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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, April 30, 2008
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Releases

Gross domestic product by industry

February 2008

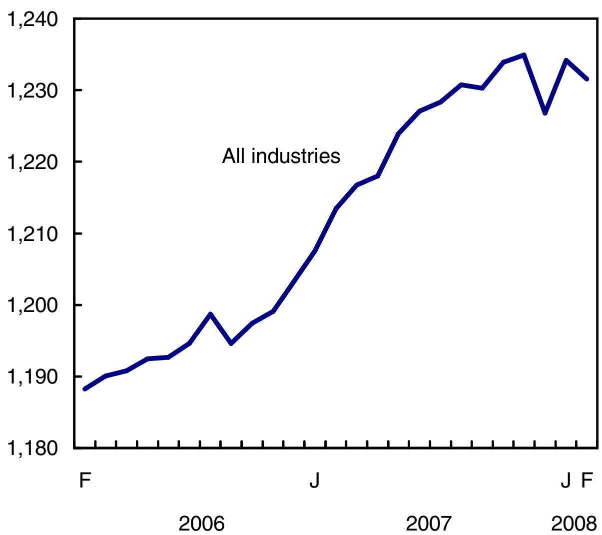
Economic activity declined 0.2% in February, continuing at a much lower pace than in the first half of 2007. Wholesale trade and manufacturing accounted for most of the decrease.

Other notable declines were recorded in retail trade, oil and gas extraction and exploration as well as in the transportation and financial sectors.

Advances in the tourism and government-related industries and in construction were not enough to offset these declines.

Economic activity declines

gross domestic product in billions of chained (2002) dollars



Note to readers

The monthly gross domestic product (GDP) by industry data are chained volume estimates with 2002 as their reference year. This means that the estimates for each industry and aggregate are obtained from a chained volume index multiplied by the industry's value added in 2002. For the 1997 to 2004 period, the monthly estimates are benchmarked to annually chained Fisher volume indexes of GDP obtained from the constant-price input-output tables.

For the period starting with January 2005, the estimates are derived by chaining a fixed-weight Laspeyres volume index to the prior period. The fixed weights are the industry output and input prices of 2004. This makes the monthly GDP by industry estimates more comparable with the expenditure-based GDP data, chained quarterly.

Revisions

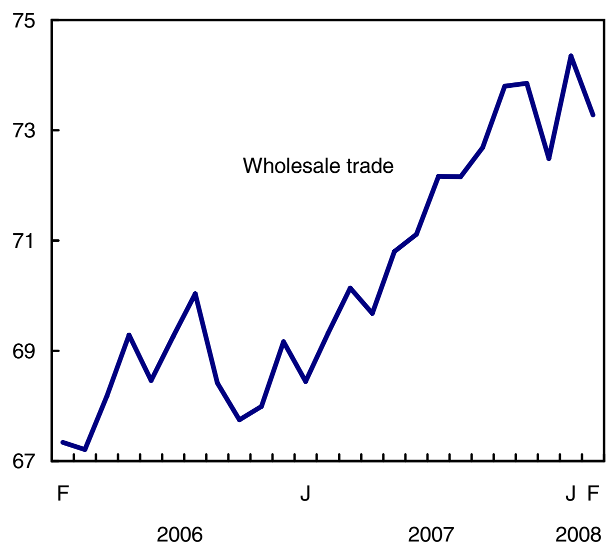
With this release of monthly GDP by industry, revisions have been made back to January 2007. For more information about monthly GDP by industry, see the National Economic Accounts *module on our website (www.statcan.ca/nea).*

Wholesaling activity retreats

Wholesaling activity decreased 1.4% in February after advancing rapidly in January. Despite some large fluctuations in recent months, this sector has shown an upward trend. Although the declines in February were widespread, those most affected were wholesalers of motor vehicles and of building supplies.

Widespread declines in wholesale trade

gross domestic product in billions of chained (2002) dollars



Manufacturers cut back

Manufacturing value added fell 0.7% in February, with the durable and non-durable goods accounting almost equally for the decline. In all, 16 out of the 21 major groups decreased. Significant declines were recorded by wood product, and petroleum and coal product manufacturers.

Output of wood products has been trending down since January 2006, reflecting mainly the drop in sawmill activity. Exports of lumber, notably to the United States, have decreased considerably since the beginning of the housing slump there. With the lower demand, prices have started to decline, and several mills temporarily shut down or cut back production.

Some petroleum refineries in the West were subject to unscheduled maintenance shutdowns in February, resulting in a 5.1% drop in production.

