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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

(continued on page 2)

Education Matters: Insights on education, learning and training in Canada
April 2008

This issue of Statistics Canada's free online publication *Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada* contains two articles.

The article "Adult learning in Canada: Characteristics of learners" summarizes findings of a recent report that examined characteristics of adult learners in Canada, including links between participation in adult education and training and literacy skill levels, education, family background and age. One key finding is that people with the highest levels of literacy participate in adult learning at much higher rates than those at the lowest levels. Thus, those most in need of learning to enhance their skills to be able to compete in the labour market are least likely to take advantage of training opportunities.

The second article "Why are the majority of university students women?" summarizes results of a recent report that set out to explain the gender gap in university participation. Women continue to out number men in university, and the gap is widening. Key factors include differences in school marks at the age of 15; standardized test scores in reading at 15; study habits; and parental expectations. Data came from the Youth in Transition Survey, Cycle 3, which collected information from participants in 2003, when they were 19 years old.

The publication *Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada*, Vol. 5, no. 1 (81-004-XIE, free) is now available. From the *Publications* module of our website, choose *Free Internet publications*, then *Education, training and learning* and *Education Matters*.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; *educationstats@statcan.ca*), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

Releases – concluded

Releases

Study: The year in review in manufacturing

2007

Soaring industrial product prices and robust demand for resource-based goods offset declines in some of Canada's key durable goods industries in 2007. Overall, there was little change in both the volume and value of manufacturing sales.

Manufacturers posted a modest 0.4% increase in sales to $613.4 billion, according to a year-end review, published today in the *Analysis in Brief* series. In constant dollars, factory sales were essentially flat, following a lacklustre 2006 in which sales edged down.

Manufacturers had a mixed year in other respects in 2007. Employment fell by an estimated 55,300 jobs and total hours worked declined 2.9%. However, labour productivity in the sector increased 1.9% last year, nearly four times the gain for the economy as a whole. Operating profits also increased, halting two consecutive years of declines, but capital investment slid.

As in previous years, manufacturers faced several major challenges, including the rising exchange value of the Canadian dollar and the weaker export market in the United States. The Canadian dollar surpassed parity with its US counterpart by late September, making Canadian-manufactured goods more expensive south of the border. In addition, events in the United States, such as the ongoing sub-prime mortgage situation and declining consumer confidence, weakened demand for Canadian-made goods in this market. However, exports to other countries increased.

The food industry was still Canada's largest manufacturing industry last year in terms of sales. However, the petroleum and coal products industry surpassed motor vehicles for the first time to become the second largest.

On the negative side, sales by manufacturers of wood products plunged to their lowest level since 1996. Manufacturers of automobiles and trucks also continued to sputter, posting lower sales compared with 2006.

Central Canada's dominance as the manufacturing heartland continued to weaken ever so slightly, as the western provinces capitalized on strong demand for their high-priced resources.

Higher prices significant factor in boosting sales in two key industries

Higher prices have been a significant factor in boosting the value of sales in two key industries during the past five years. Between 2003 and 2007, prices for both petroleum and coal products and primary metals have soared about 65%.

Excluding these two price-inflated industries, total manufacturing sales would have declined 1.1% in 2007, after a 1.4% drop in 2006.

Petroleum and coal products manufacturers recorded the largest growth of all manufacturing sectors in dollar terms, reaching $66.4 billion in 2007. The increase was fuelled mainly by higher petroleum product prices. As a result, this industry increased its share of total manufacturing sales to 10.8%.

Canada's primary metals industry was the second biggest gainer last year as its sales rose to $53.8 billion, buoyed by escalating prices and international demand. Hence, the industry maintained its fourth place standing among the largest industries.

On average, the industrial price of primary metals rose just over 10% in 2007, following unprecedented price gains since 2004. The industrial boom in China and India has fortified prices for such commodities as nickel, gold and other primary metals.

The food industry remained the largest industry as factory sales of food rose 2.9% to $74.2 billion, following a healthy 6.8% gain in 2006.

On the flip side, the biggest decline among all manufacturing industries occurred in sales of wood products, which plunged 15.6% to $24.9 billion, the lowest level since 1996.

