

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, July 11, 2008

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Labour Force Survey, June 2008

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Employment was unchanged in June for the second consecutive month. The unemployment rate edged up 0.1 percentage points to 6.2%, still among the lowest in 30 years. Over the past 12 months, employment in Canada has grown by 1.7% or 290,000.

Canadian international merchandise trade, May 2008

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Canada's trade surplus with the world expanded in May, as exports to countries other than the United States reached their highest level ever and exports to the United States remained strong.

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Postal Code Conversion File

March 2008

The March 2008 update of the *Postal Code Conversion File (PCCF)* is now available. This file links the six-character postal codes to the standard 2006 Census geographic areas (such as dissemination areas, census tracts and census subdivisions). By linking postal codes to the Statistics Canada geographic areas, the file facilitates the extraction and subsequent aggregation of data for selected geographic areas. The PCCF also associates each postal code with a longitude and latitude coordinate to support mapping applications. The file also indicates the source, quality and type of linkage made between the postal code and the geographic area.

The March 2008 update of the *Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File (2003 Representation Order)* is also available. This product, a subset of the PCCF, provides a link between the six-character postal code and Canada's federal electoral districts (commonly known as federal ridings). The "unique link" variable indicates if the postal code is linked to one or more federal electoral districts (FEDs). When the postal code is linked to more than one FED, the "weight" estimates the proportion of the population of the postal code that resides within each FED.

The *Postal Code Conversion File* (92-153-XCB, \$10,000; update 92-153-UCB, \$1,670) and the *Postal Codes by Federal Riding File* (92F0193XCB, \$2,500; update 92F0193UCB, \$500) are available in ASCII format on diskette or CD-ROM. The reference guides for the *Postal Code Conversion File* (92-153-GWE, free) and the *Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File* (92F0193GWE, free) are also available in electronic format.

For more information, contact GeoHelp (613-951-3889; geohelp@statcan.ca), Geography Division.



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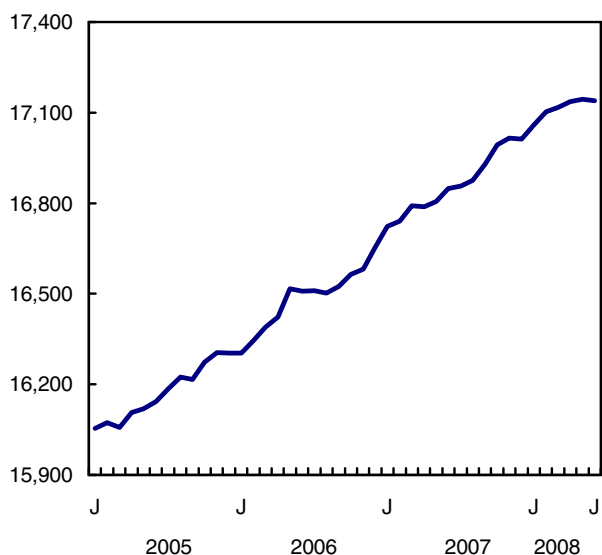
Labour Force Survey

June 2008

Employment was unchanged in June for the second consecutive month. The unemployment rate edged up 0.1 percentage points to 6.2%, still among the lowest in 30 years. Over the past 12 months, employment in Canada has grown by 1.7% or 290,000.

Employment

thousands



Part-time employment gains largely offset declines in full time in June. In the past 12 months, employment growth in part-time work has been faster than that of full time.

The only industry with a notable employment increase in June was professional, scientific and technical services, where monthly gains totalled 37,000. This industry has been among the top industries for employment growth since June 2007, along with construction; public administration; and health care and social assistance.

Industries with declines in June included: business, building and other support services; health care

Note to readers

Please note that Table 1 in the 71-001 publication has been extended to include labour force characteristics for men and women aged 25 to 54 years and 55 years and over at the Canada level.

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates are based on a sample, and are therefore subject to sampling variability. Estimates for smaller geographic areas or industries will have more variability. For an explanation of sampling variability of estimates, and how to use standard errors to assess this variability, consult the "Data quality" section of the publication Labour Force Information (71-001-XWE, free).

Summer job market

From May to August, the Labour Force Survey collects labour market information about young people aged 15 to 24 who were attending school full time in March and intend to return to school in the fall. Survey results for May and June give an early indication of the summer job market for older students. However, many younger students were not yet out of school for the summer. Survey results for July and August will provide further insight into the summer job market for younger students. The published estimates are not seasonally adjusted; therefore, comparisons can only be made on a year-over-year basis.

Quarterly update on territories as well as Aboriginal people living off-reserve in the western provinces

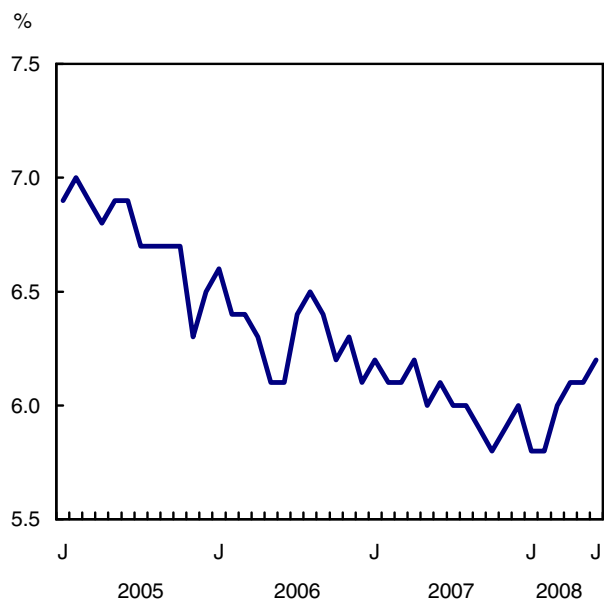
The Labour Force Survey also collects labour market information about the territories, and Aboriginal people living off-reserve in the four western provinces. This information is not seasonally adjusted and is produced monthly in the form of three-month moving averages. Comparisons should only be made on a year-over-year basis.

