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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

New Housing Price Index

February 2008

The increase in new housing prices in Canada slowed in February, following two consecutive months in which the rate of growth was gaining speed. This deceleration continues the downward trend that started in September 2006.

Nationally, contractors' selling prices rose 6.2% between February 2007 and February 2008, a slower pace than the year-over-year increase of 6.5% in January.

Prices rose 0.3% between January and February, resulting in a New Housing Price Index of 158.1 (1997=100).

Regionally, prices again rose at the fastest pace in Saskatoon, which led the nation with an annual price increase of 58.3%, the fastest increase on record for this city. Housing prices rose 4.3% in February compared with a month earlier.

In Regina, the year-over-year increase was 28.6%, up from the annual growth rate of 25.9% recorded in January. Regina's new housing prices jumped 7.0% between January and February. Many builders reported higher prices as a result of increased material costs and a labour shortage that has resulted in higher labour rates.

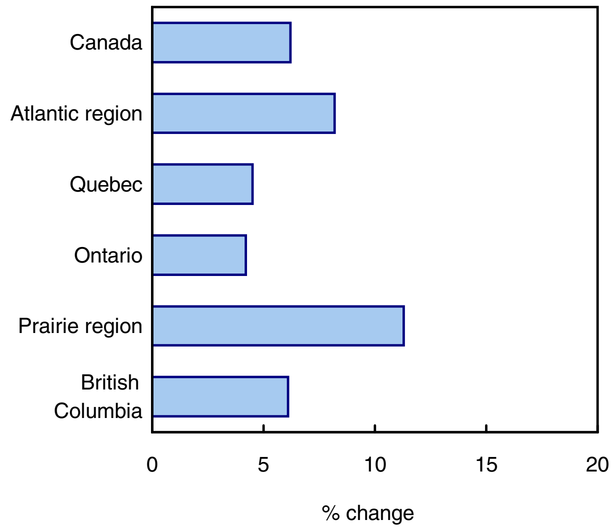
The markets in both Saskatoon and Regina continue to be strong. Demand for new housing is high in Saskatchewan due to a strong natural resource sector and aggressive efforts to attract migrants to alleviate the labour shortage in the province.

In Edmonton, the 12-month growth rate slowed in February to 14.8%, the seventh month in a row in which the pace of growth has decelerated.

In Calgary, prices rose 5.2% between February 2007 and February 2008, slightly slower than the 5.6% year-over-year increase in the previous month.

Edmonton and Calgary are experiencing slower market conditions. With some migrants leaving the province, there are many resale houses on the market, making for slower new housing sales. This has resulted in both cities showing price declines on a monthly basis. In Edmonton, prices were down 0.9% from January, and in Calgary, they were down 0.3%.

Percentage change from the same month of the previous year



Builders reported that material and labour costs as well as increased demand and higher land developments costs have contributed to record increases in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia. Buyers in St. John's saw a 12.2% gain on a 12-month basis. Homebuyers in Halifax saw prices rise 11.4%, unchanged from January 2008.

On the West Coast, the 12-month increase for Vancouver was 6.6%. In Victoria, the year-over-year increase in contractors' selling prices was 1.6%, unchanged from January.

Windsor recorded year-over-year inflation for the first time in 17 months, with prices rising 0.3% from February 2007.

Elsewhere in Ontario, contractors' selling prices were 4.4% higher than in February last year in Toronto and Oshawa, and 3.3% higher in Ottawa–Gatineau.

In Montréal, the 12-month growth rate accelerated to 4.7%, while in Québec, prices increased 4.0%. In both, a competitive market and increased material and labour costs continue to be the main factors contributing to the higher prices.

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.

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

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact our Client Services Section (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; *prices-prix@statcan.ca*), Prices Division.

