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Releases

Releases

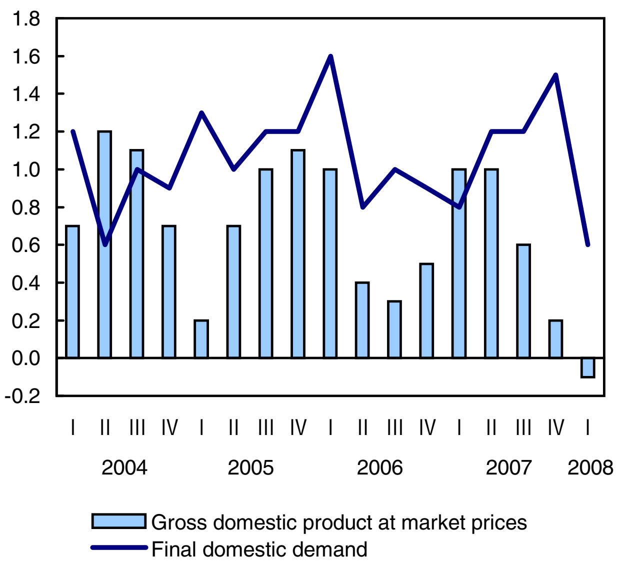
Canadian economic accounts

First quarter 2008 and March 2008

Real gross domestic product (GDP) edged down 0.1% in the first quarter of 2008, its first quarterly decline since the second quarter of 2003. The economy, which had started to lose momentum in the second half of 2007 as exports declined, stalled in the first quarter due to widespread cutbacks in manufacturing, most notably in motor vehicles. In addition, weather disruptions hampered economic activity in the quarter. Economic output contracted 0.2% in March. Final domestic demand advanced 0.6% in the quarter on the strength of consumer spending. Inventory accumulation eased considerably in the first quarter, after two quarters of large build-ups.

A more detailed analysis is available in *Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review*.

Final domestic demand outpaces gross domestic product
quarterly % change, chained (2002) dollars



Since late 2007, there were efforts to reduce motor vehicle inventories in Canada using incentives. At the same time, producers were retooling model lines due to changing demand and they were also hampered by a strike at a major supplier of automotive parts. Excluding the production of motor vehicles and its estimated ripple effects on other sectors such as motor vehicle parts, wholesaling and transportation, GDP for the remainder of the economy grew by 0.1% in the quarter.

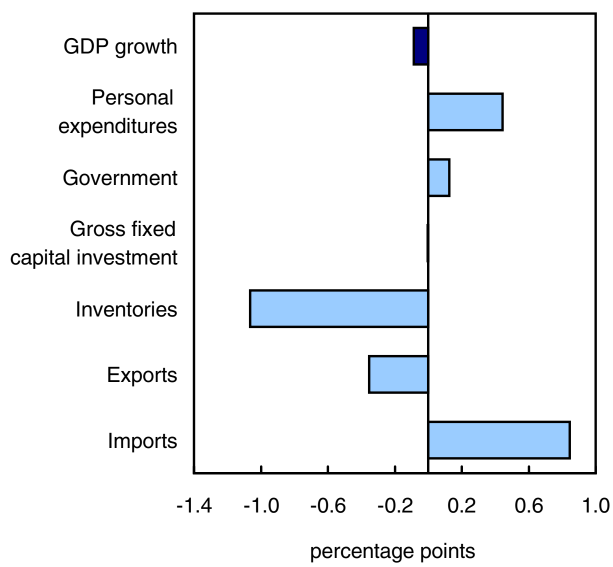
Note to readers

Percentage changes for expenditure-based and industry-based statistics (such as personal expenditure, investment, exports, imports and output) are calculated using volume measures that are adjusted for price variations. Percentage changes for income-based statistics (such as labour income, corporate profits and farm income) are calculated using nominal values, that is, not adjusted for price variations.

With the first quarter 2008 release of the Income and Expenditure Accounts, the data are revised back to the first quarter of 2004. For more information, consult the article "The 2004 to 2007 Revisions of the Income and Expenditure Accounts".

A new study examining research and development (R&D) expenditures is released today in the form of a satellite account, covering the years 1997 to 2004. This study examines the impact of capitalizing R&D in the Canadian System of National Accounts in response to new international recommendations. For more information, consult the article "The Canadian Research and Development Satellite Account, 1997 to 2004".

Contributions to percent change in gross domestic product (GDP), first quarter 2008



The output of the goods-producing industries declined 1.5% in the first quarter, while the services-producing industries advanced 0.5%. Declines in manufacturing, mining and some transportation industries were partially offset by increases in retail trade, accommodation services, and finance and insurance.

While the economy continued to create jobs in the first quarter, average hours worked declined. Inclement weather hindered average hours worked in some industries.

The Canadian economy declined at an annualized rate of 0.3% in the first quarter, compared with 0.9% growth for the US economy.