and social assistance; as well as construction. While manufacturing was unchanged in June, it was down 1.6% (-33,000) from a year ago.

Both Alberta and Nova Scotia experienced employment gains in June, pushing their employment rates to new record highs. Employment also rose in Manitoba.

In June, employment declined by 24,000 in Ontario. Despite this loss, employment in the province has grown 1.7% over the past 12 months, spurred by increases in construction and several service industries.

Since June 2007, average hourly wages have risen by 4.4% to \$21.15. This rate of growth is double that of the most recent increase in the Consumer Price Index (+2.2%).

Unemployment rate**Continued growth in professional, scientific and technical services**

Employment continued to grow in professional, scientific and technical services in June (+37,000). From a year ago, employment in the industry has grown by 7.5%, an increase of 86,000 workers. The biggest contributors to this year-over-year increase have been computer design services and legal services.

Business, building and other support services had the largest decline in employment in June, down 18,000, bringing employment in this industry to a level similar to that of a year ago.

Construction employment decreased by 16,000 in June, the first significant monthly decline in the industry in two years. Over the last 12 months, however, employment growth in the industry has been strong, up 7.2%.

Employment in health care and social assistance also decreased in June (-17,000). Despite this decline, employment in the industry has grown 2.8% from 12 months ago.

Record high employment rates in Alberta and Nova Scotia

Alberta saw employment increases of 10,000 in June. These gains pushed the employment rate in the province up to 72.2%, a new record high. Employment growth over the past 12 months has been the fastest

of the provinces at 3.1%, largely driven by gains in professional, scientific and technical services; trade; agriculture; and finance, insurance, real estate and leasing.

Nova Scotia also experienced a new record-high employment rate of 59.3%, pushed by monthly gains of 6,200. Over the past 12 months, employment in the province has grown by 2.2%.

Manitoba was the only other province to report monthly gains in June, with an increase of 4,000. Since June 2007, employment growth in the province has been 1.9%.

In June, employment declined by 24,000 in Ontario, pushing the unemployment rate up 0.3 percentage points to 6.7%. The overall decline in employment was the result of a drop in full-time work (-46,000), which was tempered by gains in part time (+22,000). Since June 2007, part-time work in the province has been on the rise, growing by 10.3%. Overall, annual employment growth in Ontario has kept pace with the national average.

Employment declined in Newfoundland and Labrador in June. Over the last 12 months, however, employment grew by 1.8%, with strong gains in construction; public administration; as well as transportation and warehousing.

In June, the unemployment rate in Quebec decreased by 0.3 percentage points to 7.2%, due to a decline in labour force participation. Over the past 12 months, employment in the province has grown by 0.5%, well below the national average. Declines in trade and education offset growth in professional, scientific and technical services and construction as well as some other service industries.

More 17 to 19 year-old students working this summer

There were 37,000 more students between the ages of 17 to 19 working in June 2008 compared with June 2007. These gains, which were evenly split between full- and part-time work, pushed their employment rate up 2.0 percentage points to 59.3%.

In June, the employment rate for students in the 20 to 24 age group was 70.8%, slightly lower than a year earlier.

The territories

The Yukon continued to enjoy a strong labour market in the second quarter of 2008, with an employment rate of 72.2%, up 2.2 percentage points from the same quarter last year.

Both the Northwest Territories and Nunavut saw declines in their employment rates in the second quarter of 2008 compared with the same quarter in 2007.

In the Northwest Territories, the employment rate fell 3.3 percentage points over the period to 70.0%. Despite this decline, the employment rate remained among the highest in Canada.

In the 10 largest communities of Nunavut, employment declined between the second quarters of 2007 and 2008, bringing the employment rate down 6.3 percentage points to 59.3%. At the same time, the unemployment rate increased 0.5 percentage points to 10.8%.

Aboriginal people

Amongst Aboriginal people living off-reserve in the four western provinces, the employment rate in the second quarter of 2008 was 62.4%, up 0.7 percentage points from the same period of 2007. The employment rate among non-Aboriginal people rose 0.5 percentage points over this period to 67.9%.

Aboriginal people living off-reserve in British Columbia saw a large increase in their employment rate between the second quarters of 2007 and 2008, jumping 5.8 percentage points to 62.9%. Over the same period, the employment rate of non-Aboriginal people living in the province edged up to 64.2%.

In contrast, the employment rate of Aboriginal people living off-reserve in Alberta declined 1.3 percentage points to 68.0% between the second quarters of 2007 and 2008. At the same time, non-Aboriginal people saw an increase of 0.8 percentage points in their employment rate, which rose to 72.7%. Aboriginal people living in Alberta continued to have the highest employment rate of their counterparts in the West.