Motor vehicle manufacturing, the largest industry in the transportation equipment sector, continued to sputter. Sales by manufacturers of automobiles and trucks declined a sharp 2.7% to $60.8 billion last year. It was the third consecutive decline, although it was well off the 6.5% drop in 2006. Overall, manufacturing sales of motor vehicles have fallen by over 22% from their peak of $78.3 billion in 1999.

The provinces: Slow westerly shift in share of sales

Central Canada's dominance as the manufacturing heartland continued to weaken ever so slightly, as the western provinces continued to capitalize on demand for their high-priced resources.

Manufacturing activity in the West rose a moderate 0.6% in 2007, after three years of strong growth. As a result, sales west of Ontario accounted for 22% of the national total, up from 19% in 2003.

Ontario remained the leading manufacturing province in Canada, accounting for almost 48% of the national sales total, but this was well below the proportion of 55% in 1999.

In Ontario, factory sales fell 1.1% to $293.4 billion, the lowest level since 2001. Steep declines in the motor vehicles and parts, wood products and chemical products industries were partially offset by gains at the province's refineries, and an upturn in the manufacturing of telecommunications equipment.

In Quebec, factory sales rose 2.1% to $150.4 billion, in the wake of strong gains in primary metals, food and aerospace. The province accounted for about 25% of national sales in 2007.

An expansion in non-durable goods manufacturing contributed to a boost in the share of total sales held by the four Atlantic provinces. In 2007, they accounted for a little more than 5% of sales nationally, up from 4% in 1999.

Manufacturing job losses mount

An estimated 55,300 factory jobs were cut in 2007, a 3.0% decrease from 2006, according to the Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours. It was the largest annual drop since the recession of the early 1990s.

On the other hand, productivity in the sector surged 1.9% in 2007, nearly four times the 0.5% gain in productivity for the economy as a whole.

This was due mainly to a decline in the number of hours worked, which fell more than twice as fast as manufacturing output. Real gross domestic product in manufacturing edged down 1.1% in 2007, while the number of hours worked dropped 2.9%, reflecting the sector's job losses.

Operating profits halted a two-year downward trend last year, rising 5.4% to $45.0 billion, the highest level since 2004. In fact, manufacturers' profits outperformed the 5.0% growth in profits seen by Canadian non-financial corporations as a whole.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2101.

The analytical article "Manufacturing: The year 2007 in review" is now available online as part of the *Analysis in Brief* (11-621-MWE2008070, free) series from the *Publications* module of our website.

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of the release, contact Russell Kowaluk (613-951-0600; *russell.kowaluk@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Payroll employment, earnings and hours

February 2008 (preliminary)

The average weekly earnings of payroll employees (seasonally adjusted) stood at $786.80 in February, up 0.6% from January. Compared with a year earlier, average weekly earnings were up 3.1%.

Among Canada's largest industrial sectors, earnings rose 5.8% in health and social assistance, 2.6% in manufacturing, 2.5% in educational services, and 0.9% in retail trade compared with a year earlier.

Alberta (+4.9%) and Manitoba (+4.5%) posted the strongest year-over-year earnings growth among the provinces.

Nationally, the number of occupied payroll jobs edged down by 8,300 (-0.1%), from January to February, to 14,463,400. There was very little change across the provinces in February. Newfoundland and Labrador posted the largest increase (+0.3%), while Alberta and Prince Edward Island, which both fell 0.3%, registered the largest declines.

Overall, payroll employment has grown by 247,100 (+1.7%) since February 2007.

The average hourly earnings ($19.59) and the average weekly hours for hourly paid employees (31.1 hours) were unchanged from a month earlier.

Note: As reported last month, January 2008 employment by industry data from the Survey of Employment Payroll and Hours (SEPH) were influenced by changes to the Business Register, the central repository of information on businesses at Statistics Canada.

The Business Register is used by business surveys, such as SEPH, as the frame for drawing their sample. SEPH also uses it to determine the industries in which Canadians are working. The recent changes to the Business Register affected employment by industry estimates for January. The employment estimates for management of companies and enterprises (North American Industry Classification System 5511) were most impacted by changes in the Business Register. In this industry, there was a marked increase in the number of employees for that month. Overall estimates of employment were not affected by the change to the Business Register.

