



The Daily

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Releases

Canada's international transactions in securities

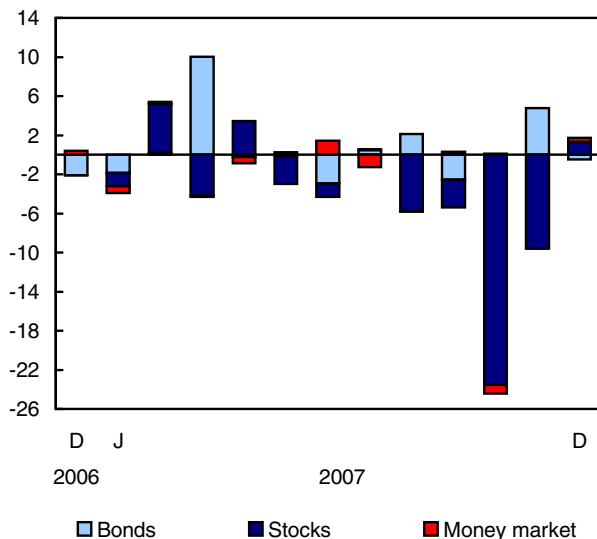
December 2007

Non-residents invested \$1.2 billion in Canadian securities in December, largely equities. Over the year, foreign portfolio investors sold \$33.8 billion worth of Canadian securities, largely reflecting high foreign-takeover activity and the subsequent relinquishing of Canadian portfolio shares to foreign direct investors.

For their part, Canadian investors acquired \$1.9 billion worth of foreign securities in December, adding equities and further reducing debt instruments. The meltdown in the sub-prime mortgage sector and the resulting credit crunch have contributed to major divestments of foreign debt instruments. Since August 2007, Canadians have removed \$20.0 billion worth of foreign debt instruments from their portfolios, which largely offset a \$35.3 billion investment from January to July 2007.

Foreign portfolio investment in Canadian securities

\$ billions



Non-resident investors sell government bonds

December saw non-residents reduce \$492 million from their holdings of Canadian bonds, after adding \$4.8 billion in November. The drop was

Related market information

In December, Canadian short term **interest rates** decreased 5 basis points to 3.86%, while US rates dropped 27 basis points to 3.00%. Over the year, the interest rate differential between Canada and the United States has swung from 0.69%, favouring investment in the United States, to 0.86%, favouring investment in Canada. This reflected a more pronounced credit crunch in the US debt market.

Meanwhile, Canadian long term interest rates inched up 2 basis points, while US rates increased 27 basis points. The resulting interest rate differential between the two countries increased to 0.21%, favouring investment in the United States.

Canadian **stock prices** rebounded as the Standard and Poor's / Toronto Stock Exchange Composite Index increased by 1.1% in December, finishing the month at 13,833.1. Meanwhile, US stock prices were down for the second month as the Standard and Poor's Composite Index fell 0.9% to 1,468.4. For the year, these indices were up 7.2% and 3.5%, respectively.

The **Canadian dollar** regained some ground, rising 0.88 cents US to end December at 100.88 cents US. Over the year, the Canadian dollar has appreciated 17.6% against the US dollar.

Definitions

The data series on international security transactions cover portfolio transactions in stocks, bonds and money market instruments for both Canadian and foreign issues.

Stocks include common and preferred equities, as well as warrants.

Debt securities include bonds and money market instruments.

Bonds have an original term to maturity of more than one year.

Money market instruments have an original term to maturity of one year or less.

concentrated in federal government issues (\$4.1 billion), largely outstanding bonds. Foreign investors also disposed of \$614 million worth of provincial government bonds, mainly due to sizable retirements.

However, non-residents continued heavy acquisitions of federal government enterprise bonds, both new and outstanding issues. Overall, foreign investors picked up \$3.9 billion in bonds issued by federal government enterprises, ending the quarter with a record \$6.5-billion acquisition.

Currency-wise, non-residents increased holdings of US dollar-denominated Canadian bonds and reduced holdings of bonds denominated in other currencies. On a regional basis, British investors sold off \$1.9 billion worth of Canadian bonds, while investments by American and Japanese investors remained robust.

