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Releases

Education Matters - Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada

September 2007

Tens of thousands of students, from kindergarten to college and university, have gone back to school. In honour of this annual ritual, *Education Matters*, released today, presents "Back to school - September 2007". This article puts together a few facts and figures relating to education, including the important role that parents play in preparing their children to begin school, and enrolment trends in college, university, and apprenticeship training.

"Back to school - September 2007" is now available online in the September 2007 issue of *Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada*, Vol. 4, no. 3 (81-004-XIE, free). From the *Publications* module of our website, under *Free internet publications*, choose *Education, training and learning*, then *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 capacity utilization rates

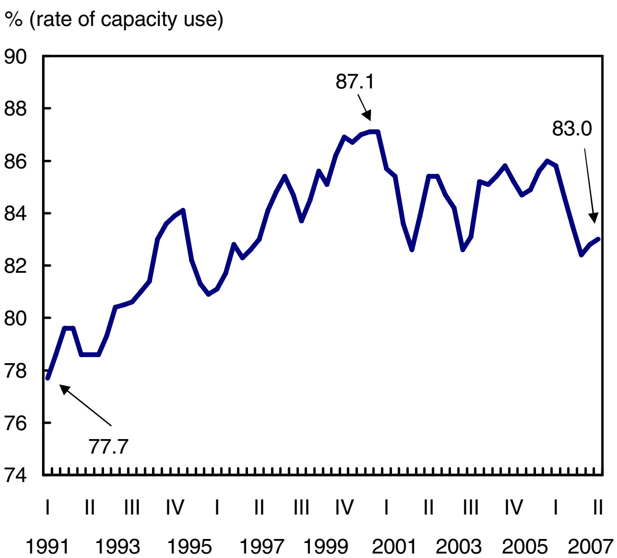
Second quarter 2007

Canadian industries increased the use of their production capacity for the second consecutive quarter between April and June, albeit marginally.

Industries operated at 83.0% of their capacity in the second quarter, up only slightly from 82.8% in the first quarter. The back-to-back gains so far this year halted four consecutive quarters of decline in 2006.

A downturn in motor vehicle exports and difficulties experienced by the mining sector played a large part in dampening second-quarter growth.

Modest increase in capacity utilization



The industrial capacity utilization rate is the ratio of an industry's actual output to its estimated potential output. For this release, rates have been revised back to the first quarter of 2005 to reflect the revised source data.

Capacity utilization was up for the vast majority of manufacturers of non-durable goods. However, reduced demand for automotive products in the United States and difficulties affecting the wood products manufacturing industry exerted downward pressure on second-quarter growth in capacity use in the manufacturing sector.

Even so, manufacturers were optimistic about production prospects for the third quarter. According to the July 2007 Business Conditions Survey, manufacturers were anticipating increased production from July to September this year despite the higher Canadian dollar and higher prices for raw materials.

In the mining sector, capacity use fell sharply. This was due to reduced activity by exploration companies in light of low natural gas prices, and to labour disputes that disrupted production at metal mines.

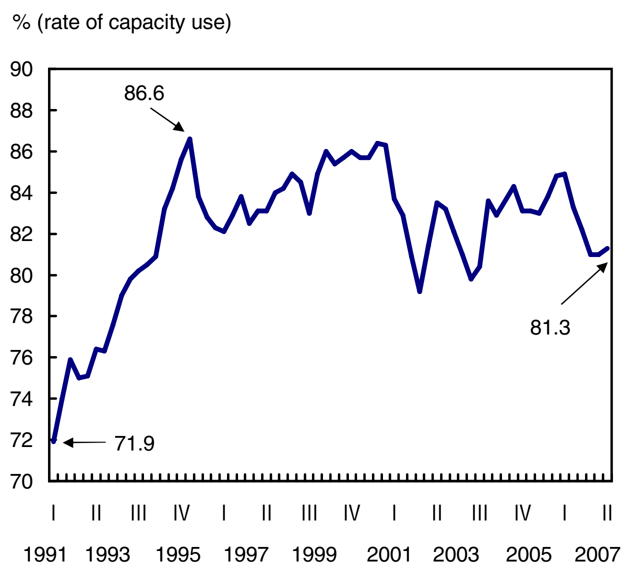
Capacity use rates were down in the forestry and logging sector, and up in the electric power, oil and gas extraction and construction sectors.