In Saskatchewan, Aboriginal people living off-reserve saw a more pronounced decline in their

employment rate, which fell from 57.1% to 52.9% between the second quarters of 2007 and 2008. Over the same period, the employment rate among non-Aboriginal people in the province edged up 0.2 percentage points to 68.2%. Saskatchewan has the lowest employment rate among its off-reserve Aboriginal population of the western provinces.

In Manitoba the employment rate among Aboriginal people (61.9%) was little changed between the second quarters of 2007 and 2008. For non-Aboriginal people, the employment rate rose by 0.8 percentage points to 68.1%.

Available on CANSIM: tables 282-0001 to 282-0042, 282-0047 to 282-0064 and 282-0069 to 282-0099.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.

A more detailed summary, *Labour Force Information* (71-001-XWE, free), is now available online for the week ending June 21. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *Free Internet publications*, choose *Labour*. LAN and bulk prices are available on request. The CD-ROM *Labour Force Historical Review, 2007* (71F0004XCB, \$209) is now available. See *How to order products*.

Data tables are also now available online. From the *By subject* module of our website, choose *Labour*.

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on August 8.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Danielle Zietsma (613-951-4243; danielle.zietsma@statcan.ca), or Jane Lin (613-951-9691; jane.lin@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

□

Labour force characteristics by age and sex

	May 2008	June 2008	May to June 2008	June 2007 to June 2008	May to June 2008	June 2007 to June 2008
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Both sexes 15+						
Population	26,870.6	26,910.7	40.1	376.8	0.1	1.4
Labour force	18,261.6	18,263.5	1.9	328.8	0.0	1.8
Employment	17,144.4	17,139.4	-5.0	290.0	0.0	1.7
Full-time	13,997.2	13,958.0	-39.2	146.7	-0.3	1.1
Part-time	3,147.2	3,181.4	34.2	143.3	1.1	4.7
Unemployment	1,117.2	1,124.1	6.9	38.8	0.6	3.6
Participation rate	68.0	67.9	-0.1	0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.1	6.2	0.1	0.1	...	...
Employment rate	63.8	63.7	-0.1	0.2	...	...
Part-time rate	18.4	18.6	0.2	0.6	...	...
Youths 15 to 24						
Population	4,372.9	4,374.8	1.9	23.7	0.0	0.5
Labour force	2,956.5	2,968.1	11.6	39.3	0.4	1.3
Employment	2,605.7	2,606.2	0.5	2.8	0.0	0.1
Full-time	1,446.6	1,440.1	-6.5	-15.5	-0.4	-1.1
Part-time	1,159.1	1,166.1	7.0	18.3	0.6	1.6
Unemployment	350.8	362.0	11.2	36.6	3.2	11.2
Participation rate	67.6	67.8	0.2	0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	11.9	12.2	0.3	1.1	...	...
Employment rate	59.6	59.6	0.0	-0.2	...	...
Part-time rate	44.5	44.7	0.2	0.6	...	...
Men 25+						
Population	10,993.5	11,012.9	19.4	176.9	0.2	1.6
Labour force	8,130.7	8,141.8	11.1	156.3	0.1	2.0
Employment	7,712.5	7,707.5	-5.0	152.9	-0.1	2.0
Full-time	7,197.0	7,176.7	-20.3	105.9	-0.3	1.5
Part-time	515.4	530.8	15.4	47.0	3.0	9.7
Unemployment	418.2	434.3	16.1	3.4	3.8	0.8
Participation rate	74.0	73.9	-0.1	0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.1	5.3	0.2	-0.1	...	...
Employment rate	70.2	70.0	-0.2	0.3	...	...
Part-time rate	6.7	6.9	0.2	0.5	...	...
Women 25+						
Population	11,504.2	11,523.0	18.8	176.3	0.2	1.6
Labour force	7,174.4	7,153.6	-20.8	133.1	-0.3	1.9
Employment	6,826.3	6,825.7	-0.6	134.2	0.0	2.0
Full-time	5,353.6	5,341.2	-12.4	56.3	-0.2	1.1
Part-time	1,472.7	1,484.5	11.8	77.9	0.8	5.5
Unemployment	348.1	327.9	-20.2	-1.1	-5.8	-0.3
Participation rate	62.4	62.1	-0.3	0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.9	4.6	-0.3	-0.1	...	...
Employment rate	59.3	59.2	-0.1	0.2	...	...
Part-time rate	21.6	21.7	0.1	0.7	...	...

... not applicable

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Employment by class of worker and industry (based on NAICS¹)

