

# The Daily

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## Statistics Canada

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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#### **Consumer Price Index, February 2009**

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Consumer prices on average rose 1.4% in the 12 months to February 2009, slightly faster than the 1.1% increase observed in January. On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, consumer prices rose 0.4% from January to February.

#### **Canada's international transactions in securities, January 2009**

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Cross-border investment activity resulted in acquisitions of \$10.4 billion of Canadian securities by non-residents in January, following two months of divestment. Meanwhile, Canadian investors acquired foreign securities for the first time in five months.

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## Releases

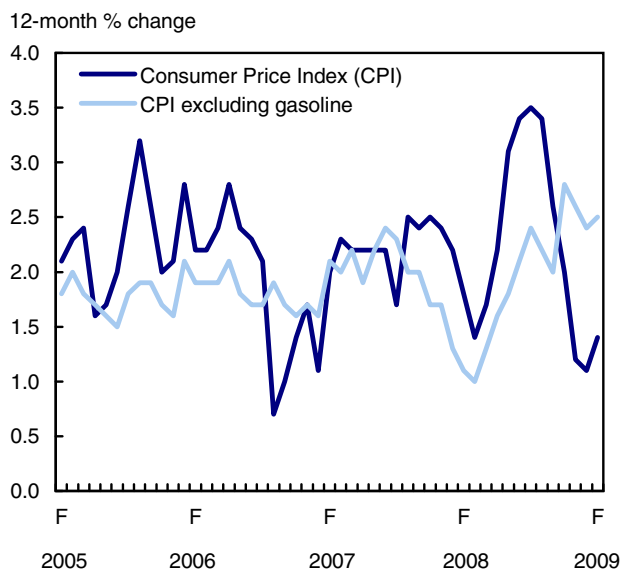
### Consumer Price Index

February 2009

Consumer prices on average rose 1.4% in the 12 months to February 2009, slightly faster than the 1.1% increase observed in January.

The upward pressure on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) came primarily from two sources: higher food and shelter costs.

#### The Consumer Price Index and the CPI excluding gasoline both advance, year over year



Food prices, the largest factor, increased 7.4% during the 12-month period to February, on the heels of a 7.3% increase in January. Shelter costs, the second largest, increased 3.0%, slightly slower than the 3.3% rise in January.

These gains offset lower transportation costs, which continued to exert strong downward pressure on consumer prices in February. Transportation costs were down as a result of lower prices for gasoline and for purchasing and leasing passenger vehicles.

Gasoline prices in February 2009 were 19.7% below levels in February last year. Excluding gasoline, the CPI rose 2.5% in the 12 months to February. Overall, energy prices fell 8.8% during the 12-month period to February, less than the 10.9% fall in January.

#### Seasonally adjusted monthly change: First increase in five months

On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, consumer prices rose 0.4% from January to February, halting four monthly declines. A 1.3% rise in the transportation index in February, after falling 1.4% in January, largely accounted for the turnaround in February. Higher food prices also contributed to February's rise.

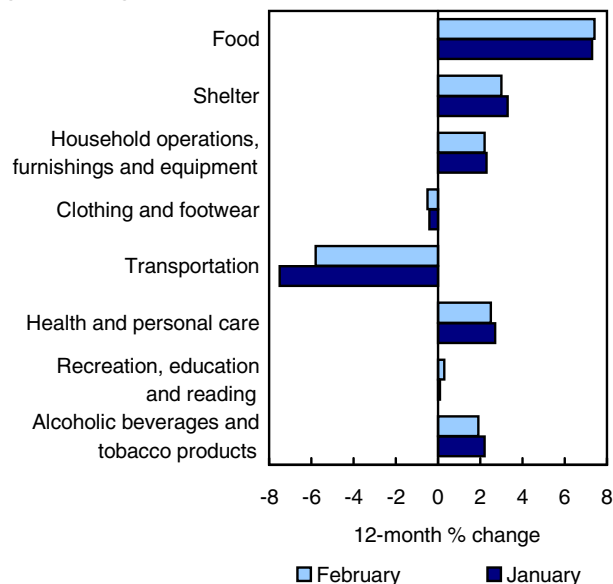
Excluding food and energy, seasonally adjusted consumer prices rose 0.3% from January to February, following a monthly decline of 0.2% in January.

