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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

Releases

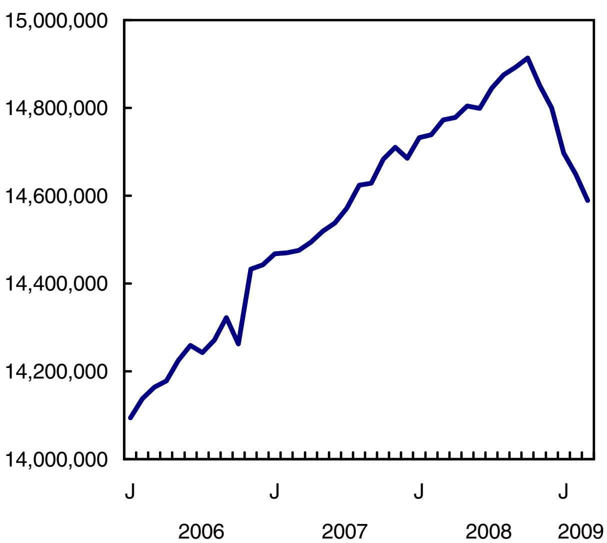
Payroll employment, earnings and hours

March 2009 (preliminary)

Total non-farm payroll employment fell by 60,700 in March, down 0.4% from the previous month, as job losses across industries remained widespread.

Total payroll employment

number of jobs



These data come from the recently redesigned Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours (SEPH). SEPH is a business survey that provides a detailed portrait of employees from an industry perspective, complementing information on total employment from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), which is a survey from a household perspective.

In March, the largest decline was in administrative and support services, which fell by 19,500 or 2.6%, driven primarily by declines in employment services and business support services. Since October 2008, payroll employment in administrative and support services has fallen by 6.3%.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise specified, data in this release refer to payroll employment and earnings data obtained from the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours (SEPH). Each month, Statistics Canada now provides enhanced analysis of the current labour market situation, using SEPH and other sources.

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) will provide the first picture of overall labour market conditions, with unemployment and total employment and who is affected by changes in the labour market.

Later in the month, Statistics Canada will provide additional detail by industry through the SEPH Daily *release, and regional detail through the Employment Insurance statistics. With the release of January 2009 SEPH data on March 31, 2009, an improved estimation method for earnings and hours data was introduced and estimates back to 2001 were revised to ensure continuity in data series.*

Manufacturing continued to feel the effects of the economic downturn with a decline of 18,700 in March, driven by losses in fabricated metal; wood product; primary metal; and motor vehicle parts manufacturing. While manufacturing accounts for 10% of payroll employment, 37% of overall job losses since October 2008 have come from this industry.

In March, declines in payroll employment also occurred in traveller accommodation and full-service restaurants. The retail trade sector experienced job losses as well, including clothing stores, sporting goods, hobby and musical instrument stores, and grocery stores.

Despite widespread declines, some industries experienced job growth in March. Those with the largest gains included educational services, driven by an increase in universities, and health care and social assistance, with the biggest gain in nursing care facilities.

In March this year, payroll employment declined for three consecutive months in 103 out of 305 of the industry groups covered in the survey (or 34%). In contrast, in March 2008, payroll employment fell for three consecutive months in 44 industry groups, or 14%.

In March 2009, average weekly earnings, including overtime, of payroll employees was $824.98, up 2.4% from March 2008.

Recent trends in construction

Since peaking in October, total payroll employment has fallen by 325,000 or 2.2%. During that time, two industries experienced large declines in the size of their payroll employment — manufacturing and construction. The February 2009 release of the SEPH focused on payroll employment and wages within manufacturing. In this release, the emphasis is on recent trends in construction.

While payroll employment in manufacturing has been steadily declining since it last peaked earlier this decade, the number of construction employees only began to fall after October 2008.

Payroll employment in construction declined 7,600 in March. Since October 2008, the number of construction employees has declined 6.9%, down 58,100. This brought the number of employees in this industry to 789,600 in March, its lowest level since July 2007.