	May 2008	June 2008	May to June 2008	June 2007 to June 2008	May to June 2008	June 2007 to June 2008
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Class of worker						
Employees	14,534.6	14,528.2	-6.4	334.9	0.0	2.4
Self-employed	2,609.8	2,611.2	1.4	-45.0	0.1	-1.7
Public/private sector employees						
Public	3,413.9	3,408.6	-5.3	151.2	-0.2	4.6
Private	11,120.7	11,119.6	-1.1	183.7	0.0	1.7
All industries	17,144.4	17,139.4	-5.0	290.0	0.0	1.7
Goods-producing sector	4,033.0	4,033.3	0.3	65.1	0.0	1.6
Agriculture	322.2	325.3	3.1	-7.7	1.0	-2.3
Natural resources	337.1	342.5	5.4	6.2	1.6	1.8
Utilities	150.7	157.5	6.8	17.6	4.5	12.6
Construction	1,236.9	1,221.0	-15.9	82.4	-1.3	7.2
Manufacturing	1,986.2	1,987.0	0.8	-33.3	0.0	-1.6
Service-producing sector	13,111.4	13,106.0	-5.4	224.7	0.0	1.7
Trade	2,681.9	2,694.8	12.9	-1.9	0.5	-0.1
Transportation and warehousing	851.2	847.1	-4.1	32.9	-0.5	4.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,076.6	1,067.6	-9.0	4.6	-0.8	0.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,183.3	1,220.4	37.1	85.6	3.1	7.5
Business, building and other support services	711.1	693.3	-17.8	-7.3	-2.5	-1.0
Educational services	1,191.2	1,193.1	1.9	-4.8	0.2	-0.4
Health care and social assistance	1,907.1	1,890.2	-16.9	51.0	-0.9	2.8
Information, culture and recreation	754.9	765.0	10.1	-21.3	1.3	-2.7
Accommodation and food services	1,083.0	1,070.7	-12.3	-5.7	-1.1	-0.5
Other services	748.1	737.8	-10.3	23.3	-1.4	3.3
Public administration	923.0	926.1	3.1	68.4	0.3	8.0

1. North American Industrial Classification System.

Note: Related to CANSIM tables 282-0088 and 282-0089.

Labour force characteristics by province

	May 2008	June 2008	May to June 2008	June 2007 to June 2008	May to June 2008	June 2007 to June 2008
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador						
Population	425.7	426.0	0.3	2.7	0.1	0.6
Labour force	256.9	252.4	-4.5	4.2	-1.8	1.7
Employment	224.7	219.4	-5.3	3.8	-2.4	1.8
Full-time	192.3	188.7	-3.6	7.2	-1.9	4.0
Part-time	32.5	30.7	-1.8	-3.4	-5.5	-10.0
Unemployment	32.2	33.1	0.9	0.6	2.8	1.8
Participation rate	60.3	59.2	-1.1	0.6	...	...
Unemployment rate	12.5	13.1	0.6	0.0	...	...
Employment rate	52.8	51.5	-1.3	0.6	...	...
Prince Edward Island						
Population	114.1	114.3	0.2	1.1	0.2	1.0
Labour force	78.5	78.9	0.4	1.8	0.5	2.3
Employment	71.0	70.9	-0.1	1.8	-0.1	2.6
Full-time	59.2	60.2	1.0	2.5	1.7	4.3
Part-time	11.8	10.7	-1.1	-0.7	-9.3	-6.1
Unemployment	7.5	8.0	0.5	-0.1	6.7	-1.2
Participation rate	68.8	69.0	0.2	0.9	...	...
Unemployment rate	9.6	10.1	0.5	-0.4	...	...
Employment rate	62.2	62.0	-0.2	1.0	...	...
Nova Scotia						
Population	768.0	768.6	0.6	4.6	0.1	0.6
Labour force	489.7	493.0	3.3	7.7	0.7	1.6
Employment	449.3	455.5	6.2	9.6	1.4	2.2
Full-time	365.4	372.9	7.5	8.5	2.1	2.3
Part-time	83.9	82.6	-1.3	1.1	-1.5	1.3
Unemployment	40.4	37.5	-2.9	-1.9	-7.2	-4.8
Participation rate	63.8	64.1	0.3	0.6	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.2	7.6	-0.6	-0.5	...	...
Employment rate	58.5	59.3	0.8	0.9	...	...
New Brunswick						
Population	617.6	618.0	0.4	5.3	0.1	0.9
Labour force	398.3	402.1	3.8	9.4	1.0	2.4
Employment	362.9	362.9	0.0	-2.7	0.0	-0.7
Full-time	305.5	306.7	1.2	1.9	0.4	0.6
Part-time	57.4	56.2	-1.2	-4.6	-2.1	-7.6
Unemployment	35.4	39.2	3.8	12.1	10.7	44.6
Participation rate	64.5	65.1	0.6	1.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.9	9.7	0.8	2.8	...	...
Employment rate	58.8	58.7	-0.1	-1.0	...	...
Quebec						
Population	6,363.7	6,369.6	5.9	57.2	0.1	0.9
Labour force	4,198.6	4,186.9	-11.7	37.9	-0.3	0.9
Employment	3,885.4	3,885.0	-0.4	20.9	0.0	0.5
Full-time	3,166.0	3,164.6	-1.4	2.1	0.0	0.1
Part-time	719.4	720.5	1.1	18.9	0.2	2.7
Unemployment	313.2	301.9	-11.3	17.0	-3.6	6.0
Participation rate	66.0	65.7	-0.3	0.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.5	7.2	-0.3	0.3	...	...
Employment rate	61.1	61.0	-0.1	-0.2	...	...