#### 12-month change: Drop in transportation costs partly offsets higher food prices

Higher food prices and shelter costs offset a 5.8% decline in the transportation index in February.

The cost of food continued to be pushed up primarily by prices for food purchased from stores, which rose 8.9%. The main contributors were a 25.8% hike in the price of fresh vegetables, a 9.7% rise in the prices of bakery and cereal products, and a 6.1% increase in meat prices.

#### Contraction in transportation price index slows, year over year



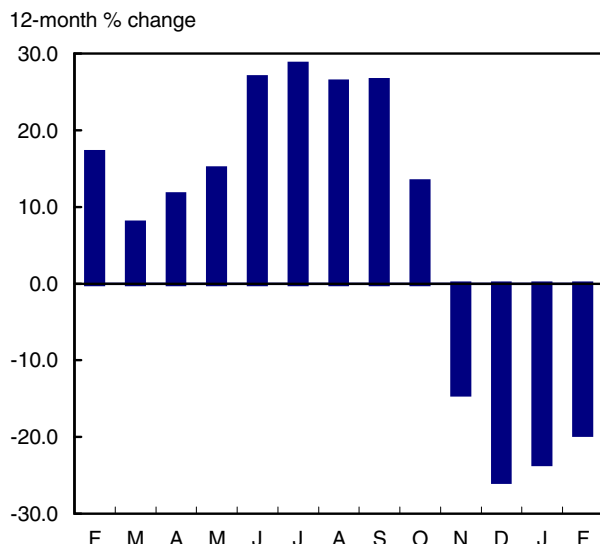
February's increase in costs for shelter was due primarily to higher mortgage interest costs and prices for household utilities. Mortgage interest costs, which are a function of housing prices and interest rates, and which take account of the fact that most homeowners do not change houses or re-contract their mortgages very frequently, were up 5.0% in the 12 months to February. This increase was largely the result of higher housing prices.

The cost of household utilities rose 4.9% as a result of increasing prices for water (+9.4%), natural gas (+14.4%) and electricity (+4.5%). These gains were tempered by declines in prices for fuel oil and other fuels, especially in Atlantic Canada.

The transportation price index fell, largely as a result of falling gasoline and motor vehicle prices.

February's 12-month decline of 19.7% in gasoline prices was slower than the 12-month decline of 23.5% in January. This slowdown occurred largely because pump prices rose 5.6% on a monthly basis from January to February 2009.

#### Drop in prices for gasoline continues to slow year over year



The cost of purchasing and leasing passenger vehicles fell 6.4% in February, compared with an 8.2% year-over-year drop in January. The slowdown occurred as a result of slight increases in manufacturers' suggested retail prices and minor clawbacks in incentives offered by manufacturers and dealers.

The declines in prices for gasoline and for purchasing and leasing passenger vehicles were partly offset by increases in prices for passenger vehicle insurance and air transportation.

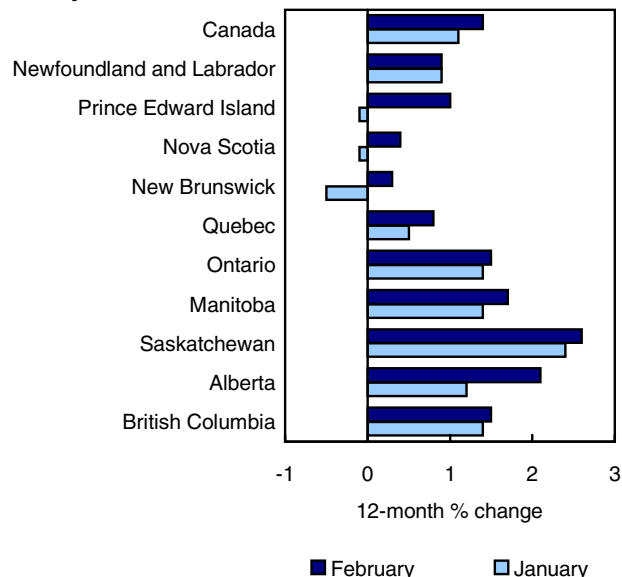
Prices for clothing and footwear fell 0.5% in the 12 months to February, after falling 0.4% in January. A 1.7% decrease in clothing prices largely accounted for February's drop.