Manufacturing of transportation equipment advanced 2.1% in February, led by a hefty gain in the production of motor vehicles. After a major cutback in December related to both retooling and inventory control, the manufacturing of motor vehicles increased by about 8% for the second month in a row in February, and has now regained slightly more than half of its December tumble. Sales of motor vehicles in the United States, where most of the Canadian production is destined, remained sluggish.

Preliminary information for March indicates a substantial decline in motor vehicle assembly in Canada, mainly due to a major labour dispute at a supplier of parts located outside the country.

While sales of aerospace manufacturers increased significantly in February, as reported in the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, the corresponding production occurred over many months.

Energy sector loses steam

The energy sector fell 0.9% in February. The oil and gas extraction industry contracted 0.7%, dragged down by a decrease in natural gas extraction, while exports and storage of natural gas declined. The production of petroleum increased while the price of oil reached record high levels. Furthermore, exports of crude oil were up substantially.

The output of the mining sector excluding oil and gas edged up 0.1% in February. The decline recorded by the non-metal mines was offset by the gain posted by the metal ore mines. Support activities for mining and oil and gas extraction contracted 1.4%.

Retailing activity slips

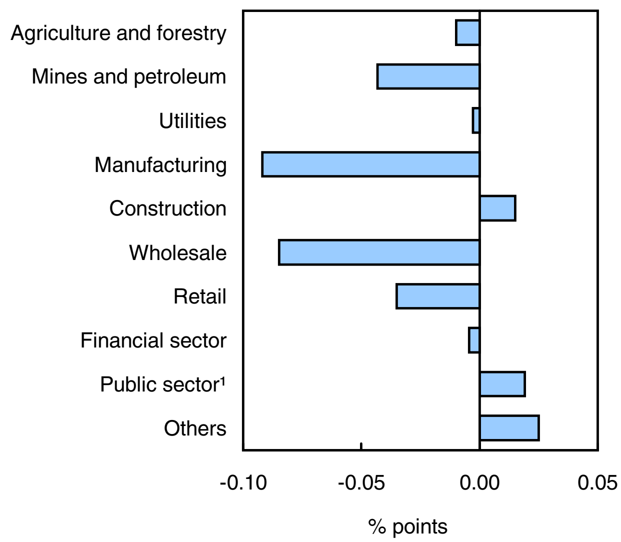
Value added in the retail trade sector fell 0.6% in February. Like wholesaling, the declines were widespread. Lower volume of activity at pharmacies, clothing stores, and new and used car dealers, was behind the decline. Despite a lower Goods and Services Tax rate and incentives for new vehicle buyers, the inclement weather in several parts of the country may have deterred consumers in February.

Slight growth in construction

Construction activity increased 0.2% in February, a slightly faster pace than in January. All types of construction projects moved forward in February. A significant increase in apartment construction propelled residential construction.

The home resale market fell considerably in February. More than half of this decrease came from Ontario where inclement weather may have played a role.

Main industrial sectors' contribution to total growth



1. Education, health and public administration.

Other industries

Activities in the finance and insurance sector dipped 0.2%, as the volume of transactions on the stock exchanges decreased.

Transportation declined as lower activities in manufacturing and in wholesale and retail trade led to a decline in truck transportation, while lower extraction of natural gas affected pipeline transportation.

Available on CANSIM: table 379-0027.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1301.

The February 2008 issue of *Gross Domestic Product by Industry*, Vol. 22, no. 2 (15-001-XWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

Data on gross domestic product by industry for March will be released on May 30.

For general information or to order data, contact our dissemination agent (613-951-4623 in Ottawa or toll-free 1-800-887-4623; *IAD-Info-DCI@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bernard Lefrançois (613-951-3622), Industry Accounts Division.

Monthly gross domestic product by industry at basic prices in chained (2002) dollars