... not applicable

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Labour force characteristics by province

	May 2008	June 2008	May to June 2008	June 2007 to June 2008	May to June 2008	June 2007 to June 2008
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Ontario						
Population	10,487.2	10,503.4	16.2	150.3	0.2	1.5
Labour force	7,167.5	7,166.2	-1.3	129.1	0.0	1.8
Employment	6,711.6	6,687.7	-23.9	111.9	-0.4	1.7
Full-time	5,464.8	5,419.3	-45.5	-6.5	-0.8	-0.1
Part-time	1,246.8	1,268.4	21.6	118.4	1.7	10.3
Unemployment	456.0	478.5	22.5	17.3	4.9	3.8
Participation rate	68.3	68.2	-0.1	0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.4	6.7	0.3	0.1	...	...
Employment rate	64.0	63.7	-0.3	0.2	...	...
Manitoba						
Population	908.2	909.4	1.2	11.0	0.1	1.2
Labour force	631.6	635.0	3.4	9.6	0.5	1.5
Employment	605.0	608.8	3.8	11.6	0.6	1.9
Full-time	494.1	490.5	-3.6	9.0	-0.7	1.9
Part-time	110.9	118.3	7.4	2.6	6.7	2.2
Unemployment	26.6	26.2	-0.4	-2.0	-1.5	-7.1
Participation rate	69.5	69.8	0.3	0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.2	4.1	-0.1	-0.4	...	...
Employment rate	66.6	66.9	0.3	0.4	...	...
Saskatchewan						
Population	765.2	766.8	1.6	16.8	0.2	2.2
Labour force	531.2	530.9	-0.3	10.0	-0.1	1.9
Employment	509.4	509.6	0.2	11.7	0.0	2.3
Full-time	416.6	417.5	0.9	12.0	0.2	3.0
Part-time	92.7	92.1	-0.6	-0.3	-0.6	-0.3
Unemployment	21.8	21.2	-0.6	-1.8	-2.8	-7.8
Participation rate	69.4	69.2	-0.2	-0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.1	4.0	-0.1	-0.4	...	...
Employment rate	66.6	66.5	-0.1	0.1	...	...
Alberta						
Population	2,788.5	2,795.1	6.6	55.0	0.2	2.0
Labour force	2,083.6	2,086.4	2.8	53.0	0.1	2.6
Employment	2,007.7	2,017.7	10.0	60.5	0.5	3.1
Full-time	1,682.8	1,682.5	-0.3	37.4	0.0	2.3
Part-time	325.0	335.3	10.3	23.1	3.2	7.4
Unemployment	75.9	68.6	-7.3	-7.6	-9.6	-10.0
Participation rate	74.7	74.6	-0.1	0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	3.6	3.3	-0.3	-0.4	...	...
Employment rate	72.0	72.2	0.2	0.8	...	...
British Columbia						
Population	3,632.4	3,639.6	7.2	72.8	0.2	2.0
Labour force	2,425.7	2,431.9	6.2	66.4	0.3	2.8
Employment	2,317.4	2,321.8	4.4	60.9	0.2	2.7
Full-time	1,850.9	1,855.5	4.6	72.5	0.2	4.1
Part-time	466.5	466.3	-0.2	-11.6	0.0	-2.4
Unemployment	108.2	110.0	1.8	5.4	1.7	5.2
Participation rate	66.8	66.8	0.0	0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.5	4.5	0.0	0.1	...	...
Employment rate	63.8	63.8	0.0	0.4	...	...

... not applicable

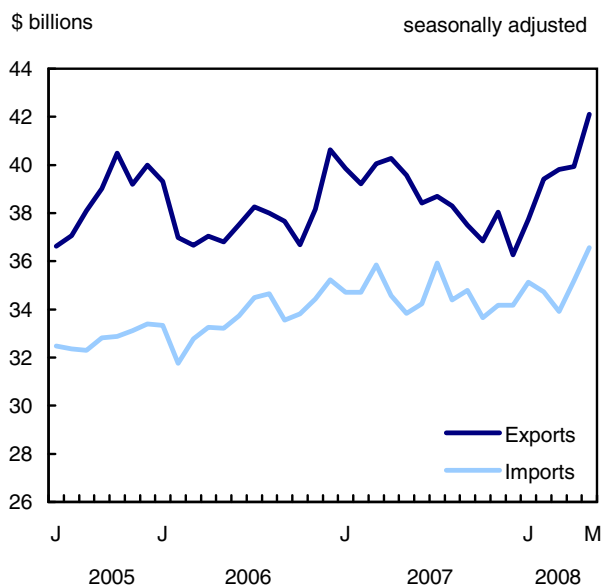
Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Canadian international merchandise trade

May 2008

Canada's trade surplus with the world expanded to \$5.5 billion in May, from \$4.8 billion in April, as exports to countries other than the United States reached their highest level ever and exports to the United States remained strong.

Exports and imports



Canadian exports rose for the fifth consecutive month, increasing 5.4% to \$42.1 billion, as both volumes and prices increased. However, since November 2007, export prices have been on the rise, while volumes have been on a downward trend.

Imports increased 3.9% to \$36.6 billion, their largest increase since July 2007. Volumes were up, while prices declined. Nevertheless, import prices have been on an upward trend for the past seven months, while movements in volume have been more volatile.

Note to readers

Merchandise trade is one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services, investment income, transfers, capital and financial flows.

International merchandise trade data by country are available on both a balance of payments and a customs basis for the United States, Japan and the United Kingdom. Trade data for all other individual countries are available on a customs basis only. Balance of payments data are derived from customs data by making adjustments for characteristics such as valuation, coverage, timing and residency. These adjustments are made to conform to the concepts and definitions of the Canadian System of National Accounts.

Constant dollars referred to in the text are calculated using the Paasche Price indices.