New housing price indexes

	February 2008	February 2007 to February 2008	January to February 2008
	(1997=100)	% change	
Canada total	**158.1**	**6.2**	**0.3**
House only	**168.1**	**6.1**	**0.3**
Land only	**138.6**	**6.9**	**0.5**
St. John's	148.5	12.2	2.9
Halifax	146.4	11.4	0.0
Charlottetown	120.6	2.4	0.0
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton	115.4	2.1	-0.4
Québec	152.4	4.0	0.5
Montréal	159.5	4.7	1.0
Ottawa–Gatineau	166.3	3.3	1.3
Toronto and Oshawa	145.3	4.4	0.3
Hamilton	151.9	3.6	0.8
St. Catharines–Niagara	155.2	5.3	1.9
Kitchener	141.1	2.0	-0.1
London	140.4	3.7	0.0
Windsor	103.6	0.3	0.3
Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay	110.5	6.3	1.2
Winnipeg	172.6	14.5	0.1
Regina	218.7	28.6	7.0
Saskatoon	235.7	58.3	4.3
Calgary	251.4	5.2	-0.3
Edmonton	245.7	14.8	-0.9
Vancouver	123.8	6.6	0.2
Victoria	119.3	1.6	0.0

Note: *View the census subdivisions that comprise the metropolitan areas online.*

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Domestic sales of refined petroleum products

February 2008 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products increased in five of the seven major product groups in February compared with the same month in 2007.

Sales totalled 8 319 200 cubic metres, up 2.3% year over year. (One cubic metre is equivalent to 6.3 barrels.)

Motor gasoline sales showed the biggest increase, registering a gain of 108 300 cubic metres or 3.5%. Diesel fuel oil sales rose 3.5% or 76 200 cubic metres. Light fuel oil sales declined 19.0% or 126 100 cubic metres.

Sales increased in all of the three categories of motor gasoline. Premium grade moved up 5.8%, while regular unleaded rose 3.4%. Mid-grade sales edged up 0.7%.

On a year-to-date basis, sales of refined petroleum at the end of February reached 16 998 000 cubic metres, up 3.5% over the same period in 2007.

Gains were registered in six of the seven major product groups, with the largest increase in motor gasoline where sales rose 181 900 cubic metres or 2.8%. Diesel fuel oil sales were up 140 900 cubic metres or 3.2%.

Note: Preliminary data on domestic sales of refined petroleum products are no longer available on CANSIM.

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; *energ@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Sales of refined petroleum products

	February 2007[r]	February 2008[p]	February 2007 to February 2008
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total, all products	**8 133.3**	**8 319.2**	**2.3**
Motor gasoline	3 104.9	3 213.2	3.5
Diesel fuel oil	2 202.9	2 279.1	3.5
Light fuel oil	663.4	537.3	-19.0
Heavy fuel oil	576.9	634.4	10.0
Aviation turbo fuels	436.5	487.2	11.6
Petrochemical feedstocks[1]	325.6	367.4	12.9
All other refined products	823.1	800.5	-2.7

	January to February 2007[r]	January to February 2008[p]	7January–February 200 to January–February 2008
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total, all products	**16 423.4**	**16 998.0**	**3.5**
Motor gasoline	6 428.5	6 610.4	2.8
Diesel fuel oil	4 366.1	4 507.0	3.2
Light fuel oil	1 293.1	1 131.1	-12.5
Heavy fuel oil	1 065.9	1 188.4	11.5
Aviation turbo fuels	927.7	1 035.7	11.6
Petrochemical feedstocks[1]	732.2	765.0	4.5
All other refined products	1 609.9	1 760.4	9.3

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
1. *Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce chemicals, synthetic rubber and a variety of plastics.*

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Food services and drinking places, annual

2006

Total operating revenue for the Canadian food services and drinking places industry reached $40.6 billion in 2006, up 4.5% from the previous year. This growth was slightly stronger than the 3.9% observed in 2005. A generally strong economy, with notable increases in personal disposable income and domestic tourism demand for food and beverage services, helped stimulate the growth of the industry in 2006.