Almost all parts of the construction industry have shown declines since October 2008. The largest losses were in general residential construction (-12,100 or -9.5%); foundation, structure and building exterior contractors (-10,900 or -10.0%); building equipment contractors (-10,300 or -4.6%); and other specialty trade contractors (-8,000 or -9.4%).

Other industries were also affected by weakness in construction; for example, the number of employees in architectural and engineering services has decreased by 9,500 (-5.1%) since October 2008. Also down over this period were lumber, millwork, hardware and other building supplies wholesaler-distributors (-4,500 or -7.6%); household and institutional furniture and kitchen cabinet manufacturing (-3,500 or -7.2%); home furnishings stores (-3,400 or -11.2%); offices of real estate agents and brokers (-3,100 or -12.2%); and building materials and supplies dealers (-2,900 or -2.3%).

Along with payroll employment, average weekly earnings in the construction sector have declined, with overall payroll earnings down 0.9% since October 2008. Average weekly earnings in foundation, structure and building exterior contractors, as well as general residential construction have fallen the most rapidly, at 9.2% and 7.1% respectively.

Payroll employment declines across most provinces

While seasonally adjusted detailed industry payroll employment data are available at the national level, they are not available for the provinces and territories. For trends in payroll employment in various detailed sectors among the provinces and territories, analysis is done on a year-over-year basis.

British Columbia and Ontario had the biggest payroll job losses between March 2008 and March 2009.

Payroll employment in British Columbia contracted 2.4% or 46,000 in March compared with 12 months earlier. Declines were widespread, with notable job losses in sawmills and wood preservation; electronic and precision equipment repairs; logging and general residential construction.

In Ontario, the number of jobs fell by 113,700 from a year earlier, a decline of 2.0%, with the biggest losses in employment services (-24,200); motor vehicle parts manufacturing (-17,500); other local, municipal and regional public administration (-16,900) and business support services (-10,500).

Saskatchewan's payroll employment grew by 6,300 between March 2008 and March 2009. The biggest gains were in wired telecommunication carriers; other local, municipal and regional public administration as well as warehousing and storage.

The number of employees in Newfoundland and Labrador was 5,700 higher in March 2009 compared with a year earlier. This increase was largely driven by gains in elementary and secondary schools; other provincial and territorial public administration; support activities for mining, oil and gas extraction; and general medical and surgical hospitals.

Average weekly earnings

In March 2009, average weekly earnings, including overtime, of payroll employees in Canada was $824.98, up 2.4% from March 2008.

Compared with a year ago, average weekly earnings in March 2009 in Canada's largest industrial sectors grew by 3.6% in retail trade, 2.4% in health care and social assistance, 2.4% in accommodation and food services and 2.2% in public administration. Average weekly earnings in educational services were unchanged from March 2008.

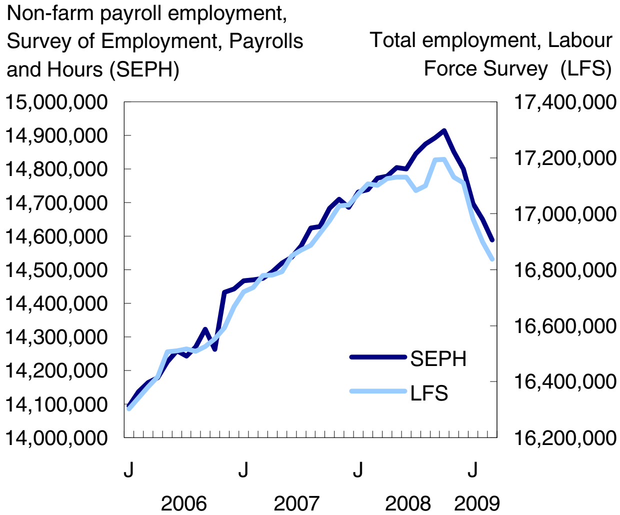
Average weekly earnings continued to fall in manufacturing, down 2.8% from a year ago.

