

# The Daily

## Statistics Canada

**Friday, April 17, 2009**

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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#### **Consumer Price Index, March 2009**

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Consumer prices rose 1.2% in the 12 months to March 2009, down from the 1.4% increase in February. On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, consumer prices fell 0.3% from February to March.

#### **Investment in non-residential building construction, first quarter 2009**

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Investment in non-residential building construction reached \$10.8 billion (in current dollars) in the first quarter of 2009, down 1.8% from the fourth quarter of 2008. This marks the first decline since the fourth quarter of 2004.

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## Releases

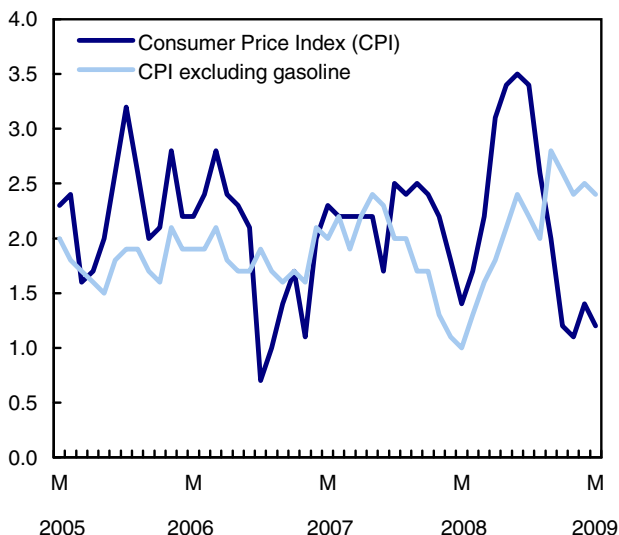
### Consumer Price Index

March 2009

Consumer prices rose 1.2% in the 12 months to March 2009, down from the 1.4% increase in February.

#### Growth in the CPI and the CPI excluding gasoline slows, year over year

12-month % change



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

Food prices, the largest factor, rose 7.9% during the 12-month period to March, on the heels of a 7.4% rise in February. March's increase was the largest since November 1986.

Shelter costs, the second largest factor, advanced at a 12-month rate of growth of 2.1% in March, after increasing 3.0% in February. While still a major contributor to consumer price growth, the 12-month change in the shelter price index has slowed since reaching a peak of 5.4% in July 2008.

Mitigating the overall increase in the CPI was a 6.2% decline in transportation costs. Year-over-year price drops for gasoline and for purchasing and leasing passenger vehicles were the primary downward contributors. Increasing prices for passenger vehicle insurance mitigated the overall 12-month drop in transportation costs.

Excluding gasoline, the CPI rose 2.4% in the 12 months to March. Overall, energy prices fell 11.2% during the same period, a larger drop than February's decline of 8.8%.

#### Seasonally adjusted monthly CPI falls

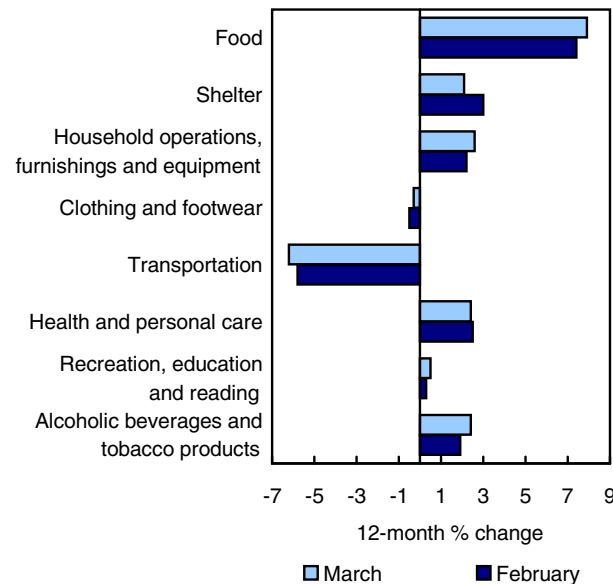
On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, the CPI fell 0.3% from February to March, after increasing 0.4% from January to February. March's fall was due primarily to a 0.5% drop in the shelter price index. Tempering the fall was a 0.4% increase in prices for food and a 0.3% rise in transportation costs.

Excluding food and energy, the seasonally adjusted monthly CPI posted no growth from February to March, following a monthly rise of 0.3% from January to February.