Non-residents return to the Canadian money market

Foreign investors acquired \$460 million worth of Canadian money market instruments in December, following two months of consecutive divestment totalling \$1.0 billion. In December, the interest rate differential between Canada and the United States has further widened to 86 basis point, the largest spread since June 2004, in favour of investment in Canada.

December's investment was in private corporate paper (\$569 million) and federal Treasury bills (\$277 million), while non-residents reduced their holdings of federal government enterprise paper. The foreign acquisition of federal Treasury bills in December was a reversal from three consecutive months of divestment totalling \$1.1 billion.

Foreign investors regain their interest in Canadian equities

Non-residents invested \$1.3 billion in Canadian shares in December, a reversal from four consecutive months of divestments. December's investment was concentrated in outstanding shares (\$1.2 billion), particularly those issued by the banking sector. In December, Canadian stock prices rebounded 1.1%, after a 6.4% decline in November.

Net new issues of Canadian shares were negligible in December (\$58 million). Robust foreign acquisitions of new Canadian shares over the month just offset sales of portfolio shares to foreign direct investors due to foreign takeovers, a trend that has dominated 2007.

Over the year, foreign acquisitions of outstanding Canadian shares slowed significantly to \$2.3 billion, after three years of strong investment averaging \$16.3 billion. The annual increase in Canadian stock prices has eased from an average 16.2% from 2003 to 2006 to 7.2% in 2007. The rapid appreciation of the Canadian dollar may have also contributed to the slowdown of foreign investment.

Canadians continue significant disposals of foreign bonds

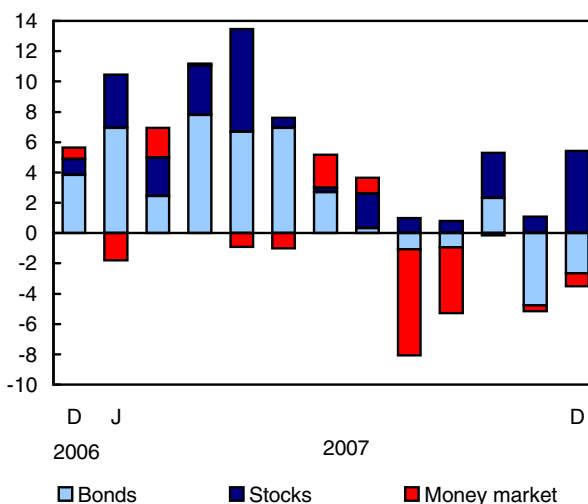
Canadian investors sold \$2.6 billion worth of foreign bonds in December, adding onto November's \$4.8 billion divestment. Two thirds (\$1.8 billion) of the reduction was in non-US foreign bonds, almost exclusively maple bonds (the Canadian dollar-denominated foreign bond issues).

In addition, Canadians continued to dispose of US government bonds, \$809 million in December for a total of \$5.8 billion for 2007. This year marked the first annual reduction in US government bonds in a decade. On the other hand, Canadian holdings of US corporate bonds were largely unchanged in December. Over the

year, there was a record \$13.1-billion investment in US corporate bonds, fuelled by strong purchases of US maple bonds over the first six months of 2007.

Canadian portfolio investment in foreign securities¹

\$ billions



1. Reverse of balance of payments signs.

Canadian divestment in foreign money market instruments is extended

Canadians reduced their position in foreign money market paper for the fifth consecutive month, cutting \$904 million from their holdings in December. Divestment over the month was all in US money market instruments, largely in US government Treasury bills (\$776 million). In December, US short-term interest rates further dropped to 3.0%, the lowest level since July 2005.

At the same time, Canadian investors made modest adjustments to their portfolios, adding non-US foreign paper (\$216 million) and reducing US corporate paper (\$344 million).

Largest acquisition of foreign shares in eight months

Canadians bought a substantial amount (\$5.4 billion) of foreign stocks in December, the highest level of acquisitions since May 2007. Over two-thirds were in US shares, in the context of declining US stock prices.