Real gross domestic product, chained (2002) dollars[1]

	Change	Annualized change	Year-over-year change
		%	
First quarter 2007	1.0	4.1	2.2
Second quarter 2007	1.0	3.9	2.8
Third quarter 2007	0.6	2.3	3.1
Fourth quarter 2007	0.2	0.8	2.8
First quarter 2008	-0.1	-0.3	1.7

1. *The change is the growth rate from one period to the next. The annualized change is the growth rate compounded annually. The year-over-year change is the growth rate of a given quarter compared with the same quarter in a previous year.*

Exports fall

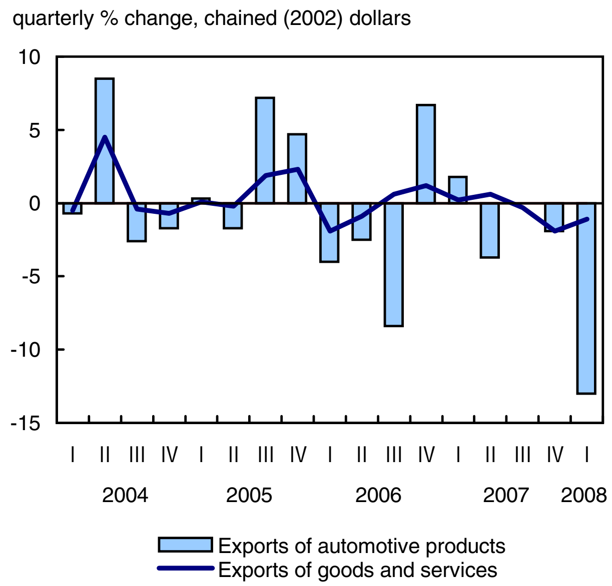
Exports of goods and services fell for the third consecutive quarter, in line with the third consecutive decline in manufacturing output. The 1.1% decline in the first quarter of 2008 stemmed from a sharp decrease in exports of automotive products, as Canadian manufacturers were hampered by a strike at a major supplier of automotive parts in the United States.

Excluding automotive products, exports grew 0.8% in the first quarter. Sales of forestry products abroad declined for a third consecutive quarter, as weakness in the US housing market continued.

Exports of services registered a 2.3% drop, largely due to lower exports of commercial services. Conversely, energy products, with the exception of natural gas, recorded a strong gain in the quarter, reversing the weakness recorded in the last half of 2007.

Imports declined for the first time since the fourth quarter of 2006. The decrease was widespread. Automotive products pulled imports downward, corresponding to a drop in motor vehicle inventories. Purchases of other consumer goods from abroad also lost ground. Machinery and equipment imports retreated after three quarters of substantial increases.

Exports of automotive products down sharply



Business investment slows

Growth in business investment in machinery and equipment decelerated to 0.3% in the first quarter, moderated by a downturn in industrial machinery investment. This followed three quarters of gains averaging 3.3%. Increases in investment were registered for automobiles and other transportation equipment. Business investment in machinery and equipment has increased more by than 60% since the fourth quarter of 2002, in conjunction with the appreciation of the Canadian dollar.

A pickup in business investment in non-residential structures in the first quarter (+0.9%) was the result of increases in investment in both buildings and engineering. Total business investment in plant and equipment grew 0.6% in the quarter.

Inventory accumulation eases

Inventory accumulation eased considerably in the first quarter, after two quarters of large build-ups. The change was most notable for motor vehicle dealers, who significantly reduced their stocks. This accounted for one-third of the difference in total inventory accumulation between the fourth quarter of 2007 and the first quarter of 2008.

Manufacturers and wholesalers reduced their inventories, particularly of durable goods, while retail inventories increased marginally.

Businesses have been accumulating inventories since the third quarter of 2004. The economy-wide inventory-to-sales ratio remained unchanged in the first quarter of 2008, leaving sufficient inventories to satisfy 63 days of sales.

Personal spending moderates

Personal spending grew 0.8% in the first quarter, down from the 1.8% gain in the fourth quarter of 2007. The deceleration was largely due to lower expenditures related to travel abroad, which increased substantially in the last half of 2007. Despite the decline, expenditures related to travel abroad registered their second-highest level ever. Purchases of new and used motor vehicles advanced 7.2%, spurred by widespread sales incentives, low interest financing packages, and the Goods and Services Tax rate reduction. It was the largest gain since the fourth quarter of 2001.

Housing investment declines

Business investment in residential structures declined in the first quarter, following five quarters of growth. Transfer costs associated with the resale market decreased for a third consecutive quarter, and new housing construction declined. This was partially offset by an increase in renovation activity.

Corporate profits advance

Corporate profits grew 2.4% in the first quarter, fuelled by energy sector earnings.

Wages and salaries and supplementary labour income increased 1.5%, a deceleration from the previous quarter.