#### 12-month change: Food prices continue to push up consumer prices

The cost of food continued to be pushed up primarily by prices for food purchased from stores, which rose 9.5%. Excluding food, the CPI fell 0.2% in the 12 months to March.

#### Consumer prices pushed up primarily by rising food costs, year over year



Food price increases were widespread in March 2009 compared with March 2008, with large price increases observed for fresh vegetables (+26.5%), fresh fruit (+19.3%), non-alcoholic beverages (+10.2%) and cereal products (+11.0%).

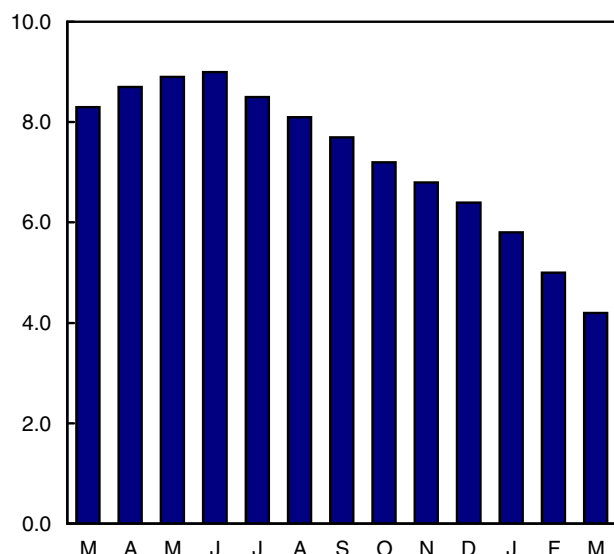
A 12-month price increase of 54.9% for potatoes pushed up vegetable prices. This occurred largely as a result of poor harvests in Canada that led to a reduction in supply.

Price increases were also observed for meat (+7.6%) and bakery products (+7.4%). Meat prices rose mainly because of higher beef and chicken prices.

March's increase in shelter costs was due primarily to higher mortgage interest costs, natural gas prices and property taxes. The Mortgage Interest Cost Index, which measures the change in the interest portion of payments on outstanding mortgage debt was up 4.2% in March 2009 compared with March last year. This index has been slowing since reaching a peak of 9.0% in June 2008, reflecting the downward trend in mortgage interest rates and housing prices.

#### Mortgage interest cost growth slows, year over year

12-month percentage change



Mitigating the overall rise in costs for shelter were declines in prices for fuel oil and other fuels and homeowner's replacement costs. Prices for fuel oil and other fuels posted a fourth consecutive 12-month decline, falling 32.9%.

The 6.2% fall in the transportation price index was due primarily to falling prices for gasoline and the purchase and leasing of passenger vehicles.

Gasoline prices were down 21.0% in March 2009 compared with March 2008, following a 19.7% decline in February. The 12-month decline in March was due more to high prices in 2008 than to recent developments. On a month-to-month basis, gasoline prices rose 2.0% from February to March.

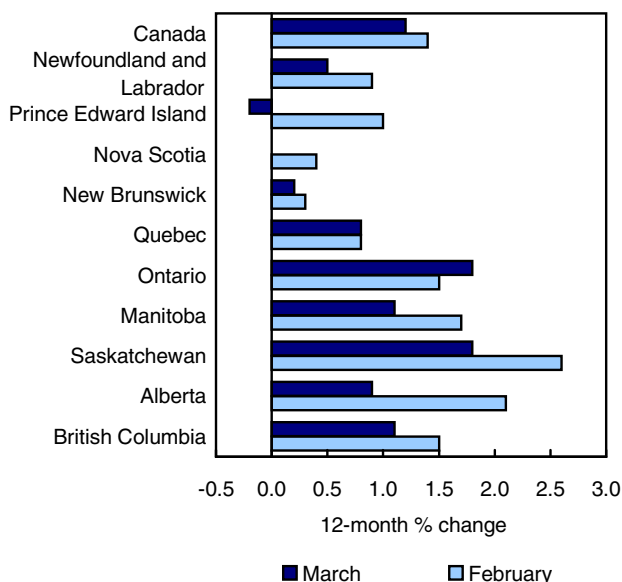
The cost of purchasing and leasing passenger vehicles fell 7.4% in March, following a 6.4% year-over-year drop in February. The decline in March was a result of higher rebates offered on new vehicles.

Tempering the overall decline on transportation costs was a 6.4% increase in passenger vehicle insurance premiums.

#### Provinces: 12-month change in consumer prices slows in most provinces

Compared with February, growth in consumer prices slowed in all provinces except Ontario and Quebec in the 12 months to March. In Ontario, consumer prices rose 1.8%, larger than the 1.5% increase recorded in February.