Rebound in the manufacturing sector

Capacity use rose slightly in the manufacturing sector in the second quarter of 2007 following stagnation during the first three months of the year. Manufacturers used 81.3% of their production capacity, compared with 81.0% the previous quarter.

Of the 21 major manufacturing groups, 16 posted gains in capacity use. The overall increase in manufacturing was however dampened by declines in the transportation equipment and wood products industries in the second quarter.

Slight rise in the rate in the manufacturing sector



On the other hand, growth was particularly significant for fabricated metal products, computer and electronic products and machinery.

Capacity use for manufacturers of fabricated metal products was 80.9%, up slightly from 78.7% in the previous quarter. Most of the major components of this industry—architectural products and structural metal products in particular—contributed to the 2.5% growth in production in this industry.

In the computer and electronic products industry, manufacturers increased their capacity by 2.1 percentage points to 93.7%, the third consecutive quarterly increase. It was the highest rate posted by this industry since the fourth quarter of 2000, when it was 94.3%. Manufacturers of computer equipment, where production rose 6.3%, accounted for a large part of the overall industry results.

In the machinery manufacturing industry, the rate rose from 80.7% in the first quarter to 82.7% in the second quarter. A big gain in production among machinery manufacturers was due largely to an 11.4% increase in the production of commercial and services industry machinery.

Capacity use by beverage and tobacco manufacturers rose from 79.2% to 83.0%, the highest level since the first quarter of 1999, when it was 83.2%. The gain was due to a 4.0% increase in production.

The transportation equipment manufacturing industry, where capacity use fell from 82.4% to 80.5%, was adversely affected by a decline in foreign demand for automotive products. Production in this industry was down owing to decreased production of vehicles and automotive parts. The other main components of this industry increased their production in the second quarter.

In the wood products manufacturing industry, the rate fell from 75.7% to 73.9%. This was the fifth consecutive quarterly decline and the lowest rate posted by this industry since the second quarter of 1991, when the rate was 70.1%. Production in this industry fell by 1.6% from April to June.

Sharp decline in the rate in the mining sector

In the mining sector, capacity use plunged by 8.2 percentage points to 74.4%. The pronounced downturn in exploration and drilling activities, along with labour disputes at copper, nickel, lead and zinc mines as well as at iron ore processing plants, resulted in a significant drop in mineral production.

In the forestry and logging sector, capacity utilization tumbled from 87.0% to 83.2% in the wake of a 5.4% decline in production.

Capacity utilization rose from 86.9% to 90.3% in the electric power sector. This was the first time since the third quarter of 2005 that the rate has been above 90%. Power production was up 3.4% in the second quarter.

Oil and gas extraction increased in the second quarter, resulting in a capacity utilization rate of 86.0%, up from 83.3% in the previous quarter. Natural gas production increased substantially to meet the demand from the United States.

In the construction industry, the increase in production capacity was similar to the growth in production. The rate was 86.0%, virtually identical to the 85.9% level posted in the previous quarter.

Available on CANSIM: table 028-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2821.

Data on industrial capacity utilization rates for the third quarter of 2007 will be released on December 14.