Jewellery prices rose 9.9% in the 12 months to February, primarily as a result of rising prices for gold.

#### Provinces: Fastest increases in consumer prices on the Prairies

Growth in consumer prices rose faster in most provinces in February, due largely to smaller price drops for gasoline. Consumers in the three Prairie provinces faced the fastest increases in consumer prices in the 12 months to February.

#### Prairie provinces post largest increases in the year-over-year Consumer Price Index



Consumers in Saskatchewan paid 2.6% more on average in February, while those in Alberta and Manitoba paid 2.1% and 1.7% more, respectively.

In all three cases, the primary contributor was higher mortgage interest costs. In Alberta and Manitoba, another factor was a rise in the cost of purchasing passenger vehicle insurance. In Saskatchewan, a major factor was a 22.4% rise in natural gas prices.

The 12-month change in consumer prices was slowest in New Brunswick (+0.3%) and Nova Scotia (+0.4%) in February. This was the result of more moderate price increases for shelter and larger price declines for gasoline, fuel oil and other fuels and to purchase and lease passenger vehicles than in most other provinces.

### 12-month change in the Bank of Canada's core index holds steady

The Bank of Canada's core index advanced 1.9% over the 12 months to February, identical to the increase posted in January.

The seasonally adjusted monthly core index rose 0.4% from January to February, after falling 0.3% from December to January. The upturn was due primarily to a rise in prices to purchase and lease passenger vehicles from January to February, which fell from December to January.

For a more detailed analysis, consult the publication *The Consumer Price Index*.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 326-0009, 326-0012, 326-0015 and 326-0020 to 326-0022.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2301.**

More information about the concepts and use of the CPI are also available online in *Your Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (62-557-XIB, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

The February 2009 issue of *The Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 88, no. 2 (62-001-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. A paper copy is also available (62-001-XPE, \$12/\$111). A more detailed analysis of the CPI is available in this publication. See *How to order products*.

The Consumer Price Index for March will be released on April 17.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Dissemination Unit (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax 613-951-2848; [prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca)), Prices Division.

### Consumer Price Index and major components, Canada<sup>1</sup> (2002=100)

	Relative importance <sup>2</sup>	February 2008	February 2009	January 2008 to January 2009	February 2008 to February 2009
Unadjusted					
				% change	
<b>All-items</b>	<b>100.00<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>112.2</b>	<b>113.8</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Food	17.04	112.8	121.2	7.3	7.4
Shelter	26.62	119.6	123.2	3.3	3.0
Household operations and furnishings	11.10	104.1	106.4	2.3	2.2
Clothing and footwear	5.36	94.1	93.6	-0.4	-0.5
Transportation	19.88	117.0	110.2	-7.5	-5.8
Health and personal care	4.73	107.7	110.4	2.7	2.5
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	100.8	101.1	0.1	0.3
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	126.8	129.2	2.2	1.9
All-items (1992=100)		133.6	135.4	1.1	1.3
<b>Special aggregates</b>					
Goods	48.78	107.4	107.3	-1.0	-0.1
Services	51.22	116.9	120.2	3.0	2.8
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	109.4	110.8	1.2	1.3
Energy	9.38	139.4	127.2	-10.9	-8.8
Core CPI <sup>4</sup>	82.71	110.7	112.8	1.9	1.9

1. The month-to-month percentage changes are available from the monthly publication *The Consumer Price Index*.

2. 2005 CPI basket weights at April 2007 prices, Canada: Effective May 2007. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 ([www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm)).

3. Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

4. The measure of Core Consumer Price Index (CPI) excludes from the All-items CPI the effect of changes in indirect taxes and eight of the most volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada: fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuel; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies. For additional information on Core CPI, please consult the Bank of Canada website ([www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm](http://www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm)).

## Consumer Price Index by province, and for Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit (2002=100)

	Relative importance <sup>1</sup>	February 2008	February 2009	January 2008 to January 2009	February 2008 to February 2009
Unadjusted					
				% change	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>100.00<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>112.2</b>	<b>113.8</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.27	112.4	113.4	0.9	0.9
Prince Edward Island	0.35	114.6	115.7	-0.1	1.0
Nova Scotia	2.56	113.9	114.3	-0.1	0.4
New Brunswick	1.97	111.7	112.0	-0.5	0.3
Quebec	21.05	111.4	112.3	0.5	0.8
Ontario	41.22	111.4	113.1	1.4	1.5
Manitoba	3.06	111.2	113.1	1.4	1.7
Saskatchewan	2.64	113.6	116.5	2.4	2.6
Alberta	11.43	119.0	121.5	1.2	2.1
British Columbia	14.29	110.3	111.9	1.4	1.5
Whitehorse	0.06	110.1	113.7	2.4	3.3
Yellowknife	0.08	112.3	114.5	2.7	2.0
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.02	108.4	111.8	3.3	3.1

1. 2005 CPI basket weights at April 2007 prices, Canada: Effective May 2007. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 ([www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm)).

2. Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

## Consumer Price Index and major components (2002=100)

	Relative importance <sup>1</sup>	December 2008	January 2009	February 2009	December 2008 to January 2009	January to February 2009
Seasonally adjusted						
					% change	
<b>All-items</b>	<b>100.00<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>114.0</b>	<b>113.9</b>	<b>114.4</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Food	17.04	119.8	120.2	120.8	0.3	0.5
Shelter	26.62	123.4	123.1	123.2	-0.2	0.1
Household operations and furnishings	11.10	105.6	105.9	106.1	0.3	0.2
Clothing and footwear	5.36	92.9	93.8	93.9	1.0	0.1
Transportation	19.88	110.3	108.8	110.2	-1.4	1.3
Health and personal care	4.73	110.1	110.7	110.6	0.5	-0.1
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	102.0	101.7	102.3	-0.3	0.6
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	128.7	129.2	129.2	0.4	0.0
<b>Special aggregates</b>						
All-items excluding food	82.96	112.0	111.5	112.3	-0.4	0.7
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	111.0	110.8	111.1	-0.2	0.3
All-items excluding eight of the most volatile components	82.71	111.5	111.3	111.6	-0.2	0.3
Core CPI <sup>3</sup>	82.71	112.9	112.6	113.0	-0.3	0.4

1. 2005 CPI basket weights at April 2007 prices, Canada: Effective May 2007. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 ([www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm)).

2. Figures may not add to 100% due up to rounding.

3. The measure of Core Consumer Price Index (CPI) excludes from the all-items CPI the effect of changes in indirect taxes and eight of the most volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada: fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuel; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies. For additional information on Core CPI, please consult the Bank of Canada website ([www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm](http://www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm)).

## Canada's international transactions in securities

January 2009

Cross-border investment activity resulted in acquisitions of \$10.4 billion of Canadian securities by non-residents in January. This more than compensated for the divestment in the previous two months. This activity took place against a backdrop of heightened government borrowing, which extended into January.