#### Consumer prices slow in all provinces except Ontario and Quebec, year over year



The larger increase in Ontario was due primarily to a rise in passenger vehicle insurance premiums.

In Quebec, the growth in consumer prices held steady, advancing 0.8%.

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With the exception of Ontario, the only other province to outpace the national average was Saskatchewan, where prices rose 1.8%. However, this was slower than the 2.6% rise posted in February. Larger price declines for gasoline and a fall in homeowner's replacement costs were the primary reasons for the slowdown.

The 12-month rise in consumer prices in Alberta also slowed substantially, from 2.1% in February to 0.9% in March. The slowdown was due primarily to a 19.3% decline in natural gas prices, after increasing 4.5% in February.

Consumer prices fell 0.2% in Prince Edward Island in March 2009 compared with the same month last year.

Of the eight major components, rising food prices were the main upward contributor in all provinces, while a decline in transportation costs was the primary downward contributor.

#### **12-month change in the Bank of Canada's core index increases slightly**

The Bank of Canada's core index advanced 2.0% over the 12 months to March, up slightly from the 1.9% rise posted in February.

The seasonally adjusted monthly core index posted no growth from February to March, after increasing 0.4% from January to February.

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-X1B, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

The March 2009 issue of the *Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 88, no. 3 (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 April will be released on May 20.

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.

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

	Relative importance <sup>2</sup>	March 2008	March 2009	February 2008 to February 2009	March 2008 to March 2009
Unadjusted					
				% change	
<b>All-items</b>	<b>100.00<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>112.6</b>	<b>114.0</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Food	17.04	112.6	121.5	7.4	7.9
Shelter	26.62	120.1	122.6	3.0	2.1
Household operations and furnishings	11.10	104.1	106.8	2.2	2.6
Clothing and footwear	5.36	96.0	95.7	-0.5	-0.3
Transportation	19.88	117.8	110.5	-5.8	-6.2
Health and personal care	4.73	107.9	110.5	2.5	2.4
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	101.3	101.8	0.3	0.5
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	126.6	129.7	1.9	2.4
All-items (1992=100)		134.1	135.7	1.3	1.2
<b>Special aggregates</b>					
Goods	48.78	108.1	107.6	-0.1	-0.5
Services	51.22	117.1	120.4	2.8	2.8
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	109.6	111.1	1.3	1.4
Energy	9.38	143.2	127.1	-8.8	-11.2
Core CPI <sup>4</sup>	82.71	110.9	113.1	1.9	2.0

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 at ([www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm)).
3. Figures may not add 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>	March 2008	March 2009	February 2008 to February 2009	March 2008 to March 2009
Unadjusted					
				% change	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>100.00<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>112.6</b>	<b>114.0</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.27	112.9	113.5	0.9	0.5
Prince Edward Island	0.35	115.8	115.6	1.0	-0.2
Nova Scotia	2.56	114.5	114.5	0.4	0.0
New Brunswick	1.97	112.1	112.3	0.3	0.2
Québec	21.05	111.7	112.6	0.8	0.8
Ontario	41.22	111.7	113.7	1.5	1.8
Manitoba	3.06	111.8	113.0	1.7	1.1
Saskatchewan	2.64	114.5	116.6	2.6	1.8
Alberta	11.43	119.8	120.9	2.1	0.9
British Columbia	14.29	110.8	112.0	1.5	1.1
Whitehorse	0.06	111.0	113.6	3.3	2.3
Yellowknife	0.08	113.3	114.3	2.0	0.9
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.02	108.2	112.4	3.1	3.9

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 to rounding.

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

	Relative importance <sup>1</sup>	January 2009	February 2009	March 2009	January to February 2009	February to March 2009
Seasonally adjusted						
					% change	
<b>All-items</b>	<b>100.00<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>113.9</b>	<b>114.3</b>	<b>114.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Food	17.04	120.2	120.8	121.3	0.5	0.4
Shelter	26.62	123.1	123.2	122.6	0.1	-0.5
Household operations and furnishings	11.10	105.9	106.1	106.5	0.2	0.4
Clothing and footwear	5.36	93.8	93.9	93.9	0.1	0.0
Transportation	19.88	108.8	110.2	110.5	1.3	0.3
Health and personal care	4.73	110.7	110.6	110.7	-0.1	0.1
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	101.7	102.3	102.5	0.6	0.2
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	129.2	129.2	129.7	0.0	0.4
<b>Special aggregates</b>						
All-items excluding food	82.96	111.5	112.3	112.4	0.7	0.1
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	110.8	111.1	111.1	0.3	0.0
All-items excluding eight of the most volatile components	82.71	111.3	111.6	111.7	0.3	0.1
Core CPI <sup>3</sup>	82.71	112.6	113.0	113.0	0.4	0.0

