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Labour Force Historical Review on CD-ROM

The *Labour Force Historical Review* on CD-ROM is an easy-to-use tool for discovering patterns or trends in labour market data. This annual product is a comprehensive and timely database of Labour Force Survey estimates, containing thousands of cross-classified data series, spanning three decades. With over 100 tables, the *Labour Force Historical Review* contains monthly and annual data on a wide range of subjects: labour force status by demographics; education and family characteristics; trends in the labour markets of metropolitan cities; employment and unemployment levels by economic regions; data by industry and occupation; wages and union membership, and much more.

This product allows you to view trends, as well as quickly chart and print the data you are looking for. Efficiently focus your labour market research efforts using one resource.

The CD-ROM *Labour Force Historical Review, 2007* (71F0004XCB, \$209) is now available. Network and bulk prices are available on request. See *How to order products*.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.



Releases

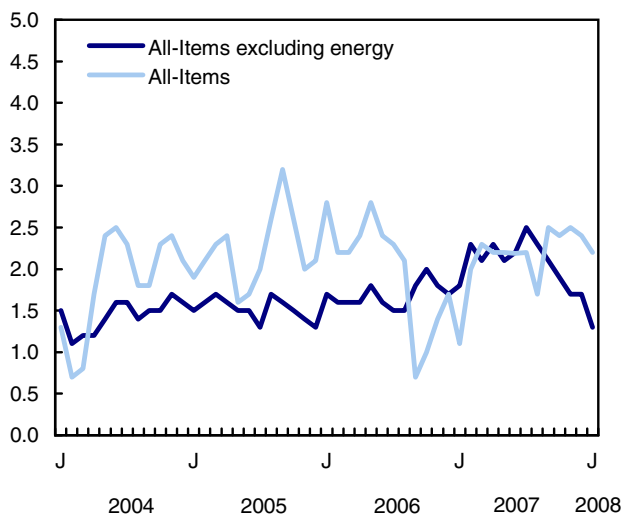
Consumer Price Index

January 2008

Consumer prices increased 2.2% during the 12-month period leading up to January 2008, a slightly slower rate of growth than the 2.4% posted in December. It was the slowest pace since August 2007.

Percentage change from the same month of the previous year

% change



For the fifth straight month, growth in the all-items index was due mainly to the 12-month rise in gasoline prices and mortgage interest cost. The upward pressure on the all-items index of these two components was mitigated, to some extent, by the one-percentage-point reduction in the goods and services tax (GST) that took effect in January, and by the reduction in motor vehicle prices.

Excluding gasoline, the price index increased only 1.3% in the year to January 2008.

The 12-month change in the Bank of Canada's core index, which is used to monitor the inflation control target, was 1.4% in January, the smallest gain since July 2005.

On a monthly basis, consumer prices fell 0.2% between December 2007 and January 2008, a reversal of the 0.1% increase between November and December 2007. This downturn was mainly due to

seasonal declines in prices for tour packages and air transportation.

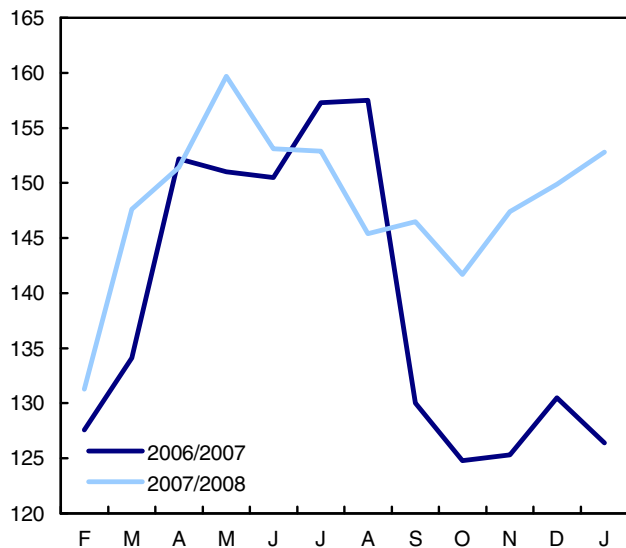
The core index rose 0.1% between December 2007 and January 2008, after declining 0.3% during the preceding period. This shift was due in part to women's clothing, prices for which fell only 0.4% in January compared with a decline of 4.7% in December.

