



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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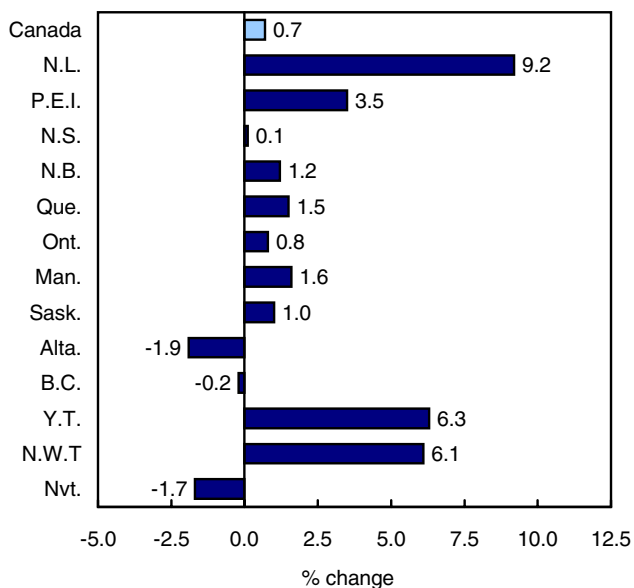


Releases

Hours worked and labour productivity in the provinces and territories 2007

Newfoundland and Labrador led the nation in labour productivity growth in 2007, while Alberta had the largest decline. In both cases, changes in the relative contribution of conventional crude oil extraction to their respective provincial economies played a large role.

Labour productivity growth by province and territory, 2007



Nationally, productivity increased 0.7% in 2007, similar to the pace of 2006, but much weaker than 2005. The increase occurred in the context of an appreciating Canadian dollar, and prices for natural resources that remained high because of strong global demand.

Productivity surged 9.2% in Newfoundland and Labrador, the fastest growth rate in the country, thanks to a recovery from the output disruptions that hindered oil extraction in 2006. In Alberta, the transition from the traditional oil industry to the more costly oil sands continued. At the same time, Alberta's booming population led to an expansion of the labour intensive service sector. Both of these changes in Alberta shifted the economy away from higher productivity activities.

Note to readers

This release reviews annual average estimates of hours worked and labour productivity by industry at the provincial and territorial levels for 2007.

For the purposes of this analysis, labour productivity covers the economy as a whole, whereas in the quarterly labour productivity releases, the focus is on the business sector only.

At the aggregate level, productivity estimates in this report were based on the Fisher chained real gross domestic product (GDP) at market prices, whereas at the industry level, they were obtained from GDP estimates at basic prices.

Economic performance as measured by labour productivity must be interpreted carefully, since these estimates reflect changes in other inputs (particularly capital) in addition to the growth in economic efficiency. Furthermore, labour productivity growth is affected by changes in the industrial structure over time. Consequently, labour productivity tends to be more variable in smaller provinces.

This update of labour statistics is consistent with the revised Provincial and territorial economic accounts that were released in The Daily on April 28, 2008.

Labour productivity is a measure of real GDP per hour worked. Productivity gains occur when the production of goods and services grows faster than the volume of work dedicated to their production.

Labour productivity increases also surpassed the national average in Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, Quebec, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories.

For the second consecutive year, Alberta and British Columbia posted the strongest gains in hours worked among the provinces. Conversely, Prince Edward Island was the only province to record a decrease in hours worked, while they remained unchanged in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Hourly compensation increased 4.0% nationally in 2007, virtually unchanged from 4.1% the year before, but slower than the 5.0% gain in 2005.

Strongest productivity growth in two of the Atlantic provinces

Provincial labour productivity growth was strongest in 2007 in two Atlantic provinces: Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island.

It was the third time in six years that productivity growth in Newfoundland and Labrador eclipsed the other provinces. The increase followed stronger world commodity prices and a recovery from the technical troubles of oil extraction in 2006.

Hourly compensation in Newfoundland and Labrador declined following an exceptional increase in 2006, resulting from a one-time contribution to the public employees' pension plan. Excluding these special payments, hourly compensation increased faster than the national average.

In Prince Edward Island, productivity growth increased almost five-fold, from 0.7% in 2006 to 3.5% in 2007. Retail trade, agriculture, and food processing contributed to the growth. While its economic output rose at a slower pace than in 2006, Prince Edward Island experienced a decline in the number of hours worked in 2007, the only province to do so. Hourly compensation in Prince Edward Island rose 5.5% in 2007, following a slight increase the previous year.