Meanwhile, Canadian investors added \$1.7 billion worth of non-US foreign equities in December, following small adjustments to their holdings over the previous three months. Canadians favoured investment in US

stocks in 2007, acquiring \$19.1 billion worth compared with an \$11.5-billion investment in non-US stocks.

Available on CANSIM: tables 376-0018 to 376-0029, 376-0042, 376-0058 and 376-0063.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1535.

The December 2007 issue of *Canada's International Transactions in Securities* (67-002-XWE, free) will soon be available.

Data on Canada's international transactions in securities for January will be released on March 19.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-1855; infobalance@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Yiling Zhang (613-951-2057), Balance of Payments Division.

Canada's international transactions in securities

	September 2007	October 2007	November 2007	December 2007	2006	2007
	\$ millions					
Foreign investment in Canadian securities	-5,155	-24,362	-4,898	1,241	32,544	-33,754
Bonds (net)	-2,558	131	4,762	-492	18,015	9,477
Outstanding	4,291	-577	4,612	-1,326	13,155	9,298
New issues	4,715	3,803	1,352	5,550	43,323	45,604
Retirements	-11,238	-3,492	-1,273	-3,493	-38,777	-45,718
Change in interest payable ¹	-326	396	70	-1,222	314	293
Money market paper (net)	303	-968	-59	460	3,715	-1,424
Government of Canada	-572	-271	-249	277	3,717	-2,644
Other	875	-697	190	183	-2	1,220
Stocks (net)	-2,900	-23,525	-9,600	1,272	10,814	-41,808
Outstanding	-2,379	1,176	-3,519	1,215	21,145	2,291
Other transactions	-521	-24,701	-6,081	58	-10,331	-44,099
Canadian investment in foreign securities	4,502	-5,090	4,117	-1,864	-78,693	-45,873
Bonds (net)	940	-2,306	4,769	2,640	-43,602	-26,732
Stocks (net)	-797	-2,981	-1,069	-5,408	-28,291	-30,563
Money market paper (net)	4,359	197	418	904	-6,800	11,422

1. Interest accrued less interest paid.

Note: A minus sign indicates an outflow of money from Canada, that is, a withdrawal of foreign investment from Canada or an increase in Canadian investment abroad.



Study: Firearms and violent crime 2006

The 2006 rate of violent crime involving the use of firearms in Canada remained stable for the fourth consecutive year, according to a new study examining trends in gun violence.

Canadian police services reported just over 8,100 victims of violent gun crime, ranging from assault to robbery and homicide, accounting for 2.4% of all victims of violence. Handguns made up nearly two-thirds of all firearms used.

Violent crimes were more often committed with other types of weapons than guns. Knives accounted for 6.2% of violent victimizations and clubs or other blunt instruments were used against 3.0% of victims.

Police-reported data showed that among young people, the use of guns in violent crime is increasing. The rate of youth aged 12 to 17 accused of a firearm-related offence has risen in three of the past four years, increasing 32% since 2002. The overall firearm-related crime rates for youth were driven primarily by robberies.

In 2006, 1,287 young people were accused of a violent offence in which a gun was used. They accounted for 2.8% of all youth accused of violence; in contrast, 1.8% of adults accused of a violent offence had used a firearm.

Generally, the highest rates of gun violence in 2006 were found in Canada's largest cities. Vancouver had the highest rate among all census metropolitan areas (CMAs), followed by Winnipeg and Toronto. Among youth, however, the rates of violence involving firearms were highest in Toronto and Saskatoon.

About three-quarters of the total number of violent victimizations involving guns in 2006 were robbery and assault. Although the incidence of attempted murder and homicide was much lower, about one-third of these offences were committed with a firearm.

Adults convicted of a violent gun crime were sentenced, on average, to just over four years in prison, double the typical sentence length of those convicted of the same violent offence where a firearm had not been used.

One-quarter of firearm-related victimizations occur in Toronto

A total of 1,993 people in the Toronto CMA were victims of a violent offence related to guns in 2006, about one-quarter of the national total.

However, in terms of rates which take into account differences in population, Toronto was third highest behind Vancouver and Winnipeg.