	September 2007[r]	October 2007[r]	November 2007[r]	December 2007[r]	January 2008[r]	February 2008[p]	February 2008	February 2007 to February 2008
	Seasonally adjusted							
	month-to-month % change						$ millions[1]	% change
All Industries	**-0.0**	**0.3**	**0.1**	**-0.7**	**0.6**	**-0.2**	**1,231,528**	**1.5**
Goods-producing industries	**-0.5**	**0.2**	**-0.3**	**-1.8**	**0.7**	**-0.4**	**372,315**	**-2.0**
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	-0.3	-0.4	-0.4	-0.9	-0.5	-0.5	26,062	-5.5
Mining and oil and gas extraction	-1.1	-1.5	-0.2	-1.3	0.8	-0.6	57,113	-3.1
Utilities	1.8	1.1	0.4	-0.6	-0.6	-0.1	31,384	1.4
Construction	0.5	0.2	0.2	-0.1	0.1	0.2	78,363	2.7
Manufacturing	-1.1	0.9	-0.6	-3.2	1.4	-0.7	179,162	-3.6
Services-producing industries	**0.2**	**0.4**	**0.2**	**-0.1**	**0.5**	**-0.1**	**860,444**	**3.2**
Wholesale trade	0.7	1.5	0.1	-1.8	2.6	-1.4	73,279	5.7
Retail trade	-0.2	0.4	0.7	0.1	1.3	-0.6	74,911	5.8
Transportation and warehousing	-0.2	-0.2	0.3	-1.2	0.7	-0.5	56,348	0.9
Information and cultural industries	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2	-0.3	0.3	44,723	2.0
Finance, insurance and real estate	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	-0.0	244,334	3.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.1	58,081	2.6
Administrative and waste management services	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	32,389	3.7
Education services	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	-0.1	0.1	58,320	2.4
Health care and social assistance	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	77,625	2.2
Arts, entertainment and recreation	0.5	-0.6	1.0	-2.7	1.9	0.4	11,834	2.4
Accommodation and food services	1.0	-0.7	-0.6	-0.1	1.3	0.6	28,297	4.1
Other services (except public administration)	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	31,462	3.0
Public administration	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	68,911	2.5
Other aggregations								
Industrial production	-0.8	0.2	-0.4	-2.4	1.0	-0.6	268,746	-2.9
Non-durable manufacturing industries	-1.5	-0.4	0.4	-1.1	0.0	-0.7	70,488	-2.9
Durable manufacturing industries	-0.8	1.7	-1.3	-4.6	2.3	-0.6	108,874	-4.1
Business sector industries	-0.1	0.3	0.1	-0.8	0.7	-0.3	1,036,369	1.4
Non-business sector industries	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	195,089	2.2
Information and communication technologies industries	-0.2	0.8	0.0	0.1	0.6	-0.0	57,772	3.1
Energy sector	-0.2	-0.7	0.1	-1.3	1.0	-0.9	86,038	-2.2

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
1. *Millions of chained (2002) dollars, seasonally adjusted at annual rates.*

■

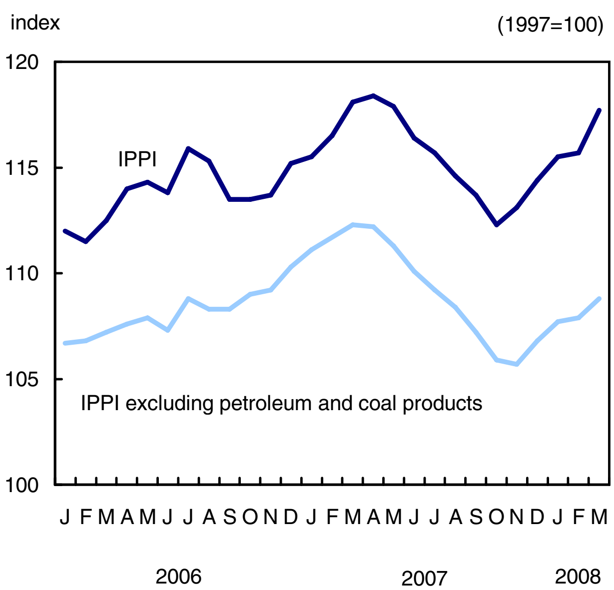
Industrial product and raw materials price indexes

March 2008

In March, petroleum and metals caused a surge in manufactured goods and raw materials prices.

From February to March, prices charged by manufacturers, as measured by the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI), jumped 1.7%, which represents an acceleration compared with the 0.2% rise observed in February, and the strongest increase in the IPPI since the low point reached in October 2007. This increase was driven primarily by the 8.0% jump in the prices for petroleum and coal products, as well as by the strong increase in prices for primary metal products. If energy products were excluded, the IPPI would have increased 0.8%.

Prices for manufactured goods are on the rise



Prices of other IPPI products, with the exception of energy, grew stronger compared with February, returning to the December and January growth rates. The upward movement of primary metal product prices accelerated, posting a 5.9% increase, the strongest gain so far in 2008.