In Nova Scotia, productivity rose a marginal 0.1% in 2007 after a growth rate surpassing the national average in 2006. Real gross domestic product (GDP) increased 1.6%, almost in tandem with the 1.4% gain in hours worked. Moreover, hourly compensation rose more slowly than the national average for a third consecutive year.

In New Brunswick, productivity rose 1.2%, the same rate as in 2006. The volume of hours worked in New Brunswick increased only 0.4% in 2007, but economic output was up 1.6%. Declines in hours worked have been particularly important in forestry, fishing and in administrative and support and waste management. In contrast, the rate of growth in hourly compensation accelerated in 2007.

Above-average productivity gains in Ontario and Quebec

Although economic growth was below the national average for a fifth consecutive year in both Ontario and Quebec, each province surpassed the national average in labour productivity in 2007, with increases of 1.5% in Quebec and 0.8% in Ontario.

In both provinces, the increase in the volume of hours worked remained steady. Large increases in the volume of work in the services-producing industries more than offset the decreases in manufacturing.

Manufacturers in Ontario and Quebec improved their productivity in 2007. In Quebec, manufacturing productivity rose 3.2%, double the rate in the previous year. In Ontario, it jumped 3.1%, following a sharp downturn in 2006.

Hours worked in manufacturing continued to fall in both provinces, reflecting the on-going restructuring in this sector. At the same time, manufacturing output fell 2.2% in Ontario, partly as a result of the declines for transportation equipment. In Quebec, output rose 0.8%,

the result mainly of strong production of aerospace products, as well as machines and equipment.

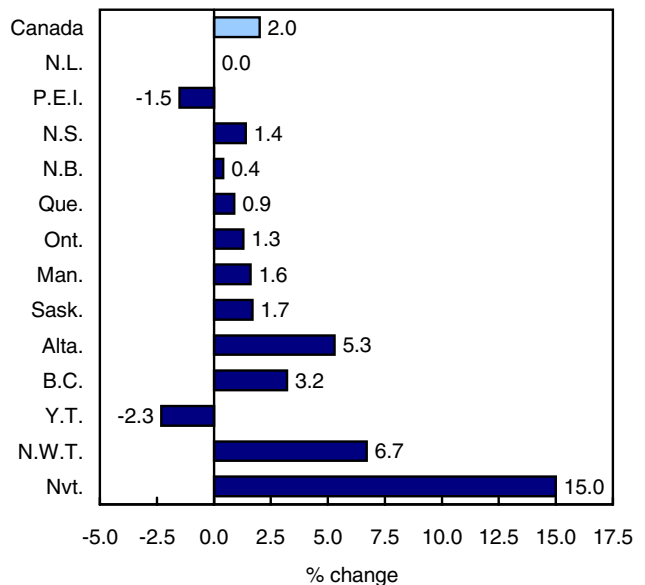
In Quebec, increases in hourly compensation accelerated, mainly because of retroactive pay equity settlements for provincial government employees. These resulted in a 5.0% increase in average hourly compensation in 2007. In Ontario, the increase was only 3.3%, which was slower than the national average.

Alberta and British Columbia post strongest provincial growth in hours worked

Alberta and British Columbia posted the strongest increases in hours worked among the provinces for the second consecutive year in 2007. They were also the only two provinces where productivity declined.

In Alberta, the transition from the traditional oil industry to the oil sands continued to hamper productivity growth in the mining sector. In 2007, GDP in Alberta rose only 3.3%, half the growth rate in 2006, a slowdown that was due mainly to a drop in oil and gas exploration.

Growth in the volume of hours worked by province and territory, 2007



However, the volume of hours worked rose a significant 5.3%, mainly in Alberta's more labour-intensive industries. Hours increased fastest in construction, wholesale, educational services and health care.

In British Columbia, productivity declines occurred mainly in construction and manufacturing. The economy grew by 3.1%, while the increase in the volume of hours worked accelerated to 3.2%. Construction and retail trade were among the key sectors behind this acceleration in hours worked.

Manitoba's 1.6% gain in labour productivity was third fastest among the provinces, the result of four key sectors: agriculture, manufacturing, retail and finance. The volume of hours worked increased 1.6%, an acceleration from 2006.