Prices move upward

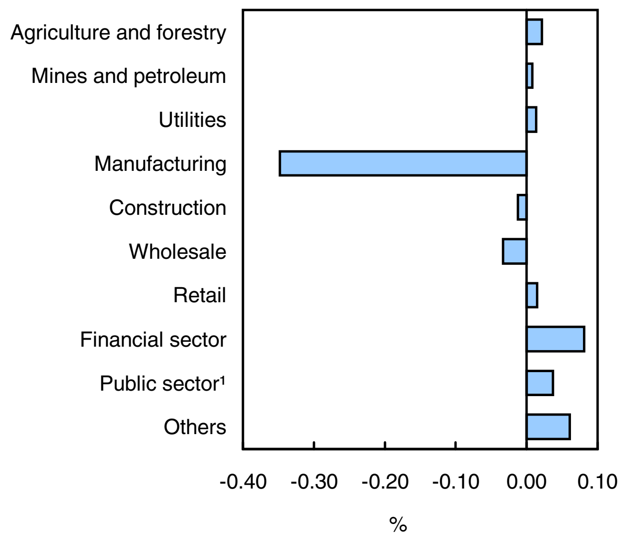
The price of goods and services produced in Canada advanced 1.3% in the first quarter, boosted by the continued increase in energy prices. This was up from the 0.9% increase registered in the fourth quarter. Excluding energy, prices advanced only 0.2%. Export prices, reflecting the energy gains, advanced sharply (+5.4%). After three quarters of declines, import prices advanced 3.3% as the Canadian dollar depreciated against its US counterpart. Prices for final domestic demand increased 0.5%.

Household debt in the form of mortgages and consumer credit edged up. Households carried $1.16 of debt for every dollar of personal disposable income. Debt servicing charges remained unchanged at about 8% of personal disposable income.

Gross domestic product by industry, March 2008

Economic activity edged down for a second consecutive month, declining 0.2% in March. The goods-producing industries fell by 1.0% while the services-producing industries expanded by 0.2%.

Main industrial sectors' contribution to total growth



1. Education, health and public administration.

The 2.5% drop in manufacturing value added accounted for almost all of the decrease in the goods industries. The declines in manufacturing were widespread, but motor vehicle and parts production were the hardest hit, accounting for about 40% of the decline in manufacturing. Lower demand and a strike at a major parts supplier located in the United States rippled through the motor vehicle and associated industries.

In March, production of wood, paper, and non-metallic minerals also fell as demand on foreign markets continued to soften.

Construction activity decreased 0.2% in March. The declines in residential construction, and engineering and repair work, were only partially offset by an increase in non-residential building.

The energy sector moved ahead 0.3%, with increases in oil and gas production and natural gas distribution. Support activities for mining and oil and gas extraction contracted 4.0%.

Within the services sector, activities in the finance and insurance industries rose 0.8%, largely on the strength of very strong trading volumes on the stock exchanges. However, banking services were almost unchanged.

Real estate agents and brokers recorded a fourth consecutive monthly decline as the home resale market retreated slightly in March. Their activities were among those which were affected by the inclement weather.

Wholesaling activity fell for a second month in a row (-0.6%), while the retail trade sector was up 0.2% in March, recovering part of its February drop.

Products, services and contact information

Detailed analysis and tables

The *National economic accounts* module, accessible from the home page of our website, features an up-to-date portrait of national and provincial economies and their structure.

More detailed analysis on today's releases from the national accounts, including additional charts and tables, can be found in the first quarter 2008 issue of *Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review*, Vol. 7, no. 1 (13-010-XWE, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

Gross domestic product by industry

The March 2008 issue of *Gross Domestic Product by Industry*, Vol. 22, no. 3 (15-001-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For general information or to order data, contact our dissemination officer (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.

Available on CANSIM: table 379-0027.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1301, 1804, 1901 and 2602.

National economic and financial accounts

Available on CANSIM: tables 026-0009, 378-0001, 378-0002, 380-0001 to 380-0017, 380-0019 to 380-0035, 380-0056, 380-0059, 380-0060 and 382-0006.

The first quarter 2008 issue of *National Income and Expenditure Accounts, Quarterly Estimates* (13-001-XIB, free) will soon be available.

Detailed printed tables of unadjusted and seasonally adjusted quarterly *National Income and Expenditure Accounts* (13-001-PPB, $54/$193), *Financial Flow Accounts* (13-014-PPB, $54/$193) and *Estimates of Labour Income* (13F0016XPB, $22/$70), including supplementary analytical tables and charts are now available. To purchase any of these products, contact Client Services (613-951-3810; *iead-info-dcrd@statcan.ca*), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

The complete seasonally adjusted quarterly *National Income and Expenditure Accounts: Data Tables* (13-019-XWE, free), *Financial Flow Accounts: Data Tables* (13-020-XWE, free), and monthly *Estimates of Labour Income: Data Tables* (13-021-XWE, free) are also 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 the information officer (613-951-3640, *iead-info-dcrd@statcan.ca*), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

□

Canadian economic accounts key indicators[1]