In Vancouver, there were 45.3 violent offences involving guns for every 100,000 population, the highest

Note to readers

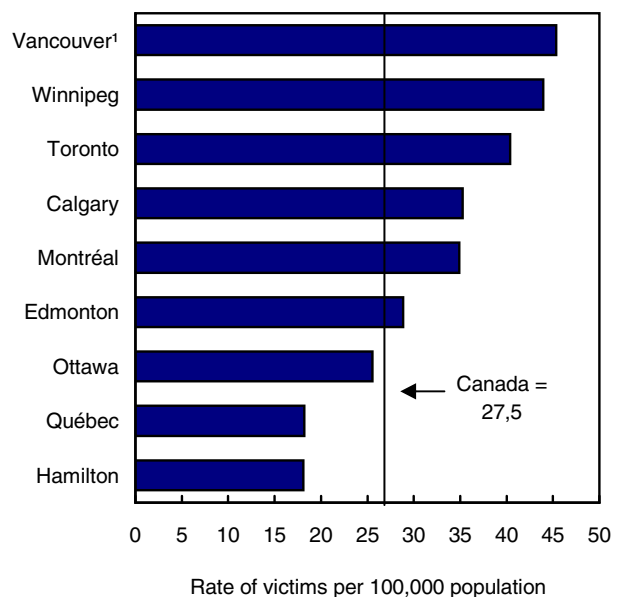
This Juristat uses data from Statistics Canada's Uniform Crime Reporting and Homicide Surveys to examine the prevalence of firearm-related violent crime in Canada at the national, provincial and census metropolitan area levels.

It presents the incidence and trends in overall firearm violence and the characteristics of those offences most often committed with a firearm. It also compares Canada's firearm-related homicide rate with those of other countries.

Data from the Integrated Criminal Courts Survey are used to compare court processing and sentencing outcomes between firearm and non-firearm violent offences.

rate in the nation and well above the national average of 27.5. Winnipeg's rate was 43.9 and Toronto's was 40.4.

Firearm-related violent crime by the nine largest census metropolitan areas, 2006



1. Data for Vancouver represents 46% of the population.

Edmonton reported the highest rate of homicide related to guns in 2006, followed by Abbotsford, where the rate was highest during the previous four years.

For the third year in a row, Halifax reported the highest rate of robbery involving firearms. Its rate was nearly double those in Vancouver and Toronto, the next highest cities.

Provincially, firearm-related violence was higher in the Western provinces than in the East, reflecting the trend in violent crime in general.

Rates in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, British Columbia and Alberta were two to three times greater than those in Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick in 2006.

Saskatchewan and Alberta had the highest rates of homicide involving firearms. Nova Scotia, driven by Halifax, reported the highest rate of robbery committed with a gun.

Robbery, assault most common firearm offences

Police reported nearly 4,000 robberies and almost 2,400 assaults that were committed with a firearm. However, these types of offences were much more likely to be committed by physical force than with a firearm or any other type of weapon.

Homicide and attempted murder, while fewer in number, were far more likely to be committed with a firearm. Guns were used against about one-third of all victims of attempted murders and homicides in 2006, compared with 14% of victims of robbery and 1% of victims of assault.

Long-term decline in firearm-related homicides due to lower use of rifles or shotguns

Police reported 190 homicides that were committed with a firearm in 2006, 33 fewer than the previous year. Although there have been annual fluctuations, the rate of firearm-related homicides has remained relatively stable over the past decade.

The rate of homicide committed with a firearm declined throughout most of the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. As a result, the rate in 2006 was about half of what it was 30 years earlier.