In Saskatchewan, productivity outpaced the national average, rising 1.0% after falling in 2006. Stimulated by mining, Saskatchewan's GDP recovered from a decline in 2006, reaching 2.8%.

Hourly compensation in Saskatchewan increased 6.1% in 2007, while it increased slightly less in Manitoba and Alberta. These three provinces have all undergone a tightening in their labour markets in the past few years.

Mixed results in the territories

Labour productivity increased by 6.1% in the Northwest Territories and 6.3% in the Yukon, but declined 1.7% in Nunavut.

Despite a spectacular rise in output, Nunavut's productivity fell for a second consecutive year. Benefiting from a young population, Nunavut had a strong rise in the volume of hours worked, slightly surpassing the increase in its GDP. It also posted a drop in its hourly compensation for the second consecutive year.

In the Northwest Territories, labour productivity growth accelerated following a 3.9% gain in 2006, mainly because of a strong increase in diamond production.

In the Yukon, productivity recovered after falling in 2006. Output rose faster in the wake of the opening of a new mine, whereas hours worked fell slightly after posting a strong increase in 2006.

Available on CANSIM: table 383-0009.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5103.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality, contact Jean-Pierre Maynard (613-951-3654; fax: 613-951-3618; productivity.measures@statcan.ca), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

□

Annual growth of labour productivity and other related variables for the overall economy, 2007

	Real gross domestic product	All jobs	Average hours worked	Volume of hours worked	Labour productivity	Total compensation	Hourly compensation	Unit labour cost
	%							
Canada	2.7	2.1	-0.1	2.0	0.7	6.1	4.0	3.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	9.1	0.5	-0.5	0.0	9.2	-5.0	-5.0	-12.9
Prince Edward Island	2.0	0.5	-2.0	-1.5	3.5	4.0	5.5	2.0
Nova Scotia	1.6	0.5	0.9	1.4	0.1	4.1	2.7	2.6
New Brunswick	1.6	1.3	-0.9	0.4	1.2	4.6	4.2	3.0
Quebec	2.4	1.6	-0.7	0.9	1.5	6.0	5.0	3.5
Ontario	2.1	1.6	-0.2	1.3	0.8	4.7	3.3	2.5
Manitoba	3.3	1.0	0.6	1.6	1.6	7.8	6.0	4.3
Saskatchewan	2.8	1.5	0.2	1.7	1.0	8.0	6.1	5.1
Alberta	3.3	4.8	0.5	5.3	-1.9	11.2	5.5	7.6
British Columbia	3.1	3.3	-0.1	3.2	-0.2	6.0	2.7	2.9
Yukon	3.8	-1.2	-1.1	-2.3	6.3	7.4	9.9	3.4
Northwest Territories	13.1	1.7	4.9	6.7	6.1	8.9	2.0	-3.8
Nunavut	13.0	11.9	2.8	15.0	-1.7	9.9	-4.4	-2.8

Selected labour market components by province and territory, 2007

	Working age population	Ratio job / population	Total number of jobs			Annual hours		
			Province of residence	Net flow of workers	Province of employment	Volume of hours worked	per job	per population aged 15+
			thousands	%	thousands			
Canada	27,363	62.5	17,111	...	17,111	29,700,653	1,736	1,085
Newfoundland and Labrador	430	49.6	213	-4	209	382,947	1,828	891
Prince Edward Island	115	60.2	69	-1	69	121,105	1,763	1,052
Nova Scotia	789	57.7	455	-1	454	789,110	1,737	1,000
New Brunswick	634	57.8	367	-3	364	644,603	1,772	1,016
Quebec	6,470	59.1	3,823	-47	3,776	6,284,420	1,664	971
Ontario	10,563	63.4	6,692	43	6,735	11,764,002	1,747	1,114
Manitoba	959	64.5	619	-2	617	1,061,920	1,722	1,107
Saskatchewan	807	64.7	522	-6	516	914,864	1,774	1,134
Alberta	2,826	70.9	2,003	25	2,028	3,741,469	1,845	1,324
British Columbia	3,691	62.0	2,289	-6	2,282	3,883,364	1,702	1,052
Yukon	26	65.6	17	0	17	29,821	1,780	1,164
Northwest Territories	33	78.3	25	1	26	52,077	1,976	1,598
Nunavut	21	65.5	14	1	14	25,663	1,779	1,234

... not applicable

Note: The number of jobs is consistent with the System of National Accounts concept. It reflects the province of employment, accounts for individuals that hold more than one job and removes all persons that have a job but were absent or idle and were not paid during their absence. In addition to the sum of the provinces and territories, total Canada includes the Canadian embassy and military personnel that are working outside of the country.

