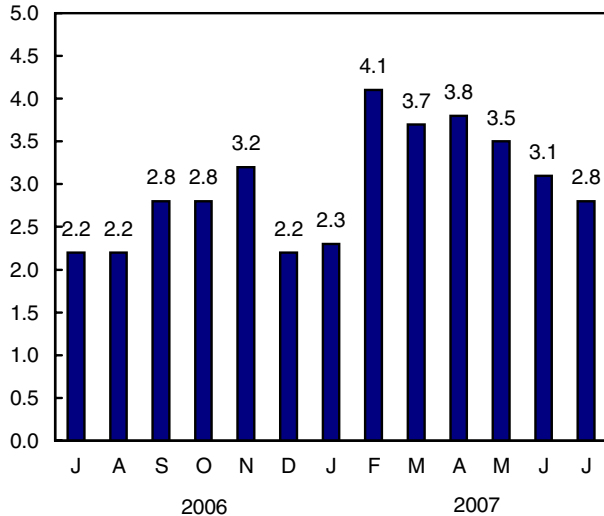
Upward pressure on the all-items index was partially offset by falling prices for gasoline, computer equipment and supplies, and natural gas.

Lower gasoline prices were recorded in all provinces except in the Prairies and Newfoundland and Labrador. The 2.8% drop in gasoline prices from July 2006 accounted for most of the dampening effect on the rise in consumer prices.

Natural gas prices declined 3.2% in July. Prices for this component had increased 1.9% in June after 11 months of consecutive reductions.

Percentage change in the food index from the same month of the previous year

% change



Consumers continued to enjoy declines in prices for computer equipment and supplies (-17.7%) and video equipment (-8.6%).

Owned accommodation cost in Alberta slows down

The increase in consumer prices was between 1.0% and 2.0% in all provinces except Alberta (+5.0%), Saskatchewan (+3.2%), Manitoba (+2.2%) and New Brunswick (+2.2%).

Despite the increase in Alberta in July, the province recorded the most significant slowdown since October 2003. From June 2006 to June 2007, the CPI grew 6.3% in Alberta.

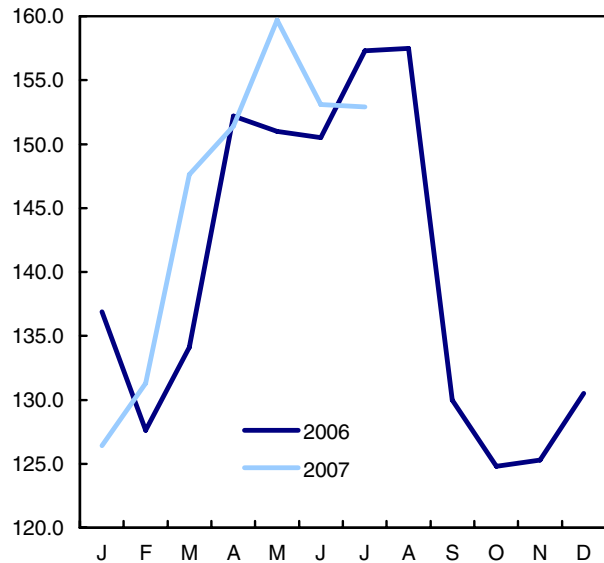
The cost of owned accommodation rose 13.9% in Alberta, the smallest increase since May 2006. The slowdown compared with June was mainly due to slowing growth in homeowners' replacement cost. This cost increased 17.8% in July compared with a rise of 23.6% in June.

In Saskatchewan, the 15.2% increase in the cost of owned accommodation was driven mainly by a leap in homeowners' replacement cost (+37.7%), which surpassed the 31.8% climb in June.

The smallest increases in the CPI were observed in Newfoundland and Labrador (+1.0%), Prince Edward Island (+1.3%) and Quebec (+1.3%). In these provinces, the rise in prices can largely be attributed to mortgage interest cost.

Gasoline price index

Index



From June to July 2007: Moderate growth in the CPI

Average prices rose 0.1% between June and July after dropping 0.2% between May and June.

Upward pressures from women's clothing, traveller accommodation and mortgage interest cost were largely offset by lower prices for motor vehicle purchases and leases, natural gas and fresh vegetables.

Women's clothing prices climbed 4.0% in July following a 4.3% downturn in June.