In order to ensure better comparability with historical data, the January 2008 estimates have been revised with this release of the February data. From February onward, SEPH will continue to publish historically-comparable estimates of employment by industry.

Available on CANSIM: tables 281-0023 to 281-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2612.

Detailed industry data, data by size of enterprise based on employment, and other labour market indicators will be available soon in the monthly publication *Employment, Earnings and Hours* (72-002-XIB, free).

Data on payroll employment, earnings and hours for March will be released on May 29.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-2869; *labour@statcan.ca*). To enquire about revisions, concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Peter Lorenz (613-951-4167), Labour Statistics Division. ❑

Average weekly earnings (including overtime) for all employees

Industry group (North American Industry Classification System)	February 2007	January 2008[p]	February 2008[r]	January to February 2008	February 2007 to February 2008	Year-to-date average[1] 2008
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$			% change		
Industrial aggregate	**762.86**	**782.09**	**786.80**	**0.6**	**3.1**	**2.9**
Forestry, logging and support	991.90	1,006.03	1,027.74	2.2	3.6	2.7
Mining and oil and gas	1,374.16	1,447.96	1,482.38	2.4	7.9	6.3
Utilities	1,105.25	1,161.87	1,169.52	0.7	5.8	5.7
Construction	913.05	939.83	942.43	0.3	3.2	3.4
Manufacturing	926.50	950.21	950.84	0.1	2.6	2.6
Wholesale trade	906.65	922.12	925.75	0.4	2.1	2.4
Retail trade	484.12	488.99	488.58	-0.1	0.9	1.2
Transportation and warehousing	794.58	816.19	820.28	0.5	3.2	3.0
Information and cultural industries	950.27	988.50	1,007.40	1.9	6.0	4.6
Finance and insurance	980.00	1,020.64	1,017.82	-0.3	3.9	4.1
Real estate and rental and leasing	712.11	713.56	721.62	1.1	1.3	1.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	976.83	1,016.41	1,011.83	-0.5	3.6	3.9
Management of companies and enterprises	920.80	1,014.05	1,015.96	0.2	10.3	10.6
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	635.24	636.24	643.62	1.2	1.3	-0.1
Educational services	827.23	844.93	847.53	0.3	2.5	2.3
Health care and social assistance	691.96	717.28	731.86	2.0	5.8	4.5
Arts, entertainment and recreation	444.46	484.28	481.81	-0.5	8.4	9.0
Accommodation and food services	320.12	331.08	335.11	1.2	4.7	3.3
Other services (excluding public administration)	595.55	614.72	618.77	0.7	3.9	3.4
Public administration	957.20	983.84	988.41	0.5	3.3	3.5
Provinces and territories						
Newfoundland and Labrador	698.67	724.23	727.33	0.4	4.1	3.7
Prince Edward Island	627.27	631.91	634.89	0.5	1.2	1.4
Nova Scotia	670.25	680.96	684.61	0.5	2.1	2.1
New Brunswick	697.72	718.44	724.80	0.9	3.9	3.6
Quebec	716.69	736.17	728.59	-1.0	1.7	2.8
Ontario	797.29	812.68	820.67	1.0	2.9	2.4
Manitoba	691.25	710.13	722.54	1.7	4.5	4.3
Saskatchewan	710.98	735.32	742.10	0.9	4.4	4.1
Alberta	826.92	851.62	867.40	1.9	4.9	4.0
British Columbia	751.55	767.70	777.44	1.3	3.4	2.7
Yukon	865.34	887.93	896.18	0.9	3.6	3.5
Northwest Territories[2]	985.45	1,005.47	1,039.78	3.4	5.5	4.4
Nunavut[2]	911.08	925.16	929.81	0.5	2.1	1.0

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
1. *Rate of change is obtained by comparing two-month average of 2008 with that of 2007, and is subject to revision for next month's release.*
2. *Data not seasonally adjusted.*