Revisions

In general, merchandise trade data are revised on an ongoing basis for each month of the current year. Current year revisions are reflected in both the customs and balance of payments based data. Revisions to customs based data for the previous year are released on a quarterly basis. Revisions to balance of payments based data for the three previous years are released annually in June.

Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs forms, replacement of estimates with actual figures, changes in classification of merchandise based on more current information, and changes to seasonal adjustment factors.

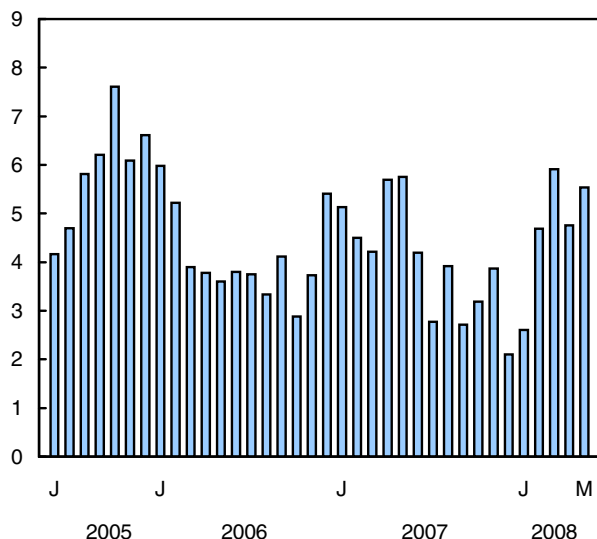
Revised data are available in the appropriate CANSIM tables.

Exports to the United States increased for the fifth month in a row, reaching \$31.3 billion, their highest level since December 2006. Imports grew by almost the same dollar value as exports, leaving the trade surplus with Canada's largest trading partner virtually unchanged at \$8.1 billion.

Exports to countries other than the United States surpassed the \$10-billion mark. Since the growth in exports was twice as large as the rise in imports, the trade deficit narrowed to \$2.5 billion from \$3.3 billion. This growth was partially attributed to increased coal exports to Japan and South Korea, where it is used to produce steel.

Trade balance

\$ billions

**Exports: Energy products rise on strength of coal**

Energy products exports rose for the seventh consecutive month, increasing 8.1% to \$11.6 billion in May. The rise was widespread, reflecting higher prices and increased shipments of coal to Asia. Crude petroleum also contributed to the rise, increasing for the second month in a row.

Exports of industrial goods and materials increased 9.0% in May to \$9.6 billion. The largest contributor to the gain was metal ores. This reflected increased exports of iron ores, which almost doubled in value due to rising volumes and prices, as well as a gain in the volume of copper ores, particularly to Asia. Greater exports of sulphur and potash to China and other Asian countries also increased exports of this sector.

Agricultural and fishing products increased 2.6% to \$3.5 billion in May, the fifth monthly gain in a row. This was largely due to higher exports of wheat, which have been on an upward trend since October 2007, as a result of rising prices and robust demand from overseas and the United States.

Exports of automotive products declined for the third month in a row, decreasing 3.5% in May. This sector has been declining since January 2007. Recently, higher gas

prices and the economic slowdown in the United States have weakened demand for automotive products from our southern neighbour.

Imports of industrial goods and materials push up imports

Imports of industrial goods and materials increased 8.7% to \$7.8 billion, on the strength of metals and metal ores, particularly precious metals and copper and alloys. Metals and metal ores imports have been trending upward since September 2007. Larger imports of uranium contributed to the increase in chemicals and plastics.

Machinery and equipment imports increased 4.6% to \$10.0 billion. This increase was partially attributed to a rise in communication and related equipment. Imports of aircraft, engines and parts also contributed to the rise as part of the on-going commercial and military fleet rejuvenation.

The largest offsetting decrease was observed in energy products, which declined 3.1%. A decline in petroleum and coal products, in particular gasoline, was the main contributor, more than offsetting increased imports of crude petroleum.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001 to 228-0003, 228-0033, 228-0034, 228-0041 to 228-0043 and 228-0047 to 228-0055.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The May 2008 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 62, no. 5 (65-001-XIB, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. The publication includes tables by commodity and country on a customs basis. Current account data (which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, service transactions, investment income and transfers) are available quarterly in *Canada's Balance of International Payments* (67-001-XWE, free).

For more information on products and services, contact Nadine Lacroix (toll-free 1-800-294-5583; 613-951-5047). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Anne Couillard (613-951-6867), International Trade Division.