Traveller accommodation cost increased 4.6% between June and July. While the increase was lower than that in July 2006 (+5.8%), it remains in line with price shifts regularly observed during the peak tourist season.

Mortgage interest cost rose 0.8% in July, the largest month-over-month increase since August 1994. This followed six consecutive months of 0.4% increases. The growth in July was mainly due to the increase in mortgage rates.

Consumers were able to purchase and lease motor vehicles for 1.6% less than in June, following a decrease of 0.3% over the preceding month. Such downward movement is common at this time of the year when discounts are given to reduce inventories of the current year's models.

The 4.6% drop in natural gas prices also mitigated the monthly increase in the CPI. The decline observed in

July was related to the price decreases posted in Alberta (-15.3%), Ontario (-3.3%) and Quebec (-1.7%).

Consumers spent 5.6% less for fresh vegetables in July compared with the previous month. This decrease is seasonal and reflects the arrival of local harvests in grocery stores.

Note: Users of the urban centre indexes should note that, effective July 2007, Statistics Canada has corrected the weights of some urban centres that were in error in the Consumer Price Index 2005 basket update.

The weights of St. John's, Charlottetown, Halifax, Saint John, Québec, Montréal, Ottawa, Thunder Bay, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Calgary and Victoria were adjusted, while those of Toronto, Vancouver, Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit were not.

With this correction, the July level of each urban centre index has been restored to reflect the correct movement for May and June. The published urban centre indexes for May and June will remain unchanged.

The calculation of urban centre indexes is separate from the calculation of the provincial and national indexes. Therefore, the correction made to the urban centre weights has no effect on the provincial or national indexes.

Published weight documentation was also not affected.

Available on CANSIM: tables 326-0009, 326-0012, 326-0015 and 326-0020 to 326-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2301.

More information about the concepts and use of the CPI are also available online in *Your Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (62-557-XIB, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

Available at 7 a.m. online under *The Daily* module of our website.

The July 2007 issue of the *Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 86, no. 7 (62-001-XWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. A paper copy is also available (62-001-XPE, \$12/\$111). A more detailed analysis of the CPI is available in this publication. See *How to order products*.

The August Consumer Price Index will be released on September 19.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax 613-951-1539; prices-prix@statcan.ca), Prices Division.

□

Consumer Price Index and major components
(2002=100)

	Relative importance ¹	July 2007	June 2007	July 2006	June to July 2007	July 2006 to July 2007
Unadjusted						
					% change	
All-items	100.00²	112.0	111.9	109.6	0.1	2.2
Food	17.04	112.3	112.6	109.2	-0.3	2.8
Shelter	26.62	117.0	116.8	113.2	0.2	3.4
Household operations and furnishings	11.10	103.2	103.0	101.4	0.2	1.8
Clothing and footwear	5.36	94.6	93.1	93.5	1.6	1.2
Transportation	19.88	118.5	119.2	118.3	-0.6	0.2
Health and personal care	4.73	107.5	107.9	105.7	-0.4	1.7
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	103.0	102.5	101.3	0.5	1.7
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	126.0	125.7	121.5	0.2	3.7
All-items (1992=100)		133.3	133.2	130.5	0.1	2.1
Special aggregates						
Goods	48.78	108.6	108.9	108.1	-0.3	0.5
Services	51.22	115.3	114.8	111.2	0.4	3.7
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	109.1	109.0	106.5	0.1	2.4
Energy	9.38	139.6	140.1	142.0	-0.4	-1.7
Core index ³	82.71	110.0	109.9	107.5	0.1	2.3

1. 2005 CPI basket weights at April 2007 prices, Canada, effective May 2007. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 (<http://www.statcan.ca/english/sdds/index.htm>).
2. Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
3. The measure of the core Consumer Price Index (CPI) excludes from the all-items CPI the effect of changes in indirect taxes and eight of the most volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada: fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuel; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies. For additional information on the core CPI, consult the Bank of Canada website (www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm).