Number of employees

Industry group (North American Industry Classification System)	December 2007	February 2007	January 2008[r]	February 2008[p]	January to February 2008	February 2007 to February 2008	December 2007 to February 2008
	Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands				% change		
Industrial aggregate	**14,427.5**	**14,216.3**	**14,471.7**	**14,463.4**	**-0.1**	**1.7**	**0.2**
Forestry, logging and support	54.9	60.8	53.6	52.9	-1.3	-13.0	-3.6
Mining and oil and gas	195.7	193.0	197.4	198.1	0.4	2.6	1.2
Utilities	123.7	121.6	123.0	122.7	-0.2	0.9	-0.8
Construction	808.1	759.2	812.1	814.0	0.2	7.2	0.7
Manufacturing	1,748.9	1,807.9	1,762.1	1,749.1	-0.7	-3.3	0
Wholesale trade	761.7	753.2	760.8	757.9	-0.4	0.6	-0.5
Retail trade	1,819.6	1,755.0	1,825.9	1,820.5	-0.3	3.7	0
Transportation and warehousing	656.0	649.5	659.9	658.8	-0.2	1.4	0.4
Information and cultural industries	354.1	351.2	356.0	358.1	0.6	2.0	1.1
Finance and insurance	631.9	618.9	633.2	631.5	-0.3	2.0	-0.1
Real estate and rental and leasing	253.4	247.0	253.1	251.4	-0.7	1.8	-0.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	730.7	722.0	729.8	727.6	-0.3	0.8	-0.4
Management of companies and enterprises	100.4	97.3	103.3	104.6	1.3	7.5	4.2
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	723.1	705.3	725.3	725.4	0.0	2.8	0.3
Educational services	1,085.6	1,066.6	1,090.9	1,083.7	-0.7	1.6	-0.2
Health care and social assistance	1,487.4	1,460.5	1,495.4	1,499.9	0.3	2.7	0.8
Arts, entertainment and recreation	241.6	240.7	242.5	240.7	-0.7	0.0	-0.4
Accommodation and food services	1,064.9	1,031.3	1,072.1	1,068.1	-0.4	3.6	0.3
Other services (excluding public administration)	530.9	517.8	533.4	531.2	-0.4	2.6	0.1
Public administration	835.4	816.2	843.6	845.5	0.2	3.6	1.2
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	183.8	177.2	185.3	185.9	0.3	4.9	1.1
Prince Edward Island	59.4	59.5	59.5	59.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.2
Nova Scotia	390.7	385.1	393.6	394.2	0.2	2.4	0.9
New Brunswick	302.1	301.4	304.6	304.9	0.1	1.2	0.9
Quebec	3,281.3	3,265.1	3,296.4	3,288.3	-0.2	0.7	0.2
Ontario	5,521.7	5,454.6	5,538.3	5,539.2	0.0	1.6	0.3
Manitoba	537.0	526.6	541.3	541.8	0.1	2.9	0.9
Saskatchewan	430.8	417.4	432.4	433.3	0.2	3.8	0.6
Alberta	1,741.5	1,713.1	1,746.4	1,741.6	-0.3	1.7	0
British Columbia	1,919.1	1,869.4	1,924.6	1,924.1	0.0	2.9	0.3
Yukon	18.0	17.3	18.4	18.6	1.1	7.5	3.3
Northwest Territories[1]	23.4	23.2	22.9	23.6	3.1	1.7	0.9
Nunavut[1]	10.5	10.0	10.4	10.7	2.9	7.0	1.9

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
1. *Data not seasonally adjusted.*

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Employment Insurance

February 2008 (preliminary)

An estimated 451,040 Canadians received regular Employment Insurance benefits in February, down 4,800 from the previous month (seasonally adjusted estimates). The number of persons receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits decreased in eight provinces, with the largest declines in Saskatchewan (-7.1%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (-2.3%). Regular benefit payments in February totalled $692.9 million.

Compared with February 2007, the number of Canadians receiving regular benefits fell 7.5%. Provincially, the largest year-over-year percentage declines in regular beneficiaries were in Saskatchewan (-20.2%) and Quebec (-10.2%).