	Fourth quarter 2006	First quarter 2007	Second quarter 2007	Third quarter 2007	Fourth quarter 2007	First quarter 2008	2006	2007
	Seasonally adjusted at annual rates							
	$ millions at current prices							
Gross domestic product (GDP) by income and by expenditure								
Wages, salaries and supplementary labour income	758,824	774,960	786,392	789,224	802,852	814,984	743,313	788,357
	1.6	2.1	1.5	0.4	1.7	1.5	6.9	6.1
Corporation profits before taxes	198,584	200,572	202,740	204,784	204,828	209,704	196,719	203,231
	-0.9	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.0	2.4	5.8	3.3
Interest and miscellaneous investment income	65,636	68,756	72,056	72,492	72,756	74,584	66,421	71,515
	-1.7	4.8	4.8	0.6	0.4	2.5	8.4	7.7
Net income of unincorporated business	87,676	89,044	90,272	90,716	91,860	94,116	86,386	90,473
	1.2	1.6	1.4	0.5	1.3	2.5	1.6	4.7
Taxes less subsidies	159,844	163,276	167,052	168,500	170,568	166,748	160,840	167,349
	0.4	2.1	2.3	0.9	1.2	-2.2	3.5	4.0
Personal disposable income	865,936	886,212	890,088	902,088	915,164	934,096	849,590	898,388
	1.5	2.3	0.4	1.3	1.4	2.1	7.0	5.7
Personal saving rate[2]	3.3	3.9	2.3	2.5	1.9	2.8	3.1	2.7
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	millions of chained (2002) dollars							
Personal expenditure on consumer goods and services	765,295	772,440	783,339	791,358	805,760	812,166	754,179	788,224
	0.8	0.9	1.4	1.0	1.8	0.8	4.3	4.5
Government current expenditure on goods and services	251,708	253,550	255,245	259,691	263,357	265,060	248,777	257,961
	0.9	0.7	0.7	1.7	1.4	0.6	3.8	3.7
Gross fixed capital formation	305,489	307,457	311,144	315,381	318,319	318,274	301,263	313,075
	1.2	0.6	1.2	1.4	0.9	-0.0	7.1	3.9
Investment in inventories	1,455	6,004	5,618	20,579	20,580	3,420	10,723	13,195
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Exports of goods and services	508,219	509,189	512,307	510,840	501,112	495,842	503,322	508,362
	1.2	0.2	0.6	-0.3	-1.9	-1.1	0.6	1.0
Imports of goods and services	546,631	548,079	554,726	581,348	593,526	578,055	539,784	569,420
	-0.1	0.3	1.2	4.8	2.1	-2.6	4.6	5.5
GDP at market prices	1,292,881	1,305,843	1,318,339	1,325,934	1,328,606	1,327,452	1,284,819	1,319,681
	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.6	0.2	-0.1	3.1	2.7
GDP by industry								
	millions of chained (2002) dollars							
Goods producing industries	373,421	378,296	379,987	379,254	375,599	369,894	375,489	378,284
	-0.3	1.3	0.4	-0.2	-1.0	-1.5	1.2	0.7
Industrial production	271,364	275,382	277,214	276,033	272,350	266,745	274,357	275,245
	-0.8	1.5	0.7	-0.4	-1.3	-2.1	-0.2	0.3
Energy sector	84,925	86,749	87,590	87,625	86,826	86,486	85,876	87,198
	-2.0	2.1	1.0	0.0	-0.9	-0.4	1.0	1.5
Manufacturing	183,590	185,663	186,570	184,943	181,951	176,403	186,631	184,782
	-0.7	1.1	0.5	-0.9	-1.6	-3.0	-1.0	-1.0
Non-durable manufacturing	73,355	72,592	73,248	72,738	71,346	69,871	74,329	72,481
	-0.9	-1.0	0.9	-0.7	-1.9	-2.1	-1.9	-2.5
Durable manufacturing	110,392	113,299	113,536	112,414	110,819	106,708	112,470	112,517
	-0.6	2.6	0.2	-1.0	-1.4	-3.7	-0.3	0.0
Construction	75,536	76,271	76,502	77,274	77,491	77,725	74,087	76,884
	1.6	1.0	0.3	1.0	0.3	0.3	8.1	3.8
Services producing industries	827,148	834,678	843,140	850,897	856,745	861,018	818,862	846,365
	0.6	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.5	3.8	3.4
Wholesale trade	68,298	69,335	70,547	72,308	73,238	73,162	68,383	71,357
	-1.4	1.5	1.7	2.5	1.3	-0.1	7.1	4.3
Retail trade	69,847	71,264	72,874	73,321	74,200	75,042	69,015	72,915
	0.3	2.0	2.3	0.6	1.2	1.1	6.0	5.7
Transportation and warehousing	55,683	55,940	56,252	56,775	56,547	56,429	55,501	56,379
	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.9	-0.4	-0.2	3.2	1.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and renting	234,023	236,753	239,154	241,265	243,063	244,728	230,362	240,059
	1.1	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.7	3.8	4.2
Information and communication technologies	55,151	55,866	56,761	57,011	57,420	57,504	54,485	56,765
	0.7	1.3	1.6	0.4	0.7	0.1	4.3	4.2