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)).
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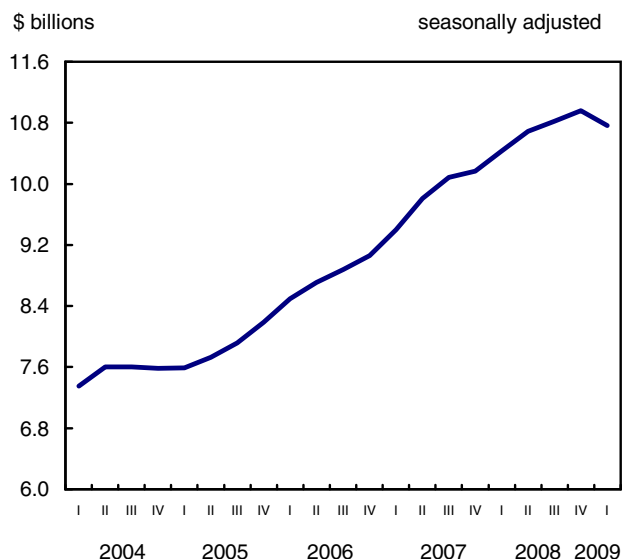


## Investment in non-residential building construction

First quarter 2009

Investment in non-residential building construction reached \$10.8 billion (in current dollars) in the first quarter of 2009, down 1.8% from the fourth quarter of 2008. This marks the first decline since the fourth quarter of 2004.

### Investment declines in non-residential building construction



Investment in the commercial and industrial components fell. Investors injected \$6.6 billion in commercial projects, down 3.0% from the fourth quarter of 2008. For the industrial component, investment fell 4.7% to \$1.2 billion.

In contrast, spending in the institutional component continued to rise, up 2.5% to \$3.0 billion.

Overall, five provinces and two territories posted declines in the first quarter. Ontario, Quebec and Alberta reported the sharpest drops, mainly the result of lower spending on commercial construction.

#### Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

Investments in non-residential building construction exclude engineering construction. This series is based on the Building Permits Survey of municipalities, which collects information on construction intentions.

Work put-in-place patterns are assigned to each type of structure (industrial, commercial and institutional). These work patterns are used to distribute the value of building permits according to project length. Work put-in-place patterns differ according to the value of the construction project; a project worth several million dollars will usually take longer to complete than will a project of a few hundred thousand dollars.

Additional data from the Capital and Repair Expenditures Surveys are used to create this investment series. Investment in non-residential building data are benchmarked to Statistics Canada's System of National Accounts of non-residential building investment series.

For the purpose of the Investment in non-residential building construction release, the census metropolitan area of Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario/Quebec) is divided into two areas: Ottawa part and Gatineau part.

Saskatchewan posted the strongest increase as a result of higher spending in all components.

Investment fell in 17 of the 34 census metropolitan areas. The largest drops were in Calgary, Montréal and Toronto, mainly because of the decline in commercial construction projects.

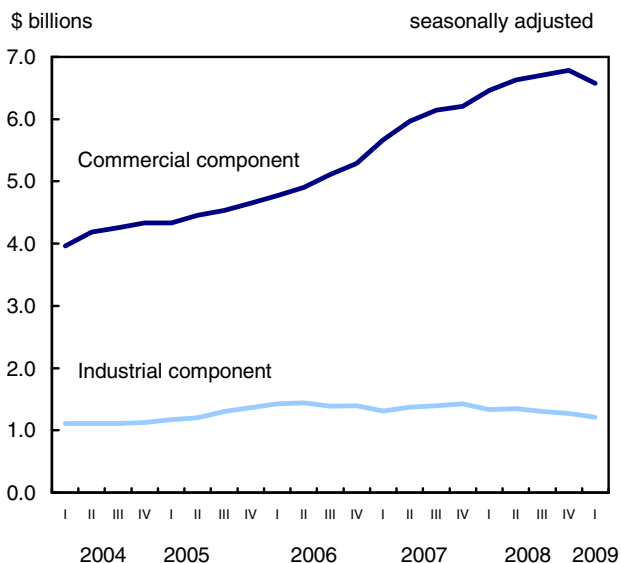
However, Edmonton posted \$643 million in investments, a 4.3% increase as a result of advances in the institutional and commercial components.