Over the last year, the number of regular beneficiaries decreased by more than 20% in three census metropolitan areas (CMAs): Saskatoon (-37.4%), Regina (-23.9%) and Kingston (-23.2%). The number of regular beneficiaries increased in a handful of CMAs, including Oshawa (+11.3%) and Abbotsford (+6.8%).

The number of Canadians receiving regular benefits declined for both males (-5.5%) and females (-6.4%) compared with February 2007.

Note: Employment Insurance Statistics Program data are produced from an administrative data source and may, from time to time, be affected by changes to the *Employment Insurance Act* or administrative procedures. The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who received Employment Insurance benefits from the 10th to the 16th of the month. This coincides with the reference week of the Labour Force Survey. The regular benefit payments figure measures the total of all monies paid to individuals from the 1st to the end of the month.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2604.

Data on Employment Insurance for March will be released on May 27.

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

Employment Insurance statistics

	February 2008	January 2008	February 2007	January to February 2008	February 2007 to February 2008
	Seasonally adjusted				
				% change	
Regular beneficiaries	451,040p	455,840r	487,770	-1.1	-7.5
Regular benefits paid ($ millions)	692.9p	681.1r	702.3	1.7	-1.3
Initial and renewal claims received (thousands)	210.9p	212.1r	212.0	-0.6	-0.5
	Unadjusted				
All beneficiaries (thousands)[1]	869.6p	862.7p	903.6		
Regular beneficiaries (thousands)	596.9p	599.0p	633.8		-5.8
Male (thousands)	400.5p	397.5p	423.8		-5.5
Female (thousands)	196.4p	201.5p	209.9		-6.4
Initial and renewal claims received (thousands)	158.4	305.8	162.5		
Payments ($ millions)	1,336.5	1,438.9	1,420.9		
	Year-to-date (January to February)				
			2008	2007	2007 to 2008
					% change
Claims received (thousands)			464.2	513.9	-9.7
Payments ($ millions)			2,775.4	3,057.7	-9.2

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

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	February 2008[p]	January to February 2008	February 2007 to February 2008
	seasonally adjusted		
		% change	
Canada	**451,040**	**-1.1**	**-7.5**
Newfoundland and Labrador	34,260	-2.3	-5.2
Prince Edward Island	7,570	-1.0	-1.3
Nova Scotia	26,740	-0.1	-2.9
New Brunswick	29,800	-0.9	-5.3
Quebec	158,170	-0.7	-10.2
Ontario	121,800	-1.6	-6.3
Manitoba	9,530	1.0	-9.8
Saskatchewan	7,680	-7.1	-20.2
Alberta	15,520	-1.0	-8.2
British Columbia	37,800	0.7	-2.1
Yukon	760	8.6	-2.6
Northwest Territories	670	4.7	-4.3
Nunavut	310	0.0	-18.4

p *preliminary*

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

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Food services and drinking places

February 2008 (preliminary)

The total seasonally adjusted sales for the food services and drinking places industry surpassed $4.0 billion for the first time in February. This marked the second straight month of increases following declines in November and December.

The largest sector of the industry, full-service restaurants (where patrons order and pay for meals at their table) registered its third consecutive month of increases. Sales for this sector were also up in February compared with the same month of 2007. This was followed closely by limited-service eating places, posting its second consecutive month of increases. This sector, which is characterized by restaurants where meals are ordered and paid for at the counter, continued to post strong growth in year-over-year sales in February.

The special food services sector, which comprises contractors, social caterers and mobile food services, posted its third decline in sales in as many months. Sales were also down in February compared with the same month a year earlier

Sales for the drinking places sector rose slightly in February after a minor decrease in January. In spite of the small rebound, this sector continued to show a year-over-year decline in sales for February as in prior months.

All provinces saw an increase in February, with the strongest recorded in the East, primarily Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

Note: Data prior to September 2007 from the new Monthly Survey of Food Services and Drinking Places were backcast to January 1998 using the old Monthly Survey of Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns. While every measure was taken to account for changes in survey concepts and design, some caution should be taken when comparing current estimates to those prior to September 2007. Likewise, caution should also be exercised when using the seasonally adjusted estimates, as the seasonal adjustment factors are calculated using data from both the new survey as well as the backcast data.