For more information, or to enquire about concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Mychèle Gagnon (613-951-0994), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

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Industrial capacity utilization rates

	Second quarter 2006r	First quarter 2007r	Second quarter 2007	Second quarter 2006 to second quarter 2007	First quarter to second quarter 2007
	%			% point change	
Total industrial	**84.6**	**82.8**	**83.0**	**-1.6**	**0.2**
Forestry and logging	87.6	87.0	83.2	-4.4	-3.8
Mining and oil and gas extraction	82.7	83.0	81.2	-1.5	-1.8
Oil and gas extraction	81.9	83.3	86.0	4.1	2.7
Mining	84.0	82.6	74.4	-9.6	-8.2
Electric power generation, transmission and distribution	87.5	86.9	90.3	2.8	3.4
Construction	87.9	85.9	86.0	-1.9	0.1
Manufacturing	83.3	81.0	81.3	-2.0	0.3
Food	81.4	77.6	77.7	-3.7	0.1
Beverage and tobacco products	73.5	79.2	83.0	9.5	3.8
Beverage	75.1	81.2	84.8	9.7	3.6
Tobacco	65.5	64.9	70.3	4.8	5.4
Textile mills	69.1	75.8	77.7	8.6	1.9
Textile product mills	71.8	80.6	81.3	9.5	0.7
Clothing	80.7	73.5	75.2	-5.5	1.7
Leather and allied products	75.3	82.8	83.9	8.6	1.1
Wood products	85.0	75.7	73.9	-11.1	-1.8
Paper	86.7	90.1	89.4	2.7	-0.7
Printing and related support activities	76.0	72.3	75.3	-0.7	3.0
Petroleum and coal products	84.7	79.8	80.1	-4.6	0.3
Chemical	83.3	83.8	84.3	1.0	0.5
Plastics and rubber products	78.3	71.6	72.8	-5.5	1.2
Plastic products	76.1	69.7	71.1	-5.0	1.4
Rubber products	86.2	78.4	78.8	-7.4	0.4
Non-metallic mineral products	82.5	78.8	79.0	-3.5	0.2
Primary metal	94.6	90.9	90.1	-4.5	-0.8
Fabricated metal products	79.8	78.7	80.9	1.1	2.2
Machinery	81.5	80.7	82.7	1.2	2.0
Computer and electronic products	88.7	91.6	93.7	5.0	2.1
Electrical equipment, appliance and component	77.6	80.5	82.5	4.9	2.0
Transportation equipment	87.3	82.4	80.5	-6.8	-1.9
Furniture and related products	76.4	77.9	77.5	1.1	-0.4
Miscellaneous manufacturing	82.5	74.1	76.0	-6.5	1.9

r *revised*

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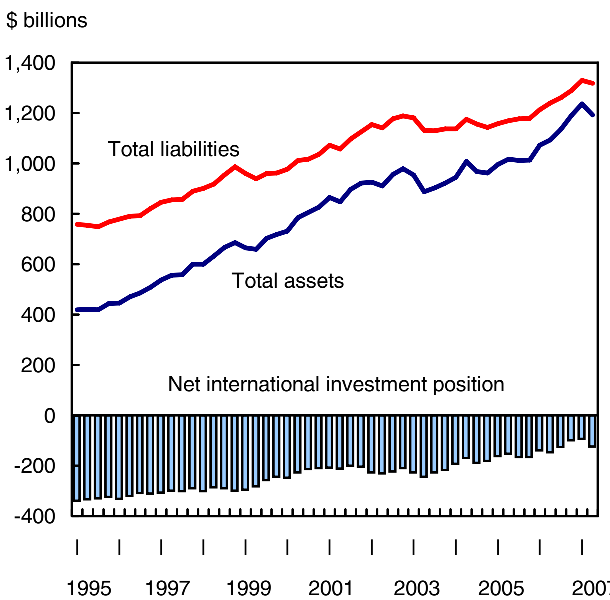
Canada's international investment position

Second quarter 2007

Canada's net external liabilities jumped during the second quarter of 2007 in the wake of a surging Canadian dollar.

The Canadian dollar value of both international assets and liabilities was down at the end of June. However, the decline in international assets, which are influenced more by exchange rate movements, was almost four times the decrease in liabilities.