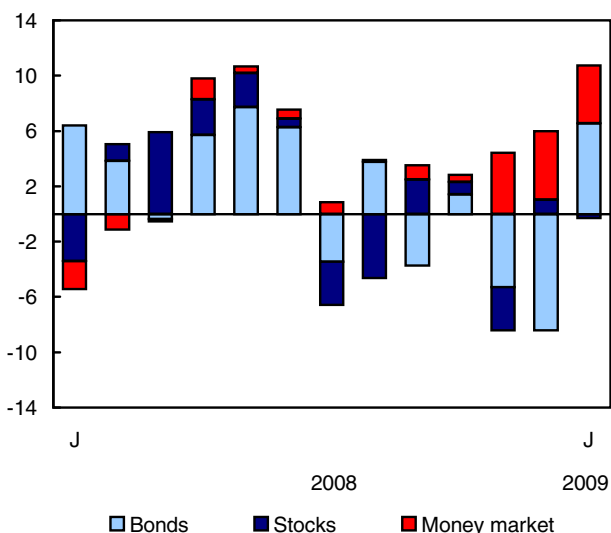
For their part, Canadian investors acquired foreign securities for the first time in five months, adding \$4.2 billion to their portfolios. Investment was comprised of foreign short-term debt instruments and US equities, as US share prices dropped to a six-year low.

### Non-residents favour Canadian federal government debt instruments

Non-residents picked up \$10.7 billion of Canadian debt instruments in January, the largest investment since November 2006. While significant acquisitions of short-term debt instruments continued, non-residents increased investment flows to Canadian bonds.

#### Foreign portfolio investment in Canadian securities

\$ billions



Non-residents continued their heavy acquisitions of Canadian money market instruments, buying \$4.2 billion in January. Foreign holdings of Canadian paper have increased by over 50% in three months. Foreign

#### Note to readers

All values in this release are net transactions unless otherwise stated.

The data series on international security transactions cover portfolio transactions in stocks, bonds and money market instruments for both Canadian and foreign issues.

**Stocks** include common and preferred equities, as well as warrants.

**Debt securities** include bonds and money market instruments.

**Bonds** have an original term to maturity of more than one year.

**Money market instruments** have an original term to maturity of one year or less. **Government of Canada paper** includes treasury bills and US-dollar Canada bills.

investors also replenished their holdings of Canadian bonds by adding \$6.5 billion worth.

Debt securities of the federal government attracted the bulk of foreign investment, reflecting government demand for funds since the fourth quarter of 2008. Non-residents acquired \$4.4 billion of federal paper and \$3.9 billion of federal bonds in January.

The remainder of the foreign investment in Canadian bonds was directed to debt instruments of provinces and private corporations, particularly issues denominated in US currency.

### Foreign investors sell Canadian stocks

Non-residents sold \$313 million of Canadian equities in January as prices fell 3.3%. Nevertheless, this was the mildest decline of equity prices among the major international stock markets. Divestment was focused on financial and non-precious metal mining sectors and may have reflected concerns over the performance of financial institutions and the dampened demand for resources. Non-residents did invest in shares of the Canadian gold mining sector.

### Canadian investors add liquidity to their portfolios of foreign debt instruments

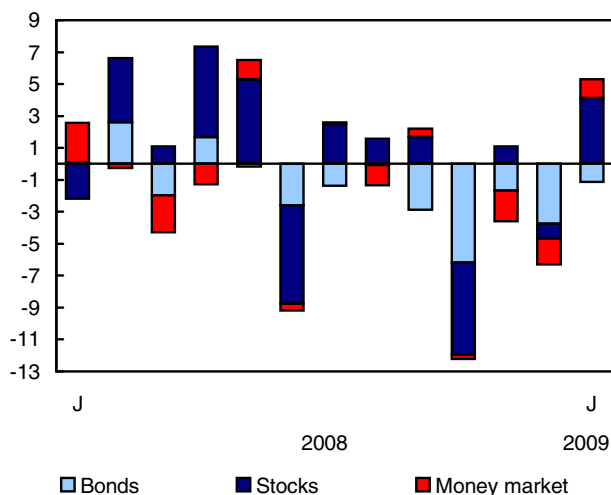
Canadian investors continued to reduce their holdings of foreign bonds in January in favour of more liquid foreign investments.

Transactions in US government securities resulted in an acquisition of \$1.2 billion of US Treasury bills and a sale of an equal amount of US Treasury bonds. This reflected the ample supply of US Treasury bills in January. The sharp appreciation of the US dollar, which may have deterred investment in US securities over the last few months, levelled off in January.