Available on CANSIM: table 355-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2419.

For more information, to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, or to obtain more information about the redesign of the Monthly Survey of Food Services and Drinking Places, contact Marc Racette (613-951-2924; fax: 613-951-6696. *marc.racette@statcan.ca*) or Pierre Felx (613-951-0075; *pierre.felx@statcan.ca*), Service Industries Division. ❑

Food services and drinking places

	February 2007	December 2007[r]	January 2008[r]	February 2008[p]	January to February 2008
	Seasonally adjusted				
	$ thousands				% change
Total, food services sales	**3,756,196**	**3,845,100**	**3,925,997**	**4,002,390**	**1.9**
Full-service restaurants	1,711,099	1,793,035	1,823,745	1,885,379	3.4
Limited-service eating places	1,529,986	1,545,187	1,599,270	1,614,497	1.0
Special food services	321,579	314,708	311,914	310,615	-0.4
Drinking places	193,532	192,170	191,068	191,899	0.4
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland and Labrador	48,458	40,962	45,059	47,820	6.1
Prince Edward Island	14,027	12,010	12,235	12,658	3.5
Nova Scotia	93,832	90,346	105,093	109,190	3.9
New Brunswick	69,744	65,917	68,326	68,783	0.7
Quebec	715,345	757,747	763,692	778,964	2.0
Ontario	1,419,171	1,481,841	1,514,134	1,536,967	1.5
Manitoba	112,339	108,479	111,568	114,638	2.8
Saskatchewan	95,588	103,172	101,412	103,057	1.6
Alberta	536,501	536,648	535,045	543,131	1.5
British Columbia	640,687	636,005	657,624	675,377	2.7
Yukon	3,669	3,554	3,624	3,688	1.8
Northwest Territories	6,326	7,687	7,349	7,321	-0.4
Nunavut	509	732	836	796	-4.8

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
Note: *Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.*

Food services and drinking places

	February 2007	December 2007[r]	January 2008[r]	February 2008[p]	February 2007 to February 2008
	Not seasonally adjusted				
	$ thousands				% change
Total, food services sales	**3,215,593**	**3,907,983**	**3,496,534**	**3,530,786**	**9.8**
Full-service restaurants	1,436,952	1,814,026	1,609,637	1,662,565	15.7
Limited-service eating places	1,299,928	1,550,274	1,427,905	1,386,441	6.7
Special food services	311,780	344,164	286,816	300,290	-3.7
Drinking places	166,933	199,519	172,175	181,489	8.7
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland and Labrador	38,259	44,869	38,027	39,148	2.3
Prince Edward Island	10,688	10,527	9,316	9,585	-10.3
Nova Scotia	74,063	92,515	84,406	87,158	17.7
New Brunswick	57,778	67,081	59,230	60,173	4.1
Quebec	606,190	758,645	670,754	691,673	14.1
Ontario	1,187,645	1,509,529	1,357,895	1,332,049	12.2
Manitoba	95,909	114,149	99,788	99,130	3.4
Saskatchewan	80,550	103,277	91,644	91,387	13.5
Alberta	487,970	553,306	490,278	510,017	4.5
British Columbia	567,054	643,161	585,388	600,050	5.8
Yukon	2,850	3,174	2,651	2,767	-2.9
Northwest Territories	6,203	7,102	6,578	6,997	12.8
Nunavut	434	647	579	650	49.8

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
Note: *Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.*

■

Farm Product Price Index

February 2008

Prices farmers received for their commodities rose 8.7% in February 2008 from the same month a year earlier as crop prices continue to soar, more than compensating for diminishing livestock prices.

Prices that producers received for crops continued their double-digit increases, up 26.2% in February 2008 compared with February 2007. According to the Farm Product Price Index (FPPI), farmers received higher prices for all crops except vegetables and fruits.

However, prices for livestock and animal products were 4.7% below their February 2007 level, the sixth consecutive year-to-year decline as cattle and hog prices continued to fall. Hog, cattle and calf prices have posted nine months of year-to-year decreases. For the last six months, those declines have been double-digit for hog prices.