Consumer Price Index by province, and for Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit¹
(2002=100)

	July 2007	June 2007	July 2006	June to July 2007	July 2006 to July 2007
Unadjusted					
				% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador	111.6	111.9	110.5	-0.3	1.0
Prince Edward Island	114.0	114.1	112.5	-0.1	1.3
Nova Scotia	113.0	113.0	111.3	0.0	1.5
New Brunswick	112.1	112.1	109.7	0.0	2.2
Quebec	110.6	110.7	109.2	-0.1	1.3
Ontario	111.1	111.1	109.0	0.0	1.9
Manitoba	112.1	111.7	109.7	0.4	2.2
Saskatchewan	113.3	113.1	109.8	0.2	3.2
Alberta	119.1	118.8	113.4	0.3	5.0
British Columbia	110.5	110.3	108.8	0.2	1.6
Whitehorse	110.7	109.7	107.5	0.9	3.0
Yellowknife ²	111.5	111.6	107.8	-0.1	3.4
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	108.9	108.0	104.8	0.8	3.9

1. View the geographical details for the city of Whitehorse, the city of Yellowknife and the town of Iqaluit.
2. Part of the increase first recorded in the shelter index for Yellowknife for December 2004 inadvertently reflected rent increases that actually occurred earlier. As a result, the change in the shelter index was overstated in December 2004, and was understated in the previous two years. The shelter index series for Yellowknife has been corrected from December 2002. In addition, the Yellowknife all-items CPI and some Yellowknife special aggregate index series have also changed. Data for Canada and all other provinces and territories were not affected.

Retail trade

June 2007

Consumers took a shopping break in June following the largest monthly sales increase in almost a decade in May.

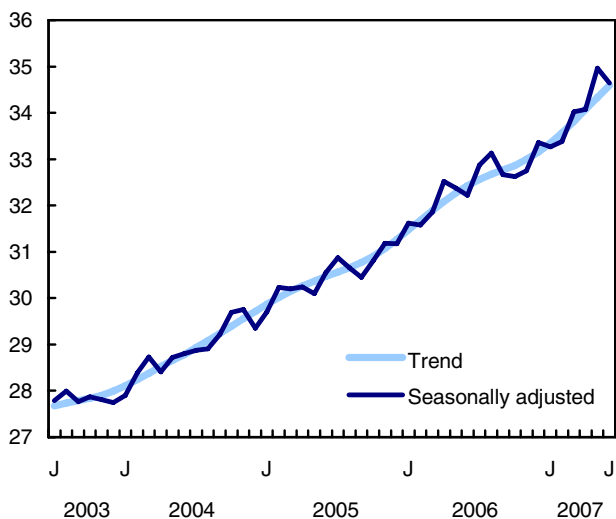
Total retail sales fell 0.9% to an estimated \$34.6 billion in June after advancing 2.6% in May.

Buoyed by May's advance, quarterly sales growth for the April-to-June period reached 3.0% and was the largest three-month gain in almost six years.

The bulk of the decline observed in June was due to a sales drop in the automotive sector. Excluding this sector (which includes gasoline stations' sales), retail sales were essentially unchanged.

Sales fall back on trend in June after strong May gains

\$ billions



Sales in the automotive sector fell 2.7% in June after three months of strong growth, most recently jumping 3.7% in May.

General merchandise stores (-0.7%), clothing and accessories stores (-0.4%), and building and outdoor home supplies stores (-0.3%) fell moderately in June after rebounding in May from April's sales declines.

Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores saw sales fall for the second month in a row after six months of consecutive growth.

Partially offsetting these declines were sales increases in food and beverage stores (+0.7%), at

miscellaneous retailers (+0.4%) and in pharmacies and personal care stores (+0.1%).

Retail sales at constant prices fell 0.6% in June, yet high sales levels throughout the second quarter resulted in a strong 2.6% increase during this three-month period.

June declines partially offset sizeable May gains

Sales at new car dealers fell back 2.7% in June after surging 3.1% in May. The New Motor Vehicles Sales Survey revealed that a decline in truck sales accounted for the entire drop in the number of new motor vehicles sold in June.

Used and recreational vehicles and parts dealers also saw sales decline in June (-2.9%), giving back just over a third of the exceptionally strong gains in May. Sales by gasoline stations fell 2.5% after a run-up in sales over the last eight months. This was only the second decline since the 14.6% drop posted in September 2006, when gasoline prices had plummeted 17.5%.

Sales at home centres and hardware stores (-0.5%), clothing stores (-0.3%) and general merchandisers (-0.7%) fell in June, following gains in May and declines in April attributable to volatile weather patterns.