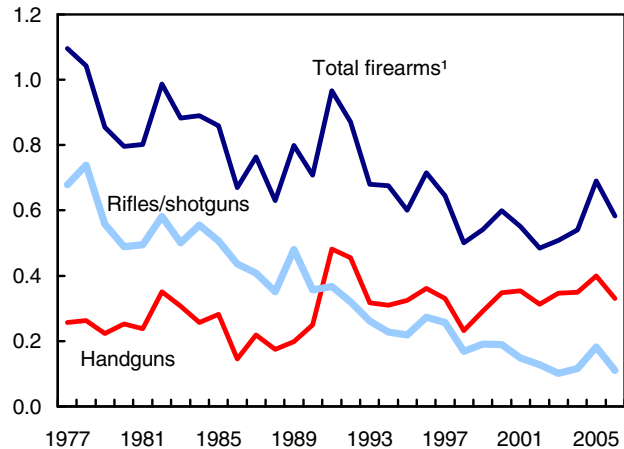
This decline is largely attributable to an 86% decrease in the rate of homicide involving rifles or shotguns between 1975 and 2006. The rate of homicide involving handguns remained relatively stable over this period.

The use of handguns surpassed rifles or shotguns for the first time in 1991. By 2006, three times as many victims were killed with a handgun than with a rifle or shotgun.

Prior to 1985, shootings were much more common than stabbings. Since then, shootings and stabbings have each accounted for about one-third of all homicides annually.

Firearm-related homicide by type of firearm, 1977 to 2006

Rate of victims per 100,000 population



1. Total also includes sawed-off rifles/shotguns, fully automatic and firearm-like weapons such as pellet guns.

Canada's 2006 firearm homicide rate was nearly six times lower than the United States. But it was about three times higher than the rate in Australia and six times higher than in England and Wales. The rate of non-firearm homicide was fairly similar in all four countries.

Prison terms longer for violent offenders who use a firearm

Adults convicted of a firearm-related violent crime in 2005/2006 were sentenced, on average, to just over four years in prison. This was double the average length of sentences for those convicted of the same violent offence that did not involve a gun.

This difference can be partially attributed to a *Criminal Code* provision that requires adults convicted of certain violent crimes with a firearm to be subject to mandatory minimum prison sentences.

Adults accused of a violent offence involving firearms were also less likely to plead guilty than those accused of the same violent offence that did not involve a gun. In 2005/2006, a guilty plea was entered in 79% of cases involving a firearm, compared with 86% of cases not involving a firearm.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3302 and 3315.

The *Juristat*: "Firearms and Violent Crime," 1975 to 2006, Vol. 28, no. 2, (85-002-XIE, free), is now available from our website. From the *Publications* module, under *Free Internet publications*, choose *Crime and justice*, then *Juristat*. A paper

version (85-002-XPE, \$11/\$100) is also available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Information and Client Services (toll-free 1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Firearm-related violent crime for selected offences by province and territory, 2006

	Firearm-related homicide		Firearm-related robbery		Total victims of firearm-related violent crime		
	number	rate ¹	number	rate ¹	number	rate ¹	% of total violent crime
Province/territory							
Newfoundland and Labrador	4	0.8	11	2.2	58	11.4	1.1
Prince Edward Island	0	0.0	0	0.0	17	12.3	1.3
Nova Scotia	5	0.5	133	14.2	242	25.9	1.8
New Brunswick	2	0.3	31	4.1	106	15.6	1.6
Quebec	34	0.4	781	10.2	1,775	23.3	2.2
Ontario	66	0.5	1,609	12.7	3,455	27.5	2.9
Manitoba	8	0.7	134	11.4	425	37.7	2.0
Saskatchewan	10	1.0	93	9.4	379	38.5	1.7
Alberta	32	0.9	352	10.4	1,071	32.1	2.6
British Columbia ²	29	0.7	523	12.1	497	33.9	2.8
Yukon	0	0.0	1	3.2	9	28.8	0.9
Northwest Territories	0	0.0	1	2.4	35	83.6	1.2
Nunavut	0	0.0	2	6.5	36	117.0	1.5
Canada	190	0.6	3,671	11.3	8,105	27.5	2.4

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

2. Data for total violent crime in British Columbia represent 34% of the population and are not provincially representative. Data for homicide and robbery represent 100% coverage.