Canada's international investment position



As a result, net external liabilities (the difference between Canada's external assets and foreign liabilities) increased $32.0 billion to $124.4 billion.

The value of international assets fell to $1,193.1 billion, a drop of $44.0 billion from the previous quarter.

The dollar, which gained in value compared with major foreign currencies from March 31 to June 30, removed $76.8 billion from the value of these assets. This more than offset gains resulting from financial transactions, especially from investment in foreign bonds and stocks.

At the same time, the nation's international liabilities declined $12.0 billion to $1,317.6 billion. The impact of the strengthening Canadian dollar was partly offset by increased activity in international acquisitions of Canadian firms.

Currency valuation

The value of assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currency are converted to Canadian dollars at the end of each period for which a balance sheet is calculated. Most of Canada's foreign assets are denominated in foreign currencies while less than half of our international liabilities are in foreign currencies.

When the Canadian dollar is appreciating in value, the restatement of the value of these assets and liabilities in Canadian dollars lowers the recorded value. The opposite is true when the dollar is depreciating.

Net external liabilities at the end of June represented 8.1% of Canada's gross domestic product, up from 6.2% the previous quarter, which was a record low.

The Canadian dollar made appreciable gains against major foreign currencies in the second quarter. It gained 8.4% against the US dollar, 6.2% against the pound sterling, 7.0% against the Euro and 13.2% against the Japanese yen.

Assets: Substantial decline in the value of direct investment abroad

The stronger Canadian dollar in the second quarter had a large impact on the value of Canadian direct investment abroad, which fell by $28.0 billion to $508.2 billion at the end of June.

The injection of capital into existing affiliates was completely offset by the currency movements. The stronger dollar removed $37.2 billion from the value of Canadian direct investment abroad.

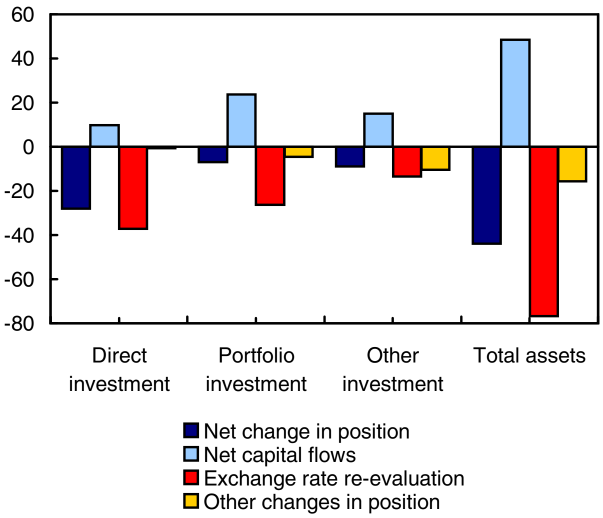
Canadian direct investment in the United States fell by $13.8 billion to $220.7 billion while Canadian direct investment in all other countries decreased by $14.2 billion to $287.5 billion.

Despite the negative impact of the stronger Canadian dollar, Canadian holdings of foreign bonds increased by $6.8 billion to $151.1 billion as Canadians made large purchases during the quarter, especially of maple bonds.

Holdings of foreign stocks decreased to $205.1 billion, down $13.5 billion from the end of March. At the same time, Canadian holdings of foreign money market paper decreased slightly to $19.8 billion.

Contributors to net change in asset values between the first and second quarter of 2007

$ billions



Liabilities: Increase in foreign direct investment in Canada

Foreign investors added $10.0 billion to their direct investment position in Canada. Foreign direct investment in Canada reached $473.2 billion at the end of June.

Foreign direct investors were active in acquisitions of Canadian firms and this contributed to the increase.

Canada's net asset position on direct investment—the difference between Canadian direct investment abroad and foreign direct investment in Canada—decreased to $35.0 billion at the end of June, the lowest level since the third quarter of 2003.