12-month change: Drivers face higher gasoline prices

Gasoline prices increased 20.9% between January 2007 and January 2008, significantly faster than the 14.9% gain observed between December 2006 and December 2007. They continued to be the main factor in higher consumer prices.

Evolution of the gasoline price index

Indexes



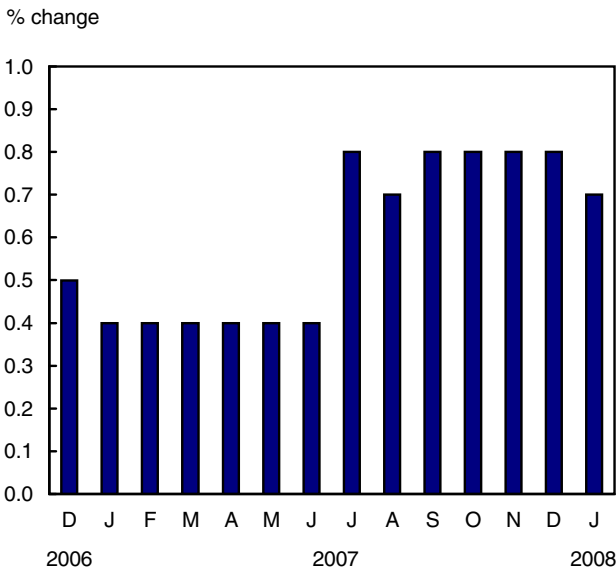
The increase was due more to a sharp decline in pump prices in January 2007 than to recent gains. A year earlier, gasoline prices had fallen 3.1% between December 2006 and January 2007. In contrast, they rose 1.9% during the same period the following year.

Other price gains putting upward pressure on the year-over-year index were those for mortgage interest cost, homeowners' replacement cost, and heating oil and other fuels.

Prices for heating oil and other fuels soared 24.7%, although this fell short of the 27.1% gain observed in December. This comparatively slower growth occurred despite colder temperatures that gave rise to higher demand, and despite below-average inventory levels in the north-eastern United States.

Mortgage interest cost was up 7.6% in the year to January 2008, a slight acceleration from the previous month.

Percentage change in mortgage interest cost from the previous month



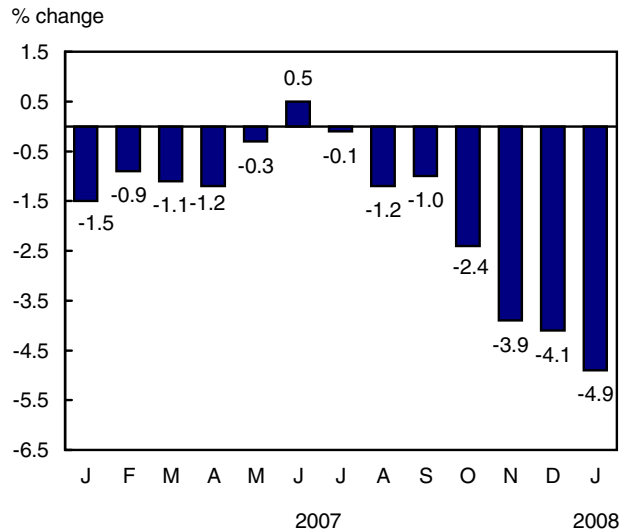
Homeowners' replacement cost, which represents the cost of maintaining a housing structure, increased 4.5%. This rise was slightly faster than the 4.4% increase in December.

The main factor mitigating the rise in consumer prices was a 4.9% decline in vehicle purchase and lease prices. These prices have dropped substantially during the past three months, the result of the combined impact of the GST reduction and manufacturer discounts on new models. This continuation of incentives came when the Canadian dollar was up relative to its US counterpart.