#### Decrease in the commercial component

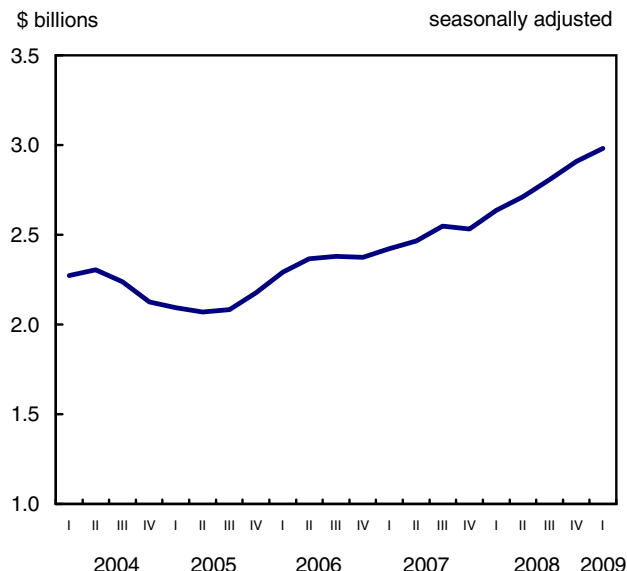
Investment in the construction of commercial buildings (-3.0%) fell for the first time since the first quarter of 2005. The drop was a result of spending on the construction of office buildings and commercial centres in Alberta, Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia.

All of the other provinces posted increases in the commercial component.

### Commercial and industrial components decline



### Institutional component increases



### Decline in the industrial component

Investment in the construction of industrial buildings fell because of the drop in investments in the construction of primary industry buildings in every province, and in the construction of maintenance buildings in seven provinces.

At the provincial level, Ontario posted the sharpest decline (in dollars), with decreased investment in every category of industrial building.

In contrast, Saskatchewan and Alberta posted increases in industrial construction, including manufacturing plants and utilities buildings.

### Growth in the institutional component

The construction of health care buildings drove the institutional component upwards for a fifth straight quarter.

Higher investments were posted in seven provinces in the first quarter. Ontario and Alberta posted the most significant dollar increases due to the construction of health care buildings.

In contrast, Quebec posted the sharpest decline (in dollars), which was attributed to the construction of teaching facilities.

**Available on CANSIM: table 026-0016.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5014.**

More detailed data on investment in non-residential building construction are also available in free tables online from the Summary tables module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, Bechir Oueriemmi (613-951-1165; [bdp\\_information@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:bdp_information@statcan.gc.ca)), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

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# Investment in non-residential building construction, by census metropolitan area<sup>1</sup>

	First quarter 2008	Fourth quarter 2008	First quarter 2009	Fourth quarter 2008 to first quarter 2009
Seasonally adjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,889</b>	<b>8,328</b>	<b>8,225</b>	<b>-1.2</b>
St. John's	32	54	55	2.2
Halifax	72	96	98	2.0
Moncton	48	50	46	-7.1
Saint John	29	33	37	13.3
Saguenay	39	37	32	-13.9
Québec	241	274	265	-3.4
Sherbrooke	38	53	51	-2.2
Trois-Rivières	51	54	50	-7.7
Montréal	894	919	868	-5.6
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	373	344	356	3.7
Gatineau part	56	62	78	26.1
Ottawa part	317	282	279	-1.2
Kingston	59	90	79	-12.5
Peterborough	15	27	28	1.8
Oshawa	90	110	106	-3.2
Toronto	1,921	1,967	1,921	-2.4
Hamilton	168	231	232	0.5
St. Catharines-Niagara	70	59	53	-10.1
Kitchener	141	185	189	2.1
Brantford	24	22	23	2.8
Guelph	49	35	33	-5.7
London	151	176	168	-4.4
Windsor	76	60	51	-14.2
Barrie	60	85	102	20.6
Greater Sudbury	71	59	62	4.6
Thunder Bay	21	37	42	14.9
Winnipeg	128	148	153	4.0
Regina	79	61	72	19.0
Saskatoon	114	163	188	15.1
Calgary	1,277	1,244	1,191	-4.3
Edmonton	473	617	643	4.3
Kelowna	80	74	74	0.1
Abbotsford	53	57	46	-19.3
Vancouver	858	815	807	-1.0
Victoria	95	93	102	9.2