... figures not applicable

1. *The first line is the series itself expressed in millions of dollars, seasonally adjusted at annual rates. The second line is the quarter to quarter percentage change at quarterly rates.*
2. *Actual rate.*

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

	October 2007[r]	November 2007[r]	December 2007[r]	January 2008[r]	February 2008[r]	March 2008[p]
	Seasonally adjusted					
	month-to-month % change					
All industries	**0.3**	**0.0**	**-0.7**	**0.6**	**-0.3**	**-0.2**
Goods-producing industries	0.1	-0.3	-1.8	0.5	-0.5	-1.0
Service-producing industries	0.4	0.2	-0.2	0.6	-0.2	0.2
Industrial production	0.2	-0.5	-2.3	0.7	-0.8	-1.4
Manufacturing	0.8	-0.7	-3.2	1.0	-1.2	-2.5
Wholesale trade	1.5	0.1	-2.3	2.9	-1.9	-0.6
Energy sector	-0.6	0.0	-1.2	0.9	-0.8	0.3

r *revised*
p *preliminary*

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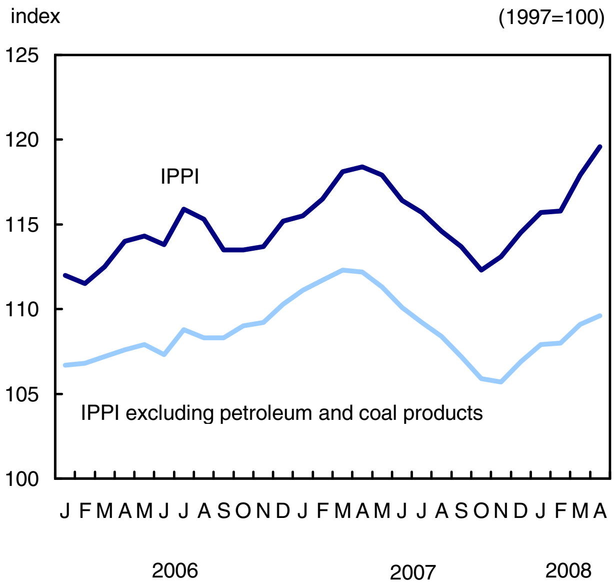
Industrial product and raw materials price indexes

April 2008

In April, a second consecutive strong monthly increase in petroleum prices caused indexes for manufactured goods and raw materials prices to reach record levels.

Prices for manufactured goods increase again



From March to April, prices charged by manufacturers, as measured by the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI), rose 1.4%. While down slightly from the 1.8% increase observed in March, the growth in prices remained strong for a second consecutive month, pushing the IPPI above its last historical peak reached in April 2007. This increase was almost entirely driven by petroleum and coal products, which continued their upward climb with an increase of 7.9%, similar to the rate recorded in March.

Prices of other IPPI products, with the exception of energy, grew 0.5%; a lower rate of growth compared with the 1.0% increase registered in March, and also lower than the average increase observed for the first three months of 2008. Chemical products and motor vehicles and other transport equipment contributed the most to the rise of the IPPI excluding prices for petroleum and coal products.

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 U.S. 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.*

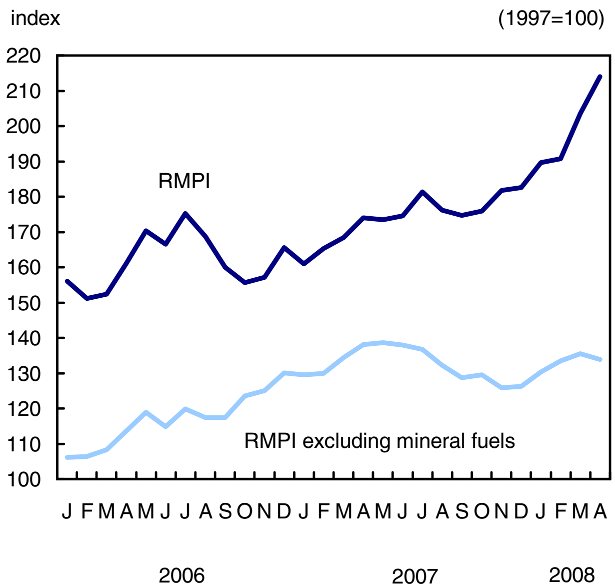
On a 12-month-basis, the IPPI rose 1.0%, an acceleration compared with the 0.2% decline recorded in March. The strong rise in prices for petroleum and coal products was partly offset by decreases in the prices for motor vehicles and other transport equipment as well as primary metal products. If energy products were excluded, the IPPI would show a steady decline in prices since September 2007.

The Canadian dollar lost 1.2% of its value in relation to the US dollar in April, after falling 0.3% in March. If the exchange rate used to convert these prices had remained unchanged, the IPPI would have risen 1.1% compared with March instead of an increase of 1.4%. However, on a 12-month basis, the Canadian dollar rose 10.6% compared with the US dollar, and excluding the effect of the exchange rate, the IPPI would have risen 4.0% rather than increasing 1.0%.