Prices for computer equipment and supplies fell 16.7% in January, continuing a downward trend. It was the steepest decline since August 2007. Declines in the prices of monitors and laptops were especially significant.

Prices for women's clothing fell 4.5% in January, the fastest decline since January 2005. Post-Christmas sales and the GST decline exerted downward pressure on women's clothing.

Percentage change in the purchase and leasing of passenger vehicles index from the corresponding month of the previous year



Consumer prices ease in Western provinces

The 12-month rise in consumer prices slowed, or remained steady, in all provinces.

Vehicle prices were the main moderating factor in the growth in consumer prices from coast to coast. The slowdown in these prices was especially significant in Alberta and in Saskatchewan.

In British Columbia, consumer prices edged up only 0.8%, as drivers in this province experienced the smallest 12-month rise in gasoline prices (+6.1%).

Month-to-month change: GST reduction contributes to lower consumer prices

A number of factors were behind the 0.2% drop in the all-items index between December 2007 and January 2008. Vehicle purchase and lease prices had a substantial downward impact, falling 0.5% during this period. This decline was the result of manufacturer incentives and the drop in the GST.

Another key factor in the monthly decrease of the all-items index was the tour package price index, which dropped 10.3%.

Air transportation prices fell 4.6%, driven mainly by a rollback in the cost of transatlantic flights and flights to Asia and the Pacific. Lower prices for air travel occur frequently in January.

Prices for men's clothing were down 3.4% on a monthly basis. This was the largest drop since

June 2007. Men's clothing prices typically drop between December and January.

In contrast, a 1.9% rise in prices at the pump partially offset these downward pressures. This was a slight acceleration from the 1.7% increase observed in December. In January 2008, the price of a barrel of crude oil topped the US \$100 level for the first time ever. The combined effect of high seasonal demand and lower production in OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) countries contributed to a decline in inventories.

Consumers paid 1.2% more for food purchased in stores between December 2007 and January 2008. The main contributor was a seasonal increase in the cost of fresh vegetables (+7.1%).

Mortgage interest cost rose 0.7%, a slowdown from the 0.8% increase posted in the previous four months. The impact of the change in interest rates on the rise in this component was virtually identical to that of the change in new housing prices.

The cost of municipal water climbed 5.2% between December 2007 and January 2008, the fastest increase since January 2006. Water prices rose in several municipalities. Higher prices for this component occur frequently at this time of year.

Impact of decline in GST

Since the price changes measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) take into account the value of the consumption taxes paid by Canadians, the one-percentage-point decrease in the GST announced by the government to take effect in January will have an impact on the CPI in that month.

A rough estimation of this impact is that the rate of change would be lower by 0.6% than it otherwise would

have been if the entire amount of the decrease were transferred to consumers through lower prices. To the extent that businesses raise their margins at the same time the impact could be correspondingly less. Also, if some businesses had already reduced their prices in anticipation of the coming GST reduction (e.g. car dealers), the impact in January would also be less.

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.

The January 2008 issue of the *Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 87, no. 1 (62-001-XWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. A more detailed analysis of the CPI is available in this publication. Due to the February 18 holiday in Ontario, the paper version of the *Consumer Price Index* (62-001-XPE, \$12/\$111) will be available on February 20.

The February Consumer Price Index will be released on March 18.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, call 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	January 2008	December 2007	January 2007	December 2007 to January 2008	January 2007 to January 2008
Unadjusted						
% change						
All-items	100.00²	111.8	112.0	109.4	-0.2	2.2
Food	17.04	112.4	111.7	110.9	0.6	1.4
Shelter	26.62	119.2	119.2	114.8	0.0	3.8
Household operations and furnishings	11.10	103.3	103.5	102.4	-0.2	0.9
Clothing and footwear	5.36	92.2	93.7	94.2	-1.6	-2.1
Transportation	19.88	117.6	117.5	113.3	0.1	3.8
Health and personal care	4.73	107.5	107.7	106.3	-0.2	1.1
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	99.6	101.2	99.2	-1.6	0.4
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	126.4	126.2	124.2	0.2	1.8
All-items (1992=100)		133.0	133.3	130.3	-0.2	2.1
Special aggregates						
Goods	48.78	107.3	107.4	106.3	-0.1	0.9
Services	51.22	116.2	116.5	112.5	-0.3	3.3
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	109.0	109.4	107.6	-0.4	1.3
Energy	9.38	139.0	138.2	125.2	0.6	11.0
Core Consumer Price Index (CPI) ³	82.71	110.1	110.0	108.6	0.1	1.4

- 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>).
- Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
- The measure of Core 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 Core CPI, please consult the Bank of Canada website (<http://www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm>).