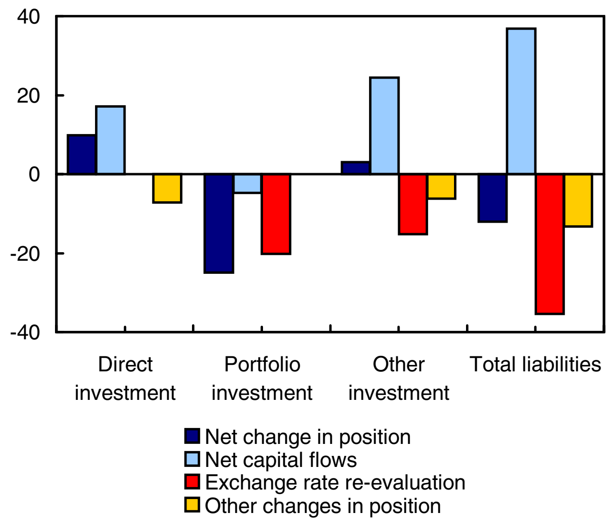
Transactions in Canadian bonds reduced foreign holdings by $4.9 billion in the second quarter.

Combined with the currency effect (more than one-half of the outstanding Canadian bonds held by foreign investors are issued in foreign currencies), the total holdings of Canadian bonds fell by $25.0 billion to $385.1 billion.

Foreign holdings of Canadian stocks decreased slightly to $111.1 billion at the end of the quarter while foreign holdings of Canadian money market paper were up by less than $1 billion to $24.1 billion.

Contributors to net change in liability values between the first and second quarter of 2007

$ billions



Available on CANSIM: tables 376-0037, 376-0039 to 376-0041, 376-0055 to 376-0057 and 376-0059.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1537.

The second quarter 2007 issue of *Canada's International Investment Position* (67-202-XWE) will be available soon.

For more information, contact Client Services (613-951-1855; *infobalance@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the methods, concepts or data quality of this release, contact Christian Lajule (613-951-2062), Balance of Payments Division.

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Canada's international investment position at period-end

	Fourth quarter 2004	Fourth quarter 2005	Fourth quarter 2006	First quarter 2007	Second quarter 2007
	$ billions				
Assets					
Canadian direct investment abroad	449.0	459.6	523.3	536.2	508.2
Portfolio investment abroad					
Foreign bonds	58.5	82.3	128.5	144.3	151.1
Foreign bonds at market value	62.9	88.7	138.2	155.3	160.1
Foreign stocks	195.7	197.1	216.2	218.6	205.1
Foreign stocks at market value	384.4	445.6	559.7	574.3	567.9
Foreign money market	11.1	13.1	20.0	20.1	19.8
Foreign money market at market value	11.1	13.1	20.1	20.2	19.8
Other investment					
Loans	49.4	46.0	72.4	76.9	70.6
Deposits	109.4	120.8	131.4	136.7	137.2
Official international reserves	40.3	38.0	41.0	45.5	42.5
Official international reserves at market value	41.4	38.4	40.9	45.4	42.0
Other assets	48.5	56.6	57.8	58.8	58.6
Total assets					
at book value	962.0	1,013.4	1,190.4	1,237.1	1,193.1
with portfolio investment at market value	1,156.2	1,268.8	1,543.6	1,603.8	1,564.5
Liabilities					
Foreign direct investment in Canada	383.5	407.6	448.9	463.2	473.2
Portfolio investment					
Canadian bonds	398.1	380.8	404.6	410.1	385.1
Canadian bonds at market value	429.9	408.8	430.2	433.0	398.0
Canadian stocks	102.7	105.8	112.6	111.4	111.1
Canadian stocks at market value	248.7	318.9	379.5	387.5	407.4
Canadian money market	19.6	20.8	24.5	23.7	24.1
Canadian money market at market value	19.7	20.9	24.7	24.0	24.3
Other investment					
Loans	40.2	41.6	49.5	51.6	50.2
Deposits	176.0	201.0	227.1	246.9	251.5
Other liabilities	22.0	22.2	22.2	22.7	22.4
Total liabilities					
at book value	1,142.1	1,179.9	1,289.4	1,329.6	1,317.6
with portfolio investment at market value	1,320.0	1,421.0	1,582.1	1,628.9	1,627.0
Net international investment position					
at book value	-180.1	-166.4	-99.0	-92.4	-124.4
with portfolio investment at market value	-163.9	-152.2	-38.5	-25.1	-62.5