Note to readers

The ***Industrial Product Price Index*** *(IPPI) reflects the prices that producers in Canada receive as the goods leave the plant gate. It does not reflect what the consumer pays. Unlike the Consumer Price Index, the IPPI excludes indirect taxes and all the costs that occur between the time a good leaves the plant and the time the final user takes possession of it, including the transportation, wholesale, and retail costs.*

Canadian producers export many goods. They often quote their prices in foreign currencies, particularly for motor vehicles, pulp and paper products, and wood products. Determining the full effect of fluctuating exchange rates on the IPPI is a difficult analytical task. However, it should be noted that many prices collected to calculate the IPPI are quoted in US dollars and then converted into Canadian dollars. Therefore, a rise or fall in the value of the Canadian dollar against its US counterpart affects the IPPI.

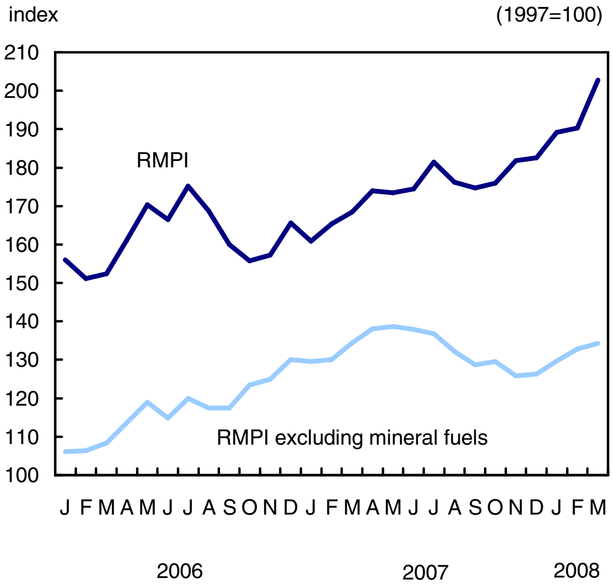
The ***Raw Materials Price Index*** *(RMPI) reflects the prices paid by Canadian manufacturers for key raw materials. Many of these prices are set in a world market. Unlike the IPPI, the RMPI includes goods not produced in Canada.*

On a 12-month basis, the IPPI fell 0.3%, which was less than the 0.7% decline recorded in February. Lower prices for motor vehicles and other transport equipment and for primary metal products were partly offset by the strong rise in petroleum and coal product prices. If energy products were excluded, the IPPI would have shown a steady decline.

The continued strength of the Canadian dollar compared with its US counterpart has had little impact on the movement of prices in March compared with February. The Canadian dollar lost 0.3% of its value compared with the US dollar, after rising 1.2% the previous month. If the exchange rate used to convert these prices had remained unchanged in March, the IPPI would have risen 1.6% compared with February instead of 1.7%, and, on a 12-month basis, the IPPI would have risen 3.7% rather than falling 0.3%.

The growth of the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) jumped with a month-over-month increase of 6.6% after the 0.6% slowdown recorded in February. The March increase was the strongest since September 1990, which was at 7.9%. This upward pressure was mainly the result of the jump in prices for mineral fuels and to a lesser extent the rise in prices for non-ferrous metals. If mineral fuels were excluded, the RMPI would have risen 1.1%, which was less than the increase for the first two months of the year, which was driven mainly by the rise in non-ferrous metals.

Raw materials prices continue to increase



Compared with March 2007, raw materials cost plants 20.4% more. The rise in the index was driven primarily by higher prices for mineral fuels and vegetable products.

Available on CANSIM: tables 329-0038 to 329-0049 and 330-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2306 and 2318.

The March 2008 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011-XWE, free) will soon be available.

The Industrial product and raw material price indexes for April will be released on May 30.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9606, fax: 613-951-1539, *prices-prix@statcan.ca*) or Danielle Gouin (613-951-3375, *danielle.gouin@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. □

Industrial product price indexes

(1997=100)