Within the furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores sector, furniture stores (-1.8%) and computer and software stores (-4.8%) saw sales decrease for the second month in a row. Sales at computer and software stores have been on a downward trend for quite some time, posting six consecutive years of annual sales declines. Home furnishings stores sales rebounded back from a drop in May (-1.1%) to advance 1.5% in June, while sales at home electronics and appliance stores remained flat in June (+0.1%).

Supermarkets' sales rose 0.8% in June, continuing four months of consecutive sales growth. Sales have been consistently strong for beer, wine and liquor stores, which saw their fifth monthly increase in six months (+1.0%). Partially offsetting these gains was a 0.4% sales decline in convenience and specialty food stores.

Retailers experience their best quarterly performance in almost six years

Retail sales growth accelerated in the second quarter of 2007, clocking in at a heady 3.0% and bettering the previous quarter's already solid 2.0% performance by a wide margin. The latest advance was mostly attributable to a significant upswing in the automotive sector's sales (including gasoline stations sales), which accounts for 35% of total retail sales.

A 5.1% surge in sales by new car dealers accounted for the lion's share of the second quarter's outsized

performance. This was in stark contrast to the first quarter, when sales at new car dealers actually declined (-1.7%). The New Motor Vehicle Sales Survey revealed strong growth in the number of cars sold in the second quarter of 2007 (+4.4%) with passenger car sales taking the lead (+6.0%) and truck sales rising at a slower rate (+2.7%).

Retailers other than new, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers saw a reverse of this pattern, with strong second quarter sales growth of 2.2% falling short of the first quarter's gain (+2.9%). Most store types recorded positive but more subdued growth, building instead on the significant sales gains reported in the January-to-March period. Notable in this respect, recording positive but slower growth, were furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores (+1.8%), building and outdoor home supplies stores (+1.0%), general merchandise stores (+1.0%), and pharmacies and personal care stores (+0.9%).

Food and beverage store sales bucked the trend, however, with sales picking up 2.5% in the April-to-June period after a lackluster first quarter (+0.8%). Since the sales jump in February (+2.1%), partially induced by a hike in fresh vegetable prices between January and February, sales have continued to grow strongly at supermarkets (+2.4%), making the second quarter advance one of the biggest since this series began.

At the detailed store-type level, only 2 of 18 store types actually recorded declines in the second quarter, computer and software stores (-2.3%) and specialized building materials and garden stores (-2.7%). These accounted for less than 2% of overall retail sales in the second quarter.

Quebec shoppers take a break from their recent spending spree

Quebec sales fell 3.4% in June as shoppers took a break after a spending spree in May (+4.7%), induced by the payout of a pay equity settlement to the province's public service sector. The May surge contributed to the sales growth of 3.6% in the second quarter, the highest three-month gain in over 10 years.

Sales edged down only 0.3% in Ontario in June. Despite the decrease, April-to-June sales rose 2.6%, compared with the 0.8% gain of the first quarter, due to

high sales levels at the start of the second quarter after a strong March.

Sales in Manitoba and Saskatchewan both edged down 0.3% in June after strong increases in May. Alberta (+0.2%) and British Columbia (-0.0%) retail sales remained fairly flat in June. However, second quarter growth rates in Alberta (+3.9%) and British Columbia (+2.8%) were buoyed by May's strong sales advances in both provinces.

Sales were down in all of the Atlantic Provinces, except Newfoundland and Labrador, after registering large gains in May. Newfoundland and Labrador bucked the trend as sales grew 1.8%, the province's seventh monthly sales increase in nine months.

Related indicators for July

Estimates from the Labour Force Survey revealed that employment was little changed in July, leaving growth so far in 2007 at 1.3%, similar to the growth rate in the first seven months of 2006. The unemployment rate edged down 0.1 percentage points to 6.0%, the lowest since 1974.

Based on preliminary sales data from the automotive industry, sales of new motor vehicles declined again in July (-3%).

The seasonally adjusted annual rate of housing starts declined a further 4.3% to 215,600 units in July, down from 225,300 units in June, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0014 to 080-0017.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2406 and 2408.

The June 2007 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-XWE, free) will soon be available.

Data on retail trade for July will be released on September 21.

For more information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lucy Chung (613-951-1903), Distributive Trades Division.