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Study: From roads to rinks: Government spending on infrastructure in Canada

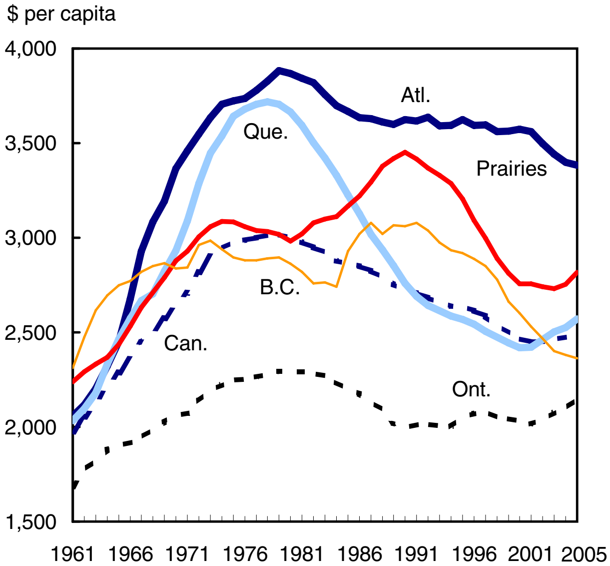
1961 to 2005

The overall growth of government-owned infrastructure has been very similar across most regions over the past 44 years. With the exception of the Atlantic Provinces, the range of average annual capital growth from one region to the next has been very narrow, falling between 1.8% and 2.2% since 1961, according to a new study released today in the *Canadian Economic Observer*.

However, the growth of infrastructure capital varied considerably by region for different periods, different levels of government and different types of assets.

Government-owned infrastructure capital constitutes an array of structures and networks that are needed for economic growth and are essential to our lifestyle. Its role is to enable people, goods and ideas to circulate or to ensure access to everyday essentials, such as good water, security and recreation facilities.

Stock of infrastructure capital stock, by region (1997 constant dollars), total road system



Since 2000, governments have increased their infrastructure capital more than at any time since the 1960s and 1970s. However, the growth has not been strong enough to prevent more and more signs of wear in our infrastructure (the data are net of depreciation and in constant 1997 dollars). This is due to cuts in the 1990s when governments were grappling with significant budgetary deficits, as well as many of the assets built in the post-war infrastructure boom reaching the end of their life span.

Infrastructure growth differed across regions in terms of the type of assets. These differences were sharpened after 1980 when the funds available for infrastructure slowed. Every region showed differences in spending by asset type because their distinct economies, cultures and values had different needs and priorities: British Columbia focused on the environment, as well as recreation and engineering works in view of the upcoming Olympic Games; culture and security were a priority in Quebec; sports complexes, water and roads in Ontario; marine construction (such as irrigation) in the Prairies; and institutional buildings (such as training centres) in the Atlantic Provinces.

Roads and bridges made up the bulk (39.9%) of the government-owned stock of infrastructure. The stock of road infrastructure per capita increased significantly between 1960 and 1980, but has been eroding since then. Governments boosted the flow of investment in roads from $4.3 billion in 1998 to $7.3 billion in 2005, but this has barely offset the ongoing erosion of the road system.