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

	January 2008	December 2007	January 2007	December 2007 to January 2008	January 2007 to January 2008
Unadjusted					
% change					
Newfoundland and Labrador	111.9	111.8	109.6	0.1	2.1
Prince Edward Island	114.2	114.7	111.5	-0.4	2.4
Nova Scotia	113.5	113.6	110.1	-0.1	3.1
New Brunswick	111.7	111.9	109.2	-0.2	2.3
Quebec	111.0	111.1	108.8	-0.1	2.0
Ontario	110.9	111.1	108.6	-0.2	2.1
Manitoba	110.8	110.9	109.1	-0.1	1.6
Saskatchewan	113.0	112.9	109.5	0.1	3.2
Alberta	118.8	118.9	114.7	-0.1	3.6
British Columbia	109.9	110.1	109.0	-0.2	0.8
Whitehorse	110.4	110.6	107.0	-0.2	3.2
Yellowknife ²	111.3	111.9	108.9	-0.5	2.2
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	108.2	108.7	106.4	-0.5	1.7

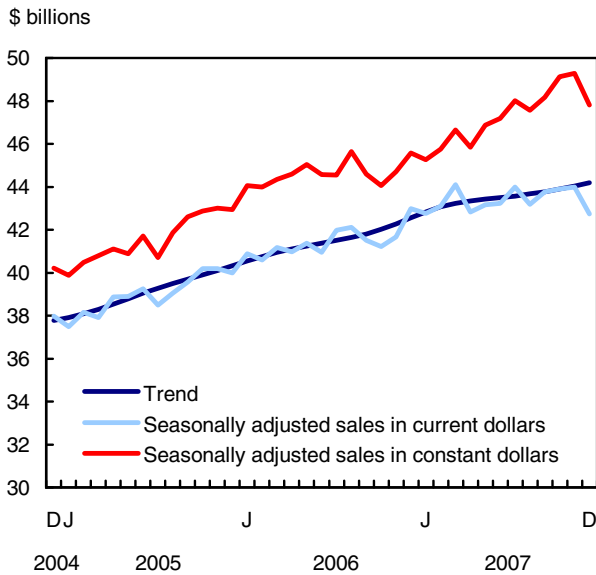
- View the geographical details for the city of Whitehorse, the city of Yellowknife and the town of Iqaluit.
- Part of the increase first recorded in the shelter index for Yellowknife for December 2004 inadvertently reflected rent increases that actually occurred earlier. As a result, the change in the 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.

Wholesale trade

December 2007

Wholesalers reported a sharp decline in sales in December, erasing all of the gains made over the previous months. Despite the drop in December, preliminary figures indicate that wholesalers put in another solid performance in 2007.

Wholesale sales tumble in December



Sales fell 2.9% in December to \$42.7 billion, ending a string of three consecutive monthly increases. The decline was the largest since April and brought monthly sales to their lowest level since November 2006.

Overall, five out of seven wholesale sectors reported weaker sales in December. The automotive products sector accounted for around half of the overall decline, dropping 8.1% during the month.

Wholesalers outside of the automotive products sector fared little better, falling 1.7% in December. The food, beverage and tobacco products (-3.1%), personal and household goods (-1.9%) and building materials (-1.8%) sectors were among the major contributors to the decrease.

The only positive note came in the farm products sector (+1.6%).

Sales in constant prices, which remove the impact of price changes to measure changes in the volume of sales, declined by 3.0% in December.

Another solid year for wholesalers in 2007

Preliminary figures indicate that wholesalers put in another solid performance in 2007.