□

Retail sales

	June 2006	March 2007 ^r	April 2007 ^r	May 2007 ^r	June 2007 ^p	May to June 2007	June 2006 to June 2007
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
Automotive	10,955	11,682	11,879	12,325	11,998	-2.7	9.5
New car dealers	5,923	6,402	6,535	6,736	6,557	-2.7	10.7
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,461	1,534	1,535	1,668	1,619	-2.9	10.8
Gasoline stations	3,570	3,746	3,809	3,921	3,821	-2.5	7.0
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	2,283	2,468	2,499	2,484	2,471	-0.5	8.2
Furniture stores	786	852	857	853	838	-1.8	6.6
Home furnishings stores	444	490	498	492	500	1.5	12.5
Computer and software stores	128	121	123	123	117	-4.8	-8.6
Home electronics and appliance stores	925	1,005	1,020	1,016	1,017	0.1	9.9
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	2,057	2,203	2,126	2,246	2,240	-0.3	8.9
Home centres and hardware stores	1,683	1,780	1,725	1,835	1,825	-0.5	8.4
Specialized building materials and garden stores	374	424	402	411	415	1.0	11.0
Food and beverage stores	7,335	7,567	7,638	7,658	7,712	0.7	5.1
Supermarkets	5,285	5,402	5,450	5,463	5,507	0.8	4.2
Convenience and specialty food stores	779	839	842	849	846	-0.4	8.6
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,271	1,325	1,347	1,346	1,359	1.0	6.9
Pharmacies and personal care stores	2,187	2,341	2,311	2,365	2,368	0.1	8.3
Clothing and accessories stores	1,872	1,990	1,927	2,010	2,002	-0.4	6.9
Clothing stores	1,427	1,527	1,467	1,546	1,541	-0.3	8.0
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	445	463	460	464	461	-0.7	3.6
General merchandise stores	3,833	4,001	3,954	4,080	4,052	-0.7	5.7
Miscellaneous retailers	1,695	1,767	1,738	1,794	1,802	0.4	6.3
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	824	893	875	894	906	1.2	9.8
Miscellaneous store retailers	871	874	863	899	896	-0.4	2.9
Total retail sales	32,218	34,019	34,074	34,962	34,645	-0.9	7.5
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	24,833	26,083	26,003	26,557	26,468	-0.3	6.6
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	494	541	546	546	556	1.8	12.5
Prince Edward Island	119	133	129	130	130	-0.1	9.5
Nova Scotia	901	964	948	974	953	-2.2	5.7
New Brunswick	719	761	747	796	788	-1.1	9.6
Quebec	7,198	7,452	7,541	7,894	7,629	-3.4	6.0
Ontario	11,613	12,142	12,120	12,330	12,295	-0.3	5.9
Manitoba	1,067	1,159	1,151	1,176	1,172	-0.3	9.9
Saskatchewan	951	1,052	1,051	1,067	1,064	-0.3	11.9
Alberta	4,676	5,057	5,051	5,197	5,208	0.2	11.4
British Columbia	4,372	4,641	4,668	4,730	4,729	-0.0	8.2
Yukon	38	39	40	41	42	1.7	11.6
Northwest Territories	49	55	56	56	55	-2.2	10.5
Nunavut	21	23	24	24	24	0.1	10.7