Firearm-related violent crime for selected offences by census metropolitan area, 2006

	Firearm-related homicide		Firearm-related robbery		Total victims of firearm-related violent crime		
	number	rate ¹	number	rate ¹	number	rate ¹	% of total violent crime
Census metropolitan area (CMA)							
500,000 and over population							
Vancouver ²	15	0.7	408	18.7	455	45.3	3.3
Winnipeg	7	1.0	123	16.9	315	43.9	2.8
Toronto	34	0.6	995	18.4	1,993	40.4	4.1
Calgary	6	0.5	133	12.0	388	35.2	3.9
Montréal	25	0.7	645	17.4	1,291	34.9	3.1
Edmonton	15	1.4	168	15.9	306	28.9	2.9
Ottawa ³	8	0.9	138	15.6	226	25.5	3.6
Québec	0	0.0	67	9.2	132	18.2	1.9
Hamilton	3	0.4	111	15.8	94	18.1	2.0
100,000 to less than 500,000 population							
Regina	2	1.0	35	17.5	78	38.9	2.2
Halifax	3	0.8	116	30.4	141	36.9	2.4
Saskatoon	2	0.8	39	15.9	80	33.1	1.7
St. Catharines–Niagara	1	0.2	60	13.8	123	28.3	3.7
Gatineau ⁴	2	0.7	24	8.3	79	27.2	2.1
London	0	0.0	55	11.6	122	25.8	2.8
Greater Sudbury	0	0.0	13	8.0	34	21.0	2.0
Windsor	2	0.6	16	4.8	57	18.9	1.8
Kitchener	1	0.2	24	4.9	75	15.3	1.8
Kingston	1	0.7	8	5.2	18	11.7	1.1
Saguenay	0	0.0	1	0.7	16	11.0	1.1
Thunder Bay	1	0.8	4	3.2	13	10.6	0.6
Victoria	0	0.0	15	4.4	34	10.0	0.9
St. John's	0	0.0	10	5.5	14	7.8	0.8
Sherbrooke	0	0.0	5	3.4	6	4.1	0.4
Trois-Rivières	0	0.0	1	0.7	4	2.7	0.3
Abbotsford	2	1.2	25	15.2	..	..	..
Saint John	0	0.0	5	5.1	..	..	..
Oshawa	0	0.0	..	..	..	..	..
Canada	190	0.6	3,671	11.3	8,105	27.5	2.4

.. not available for a specific reference period

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

2. Data for total violent crime in Vancouver represent 46% of the population. Data for homicide and robbery represent 100% coverage.

3. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

4. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

Travel between Canada and other countries

December 2007

Both same-day and overnight car travel to the United States fell sharply in December. Contributing factors could have been winter storms and a dip in the value of the Canadian dollar.

December's declines halted three consecutive months of significant gains in cross-border automobile travel by Canadians.

In total, Canadians took nearly 3.8 million trips to the United States, down 7.8% from November. Of these, the majority, just over 2.1 million, were same-day car trips, which were also down 7.8%. (Unless otherwise specified, monthly data are seasonally adjusted.)

Similarly, the number of overnight car trips to the United States fell 12.3% to 995,000. This followed a 17.6% increase in November.

Travel may have been dampened by heavy snowfalls in early and mid-December that resulted in hazardous driving conditions and cancelled flights across Canada. Meanwhile, the average value of the loonie, which had been above parity for the previous two months, dipped to US\$0.997 in December.

With December's sharp decline, the number of same-day car trips for the month was only 4.6% above the level in December 2006, even though the loonie was worth 13 cents US more in December 2007.

For 2007 as a whole, Canadians took a total of 24.2 million same-day car trips to the United States, up 3.3% from 2006. Large gains in October and November last year more than offset year-over-year declines during the first five months of 2007.

Canadians also took 10.6 million overnight car trips to the United States, up 14.1% over 2006. It was the first time since 1994 that this type of travel has surpassed the 10-million mark, as the volume of traffic was up in every month on a year-over-year basis.

Overnight trips to the United States by airplane remained relatively unchanged in December at 506,000. For 2007 as a whole, Canadians took a record-high 5.9 million such trips, up 6.1% from 2006. It was the second annual record in a row.

In the opposite direction, Americans took a record-low 804,000 same-day car trips to Canada in December, down 2.4% from November. It was the sixth

consecutive monthly decline and the third consecutive record low since record keeping started in 1972.