Canadian investors also acquired \$671 million of US corporate bonds, the largest amount since the outset of credit concerns in 2007. However, resident investors continued to shed non-US foreign bonds for a fourth month, fuelled by sell-offs of maple bonds (Canadian dollar denominated foreign bonds).

### Canadian portfolio investment in foreign securities<sup>1</sup>

\$ billions



1. Reverse of balance of payments signs.

### Canadian investors return to US equity market

Canadians purchased \$4.1 billion of foreign stocks in January, the largest acquisition since May 2008. Nearly 80% of January's acquisition was in US stocks and was well-diversified across a number of industries. In January, US equity prices dropped to a more than six-year low, falling nearly 50% peak-to-trough since October 2007.

Available on CANSIM: tables 376-0018 to 376-0029, 376-0042, 376-0058 and 376-0063.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1535.

The January 2009 issue of *Canada's International Transactions in Securities* (67-002-XWE, free) will soon be available.

Data on Canada's international transactions in securities for February will be released on April 20.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-1855; [infobalance@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:infobalance@statcan.gc.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Éric Boulay (613-951-1872), Balance of Payments Division.

### Canada's international transactions in securities

	October 2008	November 2008	December 2008	January 2009	2007	2008
	Cumulative transactions					
	\$ millions					
<b>Foreign investment in Canadian securities</b>	<b>2,813</b>	<b>-4,016</b>	<b>-2,421</b>	<b>10,428</b>	<b>-31,591</b>	<b>27,818</b>
Bonds (net)	1,406	-5,284	-8,398	6,524	11,540	13,940
Outstanding	3,310	-2,119	-819	2,378	9,732	20,082
New issues	2,276	1,257	4,069	6,541	45,722	49,102
Retirements	-4,659	-4,347	-10,411	-3,129	-44,174	-55,465
Change in interest payable <sup>1</sup>	479	-74	-1,237	734	261	221
Money market paper (net)	513	4,440	4,944	4,218	-1,137	11,132
Government of Canada	-458	4,120	2,821	4,377	-2,382	8,254
Other	971	320	2,123	-159	1,245	2,877
Stocks (net)	894	-3,173	1,032	-313	-41,994	2,746
Outstanding	-224	-3,065	688	-406	2,288	-2,385
Other transactions	1,119	-107	345	93	-44,283	5,131
<b>Canadian investment in foreign securities</b>	<b>12,261</b>	<b>2,542</b>	<b>6,342</b>	<b>-4,183</b>	<b>-48,422</b>	<b>13,740</b>
Bonds (net)	6,172	1,672	3,754	1,121	-28,903	16,354
Stocks (net)	5,789	-1,094	924	-4,100	-30,941	-7,826
Money market paper (net)	299	1,964	1,664	-1,204	11,422	5,212

1. Interest accrued less interest paid.

**Note:** A minus sign indicates an outflow of money from Canada, that is, a withdrawal of foreign investment from Canada or an increase in Canadian investment abroad.

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## Travel between Canada and other countries January 2009

Overall, travel both to and from Canada declined in January compared with December.

Canadian residents took 3.8 million trips abroad in January, down 2.4% from December. Of these trips, 690,000 were made to overseas countries, a 6.6% decline. It was the first decrease in Canadian travel overseas since August 2008.

At the same time, the number of Canadian trips to the United States decreased 1.4%. Canadians took 1.7 million same-day car trips to the United States, down 0.8%, while the overall number of overnight trips fell 1.9% to 1.4 million. Overnight car travel to the United States was up, but overnight plane travel declined.

In terms of inbound travel, residents from the United States and overseas countries took 2.2 million trips to Canada, down 2.5% from December. A 3.3% decline in travel from the United States offset a 1.7% increase in travel from overseas nations.

United States residents took just over 1 million overnight trips to Canada in January. Overnight travel from the United States was down in all transportation modes — by car, by plane and by other modes. In addition, United States residents took 707,000 same-day car trips to Canada in January, down 0.3% from December.