The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) continued its upward trend with a month-over-month increase of 5.1% in April, after registering a 6.7% rise in March. The RMPI reached a new historical peak, up 22.5% from its last low point in September 2007. The increase of the RMPI in April was mainly driven by strong prices for mineral fuels, which rose significantly for a second consecutive month. If mineral fuels were excluded, the RMPI would have fallen 1.2% and would have registered its first decline after four consecutive monthly increases.

Compared with April 2007, raw materials cost plants 23.0% more. The rise in the index was primarily driven by higher prices for mineral fuels and vegetable products.

Raw materials prices continue to increase



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

The Industrial product and raw material price indexes for May will be released on June 27.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Client Services Unit (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	April 2007	March 2008[r]	April 2008[p]	April 2007 to April 2008	March to April 2008
					% change	
Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI)	**100.00**	**118.4**	**117.9**	**119.6**	**1.0**	**1.4**
IPPI excluding petroleum and coal products	**94.32**	**112.2**	**109.1**	**109.6**	**-2.3**	**0.5**
Aggregation by commodities						
Meat, fish and dairy products	5.78	112.0	109.2	109.2	-2.5	0.0
Fruit, vegetables, feeds and other food products	5.99	108.1	117.6	117.4	8.6	-0.2
Beverages	1.57	124.8	125.9	125.9	0.9	0.0
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.63	203.4	217.8	217.8	7.1	0.0
Rubber, leather and plastic fabricated products	3.30	116.8	115.7	115.9	-0.8	0.2
Textile products	1.58	100.4	99.4	99.7	-0.7	0.3
Knitted products and clothing	1.51	104.6	105.0	104.9	0.3	-0.1
Lumber and other wood products	6.30	85.8	80.3	80.7	-5.9	0.5
Furniture and fixtures	1.59	120.0	120.9	120.9	0.8	0.0
Pulp and paper products	7.23	106.7	103.2	103.9	-2.6	0.7
Printing and publishing	1.70	117.3	115.8	117.5	0.2	1.5
Primary metal products	7.80	161.4	149.6	149.2	-7.6	-0.3
Metal fabricated products	4.11	125.6	126.3	128.0	1.9	1.3
Machinery and equipment	5.48	107.2	103.7	103.9	-3.1	0.2
Motor vehicles and other transport equipment	22.16	92.3	85.8	86.5	-6.3	0.8
Electrical and communications products	5.77	94.3	89.4	89.8	-4.8	0.4
Non-metallic mineral products	1.98	123.0	124.1	124.1	0.9	0.0
Petroleum and coal products[1]	5.68	233.0	281.2	303.3	30.2	7.9
Chemicals and chemical products	7.07	127.9	132.6	135.6	6.0	2.3
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.40	115.3	118.8	118.7	2.9	-0.1
Miscellaneous non-manufactured products	0.38	475.5	354.2	341.7	-28.1	-3.5
Intermediate goods[2]	**60.14**	**123.9**	**124.3**	**126.1**	**1.8**	**1.4**
First-stage intermediate goods[3]	7.71	170.7	156.1	158.1	-7.4	1.3
Second-stage intermediate goods[4]	52.43	116.8	119.5	121.3	3.9	1.5
Finished goods[5]	**39.86**	**110.2**	**108.4**	**109.8**	**-0.4**	**1.3**
Finished foods and feeds	8.50	116.2	116.6	116.8	0.5	0.2
Capital equipment	11.73	100.7	95.5	96.0	-4.7	0.5
All other finished goods	19.63	113.4	112.7	115.1	1.5	2.1

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	April 2007	March 2008[r]	April 2008[p]	April 2007 to April 2008	March to April 2008
					% change	
Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI)	**100.00**	**174.0**	**203.6**	**214.0**	**23.0**	**5.1**
Mineral fuels	35.16	251.5	350.8	387.3	54.0	10.4
Vegetable products	10.28	97.3	141.8	135.8	39.6	-4.2
Animals and animal products	20.30	111.6	104.1	104.6	-6.3	0.5
Wood	15.60	85.7	81.5	80.9	-5.6	-0.7
Ferrous materials	3.36	146.2	150.8	157.5	7.7	4.4
Non-ferrous metals	12.93	262.0	226.6	221.5	-15.5	-2.3
Non-metallic minerals	2.38	147.1	162.9	163.2	10.9	0.2
RMPI excluding mineral fuels	**64.84**	**138.1**	**135.5**	**133.9**	**-3.0**	**-1.2**

r *revised*
p *preliminary*

■

Food services and drinking places

March 2008 (preliminary)

The total seasonally adjusted sales for the food services and drinking places industry declined 2.2% to $3.9 billion in March. This marked the first decrease in 2008.

A 4.4% decrease in sales in the largest sector of the industry, full-service restaurants, accounted for most of the overall drop. This sector (comprised of restaurants where patrons order and pay for meals at their table) registered its first decline in four months. Despite the decrease in month-over-month sales, the full-service restaurants sector still showed solid growth compared with the same month of the previous year.