Wholesalers sold \$520.7 billion worth of goods in 2007, a 4.7% increase over the previous year.

All seven wholesale sectors registered stronger growth in 2007, led by the "other products" sector, which consists primarily of wholesalers of agricultural fertilizers and supplies, chemicals, recycled materials and paper products, as well as by the personal and household goods sector.

The automotive sector was the only area to record growth significantly below the national average during 2007.

The increase in wholesale sales was spread across the country, with every province and territory posting gains in 2007. Leading the way among the provinces was Saskatchewan, which rebounded from a flat 2006. Other provinces with growth significantly above the national average included Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island and Manitoba.

Central Canada presented a mixed picture in 2007. In Quebec, sales picked up from the previous year while Ontario was held back by the weakness in the automotive sector.

Also worthy of note was the very large increase in Canada's north. Combined sales in the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut increased 25%, much of this the result of significant investment in the mining sector.

A more detailed look at wholesale trade in 2007 will be released in the Spring.

Automotive sales tumble in December

Following a 3.9% increase in November, the automotive products sector reversed course in December as sales tumbled 8.1% to \$7.4 billion, their lowest level since October 2006. Both trade groups that make up this sector reported significant declines, with motor vehicles down 8.5% to \$5.9 billion, and motor vehicle parts and accessories dropping 6.2% to \$1.5 billion.

A number of factors likely contributed to the downturn in motor vehicle sales in December. According to the New Motor Vehicle Sales Survey, retail sales were quite weak in November, reaching their lowest level on a unit basis since September 2005 and continuing the recent softening trend that has been evident in the Canadian vehicle market. As a result, dealers likely cut

back on their wholesale purchases in December in an effort to reduce their inventory levels.

Another contributing factor was the unusually long shutdowns by Canadian assembly plants in December, the result of both model changeovers and retooling, which would have reduced the number of passenger cars flowing through the wholesale channel.

Food products sector pulls back

Sales in the food, beverage and tobacco sector hit their lowest level since the start of 2007, falling 3.1% to \$7.7 billion. The drop was entirely attributable to a decline in the food products trade group (-3.6%), as sales of alcohol and tobacco rose 2.3% during December.

After starting 2007 with four straight monthly gains, this sector has recorded mixed results over the past several months.

Personal and household goods sector held back by lower sales of household items

The personal and household goods sector declined for the first time in four months in December, down 1.9% to \$6.5 billion. The drop was attributable to lower receipts in the household and personal products trade group (-5.8%), as the pharmaceutical (+1.1%) and apparel (+1.3%) trade groups both rose during December.

Although December's decline in the household and personal trade group was the largest since the start of 2007, with labour market conditions remaining buoyant and with consumer spending continuing to expand, prospects for this trade group remain positive.

Western Canada bears the brunt of the decline

Nearly all provinces and territories registered weaker growth in December, with Western Canada bearing the brunt of the decline.

Hardest hit was British Columbia, where sales fell to their lowest level since November 2006, dropping 7.5% to \$4.2 billion. Weaker demand for building materials, machinery and electronic equipment and automotive products were the main contributors to this decline.

The picture was not much better in the Prairie provinces, where Manitoba experienced a 7.0% decline. As was the case in November, lower sales of "other products" were behind much of the drop.

In Alberta, sales were kept in check (-4.2%) by slower sales in the food and automotive product sectors, while the drop in Saskatchewan (-3.7%) was mainly the result of declines in the "other products" and machinery and electronic equipment sectors.

As is normally the case, the large drop in the automotive products sector was most keenly felt in Ontario (-2.0%), ending a string of three consecutive monthly increases.