Travel to Canada from 7 of its top 12 overseas markets increased in January. China posted the largest gain (+20.4%), while Japan showed the largest decline (-14.5%).

**Note:** Seasonally adjusted data have been revised back to January 2004. Revisions have been made to some non-seasonally adjusted series for each month of the second quarter and third quarter of 2008.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 427-0001 to 427-0006.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5005.**

The January 2009 issue of *International Travel, Advance Information*, Vol. 25, no. 1 (66-001-PWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-9169; fax: 613-951-2909; [tourism@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:tourism@statcan.gc.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Frances Kremarik (613-951-4240; [frances.kremarik@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:frances.kremarik@statcan.gc.ca)), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. □



## Travel between Canada and other countries

	January 2008 <sup>r</sup>	July 2008 <sup>r</sup>	December 2008 <sup>r</sup>	January 2009 <sup>p</sup>	December 2008 to January 2009
Seasonally adjusted					
	thousands				% change <sup>1</sup>
<b>Canadian trips abroad<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>4,479</b>	<b>4,323</b>	<b>3,909</b>	<b>3,815</b>	<b>-2.4</b>
To the United States	3,824	3,639	3,170	3,125	-1.4
To other countries	655	684	738	690	-6.6
Same-day car trips to the United States	2,139	2,039	1,668	1,655	-0.8
Total trips, one or more nights	2,287	2,229	2,196	2,120	-3.5
United States <sup>3</sup>	1,631	1,545	1,457	1,430	-1.9
Car	988	915	841	845	0.6
Plane	536	531	517	496	-4.0
Other modes of transportation	107	99	100	88	-11.6
Other countries <sup>4</sup>	655	684	738	690	-6.6
<b>Travel to Canada<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2,371</b>	<b>2,239</b>	<b>2,250</b>	<b>2,195</b>	<b>-2.5</b>
From the United States	1,971	1,838	1,867	1,806	-3.3
From other countries	400	401	383	389	1.7
Same-day car trips from the United States	799	761	709	707	-0.3
Total trips, one or more nights	1,474	1,386	1,445	1,385	-4.1
United States <sup>3</sup>	1,084	995	1,072	1,006	-6.1
Car	644	581	646	605	-6.3
Plane	304	288	308	285	-7.7
Other modes of transportation	136	125	118	117	-0.5
Other countries <sup>4</sup>	390	391	374	379	1.4
<b>Travel to Canada: Top overseas markets, by country of origin<sup>5</sup></b>					
United Kingdom	76	73	69	69	-0.5
France	34	38	33	33	-1.6
Germany	26	27	28	30	6.2
Mexico	24	22	21	23	10.5
Japan	26	25	23	20	-14.5
Australia	21	21	20	20	-1.5
China	14	15	14	17	20.4
South Korea	18	17	13	14	5.6
India	9	10	10	11	7.7
Netherlands	10	11	9	10	1.3
Hong Kong	12	11	11	9	-11.3
Italy	8	9	8	9	3.8

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

<sup>r</sup> revised

1. Percentage change is based on unrounded data.

2. Totals exceed the sum of "same-day car trips" and "total trips, one or more nights" because they include all of the same-day trips.

3. Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.

4. Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.

5. Includes same-day and overnight trips.



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## Construction Union Wage Rate Index

February 2009

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in February compared with the January level of 145.8 (1992=100). The composite index increased 1.7% compared with February 2008.

**Note:** Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes on a 1992=100 time base are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0003 and 327-0004.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2307.**

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

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-2848; [prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca)) or Louise Chainé (613-951-3393), Prices Division. ■

## Monthly Survey of Large Retailers

January 2009

Data for the Monthly Survey of Large Retailers are now available for January.

**Available on CANSIM: table 080-0009.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5027.**

A data table is also available under the *Summary tables* module of our website.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; [retailinfo@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:retailinfo@statcan.gc.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ruth Barnes (613-951-6190), Distributive Trades Division. ■

## New products

**Canadian Economic Observer**, March 2009, Vol. 22, no. 3  
**Catalogue number 11-010-XWE**  
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