Industry operating revenue increased in all provinces, but Alberta led the way with a robust growth rate of 11.0%. As in the previous year, the Western provinces continued to show strong growth in 2006 (7.5% combined), reflecting the overall economic performance of this region. Operating revenue also expanded in the four Atlantic provinces, which posted an overall growth rate of 5.3%. The industry in Quebec and Ontario observed more moderate increases than the other provinces, at 3.1% and 2.6%, respectively. Operating revenue remained relatively stable in the territories.

In the limited service sector, which is characterized predominantly by restaurants where meals are ordered and paid for at the counter, total operating revenue grew by 6.7%, the largest expansion of all four sectors of the industry. This was a marked improvement relative to its 3.3% growth in 2005. The special food services sector (comprising contractors, social caterers and mobile food services) posted a 6.2% increase in operating revenue. Full service restaurants (where patrons order and pay for meals at their table) saw moderate growth of 4.0%.

In sharp contrast, operating revenues for the drinking places sector decreased 6.2% in 2006. This marked the second consecutive year of shrinking revenues for this sector.

The industry continued to be dominated by the full service and limited service sectors, representing 44.3% and 40.4%, respectively, of total operating revenue.

Sales of food and non-alcoholic beverages accounted for 83.3% of the total sales of the industry, while sales of alcoholic beverages represented 14.3%. The major expense for owners in the industry was the cost of goods sold at 35.4%, followed by the cost of labour at 31.5%.

The operating profit margin for the industry edged up from 3.8% in 2005 to 4.3% in 2006. Increases were noted in most provinces and sectors of the industry.

Results from the 2006 Annual Survey of Food Services and Drinking Places are now available. These data provide information on the industry's operating revenue, operating expenses, salaries, wages and benefits and operating profit margin. Data for 2005 have been revised to reflect more accurate coverage of the target population for this industry.

Available on CANSIM: table 355-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4704.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Pierre Felx (613-951-0075; fax: 613-951-6696; *pierre.felx@statcan.ca*) or Nicolas Dumais (613-951-9038; *nicolas.dumais@statcan.ca*), Service Industries Division. ■

Cement
February 2008

Data on cement are now available for February.

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0060 and 303-0061.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2140.

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. ■

Natural gas transportation and distribution
July to September 2007

Data on natural gas transportation and distribution for July to September 2007 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: tables 129-0001 to 129-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.

For more information, to order data, 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; *energ@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

New products

Heritage Institutions: Data Tables, 2006
Catalogue number 87F0002XWE
(free).

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.

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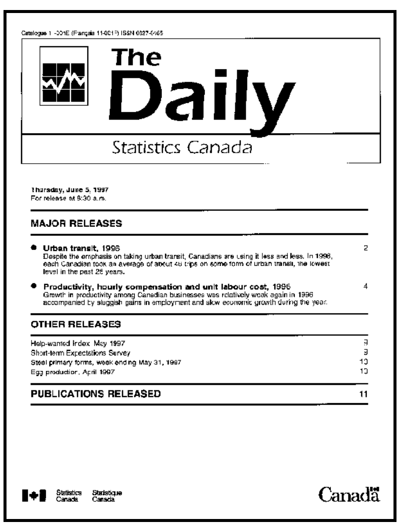
Catalogue 1 -001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

The Daily
Statistics Canada

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

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

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada
Canada

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin
Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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Release dates: April 14 to April 18, 2008

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
14	**New motor vehicle sales**	February 2008
14	**Investment in non-residential building construction**	First quarter 2008
15	**Study: A decade-long look at registered apprentices, the cohort of 1993**	1993 to 2003
15	**Study: An examination of public capital's role in production**	1961 to 2005
16	**Monthly Survey of Manufacturing**	February 2008
16	**Health Reports**	
17	**Consumer Price Index**	March 2008
17	**Travel between Canada and other countries**	February 2008
18	**Wholesale trade**	February 2008
18	**Leading indicators**	March 2008