Quebec's road capacity grew rapidly during the 1960s and 1970s, but also dominated the decline in subsequent years. Lower investment spending and steady depreciation resulted in a significant decline in its net capital stock in roads over the following two decades, far more than in any other part of the country. In terms of bridges and overpasses, Quebec invested so little that its capital stock fell in absolute terms, tumbling from the most in Canada in the late 1970s to approximately the same level as that in British Columbia and the Atlantic Provinces, and even below that in the Prairies. The average age of bridges and overpasses in Quebec has also risen constantly since 1976, becoming older than those of any of the other provinces. Since 2001, its capital stock in roads has started to recover slowly.

Ontario was the only part of the country where the capital stock in roads continued to rise throughout all four decades. The Atlantic Provinces stood out as strong investors in their road system, perhaps because of the importance of tourism. Their per capita road infrastructure was well ahead of the other regions.

British Columbia had the most government-owned infrastructure per capita related to the environment, while Quebec had the least. The Atlantic Provinces invested the most in waste management per capita.

Sports facilities and cultural capital were the asset types that increased the fastest in percentage terms, rising 3.7% and 3.8% respectively per year between 1961 and 2005. Overall, however, sports facilities represented a relatively small portion (5.5%) of total infrastructure capital. The dollar amounts were higher out West, reflecting recent events such as the 1988 Olympic Games in Calgary. Moreover, the Vancouver Games have already started to boost spending in British Columbia.

Between 1961 and 2005, culture was (with office buildings) the only area of government investment for which Quebec was well ahead of the growth in government-owned capital infrastructure in the rest of the country. Quebec increased its investments in cultural facilities much more than in sports facilities, the opposite of most other regions in Canada. Nonetheless, culture was only a small share of government-owned capital in Quebec, as elsewhere. Culture capital for public libraries, museums, theatres and historical sites was approximately $100 per capita (in 1997 dollars). After 2000, the growth of culture capital fell behind roads in Quebec for the first time ever.

Security-related assets include penitentiaries, detention homes and courthouses. They represented only 3.1% of the value of total government-owned infrastructure. However, for all provincial and federal governments combined, security-related capital has been the third largest contributor to overall growth since 1961, after roads and office towers.

The study, "From roads to rinks: Government spending on infrastructure in Canada", which is included in the September 2007 Internet edition of the *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 20, no. 9 (11-010-XWB, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. The monthly paper version of the *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 20, no. 9 (11-010-XPB, $25/$243) will be available on September 20.

For more information about the *Canadian Economic Observer*, click on the banner ad for the *Canadian Economic Observer* from the *Publications* module of our website.

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

Study: Internet use in small town and rural Canada

2005

Despite the potential of the Internet as a tool to overcome distance, living in rural and small town Canada continues to be a factor associated with lower rates of Internet use, according to a new study released today in the *Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin*.

The study, which uses data from the Canadian Internet Use Survey, found that geographic location has an independent influence on Internet use after controlling for other factors, including age, education and household income.

The odds of an individual in an urban area using the Internet for personal, non-business reasons are about one-and-a-half times those of someone from a rural or small-town area.

In 2005, only 58% of residents living in rural and small-town areas accessed the Internet, well below the national average. This gap between rural and urban areas may reflect the interaction of other socio-economic factors, or it may represent other effects, such as the availability of broadband.

Education appears to be the most important determinant of Internet use. The odds of using the Internet for an adult with at least some post-secondary education are almost three times the odds of someone with high school or less education.

However, the importance of some factors associated with Internet use has changed. Controlling for other variables, the presence of children in a household has no statistically significant effect, while women now appear to have greater odds of using the Internet than men.

Note: The Canadian Internet Use Survey asked 30,466 Canadian residents aged 18 and over about their personal, non-business use of the Internet, including electronic shopping. Conducted in November 2005 as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey, it excluded residents of the territories, inmates of institutions, persons living on Indian reserves, and full-time members of the Canadian Forces.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4432.