Among the provinces, the biggest increase in average weekly earnings was in Newfoundland and Labrador, up 6.4% from March 2008. Alberta and Prince Edward Island followed with growth of 5.6% each over the same period.

Comparing SEPH and LFS

Data on employment, wages and hours worked are produced by two major Statistics Canada monthly surveys: LFS and SEPH. Survey data differ for conceptual and methodological reasons. The information source is the key distinction between the two surveys: SEPH provides information related to occupied jobs based on a census of administrative data from businesses, whereas LFS provides information on the employment characteristics of individuals based on a survey of households. While the data from the survey do differ, the trends in the data are quite similar.

Non-farm payroll employment of the Survey of Employment Payrolls and Hours and total employment of the Labour Force Survey



Since each of these surveys addresses different needs, the choice of data depends on the users' goals. Other conceptual and methodological differences between the two surveys include: degree of coverage of industries and the self employed, treatment of multiple-job holders, and the survey reference period. The effects of these differences vary by industry.

Available on CANSIM: tables 281-0023 to 281-0039 and 281-0041 to 281-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2612.

Detailed industry data, data by size of enterprise based on employment, and other labour market indicators will be available soon in the monthly publication *Employment, Earnings and Hours* (72-002-X, free).

Data on payroll employment, earnings and hours for April will be released on June 25.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; *labour@statcan.gc.ca*). To enquire about revisions, concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Danielle Zietsma (613-951-4243) or Jason Gilmore (613-951-7118), Labour Statistics Division.

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Number of employees

Industry group (North American Industry Classification System)	December 2008	March 2008	February 2009r	March 2009p	February to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009	December 2008 to March 2009
	Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands				% change		
Industrial aggregate	**14,800.4**	**14,772.8**	**14,649.6**	**14,588.9**	**-0.4**	**-1.2**	**-1.4**
Forestry, logging and support	44.7	49.3	40.4	38.5	-4.7	-21.9	-13.9
Mining and quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	203.5	200.0	195.4	191.0	-2.3	-4.5	-6.1
Utilities	122.7	117.5	121.3	119.6	-1.4	1.8	-2.5
Construction	817.7	819.4	797.2	789.6	-1.0	-3.6	-3.4
Manufacturing	1,599.6	1,704.6	1,544.0	1,525.3	-1.2	-10.5	-4.6
Wholesale trade	753.7	760.1	743.2	741.6	-0.2	-2.4	-1.6
Retail trade	1,884.0	1,890.2	1,878.2	1,869.7	-0.5	-1.1	-0.8
Transportation and warehousing	696.7	672.3	694.0	691.5	-0.4	2.9	-0.7
Information and cultural industries	326.3	328.2	325.5	322.9	-0.8	-1.6	-1.0
Finance and Insurance	666.4	646.2	663.7	662.9	-0.1	2.6	-0.5
Real estate and rental and leasing	246.8	251.5	243.7	243.5	-0.1	-3.2	-1.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	766.6	742.0	753.7	749.1	-0.6	1.0	-2.3
Management of companies and enterprises	121.3	119.9	118.6	120.9	1.9	0.8	-0.3
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	754.2	778.7	739.9	720.4	-2.6	-7.5	-4.5
Educational services	1,147.5	1,128.6	1,150.4	1,154.2	0.3	2.3	0.6
Health care and social assistance	1,567.2	1,511.3	1,569.5	1,573.9	0.3	4.1	0.4
Arts, entertainment and recreation	242.1	241.6	244.6	242.9	-0.7	0.5	0.3
Accommodation and food services	1,095.3	1,071.2	1,090.0	1,081.1	-0.8	0.9	-1.3
Other services (excluding public administration)	510.5	510.9	508.1	502.9	-1.0	-1.6	-1.5
Public administration	1,024.4	1,013.7	1,030.9	1,030.8	0.0	1.7	0.6
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	192.4	188.9	192.9	194.6	0.9	3.0	1.1
Prince Edward Island	61.5	61.2	61.2	61.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.7
Nova Scotia	393.0	397.1	392.6	392.1	-0.1	-1.3	-0.2
New Brunswick	311.0	312.4	310.3	308.7	-0.5	-1.2	-0.7
Quebec	3,393.1	3,356.1	3,363.1	3,348.1	-0.4	-0.2	-1.3
Ontario	5,671.0	5,707.7	5,608.7	5,594.0	-0.3	-2.0	-1.4
Manitoba	562.8	561.1	558.9	555.9	-0.5	-0.9	-1.2
Saskatchewan	439.9	433.4	439.5	439.7	0.0	1.5	0.0
Alberta	1,789.8	1,761.3	1,761.6	1,738.3	-1.3	-1.3	-2.9
British Columbia	1,935.0	1,940.5	1,904.9	1,894.5	-0.5	-2.4	-2.1
Yukon	19.5	19.5	19.2	19.3	0.5	-1.0	-1.0
Northwest Territories[1]	26.8	25.0	27.0	27.1	0.4	8.4	1.1
Nunavut[1]	10.1	10.6	9.8	9.8	0.0	-7.5	-3.0