Study: Correlates of medication error in hospitals

2005

Nurses who worked in hospital settings where staffing and resources were perceived to be inadequate, as well as those who usually worked overtime, were more likely to report that a patient had received the wrong medication or dosage, a new study has found.

The study, "Correlates of medication error in hospitals," published today in *Health Reports*, analyzed findings from the 2005 National Survey of the Work and Health of Nurses to determine factors underlying the likelihood of making errors when giving medications to patients.

The survey data showed that nearly one-fifth (19%) of registered nurses in hospitals acknowledged that during the year before the survey, errors involving medication for patients who were in their care had occurred "occasionally" or "frequently."

The study found several strong links between medication error and both work organization and workplace environment. These associations persisted independent of factors such as a nurse's experience and level of education.

Factors that were related to medication error included usually working overtime, role overload, perceived staffing shortages or inadequate resources, poor working relations with physicians, lack of support from co-workers, and low job security.

The survey was the first to focus on nurses' working conditions at the national level. It was a collaborative effort in partnership with the Canadian Institute for Health Information and Health Canada.

From October 2005 through January 2006, nearly 19,000 nurses reported information on the conditions in which they practice and on their physical and mental health. In general, the survey found that nurses face a broad range of physical and emotional challenges in a demanding, often hectic, workplace.

Medication errors significantly related to overtime

Medication error was significantly related to whether nurses worked overtime. Among nurses who usually worked overtime, 22% reported medication error, compared with 14% of those who did not work overtime.

As well, medication error was related to nurses' perceived "role overload." In fact, data suggested that the likelihood of error rose with the level of role overload. Perceived inadequacy of staffing and resources was similarly related to the likelihood of medication error.

The quality of working relations between nurses and physicians was also associated with medication error. Among registered nurses whose working relations with physicians were least favourable, 27% reported medication error. This proportion was only 12% among those whose working relations with physicians were most favourable.

Work stress associated with medication errors

The study found links between work stress and medication error. Nurses with low support from their co-workers were significantly more likely to report medication error than were those with more support.

It pointed out that low co-worker support might result from inadequate staffing. Nurses working at full capacity to care for their own patients may be less able or willing to lend a hand to co-workers.

Low job security was significantly related to medication error. Just under one-third (32%) of nurses with low job security reported medication error, compared with 19% of those with better job security.

Dissatisfaction with the job was another factor linked to medication error. About 28% of nurses who said they were dissatisfied reported medication error, compared with 18% of those who were satisfied.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5080.

The article, "Correlates of medication error in hospitals," which is part of today's *Health Reports*, Vol. 19, no. 2 (82-003-XWE, free) online release, 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 Kathryn Wilkins (613-951-1769; kathryn.wilkins@statcan.ca) or Margot Shields (613-951-4177; margot.shields@statcan.ca), Health Research and Information Division.

For more information about *Health Reports*, contact Christine Wright (613-951-1765; christine.wright@statcan.ca), Health Research and Information Division. ■

Study: Estimates and effects of obesity based on self-reported data versus direct measures

2005

Since the mid-1990s, Statistics Canada's major health surveys have generally relied on respondents to report their weight and height in order to estimate body mass index (BMI) and produce rates of obesity.

Two articles released today in *Health Reports* quantify the bias resulting from the use of self-reported data, as well as its impact.

The analysis was based on 4,567 respondents aged 12 or older to the 2005 Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), who, during a face-to-face interview, provided self-reported values for height and weight. Their height and weight were then measured by trained interviewers.

Respondents tended to slightly over-report their height. On average, males over-reported their height by 1 centimetre, and females, by half a centimetre.

The tendency to under-report weight was more pronounced. Females under-reported their weight by an average of 2.5 kilograms, while males under-reported it by 1.8 kilograms.

Moreover, the heavier they were, the more they under-reported. Females who were in the highest category of obesity under-reported their weight by an average of 8.6 kilograms, and males in this category, by 5.0 kilograms.