□

Merchandise trade

	April 2008 ^r	May 2008	April to May 2008	May to May 2008
Seasonally adjusted, \$ current				
	\$ millions		% change	
Principal trading partners				
Exports				
United States	30,539	31,285	2.4	4.0
Japan	932	1,109	19.0	22.0
European Union ¹	3,016	3,343	10.8	-2.3
Other OECD countries ²	1,522	2,001	31.5	2.4
All other countries	3,929	4,368	11.2	35.9
Total	39,938	42,106	5.4	6.4
Imports				
United States	22,479	23,229	3.3	4.2
Japan	980	912	-6.9	-0.5
European Union ¹	4,020	4,045	0.6	15.0
Other OECD countries ²	1,994	2,098	5.2	12.6
All other countries	5,707	6,285	10.1	19.9
Total	35,180	36,569	3.9	8.1
Balance				
United States	8,060	8,056	...	...
Japan	-48	197	...	...
European Union ¹	-1,004	-702	...	...
Other OECD countries ²	-472	-97	...	...
All other countries	-1,778	-1,917	...	...
Total	4,758	5,537	...	...
Principal commodity groupings				
Exports				
Agricultural and fishing products	3,378	3,465	2.6	23.2
Energy products	10,767	11,635	8.1	47.7
Forestry products	2,090	2,163	3.5	-14.1
Industrial goods and materials	8,770	9,555	9.0	5.5
Machinery and equipment	7,397	7,700	4.1	-5.1
Automotive products	5,092	4,914	-3.5	-23.1
Other consumer goods	1,390	1,468	5.6	-9.4
Special transactions trade ³	588	670	13.9	-2.9
Other balance of payments adjustments	466	535	14.8	8.3
Imports				
Agricultural and fishing products	2,203	2,278	3.4	8.2
Energy products	4,578	4,434	-3.1	47.6
Forestry products	234	240	2.6	-4.4
Industrial goods and materials	7,156	7,776	8.7	12.2
Machinery and equipment	9,587	10,027	4.6	5.0
Automotive products	5,866	5,860	-0.1	-9.3
Other consumer goods	4,446	4,579	3.0	2.8
Special transactions trade ³	472	688	45.8	69.5
Other balance of payments adjustments	637	687	7.8	3.6

^r revised

... figures not appropriate or not applicable

1. Includes Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom.

2. Other countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation (OECD) include Australia, Canada, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Switzerland and Turkey.

3. These are mainly low valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.

New Housing Price Index

May 2008

New housing prices increased at their slowest pace in almost six years in May, continuing a deceleration that started in September 2006, due mainly to the softening market in Alberta and British Columbia.

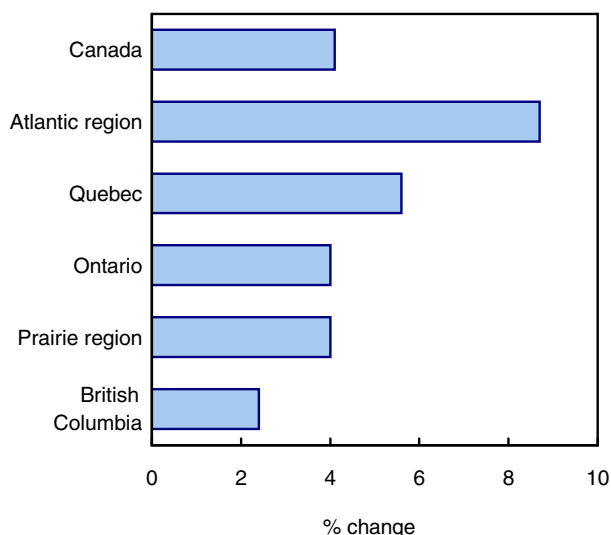
Nationally, contractors' selling prices rose 4.1% between May 2007 and May 2008, a slower pace than the year-over-year increase of 5.2% in April. This was the slowest rate of growth since July 2002 when year-over-year prices increased by 4.0%.

On a monthly basis, prices were unchanged between April and May.

Homebuyers in Saskatchewan continued to experience the largest increases. In Regina, the year-over-year price increase was 30.4%, down from the record high of 34.0% in April. Builders reported that higher labour and material costs have pushed prices higher over the past year.

Increases in Saskatoon slowed to a 13-month low of 30.2% in May. This was the third consecutive slowdown for Saskatoon after a record increase of 58.3% in February this year.

Percentage change from the same month of the previous year



In Winnipeg, contractors' prices were 16.1% higher than in May 2007, a result of higher material costs and a continuing healthy market. On a yearly basis, Winnipeg was the only city west of Ontario where the increase in new house prices picked up speed in May.

Further west, new housing prices in both Edmonton and Calgary declined between April and May. However, on a year-over-year basis, prices in Edmonton were still up 3.3% over May 2007. In Calgary, the 12-month change was only 0.6%, far slower than its record gain of 60.6% in August 2006.

The picture was similar in British Columbia. On a monthly basis, prices in Vancouver and Victoria declined between April and May. But on a year-over-year basis, builders in Vancouver increased prices by 2.7% from May 2007, while prices in Victoria were unchanged.

In the East, year-over-year increases in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, continued to reach record levels. As a result of higher labour and land costs, prices were 18.8% higher than in May 2007, up from 16.3% in April.

In Montréal, contractors' prices were 5.7% higher than in May 2007, a three-year high. This was a result of increased material costs and a strong housing market.

Windsor continued to be the only city showing year-over-year price declines. Prices fell 0.2% in Windsor, which has now experienced deflation in its new housing market for 22 of the last 26 months.

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.

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

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

New housing price indexes (1997=100)

	May 2008	May 2007 to May 2008 % change	April to May 2008
Canada total	158.4	4.1	0.0
House only	167.9	3.6	-0.1
Land only	139.6	5.4	0.1
St. John's	159.7	18.8	3.6
Halifax	148.8	6.7	0.4
Charlottetown	119.4	1.4	0.0
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton	115.8	2.0	0.0
Québec	154.5	5.1	0.3
Montréal	162.0	5.7	1.8
Ottawa-Gatineau	167.2	3.5	0.5
Toronto and Oshawa	145.7	4.1	-0.1
Hamilton	153.2	3.0	0.2
St. Catharines-Niagara	157.2	5.1	0.1
Kitchener	142.2	2.6	0.0
London	142.2	4.0	0.4
Windsor	103.6	-0.2	-0.2
Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay	112.9	6.3	1.9
Winnipeg	177.7	16.1	1.8
Regina	241.3	30.4	1.3
Saskatoon	242.9	30.2	0.5
Calgary	248.7	0.6	-0.9
Edmonton	236.9	3.3	-1.9
Vancouver	124.3	2.7	-0.3
Victoria	118.3	0.0	-0.6

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

Export and import price indexes May 2008

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (2002=100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 2002 to May 2008 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted US price indexes (2002=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 2002 to May 2008. Included with the US commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and US-only Standard International Trade Classification section indexes.