Inventories decline for the first time in six months

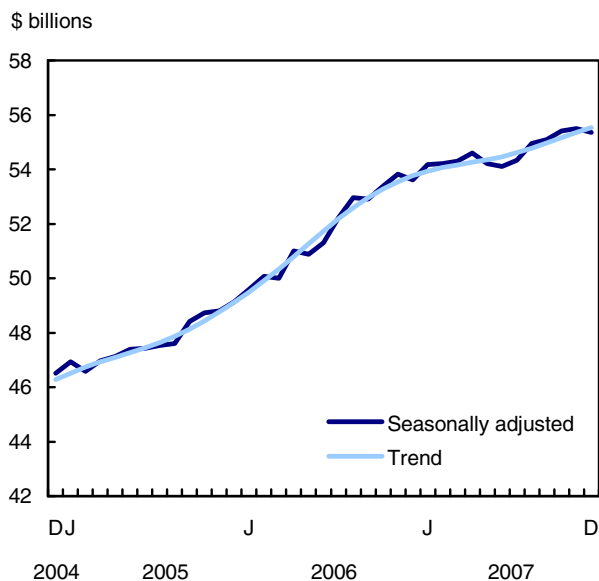
Wholesalers inventories fell for the first time in six months in December, down 0.3% to \$55.4 billion.

Overall, 9 of the 15 wholesale trade groups reported lower inventory levels. The most notable declines came in the computer and other electronic equipment (-5.6%), lumber and millwork (-4.6%) and machinery and equipment (-0.9%) trade groups. These were partially offset by rises in pharmaceutical (+1.7%) and motor vehicle (+1.4%) inventories.

With overall sales falling at a much faster rate than inventories in December, the inventory-to-sales ratio rose to 1.30, its highest level in over four years.

The ratio is a key measure of the time in months that it would take to exhaust existing inventories if sales were to remain at their current level.

Inventories decline for the first time in six months



Available on CANSIM: tables 081-0007 to 081-0010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

The December 2007 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008-XWE, free) will soon be available.

Wholesale trade estimates for January will be released on March 19.

To obtain data or more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca). To enquire about the

concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marc Atkins (613-951-0291; marc.atkins@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

Wholesale merchants' inventories and inventory-to-sales ratio

	December 2006	September 2007 ^r	October 2007 ^r	November 2007 ^r	December 2007 ^p	November to December 2007	December 2006 to December 2007	November 2007 ^r	December 2007 ^p
	Wholesale inventories					Inventory-to-sales ratio			
	Seasonally adjusted								
	\$ millions					% change			
Inventories	53,613	55,085	55,414	55,503	55,364	-0.3	3.3	1.26	1.30
Farm products	184	200	215	177	200	12.9	8.4	0.40	0.44
Food products	4,281	4,637	4,737	4,701	4,704	0.1	9.9	0.65	0.67
Alcohol and tobacco	281	304	316	324	315	-2.8	11.9	0.50	0.47
Apparel	1,724	1,792	1,819	1,842	1,835	-0.4	6.4	2.33	2.29
Household and personal products	3,871	4,017	4,017	4,164	4,129	-0.8	6.7	1.42	1.50
Pharmaceuticals	3,125	3,577	3,595	3,515	3,575	1.7	14.4	1.19	1.20
Motor vehicles	5,057	4,727	4,540	4,673	4,737	1.4	-6.3	0.72	0.80
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,296	3,333	3,351	3,271	3,255	-0.5	-1.2	2.10	2.23
Building supplies	5,820	5,985	6,090	6,110	6,161	0.8	5.9	1.61	1.64
Metal products	3,065	2,818	2,761	2,693	2,669	-0.9	-12.9	2.01	1.92
Lumber and millwork	1,169	1,095	1,114	1,172	1,118	-4.6	-4.4	1.11	1.20
Machinery and equipment	11,469	11,647	11,796	11,806	11,701	-0.9	2.0	2.55	2.57
Computer and other electronic equipment	1,623	1,775	1,720	1,762	1,663	-5.6	2.5	0.66	0.62
Office and professional equipment	2,692	2,704	2,699	2,684	2,667	-0.6	-0.9	1.31	1.32
Other products	5,956	6,474	6,644	6,609	6,635	0.4	11.4	1.23	1.24

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note: Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Wholesale merchants' sales