Not surprisingly, many studies have found that self-reported data yield lower estimates of the prevalence of obesity than do estimates based on measured data. However, few studies have examined the effect of this misclassification on the relationship between BMI categories and obesity-related health conditions.

Based on self-reported height and weight data from the CCHS, a substantial proportion of individuals with excess body weight are erroneously placed in lower BMI categories. Consequently, associations between weight and obesity-related diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease, may be exaggerated because people in the overweight and obese categories based on self-reports are actually heavier than those in the corresponding categories based on measured values.

Because the use of self-reported data underestimates the prevalence of obesity, the total burden of obesity-related disease (as measured by the number of cases) is underestimated.

For example, among those classified as obese based on self-reported data, 360,000 people aged 40 years or older had diabetes. But among those classified as obese based on measured values, 530,000 people or nearly 50% more, had diabetes. These differences simply reflect the greater number of people who are classified as obese when measured data are used.

Statistics Canada is working on methods of addressing these issues.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3226.

The articles, "Estimates of obesity based on self-report versus direct measures" and "Effects of measurement on obesity and morbidity," which are part of today's *Health Reports*, Vol. 19, no. 2 (82-003-XWE, free) online release, are 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 Margot Shields (613-951-4177; margot.shields@statcan.ca) or Sarah Connor Gorber (613-951-1193; sarah.connorgorber@statcan.ca), Health Information and Research Division, or Mark Tremblay (613-951-4285; mark.tremblay@statcan.ca), Physical Health Measures Division.

For more information about *Health Reports*, contact Christine Wright (613-951-1765; christine.wright@statcan.ca), Health Information and Research Division. ■

Non-residential Building Construction Price Index

First quarter 2008

The composite price index for non-residential building construction increased 2.6% in the first quarter to 165.7 (1997=100) compared with the previous quarter, and stood 8.7% higher compared with the first quarter of 2007. The quarterly increase was mostly the result of higher labour, materials and fuel costs.

Edmonton recorded the highest quarterly change (+3.5%), followed by Toronto and Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario part (both +2.8%), Calgary (+2.6%), Montréal (+2.4%), Vancouver (+2.0%) and Halifax (+1.3%).

Edmonton also had the largest change (+13.4%) from the first quarter of 2007, followed by Calgary (+10.9%), Vancouver (+10.0%), Toronto (+7.2%), Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario part (+6.6%), Montréal (+6.2%) and Halifax (+5.2%).

Note: The Non-residential Building Construction Price Index provides an indication of the changes in new construction costs in six census metropolitan areas or CMAs (Halifax, Montréal, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver) and the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

Three construction categories (industrial, commercial and institutional buildings) are represented by selected models (a light factory building, an office building, a warehouse, a shopping centre and a school).

Besides the CMA and composite indexes, a further breakdown of the changes in costs is available by

trade group (structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical) within the building types.

These price indexes are derived from surveys of general and special trade group contractors. They report data on various categories of costs (material, labour, equipment, taxes, overhead and profit) relevant to the detailed construction specifications included in the surveys.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0039 and 327-0040.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2317 and 2330.

The first quarter 2008 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XWE, free) will be available in July.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; prices-prix@statcan.ca), Prices Division.

Non-residential building construction price indexes¹

	First quarter 2008 (1997=100)	First quarter 2007 to first quarter 2008 % change	Fourth quarter 2007 to first quarter 2008
Composite	165.7	8.7	2.6
Halifax	138.5	5.2	1.3
Montréal	143.6	6.2	2.4
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario part	156.3	6.6	2.8
Toronto	165.3	7.2	2.8
Calgary	191.7	10.9	2.6
Edmonton	188.1	13.4	3.5
Vancouver	165.9	10.0	2.0

1. Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.

Refined petroleum products

March 2008 (preliminary)

Data on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for March. Other selected data about these products are also available.

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 (613-951-9497; toll-free 1-866-873-8789; energy@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Crude oil and natural gas production

March 2008 (preliminary)

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2198.

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

Steel wire and specified wire products

March 2008

Data on steel wire and specified wire products production are now available for March.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0047.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2106.

The March 2008 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-XWE, free) will soon be available.

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

New products

Health Reports, Vol. 19, no. 2
Catalogue number 82-003-XWE
(free).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 25.8 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses and unit labour cost in 1995 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

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