^r revised

^p preliminary

Retail sales

	June 2006	May 2007 ^r	June 2007 ^p	June 2006 to June 2007
Unadjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
Automotive	12,808	14,650	13,636	6.5
New car dealers	7,138	8,164	7,527	5.5
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,829	2,314	1,993	9.0
Gasoline stations	3,842	4,171	4,116	7.1
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	2,208	2,321	2,388	8.2
Furniture stores	810	845	859	6.0
Home furnishings stores	443	484	493	11.3
Computer and software stores	121	112	107	-11.4
Home electronics and appliance stores	833	880	929	11.5
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	2,615	2,985	2,798	7.0
Home centres and hardware stores	2,111	2,392	2,250	6.6
Specialized building materials and garden stores	503	594	548	8.8
Food and beverage stores	7,677	7,951	8,243	7.4
Supermarkets	5,483	5,719	5,815	6.1
Convenience and specialty food stores	839	898	921	9.8
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,356	1,334	1,507	11.2
Pharmacies and personal care stores	2,201	2,410	2,353	6.9
Clothing and accessories stores	1,863	2,038	1,990	6.8
Clothing stores	1,421	1,563	1,535	8.0
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	442	475	455	2.9
General merchandise stores	4,004	4,284	4,269	6.6
Miscellaneous retailers	1,697	1,804	1,807	6.4
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	770	843	841	9.3
Miscellaneous store retailers	927	961	966	4.1
Total retail sales	35,074	38,443	37,484	6.9
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	26,107	27,965	27,964	7.1
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland and Labrador	552	599	615	11.5
Prince Edward Island	136	143	146	8.0
Nova Scotia	1,018	1,056	1,058	3.9
New Brunswick	800	873	868	8.5
Quebec	7,941	8,980	8,344	5.1
Ontario	12,622	13,495	13,306	5.4
Manitoba	1,171	1,286	1,271	8.5
Saskatchewan	1,049	1,193	1,165	11.0
Alberta	4,998	5,668	5,561	11.3
British Columbia	4,666	5,025	5,017	7.5
Yukon	44	46	49	11.1
Northwest Territories	54	56	60	10.8
Nunavut	22	24	25	11.5

^r revised

^p preliminary



Employment Insurance

June 2007 (preliminary)

An estimated 471,470 Canadians (seasonally adjusted) received regular Employment Insurance benefits in June, virtually unchanged from May (+0.1%). Declines in seven provinces and territories were offset by a 5.4% increase in Ontario, which had shown a 4.2% decline the previous month. Quebec and Yukon remained unchanged from the previous month.

Nationally, the number of regular beneficiaries was 3.6% lower than in June 2006 and 15% lower than in the same month five years ago. Provinces showing the strongest declines over the past five years are Alberta (-49.5%), British Columbia (-44.5%), Manitoba (-31.1%) and Saskatchewan (-23.2%).

Regular benefit payments in June totalled \$710.2 million, while 218,940 people made initial and renewal claims.

Note: Employment Insurance Statistics Program data are produced from an administrative data source and may, from time to time, be affected by changes to the *Employment Insurance Act* or administrative procedures.

The number of beneficiaries for this month is a measure of all persons who received Employment Insurance benefits from the 10th to the 16th of the month. This coincides with the reference week of the Labour Force Survey. The regular benefit payments figure measures the total of all monies paid to individuals from the 1st to the end of the month.

Available on CANSIM: tables 276-0001 to 276-0006, 276-0009, 276-0011, 276-0015 and 276-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2604.

Data on Employment Insurance for July will be released on September 25.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091), Labour Statistics Division.

Employment Insurance statistics

	June 2007	May 2007	June 2006	May to June 2007	June to June 2007
Seasonally adjusted					
				% change	
Regular beneficiaries	471,470 ^P	471,200 ^r	489,130	0.1	-3.6
Regular benefits paid (\$ millions)	710.2 ^P	673.3 ^r	694.3	5.5	2.3
Initial and Renewal Claims received ('000)	218.9 ^P	220.7 ^r	230.0	-0.8	-4.8
Unadjusted					
All beneficiaries ('000) ¹	604.2 ^P	658.6 ^P	639.5		
Regular beneficiaries ('000)	367.5 ^P	416.6 ^P	385.3		
Initial and Renewal Claims received ('000)	174.2	166.2	190.5		
Payments (\$ millions)	962.3	1,056.8	959.5		
Year-to-date (January to June)					
			2007	2006	2006 to 2007
					% change
Claims received ('000)			1,222.5	1,234.9	-1.0
Payments (\$ millions)			7,860.7	7,943.2	-1.0

^r revised

^P preliminary

1. "All beneficiaries" includes all claimants receiving regular benefits (for example, as a result of a layoff) or special benefits (for example, as a result of illness) and are representative of data for the Labour Force Survey reference week, which is usually the week containing the 15th of the month.