Indexes on a customs basis for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups are also available upon request.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001 to 228-0003, 228-0033, 228-0034, 228-0041 to 228-0043 and 228-0047 to 228-0055.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The May 2008 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 62, no. 5 (65-001-XIB, free), 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 the Marketing and Client Services Section (toll-free 1-800-294-5583), International Trade Division.

Chain Fisher real export and import values

May 2008

The monthly chain Fisher real dollar values (reference year 2002) for Canadian international merchandise trade are now available.

This series is not offered in CANSIM.

To order data, contact the Marketing and Client Services Section (toll-free 1-800-294-5583). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bernard Lupien (613-951-6872), International Trade Division. ■

Cement

May 2008

Data on cement are now available for May.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2140.

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

New products

Aircraft Movement Statistics: Airports without Air Traffic Control Towers (TP 141), December 2007, Vol. 2, no. 12
Catalogue number 51-008-XWE
(free).

Canadian International Merchandise Trade, May 2008, Vol. 62, no. 5
Catalogue number 65-001-XIB
(free).

Labour Force Information, June 15 to 21, 2008
Catalogue number 71-001-XWE
(free).

Postal Code Conversion File (PCCF), Reference Guide, March 2008
Catalogue number 92-153-GWE
(free).

Postal Code Conversion File (PCCF): Update, March 2008
Catalogue number 92-153-UCB (\$1,670).

Postal Code Conversion File: Update, Newfoundland and Labrador, March 2008
Catalogue number 92-210-UCB (\$110).

Postal Code Conversion File: Update, Prince Edward Island, March 2008
Catalogue number 92-211-UCB (\$110).

Postal Code Conversion File: Update, Nova Scotia, March 2008
Catalogue number 92-212-UCB (\$110).

Postal Code Conversion File: Update, New Brunswick, March 2008
Catalogue number 92-213-UCB (\$110).

Postal Code Conversion File: Update, Quebec, March 2008
Catalogue number 92-214-UCB (\$445).

Postal Code Conversion File: Update, Ontario, March 2008
Catalogue number 92-215-UCB (\$665).

Postal Code Conversion File: Update, Manitoba, March 2008
Catalogue number 92-216-UCB (\$110).

Postal Code Conversion File: Update, Saskatchewan, March 2008
Catalogue number 92-217-UCB (\$110).

Postal Code Conversion File: Update, Alberta, March 2008
Catalogue number 92-218-UCB (\$220).

Postal Code Conversion File: Update, British Columbia, March 2008
Catalogue number 92-219-UCB (\$305).

Postal Code Conversion File: Update, Yukon Territory, March 2008
Catalogue number 92-220-UCB (\$110).

Postal Code Conversion File: Update, Northwest Territories, March 2008
Catalogue number 92-221-UCB (\$110).

Postal Code Conversion File: Update, Nunavut, March 2008
Catalogue number 92-222-UCB (\$110).

Postal Codes by Federal Ridings (2003 Representation Order) File (PCFRF): Update, Atlantic Provinces, March 2008
Catalogue number 92-223-UCB (\$200).

Postal Codes by Federal Ridings (2003 Representation Order) File (PCFRF): Update, Quebec, March 2008
Catalogue number 92-224-UCB (\$200).

Postal Codes by Federal Ridings (2003 Representation Order) File (PCFRF): Update, Ontario, March 2008
Catalogue number 92-225-UCB (\$200).

Postal Codes by Federal Ridings (2003 Representation Order) File (PCFRF): Update, Prairie Provinces (Including Northwest Territories and Nunavut), March 2008
Catalogue number 92-226-UCB (\$200).

**Postal Codes by Federal Ridings
(2003 Representation Order) File (PCFRF):
Update, British Columbia and Yukon Territory,
March 2008
Catalogue number 92-227-UCB (\$200).**

**Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File
(PCFRF) 2003 Representation Order, Reference
Guide, March 2008
Catalogue number 92F0193GWE
(free).**

**Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File
(PCFRF) 2003 Representation Order, 2006 Census -
Update, March 2008
Catalogue number 92F0193UCB (\$500).**

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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications and library Services Division, Statistics Canada,
10G, R.H. Coats Building, 100 Tunney's Pasture Driveway, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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The Daily, July 11, 2008

Release dates: July 14 to 18, 2008

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
14	Investment in non-residential building construction	Second quarter 2008
15	Canadian Social Trends	2006
15	New motor vehicle sales	May 2008
16	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	May 2008
16	Health Reports	2007
17	Crime Statistics in Canada	2007
17	Canada's international transactions in securities	May 2008
17	Travel between Canada and other countries	May 2008
18	Wholesale trade	May 2008
18	Canadian immigrant labour market	2006
18	Leading indicators	June 2008