	December 2006	September 2007 ^r	October 2007 ^r	November 2007 ^r	December 2007 ^p	November to December 2007	December 2006 to December 2007
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
Total, wholesale sales	42,977	43,762	43,896	43,995	42,737	-2.9	-0.6
Farm products	455	456	456	447	454	1.6	-0.1
Food, beverages and tobacco products	7,540	7,962	7,974	7,937	7,689	-3.1	2.0
Food products	6,912	7,307	7,293	7,283	7,020	-3.6	1.6
Alcohol and tobacco	627	656	680	654	669	2.3	6.6
Personal and household goods	6,465	6,653	6,654	6,669	6,543	-1.9	1.2
Apparel	830	796	764	790	800	1.3	-3.6
Household and personal products	2,822	2,869	2,901	2,922	2,753	-5.8	-2.5
Pharmaceuticals	2,813	2,988	2,988	2,957	2,990	1.1	6.3
Automotive products	8,303	7,780	7,739	8,039	7,389	-8.1	-11.0
Motor vehicles	6,768	6,220	6,161	6,482	5,928	-8.5	-12.4
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	1,535	1,560	1,578	1,557	1,461	-6.2	-4.8
Building materials	6,054	6,121	6,285	6,183	6,069	-1.8	0.2
Building supplies	3,617	3,750	3,803	3,784	3,750	-0.9	3.7
Metal products	1,389	1,441	1,410	1,341	1,388	3.6	-0.1
Lumber and millwork	1,048	930	1,072	1,058	931	-12.0	-11.2
Machinery and electronic equipment	8,867	9,248	9,273	9,366	9,238	-1.4	4.2
Machinery and equipment	4,216	4,526	4,597	4,631	4,559	-1.6	8.1
Computer and other electronic equipment	2,662	2,704	2,645	2,687	2,663	-0.9	0.0
Office and professional equipment	1,990	2,018	2,031	2,048	2,017	-1.5	1.3
Other products	5,293	5,542	5,515	5,354	5,354	0.0	1.2
Total, excluding automobiles	34,674	35,982	36,157	35,955	35,348	-1.7	1.9
Sales, province and territory							
Newfoundland and Labrador	262	270	255	260	250	-3.7	-4.4
Prince Edward Island	40	41	42	41	41	-0.6	2.9
Nova Scotia	524	566	589	574	551	-3.9	5.1
New Brunswick	421	428	430	427	434	1.7	3.0
Quebec	8,053	8,636	8,307	8,280	8,193	-1.1	1.7
Ontario	21,916	21,491	21,632	21,783	21,337	-2.0	-2.6
Manitoba	1,028	1,077	1,184	1,118	1,040	-7.0	1.1
Saskatchewan	1,263	1,278	1,326	1,324	1,274	-3.7	0.9
Alberta	5,179	5,551	5,593	5,599	5,365	-4.2	3.6
British Columbia	4,260	4,389	4,492	4,552	4,213	-7.5	-1.1
Yukon	10	13	12	13	11	-19.4	1.0
Northwest Territories	20	19	24	21	26	24.5	32.0
Nunavut	2	3	10	4	3	-21.1	115.6

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note: Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.



Crude oil and natural gas production

December 2007 (preliminary)

Provincial crude oil and marketable natural gas production data are now available for December.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2198.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Marketing and Dissemination Section (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Primary iron and steel

December 2007

Data on primary iron and steel for December are now available.

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0048 to 303-0051.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2116 and 2184.

The December 2007 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-XWE, free) will soon be available.

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. ■

Stocks of frozen poultry meat

February 1, 2008 (preliminary)

Stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on February 1 totalled 63 247 metric tonnes, up 30.6% from a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0023 and 003-0024.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3425.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandra Gielfeldt (613-951-2505; sandy.gielfeldt@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

New products

The Consumer Price Index, January 2008, Vol. 87, no. 1
Catalogue number 62-001-XWE
(free).

Labour Force Historical Review, 2007
Catalogue number 71F0004XCB (\$209).

Legal Marital Status (6), Common-law Status (3), Age Groups (17) and Sex (3) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Divisions, Census Subdivisions and Dissemination Areas, 2006 Census: 100% Data, Census year 2006
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