	Relative importance	March 2007	February 2008[r]	March 2008[p]	March 2007 to March 2008	February to March 2008
					% change	
Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI)	**100.00**	**118.1**	**115.7**	**117.7**	**-0.3**	**1.7**
IPPI excluding petroleum and coal products	**94.32**	**112.3**	**107.9**	**108.8**	**-3.1**	**0.8**
Aggregation by commodities						
Meat, fish and dairy products	5.78	111.6	108.5	108.4	-2.9	-0.1
Fruit, vegetables, feeds and other food products	5.99	108.5	117.3	117.2	8.0	-0.1
Beverages	1.57	124.5	125.6	125.9	1.1	0.2
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.63	203.4	217.8	217.8	7.1	0.0
Rubber, leather and plastic fabricated products	3.30	117.1	115.7	115.5	-1.4	-0.2
Textile products	1.58	100.9	99.3	99.3	-1.6	0.0
Knitted products and clothing	1.51	104.6	104.9	105.0	0.4	0.1
Lumber and other wood products	6.30	86.4	80.1	79.9	-7.5	-0.2
Furniture and fixtures	1.59	119.5	120.9	120.9	1.2	0.0
Pulp and paper products	7.23	108.5	102.0	103.0	-5.1	1.0
Printing and publishing	1.70	117.6	115.7	115.9	-1.4	0.2
Primary metal products	7.80	159.1	140.5	148.8	-6.5	5.9
Metal fabricated products	4.11	125.0	125.4	125.9	0.7	0.4
Machinery and equipment	5.48	108.2	103.7	103.7	-4.2	0.0
Motor vehicles and other transport equipment	22.16	94.1	85.6	85.8	-8.8	0.2
Electrical and communications products	5.77	94.7	89.3	89.4	-5.6	0.1
Non-metallic mineral products	1.98	122.6	124.7	124.8	1.8	0.1
Petroleum and coal products[1]	5.68	224.8	260.3	281.2	25.1	8.0
Chemicals and chemical products	7.07	126.7	130.4	131.7	3.9	1.0
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.40	115.4	117.1	118.4	2.6	1.1
Miscellaneous non-manufactured products	0.38	407.6	357.6	354.0	-13.2	-1.0
Intermediate goods[2]	**60.14**	**123.1**	**121.2**	**123.9**	**0.6**	**2.2**
First-stage intermediate goods[3]	7.71	167.5	149.9	155.8	-7.0	3.9
Second-stage intermediate goods[4]	52.43	116.4	116.9	119.1	2.3	1.9
Finished goods[5]	**39.86**	**110.7**	**107.5**	**108.3**	**-2.2**	**0.7**
Finished foods and feeds	8.50	115.8	116.3	116.3	0.4	0.0
Capital equipment	11.73	102.0	95.3	95.4	-6.5	0.1
All other finished goods	19.63	113.7	111.0	112.6	-1.0	1.4

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
1. *This index is estimated for the current month.*
2. *Intermediate goods are goods used principally to produce other goods.*
3. *First-stage intermediate goods are items used most frequently to produce other intermediate goods.*
4. *Second-stage intermediate goods are items most commonly used to produce final goods.*
5. *Finished goods are goods most commonly used for immediate consumption or for capital investment.*

Raw materials price indexes

(1997=100)

	Relative importance	March 2007	February 2008[r]	March 2008[p]	March 2007 to March 2008	February to March 2008
					% change	
Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI)	**100.00**	**168.5**	**190.3**	**202.8**	**20.4**	**6.6**
Mineral fuels	35.16	242.3	314.7	350.8	44.8	11.5
Vegetable products	10.28	98.5	145.7	141.0	43.1	-3.2
Animals and animal products	20.30	110.8	102.4	102.9	-7.1	0.5
Wood	15.60	85.0	82.2	81.6	-4.0	-0.7
Ferrous materials	3.36	150.6	136.5	137.7	-8.6	0.9
Non-ferrous metals	12.93	243.9	216.3	226.6	-7.1	4.8
Non-metallic minerals	2.38	147.1	161.5	162.5	10.5	0.6
RMPI excluding mineral fuels	**64.84**	**134.4**	**132.8**	**134.3**	**-0.1**	**1.1**

r *revised*
p *preliminary*

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Computer and peripherals price indexes
March 2008

The index for commercial computers decreased 0.09% from February to 35.14 (2002=100). The index for consumer computers also declined, down 0.54% to 22.10.

In the case of computer peripherals, monitor prices decreased 0.46% to 52.50 and printer prices edged up 0.02% to 47.73.

These indexes are available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: tables 331-0004 and 331-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5032.

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. ■

Production and disposition of tobacco products
March 2008

Total cigarettes sold in March by Canadian manufacturers increased 6.1% from February to 1.3 billion cigarettes, up 21.8% compared with March 2007.

Cigarette production in March increased 8.5% from February to 1.4 billion cigarettes, up 29.9% from March 2007.

At 1.9 billion cigarettes, the level of closing inventories for March increased 6.9% from February, up 13.2% from March 2007.