For 2007 as a whole, American residents made 11.2 million same-day car trips to Canada, an 18.8% decline from 2006.

They also took 665,000 overnight car trips to Canada in December, a 1.0% decrease from November. For the year, they made fewer than 8.0 million overnight car trips, the lowest figure since 1984.

Overnight plane trips to Canada from the United States edged up 0.2% to 306,000 in December. On an annual basis, the number of overnight trips by plane fell 3.2% to 3.8 million in 2007, just below the record high of 3.9 million set in 2004.

Canadians made 658,000 trips to countries other than the United States in December, virtually unchanged (-0.1%) from November. For the year as a whole, they made a record-high 7.4 million trips to overseas nations, up 9.9% from 2006, continuing a steady upward trend.

In December, trips to Canada from overseas countries were also virtually unchanged (+0.1%). Leading gains in Canada's top 12 overseas markets were China (+6.6%) and Hong Kong (+5.8%). France had the biggest decline (-3.7%).

Annually, overseas residents made 4.7 million trips to Canada, up 3.6% over 2006 and just 100,000 shy of the record high in 1996. Half of the top 12 overseas markets had a record year: the United Kingdom, Mexico, Australia, South Korea, China and India. Leading the pack was Mexico with a 17.1% gain. The only major market with a decline was Japan (-14.4%).

Available on CANSIM: tables 427-0001 to 427-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5005.

The December 2007 issue of *International Travel, Advance Information*, Vol. 23, no. 12 (66-001-PWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For general information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-9169; fax: 613-951-2909; tourism@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Paul Durk (613-951-5859; paul.durk@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. □

Travel between Canada and other countries

	November 2007 ^r	December 2007 ^p	November to December 2007	December 2007 ^p	December 2006 to December 2007	Annual 2007 ^p	2006 to 2007
	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted			
	thousands		% change ¹	thousands	% change ¹	thousands	% change ¹
Canadian trips abroad²	4,769	4,447	-6.8	3,915	9.1	50,045	6.7
to the United States	4,110	3,789	-7.8	3,338	8.9	42,641	6.1
to other countries	659	658	-0.1	577	10.5	7,404	9.9
Same-day car trips to the United States	2,297	2,117	-7.8	2,075	4.1	24,224	3.3
Total trips, one or more nights	2,415	2,275	-5.8	1,788	17.0	25,139	10.6
United States ³	1,756	1,617	-7.9	1,211	20.4	17,735	10.9
Car	1,135	995	-12.3	671	32.5	10,608	14.1
Plane	506	506	0.1	479	7.8	5,860	6.1
Other modes of transportation	115	116	0.5	61	9.9	1,267	8.0
Other countries ⁴	659	658	-0.1	577	10.5	7,404	9.9
Travel to Canada²	2,438	2,412	-1.0	1,840	-15.6	30,373	-9.0
from the United States	2,036	2,010	-1.3	1,525	-18.9	25,695	-11.0
from other countries	402	403	0.1	315	4.7	4,679	3.6
Same-day car trips from the United States	824	804	-2.4	707	-27.5	11,164	-18.8
Total trips, one or more nights	1,510	1,505	-0.3	1,081	-5.9	17,975	-1.6
United States ³	1,118	1,114	-0.4	772	-9.5	13,415	-3.2
Car	672	665	-1.0	468	-11.6	7,961	-4.3
Plane	305	306	0.2	263	-6.5	3,758	-3.2
Other modes of transportation	142	143	1.1	41	-2.1	1,696	2.4
Other countries ⁴	392	391	-0.3	309	4.5	4,560	3.4
Travel to Canada: Top overseas markets, by country of origin⁵							
United Kingdom	78	78	0.2	62	3.0	926	5.0
France	34	33	-3.7	26	1.7	379	1.5
Japan	28	28	-0.6	16	-9.8	343	-14.4
Germany	26	27	1.0	14	-3.4	318	1.6
Mexico	24	23	-3.6	21	15.8	251	17.1
Australia	20	21	2.5	22	19.7	229	10.7
South Korea	19	19	2.2	15	2.7	213	5.3
China	13	13	6.6	10	5.4	156	5.3
Netherlands	10	11	4.4	6	0.9	124	2.2
Hong Kong	10	10	5.8	9	7.6	116	3.3
Italy	9	9	3.6	6	16.4	103	10.3
India	9	9	3.9	5	6.8	105	16.9

^p preliminary

^r revised

1. Percentage change is based on unrounded data.

2. Totals exceed the sum of "same-day car trips" and "total trips, one or more nights" because they include all of the same-day trips.

3. Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.

4. Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.

5. Includes same-day and overnight trips.

Leading indicators

January 2008

The composite index rose by 0.2% in January, after December was revised up to no change from November. The upturn was broadly based, with 5 of the 10 components rising, versus only 2 in December. Household spending remained the strongest sector of the economy, more than offsetting the sharp drop in the stock market at the start of 2008.

December's sharp decline in the housing index moderated substantially in January. Housing starts returned to more normal levels after severe storms

helped depress them in December. The underlying strength of the housing market was reflected in a 1.1% gain in furniture and appliance sales, their most since July 2006. Demand for other durable goods began to firm even before the goods and services tax was cut on January 1, after which auto sales in January posted one of their largest increases on record. The rebound of consumer demand in the new year was also reflected in a recovery in employment in personal services, which led the turnaround in overall service jobs in January.

The Toronto stock market fell sharply in January, echoing the slide felt in markets around the world.

Leading indicators

	August 2007	September 2007	October 2007	November 2007	December 2007	January 2008	Last month of data available % change
Composite leading indicator (1992=100)	228.4	229.3	229.5	229.3	229.2	229.6	0.2
Housing index (1992=100) ¹	149.6	152.5	150.5	149.7	145.8	143.9	-1.3
Business and personal services employment (thousands)	2,852	2,863	2,868	2,874	2,872	2,875	0.1
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	13,782	13,918	14,032	13,988	13,981	13,880	-0.7
Money supply, M1 (\$ millions, 1992) ²	165,655	166,937	168,201	169,016	169,943	170,694	0.4
U.S. Conference Board leading indicator (1992=100) ³	126.9	126.9	127.1	126.9	126.8	126.5	-0.2
Manufacturing							
Average workweek (hours)	38.5	38.4	38.4	38.3	38.3	38.3	0.0
New orders, durables (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	26,958	27,133	26,680	26,281	26,018	26,823	3.1
Shipments/inventories of finished goods ⁴	1.84	1.84	1.82	1.81	1.81	1.82	0.01 ⁵
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	2,679	2,700	2,715	2,727	2,745	2,775	1.1
Other durable goods sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	9,192	9,245	9,291	9,283	9,215	9,203	-0.1
Unsmoothed composite leading indicator	228.2	231.1	229.7	228.4	228.3	230.2	0.8

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.

■

Large urban transit

December 2007 (preliminary)

Combined ridership on 10 large urban transit systems in Canada was 3.4% higher in December than it was for the same month in 2006.

Approximately 111.4 million passenger trips were taken on these transit systems in December. These systems account for about 80% of total urban transit in Canada.

The trips generated \$198.1 million in revenue in December 2007 (excluding subsidies), a 0.1% decrease over December 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 dissemination unit (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 613-951-0009; transportationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Aircraft movement statistics: Small airports

May 2007

In May 2007, the number of landings and take-offs at Canadian airports without NAV CANADA air traffic control towers and flight service stations totalled 71,995. The itinerant category represented approximately 67% of the total movements.

Guelph, Ontario, was the most active station overall, with 6,762 reported movements. The itinerant category was led by Moosonee, Ontario, with 3,001 movements.

Available on CANSIM: tables 401-0021 and 401-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2715.

The May 2007 issue of *Aircraft Movement Statistics: Airports Without Air Traffic Control Towers*, Vol. 2, no. 5 (51-008-XWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

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

Construction type plywood

October, November and December 2007

Data on construction type plywood for October, November and December are now available.

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0056 and 303-0057.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2138.

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. ■

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