The study, "Factors associated with Internet use: Does rurality matter?", part of the *Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin*, Vol. 7, no. 3 (21-006-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 Larry McKeown (613-951-2582; *larry.mckeown@statcan.ca*), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

Employer pension plans (trusteed pension funds)

First quarter 2007

The value of employer-sponsored trusteed pension funds increased for the third consecutive quarter between January and March this year.

These assets were worth $936.1 billion in the first quarter, up 2.3% from the fourth quarter of 2006. Assets have been rising since a 2.1% decline in the second quarter of 2006.

At the end of March this year, stocks and equity funds accounted for 41.0% of fund assets; bonds and bond funds, 31.7%; real estate, 6.1%; short-term investments, 3.4%; mortgages, 1.4%; and other assets, 16.0%.

Investments in foreign stocks grew an additional 6.0% from the fourth quarter of 2006. The share of pension fund assets in foreign holdings increased to 30.9% from 24.0% two years ago.

Pension revenues, which peaked in the fourth quarter of 2006 at $32.6 billion, dropped to $26.0 billion in the first quarter of 2007. This decline was due to reduced contributions, investment income and profits from buying and selling stocks.

At the same time, expenditures rose 5.0% to $10.9 billion. As a result, net income for the first quarter of 2007 dropped to $15.2 billion from a record high $22.1 billion in the previous quarter.

Contributions in the first quarter of 2007 fell to $7.7 billion from $8.5 billion in the previous quarter. Employer and employee contributions typically fall in the first quarter following special year-end payments made in the last quarter of the previous year. In the first quarter of 2007, contributions from employers and employees each fell 9.0%.

Pension benefits paid to retirees continued to climb, reaching a record $7.8 billion in the first quarter. This was a 3.0% gain over the previous high in the fourth quarter of 2006.

Of the 5.7 million Canadian workers belonging to employer pension plans, about 4.6 million are members of trusteed plans.

The remaining one million workers with employer pension plans are covered by the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the federal and provincial governments, or by insurance company contracts or Government of Canada annuities. (Data in this release refer only to the trusteed plans, and all values are in current dollars.)

Available on CANSIM: tables 280-0002 to 280-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2607.

For more information about the current survey results and related products and services, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; fax: 613 951-3012; *income@statcan.ca*), Income Statistics Division. ■

Dairy statistics

July 2007 (preliminary)

Dairy farmers sold 654 200 kilolitres of milk and cream to dairies in July, up 6% from July 2006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3430, 3431 and 3432.

The third quarter 2007 issue of *Dairy Statistics*, Vol. 2, no. 3 (23-014-XWE, free) will be available in November.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Anna Michalowska (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; 613-951-2442; fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division. ■

New products

Canadian Economic Observer, Vol. 20, no. 9
Catalogue number 11-010-XWB
(free).

The Canadian Productivity Review: Productivity Performance in Canada, 1961 to 2005, no. 11
Catalogue number 15-206-XWE2007011
(free).

Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin: "Factors Associated with Internet Use: Does Rurality Matter", 2005, Vol. 7, no. 3
Catalogue number 21-006-XWE
(free).

Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada, Vol. 4, no. 3
Catalogue number 81-004-XIE
(free).

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

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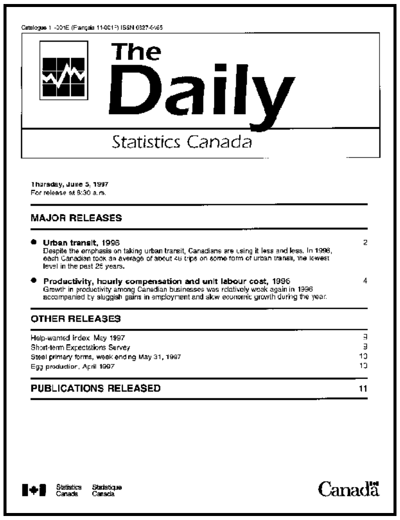

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** — 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** — 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was 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	9
Short-term Expectations Survey	9
Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997	10
Egg production, April 1997	10

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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