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

**Note:** Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.

## Investment in non-residential building construction

	First quarter 2008	Fourth quarter 2008	First quarter 2009	Fourth quarter 2008 to first quarter 2009
Seasonally adjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>10,432</b>	<b>10,961</b>	<b>10,766</b>	<b>-1.8</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	57	92	90	-1.7
Prince Edward Island	21	28	32	14.4
Nova Scotia	151	169	174	3.0
New Brunswick	152	153	159	3.9
Quebec	1,719	1,879	1,797	-4.4
Ontario	3,887	4,037	3,943	-2.3
Manitoba	199	217	218	0.4
Saskatchewan	262	319	353	10.6
Alberta	2,522	2,669	2,630	-1.5
British Columbia	1,427	1,367	1,340	-1.9
Yukon	12	8	5	-36.8
Northwest Territories	19	14	17	20.0
Nunavut	3	9	8	-10.5



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## Steel pipe and tubing

February 2009

Data on the production and shipment of steel pipe and tubing are now available for February.

**Available on CANSIM: table 303-0046.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2105.**

The February 2009 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-XWE, free) will soon be available.

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

## Automotive equipment rental and leasing

2007

Data on the automotive equipment rental and leasing industry are now available for 2007.

**Available on CANSIM: table 352-0008.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2442.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Adib Farhat (613-951-6306; fax: 613-951-6696; [adib.farhat@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:adib.farhat@statcan.gc.ca)), Service Industries Division. ■

## Consumer goods rental industry

2007

Data on the consumer goods rental industry are now available for 2007.

**Available on CANSIM: table 352-0010.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2434.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Adib Farhat (613-951-6306; fax: 613-951-6696; [adib.farhat@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:adib.farhat@statcan.gc.ca)), Service Industries Division. ■

## Toronto Uniform Crime Reporting data by census tract

2006

A data file containing select Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey 2006 data for the Toronto Police Service, aggregated to the census tract level, is now available upon request. These data include totals for select *Criminal Code* incidents, offences against the person, and offences against property.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3302.**

For more information, contact Information and Client Services (toll-free 1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. ■

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## New products

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**Canadian Economic Observer**, April 2009, Vol. 22,  
no. 4  
**Catalogue number 11-010-XWE**  
(free).

**Shipping in Canada**, 2006  
**Catalogue number 54-205-XWE**  
(free).

**The Consumer Price Index**, March 2009, Vol. 88, no. 3  
**Catalogue number 62-001-XPE** (\$12/\$111).

**The Consumer Price Index**, March 2009, Vol. 88, no. 3  
**Catalogue number 62-001-XWE**  
(free).

**Qualitative Testing of Aboriginal Identification Questions**, 2006  
**Catalogue number 89-639-XWE**  
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**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 11-001-XIE (English) 11-001-XIE-0001-0001-0001

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 29, 2008  
Released at 9:30 a.m. Eastern time

## Releases

Canada's balance of international payments, first quarter 2008	2
<small>The current account surplus with the rest of the world (on a seasonally adjusted basis) increased sharply to \$5.5 billion in the first quarter of 2008, led by higher prices for several imported commodities combined with a lower import bill. In the financial account, foreign direct investment flows into Canada showed a significant increase from the negative value of the previous quarter, while Canadian direct investment abroad continued to strengthen.</small>	
Payroll employment, earnings and hours, March 2008	7
Study: The year to come for adolescents' health, 2007	9
Public sector employment, first quarter 2008	10
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Placement of tertiary, college and tertiary profiles, April 2008	12
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**2008 Census profiles**

With the release of the census and earnings release components, the complete cumulative profile is now available for census divisions, census subdivisions, dissemination areas, forward sortation areas, designated places, urban areas, and census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with census subdivisions.

To obtain these profiles in electronic format (links vary for different geography levels), contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre.

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**Release dates: April 20 to April 24, 2009**

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(Release dates are subject to change.)

<b>Release date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference period</b>
20	<b>Canada's international transactions in securities</b>	February 2009
20	<b>Control and sale of alcoholic beverages</b>	2008
20	<b>Travel between Canada and other countries</b>	February 2009
21	<b>Wholesale trade</b>	February 2009
21	<b>Crime Severity Index</b>	1998 to 2007
22	<b>National Graduates Survey</b>	2007
22	<b>Leading indicators</b>	March 2009
23	<b>Retail trade</b>	February 2009
24	<b>Principal field crop areas: March intentions</b>	March 2009