On a monthly basis, prices farmers received for their commodities were up 4.9% in February from a month earlier, as both the livestock and animal products index and the crops index recorded increases.

The FPPI stood at 113.4 (1997=100) in February, up from the revised January 2008 index of 108.1.

The overall livestock and animal products index was up 5.8% in February compared with the revised January index as all commodities recorded increases.

Despite increasing in February, cattle and hog prices remain well below the prices received in the first three quarters of last year. Swelling feed grain prices and a strong Canadian dollar have put downward pressure on cattle, calf and hog prices.

The total crops index was up 5.0% in February compared with the revised January index, as all prices except fruit climbed. Continued demand, tightening supplies and uncertainty over new crop production pushed grain and oilseed prices to exceptional levels.

Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0021 and 002-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5040.

The February 2008 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 8, no. 2 (21-007-XWE, free) is now available. From the *Publications* module on our website, under *Free Internet publications* choose *Agriculture*.

For general information or to order data, call Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-3445: fax: 204-983-7543; *gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division.

Farm Product Price Index

(1997=100)

	February 2007[r]	January 2008[r]	February 2008[p]	February 2007 to February 2008	January to February 2008
				% change	
Farm Product Price Index	**104.3**	**108.1**	**113.4**	**8.7**	**4.9**
Crops	**107.5**	**129.2**	**135.7**	**26.2**	**5.0**
Grains	105.1	142.8	148.1	40.9	3.7
Oilseeds	91.5	118.5	130.9	43.1	10.5
Specialty crops	107.6	156.9	175.7	63.3	12.0
Fruit	123.6	123.1	119.9	-3.0	-2.6
Vegetables	119.1	114.9	116.0	-2.6	1.0
Potatoes	126.9	125.6	127.8	0.7	1.8
Livestock and animal products	**103.9**	**93.6**	**99.0**	**-4.7**	**5.8**
Cattle and calves	101.7	87.4	95.5	-6.1	9.3
Hogs	78.9	54.1	60.6	-23.2	12.0
Poultry	97.4	104.8	106.6	9.4	1.7
Eggs	97.5	103.2	103.2	5.8	0.0
Dairy	136.7	135.1	138.6	1.4	2.6

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
Note: *Month-to-month percent change in an aggregate index may be higher or lower than the month-to-month percent change in its related sub aggregates due to the seasonal-basket formulation used in the Farm Product Price Index.*

■

Commercial Software Price Index

March 2008

The Commercial Software Price Index (CSPI) is a monthly series measuring the change in the purchase price of pre-packaged software typically bought by businesses and governments.

The CSPI for March was 67.77 (2002=100), up 1.53% from February.

This index is available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: table 331-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5068.

For more information on these indexes, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; *prices-prix@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lu Li (613-951-1290; *lu.li@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. ■

Cancellation of the Business Conditions Survey: Manufacturing industries

The quarterly Business Conditions Survey: Manufacturing industries has been cancelled, effective immediately.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2152.

For more information, contact Michael Scrim (613-951-3197; *michael.scrim@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

New products

Analysis in Brief: Manufacturing: "The Year 2007 in Review", no. 70
Catalogue number 11-621-MWE2008070
(free).

Farm Product Price Index, February 2008, Vol. 8, no. 2
Catalogue number 21-007-XWE
(free).

Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada, Vol. 5, no. 1
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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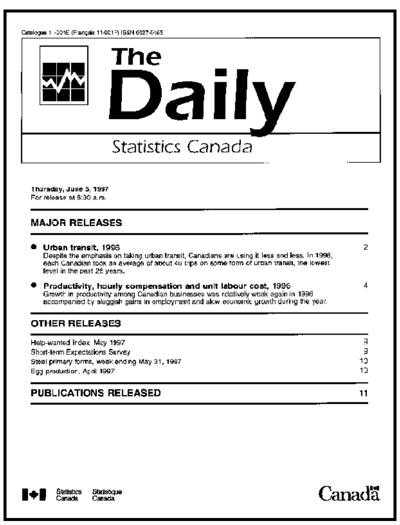
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The Daily

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.

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Short-term Expectations Survey	9
Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997	10
Egg production, April 1997	10

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