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	June 2007 ^P	May to June 2007	June to June 2007
Seasonally adjusted			
	% change		
Canada	471,470	0.1	-3.6
Newfoundland and Labrador	35,890	0.5	-8.6
Prince Edward Island	7,980	-0.4	-10.6
Nova Scotia	27,680	-1.9	-6.3
New Brunswick	30,050	-1.2	-11.9
Quebec	166,270	0.0	-2.9
Ontario	132,240	5.4	4.8
Manitoba	9,960	0.2	-9.0
Saskatchewan	9,430	-0.5	-4.7
Alberta	16,540	-1.9	-11.6
British Columbia	36,870	-0.3	-11.6
Yukon	770	0.0	-7.2
Northwest Territories	630	3.3	-7.4
Nunavut	340	-5.6	-12.8

^P preliminary

Note: The number of beneficiaries includes all claimants who received regular benefits for the Labour Force Survey reference week, usually containing the 15th day of the month.

Leading indicators

July 2007

The composite leading index advanced 0.4% in July after an upward-revised gain of 0.3% in June. Of the 10 components, 6 expanded, one more than in June, while 2 were unchanged and 2 declined. Household spending remained the main source of growth, while manufacturing continued to lag.

Consumer spending on the two durable goods components posted their largest gains in a year. Furniture and appliance sales received a boost from continued strong existing home sales over the summer and a rebound in housing starts. Spending on other durable goods continued to strengthen, underpinned by strong labour market conditions and lower prices for imported consumer goods.

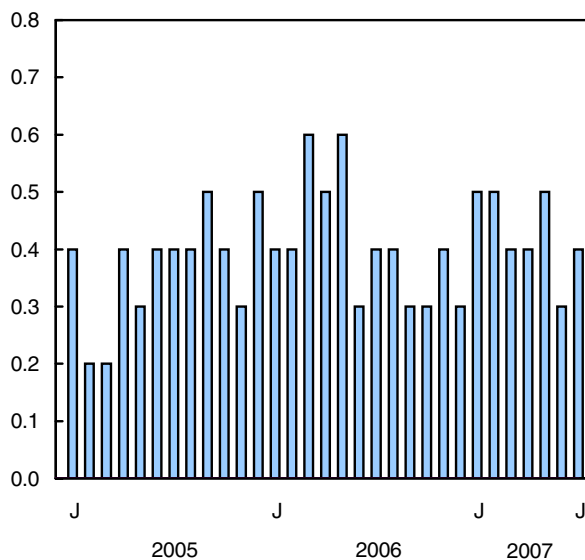
Business spending remained a positive force in domestic spending. Business services drove the growth of services employment. The buoyancy of business investment was reflected in non-residential building permits and the volume of machinery and equipment imports, both of which hit record highs in the second quarter.

Manufacturing remained the weakest sector of the economy. Orders for durable goods and the ratio of shipments to inventories both trended down, although the unsmoothed versions turned up. The slack in manufacturing reflects weak US demand. The US

leading indicator was unchanged in July, and has not risen in five months. While understating the underlying strength of the US economy, this correctly reflects the underlying trend of our exports to the US at a time of a rising exchange rate.

Composite leading indicator

Smoothed % change



Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.

Vol. 20, no. 8 (11-010-XIB, free), available from the *Publications* module of our website.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1601.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Philip Cross (613-951-3627; ceo@statcan.ca), Current Economic Analysis Group.

For more information on the economy, consult the August 2007 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*,

Leading indicators

	February 2007	March 2007	April 2007	May 2007	June 2007	July 2007	Last month of data available % change
Composite leading indicator (1992=100)	223.1	224.1	225.1	226.2	226.8	227.7	0.4
Housing index (1992=100) ¹	144.1	144.9	145.1	147.7	146.4	148.2	1.2
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,805	2,820	2,828	2,836	2,842	2,850	0.3
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	12,817	12,981	13,114	13,344	13,518	13,683	1.2
Money supply, M1 (\$ millions, 1992) ²	161,732	162,507	163,161	163,190	163,752	164,485	0.4
US Conference Board leading indicator (1992=100) ³	127.0	126.9	126.9	126.9	126.8	126.8	0.0
Manufacturing							
Average workweek (hours)	38.3	38.4	38.5	38.5	38.5	38.5	0.0
New orders, durables (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	26,323	26,541	26,806	27,079	27,044	26,891	-0.6
Shipments/inventories of finished goods ⁴	1.81	1.81	1.81	1.84	1.84	1.83	-0.01 ⁵
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	2,613	2,623	2,625	2,633	2,651	2,674	0.9
Other durable goods sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	8,848	8,865	8,866	8,953	9,043	9,154	1.2
Unsmoothed composite leading indicator	225.1	225.7	226.7	228.2	228.4	229.5	0.5

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 previous month.