Note: This survey collects data on the production of tobacco products in Canada by Canadian manufacturers and the disposition or sales of this production. It does not collect data on imported tobacco products. Therefore, sales information in this release is not a proxy for domestic consumption of tobacco products.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0062.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2142.

The March 2008 issue of *Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products*, Vol. 37, no. 3 (32-022-XWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For general information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (613-951-9497; toll-free 1-866-873-8789; *manufact@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index
March 2008

The Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index (CMSPI) is a monthly price index measuring the change over time in prices for courier and messenger services provided by long and short distance delivery companies to Canadian-based business clients.

The CMSPI remained unchanged on a monthly basis at 134.8 (2003=100) in March. The courier portion edged down 0.1%, while the local messengers component advanced 0.6%.

These indexes are available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: table 329-0053.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5064.

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

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation
March 2008

Data on mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation are now available for March.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2110.

Data are available upon request only. 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. ■

Traveller accommodation services price indexes

First quarter 2008

Statistics Canada today publishes monthly indexes for the first quarter of 2008 that measure price movements of accommodation services. These indexes reflect changes in room rates, excluding all indirect taxes, for overnight or short stays with no meals or other services provided. The indexes are available by province and by territory, for Canada, by major client group.

Available on CANSIM: table 326-0013.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2336.

For more information on these indexes, contact Prices Division (613-951-9606; toll-free 1-866-230-2248; *prices-prix@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Matthew MacDonald (613-951-8551; *matthew.macdonald2@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. ■

New products

Gross Domestic Product by Industry, February 2008, Vol. 22, no. 2
Catalogue number 15-001-XWE
(free).

Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products, March 2008, Vol. 37, no. 3
Catalogue number 32-022-XWE
(free).

Guide to the Labour Force Survey, 2008
Catalogue number 71-543-GWE
(free).

Labour Force Survey Products and Services, 2008
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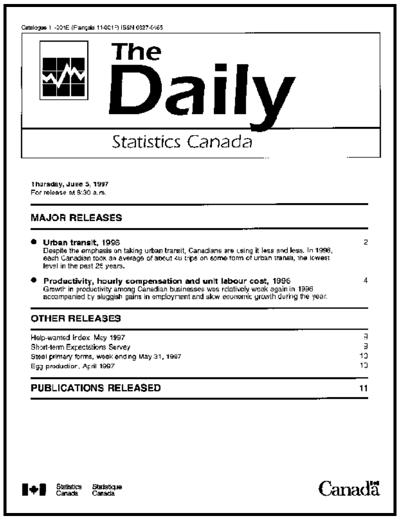

Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

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

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED — 11

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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Release dates: May 2008

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
1	**2006 Census: Earnings, income and shelter costs**	Census 2006
2	**Port activity**	2005
5	**Income of Canadians**	2006
6	**Foreign direct investment**	2004 to 2007
6	**Building permits**	March 2008
7	**Grain stocks**	As of March 31, 2008
9	**Labour Force Survey**	April 2008
9	**Canadian international merchandise trade**	March 2008
12	**New Housing Price Index**	March 2008
13	**Performing arts**	2006
13	**The Canadian immigrant labour market**	2007
14	**Health Reports**	2007
14	**Hours worked and labour productivity in the provinces and territories**	2007
15	**Monthly Survey of Manufacturing**	March 2008
15	**Canadian Economic Observer**	May 2008
16	**New motor vehicle sales**	March 2008
16	**Youth crime**	2006
20	**Wholesale trade**	March 2008
20	**Canada's international transactions in securities**	March 2008
20	**Travel between Canada and other countries**	March 2008
21	**Consumer Price Index**	April 2008
21	**Leading indicators**	April 2008
22	**Quarterly financial statistics for enterprises**	First quarter 2008
22	**Retail trade**	March 2008
23	**Canadian Agriculture at a Glance: Sugar beets in Canada**	2006
26	**Net farm income**	2006 and 2007
26	**Farm cash receipts**	2006, 2007 and the first quarter of 2008
27	**Participation and Activity Limitation Survey: Profile of education for children with disabilities**	2006
27	**Employment Insurance**	March 2008
28	**International travel account**	First quarter 2008
28	**Characteristics of international travellers**	Fourth quarter 2007
29	**Balance of international payments**	First quarter 2008

29	**Retail trade: How the provinces fared in 2007**	2007
29	**Payroll employment, earnings and hours**	March 2008
30	**Canadian economic accounts**	First quarter 2008
30	**Industrial product and raw materials price indexes**	April 2008
30	**Gross domestic product by industry**	March 2008