The limited-service eating places sector posted its second consecutive monthly decline, edging down 0.4% in March. This sector, which is characterized by restaurants where meals are ordered and paid for at the counter, also continued to post growth in year-over-year sales in March.

The special food services sector, which comprises contractors, social caterers and mobile food services, and the drinking places sector, both remained relatively stable between February and March. These two sectors continued to show a year-over-year decline in sales for March.

All provinces, with the exception of Alberta, saw sales decline in March, with the largest decreases recorded in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and British Columbia.

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 with those made 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 about the redesign of the Monthly Survey of Food Services and Drinking Places, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, 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

	March 2007^r	January 2008^r	February 2008^r	March 2008^p	February to March 2008
	Seasonally adjusted				
	$ thousands				% change
Total, food services sales	**3,777,164**	**3,910,199**	**3,966,753**	**3,878,311**	**-2.2**
Full-service restaurants	1,697,834	1,815,994	1,888,117	1,805,002	-4.4
Limited-service eating places	1,551,644	1,593,905	1,579,699	1,573,431	-0.4
Special food services	325,343	309,579	307,497	307,932	0.1
Drinking places	202,343	190,721	191,440	191,946	0.3
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland and Labrador	46,399	44,026	47,129	43,420	-7.9
Prince Edward Island	13,640	12,193	12,498	12,383	-0.9
Nova Scotia	90,010	103,948	106,150	100,501	-5.3
New Brunswick	67,870	68,686	68,264	67,081	-1.7
Quebec	741,127	765,300	777,863	770,820	-0.9
Ontario	1,397,903	1,507,044	1,516,621	1,485,913	-2.0
Manitoba	108,215	111,981	113,822	111,871	-1.7
Saskatchewan	94,871	101,355	102,522	100,912	-1.6
Alberta	561,090	533,220	543,490	543,814	0.1
British Columbia	644,919	650,804	666,846	630,588	-5.4
Yukon	4,469	3,553	3,593	3,442	-4.2
Northwest Territories	6,185	7,273	7,207	6,835	-5.2
Nunavut	466	816	748	731	-2.3

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

Food services and drinking places

	March 2007	January 2008^r	February 2008^r	March 2008^p	March 2007 to March 2008
	Not seasonally adjusted				
	$ thousands				% change
Total, food services sales	**3,755,628**	**3,482,787**	**3,529,026**	**3,790,331**	**0.9**
Full-service restaurants	1,673,272	1,601,539	1,665,901	1,748,402	4.5
Limited-service eating places	1,524,672	1,425,871	1,381,635	1,525,783	0.1
Special food services	343,063	284,167	303,505	315,708	-8.0
Drinking places	214,621	171,210	177,984	200,439	-6.6
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland and Labrador	44,490	37,235	38,851	41,667	-6.3
Prince Edward Island	11,758	9,313	9,524	10,545	-10.3
Nova Scotia	86,135	84,534	85,637	92,732	7.7
New Brunswick	68,147	59,268	59,433	64,871	-4.8
Quebec	702,272	668,641	690,300	713,860	1.7
Ontario	1,378,218	1,353,017	1,332,612	1,443,908	4.8
Manitoba	109,428	100,209	99,007	111,026	1.5
Saskatchewan	97,818	91,396	92,287	103,333	5.6
Alberta	591,857	486,351	513,982	561,005	-5.2
British Columbia	653,849	583,014	596,923	636,146	-2.7
Yukon	4,340	2,660	2,811	3,042	-29.9
Northwest Territories	6,828	6,570	7,030	7,447	9.1
Nunavut	488	579	630	750	53.7

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

■

Computer and peripherals price indexes
April 2008

The index for commercial computers decreased 0.11% from March to 35.10 (2002=100). The index for consumer computers also declined, down 0.18% to 22.06.

In the case of computer peripherals, monitor prices decreased 0.29% to 52.35 while printer prices fell 0.08% to 47.69.

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. ■

Commercial Software Price Index
April 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 April was 67.79 (2002=100), up 0.03% from March.

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. ■

Electric power selling price indexes
January to April 2008

Electric power selling price indexes are now available for January to April.

Available on CANSIM: table 329-0050.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2325.

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

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Client Services Unit (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; *prices-prix@statcan.ca*) or Adrian Fisher (613-951-9612; *adrian.fisher@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. ■

Domestic travel
2006 (revised)

The 2006 Public Microdata Files for domestic travel from the Travel Survey of Residents of Canada are now available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3810.

The 2006 *Canadian Travel Survey Microdata* (87M0006XCB, $2,800) file is now available. See *How to order products*.

For general information or to obtain data, contact Client Services (613-951-9169; toll-free 1-800-307-3382; fax: 613-951-2909; *cult.tourstats@statcan.ca*), Culture Tourism, and the Centre for Education Statistics. To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lizette Gervais-Simard (613-951-1672; fax: 613-951-2909; *gervliz@statcan.ca*), Tourism Statistics Program. ■

New products

National Income and Expenditure Accounts, Quarterly Estimates, First quarter 2008, Vol. 56, no. 1
Catalogue number 13-001-PPB ($54/$193).

Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review, First quarter 2008, Vol. 7, no. 1
Catalogue number 13-010-XWE
(free).

Financial Flow Accounts, Quarterly Estimates, First quarter 2008
Catalogue number 13-014-PPB ($54/$193).

National Income and Expenditure Accounts: Data Tables, First quarter 2008, Vol. 1, no. 1
Catalogue number 13-019-XWE
(free).

Financial Flow Accounts: Data Tables, First quarter 2008, Vol. 1, no. 1
Catalogue number 13-020-XWE
(free).

Estimates of Labour Income: Data Tables, First quarter 2008, Vol. 1, no. 1
Catalogue number 13-021-XWE
(free).

Income and Expenditure Accounts Technical Series: The Canadian Research and Development Satellite Account, 1997 to 2004, no. 56
Catalogue number 13-604-MIE2007056
(free).

Income and Expenditure Accounts Technical Series: The Canadian Research and Development Satellite Account, 1997 to 2004, no. 56
Catalogue number 13-604-MPB2007056
(free).

Latest Developments in the Canadian Economic Accounts
Catalogue number 13-605-XIE
(free).

Estimates of Labour Income, Monthly Estimates, March 2008
Catalogue number 13F0016XPB ($22/$70).

Gross Domestic Product by Industry, March 2008, Vol. 22, no. 3
Catalogue number 15-001-XWE
(free).

Canadian Export Classification, 2008
Catalogue number 65-209-XIE
(free).

Income Research Paper Series: Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics: Entry Exit Component Interview Questionnaire for Reference Year 2006, 2006, no. 2
Catalogue number 75F0002MIE2008002
(free).

Income Research Paper Series: Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics: Preliminary, Labour and Income Interview Questionnaire for Reference Year 2006, 2006, no. 3
Catalogue number 75F0002MIE2008003
(free).

Canadian Travel Survey Microdata, 2006
Catalogue number 87M0006XCB ($2,800).

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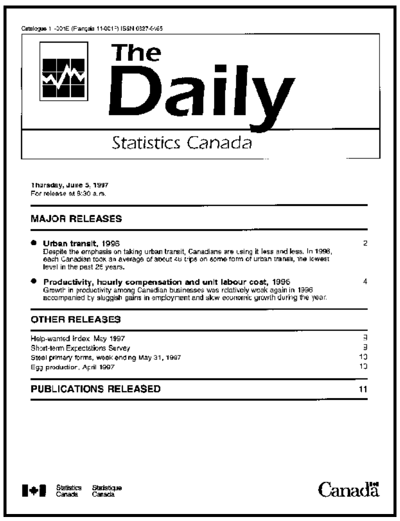
Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

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

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

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Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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Release dates: June 2008

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
2	**Cities and growth: In situ versus migratory human capital growth**	2006
3	**Canadian Social Trends**	2006
3	**Participation and Activity Limitation Survey: Assistive aids and devices for adults**	2006
4	**2006 Census: Changing patterns in Canadian homeownership and shelter costs**	
5	**Building permits**	April 2008
6	**Labour Force Survey**	May 2008
6	**Adult correctional services**	2005/2006
9	**Study: Hate-motivated victimization**	2006
9	**Control and sale of alcoholic beverages**	2007
10	**Canadian international merchandise trade**	April 2008
10	**Motion picture theatres**	2006
11	**Industrial capacity utilization rates**	First quarter 2008
11	**New Housing Price Index**	April 2008
12	**Canadian Economic Observer**	June 2008
12	**Canadian Internet Use Survey**	2007
13	**Monthly Survey of Manufacturing**	April 2008
13	**Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost**	First quarter 2008
16	**New motor vehicle sales**	April 2008
16	**Study: Capital expenditures and corporate profits in Canada**	2001 to 2007
17	**Canada's international transactions in securities**	April 2008
17	**Book publishing**	2006
18	**Health Reports**	2007
18	**Travel between Canada and other countries**	April 2008
18	**Leading indicators**	May 2008
19	**Consumer Price Index**	May 2008
19	**Wholesale trade**	April 2008
20	**Retail trade**	April 2008
20	**Canada's international investment position**	First quarter 2008
23	**Waste management industry: Business and government sectors**	2006

23	**National Apprenticeship Survey**	2007
24	**Estimates of principal field crop areas**	June 2008
24	**National balance sheet accounts**	First quarter 2008
24	**Employment Insurance**	April 2008
25	**Envirostats**	2006
25	**Quarterly demographic estimates**	April 1, 2008
26	**2006 Census: Mobility and migration**	
26	**Study: Entry earnings of immigrants**	
27	**Industrial product and raw materials price indexes**	May 2008
27	**National tourism indicators**	First quarter 2008
27	**Payroll employment, earnings and hours**	April 2008
30	**Productivity growth in the Canadian retail trade sector**	
30	**Gross domestic product by industry**	April 2008