Machinery and equipment price indexes

Second quarter 2007

The Machinery and Equipment Price Index (MEPI) stood at 89.7 (1997=100) in the second quarter, down 4.1% from the previous quarter. The import component index fell 5.9%, while the domestic index edged down 0.6%. Compared with the second quarter of 2006, the total MEPI was down 0.2%, as the import index decreased 0.4%, while the domestic index rose slightly by 0.1%.

In the second quarter, all industries recorded decreases in the prices of machinery and equipment purchased. Manufacturing industries (-4.1%) contributed significantly to the total MEPI quarterly decrease. Among its subcomponents, the largest contributors to the quarterly decrease were transportation equipment manufacturing (-4.2%), primary metal and fabricated metal product manufacturing (-4.5%) and paper manufacturing

(-3.0%). The second largest contributor to the total quarterly decrease was finance, insurance and real estate (-4.8%), with its subcomponent, real estate, rental and leasing services, falling 5.4%.

Among commodities, price decreases for automobiles, excluding passenger vans (-7.5%) and other industry-specific machinery (-5.1%) were the largest contributors to the quarterly decrease.

The US dollar depreciated 6.3% against its Canadian counterpart in the second quarter of 2007.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0041 and 327-0042.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2312.

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

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free

1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; prices-prix@statcan.ca), or Adrian Fisher (613-951-9612), Prices Division.

Machinery and equipment price indexes (1997=100)

Industries	Relative importance	Second quarter 2007 ^P	First quarter to second quarter 2007	Second quarter 2006 to Second quarter 2007
% change				
Total Machinery and Equipment Price Index	100.00	89.7	-4.1	-0.2
Domestic	32.03	104.2	-0.6	0.1
Imported	67.97	82.9	-5.9	-0.4
Crop and animal production	4.07	99.6	-4.1	0.9
Forestry and logging	0.27	99.4	-4.1	0.0
Fishing, hunting and trapping	0.08	106.2	-3.5	1.5
Support activities for agriculture and forestry	0.10	97.3	-3.8	0.7
Mines, quarries and oil wells	4.26	102.3	-3.9	1.4
Utilities	3.55	95.8	-3.4	3.7
Construction	3.54	96.3	-3.7	1.3
All manufacturing	22.34	96.0	-4.1	0.9
Trade	8.38	87.4	-3.3	-0.5
Transportation (excluding pipeline transportation)	7.66	102.6	-4.4	0.4
Pipeline transportation	1.18	102.4	-3.4	2.3
Warehousing and storage	0.26	101.7	-2.9	0.7
Finance, insurance and real estate	19.90	82.5	-4.8	-2.5
Private education services	0.12	76.1	-4.9	-1.0
Education services (excluding private), health care and social assistance	2.09	85.3	-3.7	-0.8
Other services (excluding public administration)	16.39	78.3	-3.7	-1.5
Public administration	5.81	82.5	-3.3	-0.6

^P preliminary

Refined petroleum products

June 2007 (preliminary)

Data on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for June. Other selected data about these products are also available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

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

Large urban transit

June 2007 (preliminary)

Combined ridership on 10 large urban transit systems in Canada was 3.0% higher in June than it was for the same month in 2006.

Approximately 118.8 million passenger trips were taken on these transit systems in June. These systems account for about 80% of total urban transit in Canada.

The trips generated \$195.9 million in revenue in June (excluding subsidies), a 5.3% increase over June 2006.

Available on CANSIM: table 408-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2745.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Client Services (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 1-613-951-0009; transportationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

New products

The Consumer Price Index, July 2007, Vol. 86, no. 7
Catalogue number 62-001-XPE (\$12/\$111).

The Consumer Price Index, July 2007, Vol. 86, no. 7
Catalogue number 62-001-XWE
 (free).

Imports by Country, January to June 2007, Vol. 64,
no. 2
Catalogue number 65-006-XCB (\$67/\$221).

Imports by Country, January to June 2007, Vol. 64,
no. 2
Catalogue number 65-006-XPB (\$133/\$441).

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.

Catalogue 11-001-XIE (Paragraphe 11001-XIE)



The Daily
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.



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 2.1 trips 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 was relatively 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
- **Structural Equations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, used ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, April 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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 lstproc@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.