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
1. *Data not seasonally adjusted.*

Average weekly earnings (including overtime) for all employees

Industry group (North American Industry Classification System)	March 2008	February 2009[r]	March 2009[p]	February to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009
	Seasonally adjusted				
	$			% change	
Industrial aggregate	**805.64**	**820.89**	**824.98**	**0.5**	**2.4**
Forestry, logging and support	948.61	787.34	828.43	5.2	-12.7
Mining and quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	1,484.45	1,620.54	1,661.74	2.5	11.9
Utilities	1,412.56	1,489.69	1,487.92	-0.1	5.3
Construction	982.85	1,056.43	1,048.30	-0.8	6.7
Manufacturing	959.48	915.62	932.84	1.9	-2.8
Wholesale trade	959.99	998.64	1,011.61	1.3	5.4
Retail trade	468.36	487.12	485.44	-0.3	3.6
Transportation and warehousing	881.90	900.42	900.99	0.1	2.2
Information and cultural industries	986.06	1,081.98	1,114.84	3.0	13.1
Finance and insurance	997.92	1,050.35	1,057.50	0.7	6.0
Real estate and rental and leasing	787.50	761.26	752.19	-1.2	-4.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,089.17	1,139.40	1,135.66	-0.3	4.3
Management of companies and enterprises	1,168.32	1,126.09	1,185.64	5.3	1.5
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	651.13	666.27	675.65	1.4	3.8
Educational services	859.86	861.18	859.69	-0.2	0.0
Health care and social assistance	741.06	751.75	759.10	1.0	2.4
Arts, entertainment and recreation	519.25	496.51	490.40	-1.2	-5.6
Accommodation and food services	325.37	332.61	333.15	0.2	2.4
Other services (excluding public administration)	675.10	677.98	686.51	1.3	1.7
Public administration	1,042.14	1,056.92	1,064.64	0.7	2.2
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland and Labrador	758.82	782.24	807.59	3.2	6.4
Prince Edward Island	657.57	689.23	694.51	0.8	5.6
Nova Scotia	704.91	729.89	735.96	0.8	4.4
New Brunswick	720.01	739.79	743.76	0.5	3.3
Quebec	751.05	753.10	756.83	0.5	0.8
Ontario	833.50	846.63	851.89	0.6	2.2
Manitoba	743.92	767.24	773.47	0.8	4.0
Saskatchewan	779.43	798.49	801.99	0.4	2.9
Alberta	919.75	965.26	971.07	0.6	5.6
British Columbia	792.23	789.60	802.27	1.6	1.3
Yukon	867.29	892.93	901.15	0.9	3.9
Northwest Territories[1]	1,067.14	1,135.51	1,171.90	3.2	9.8
Nunavut[1]	931.95	864.02	854.51	-1.1	-8.3

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
1. *Data not seasonally adjusted.*

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International travel account

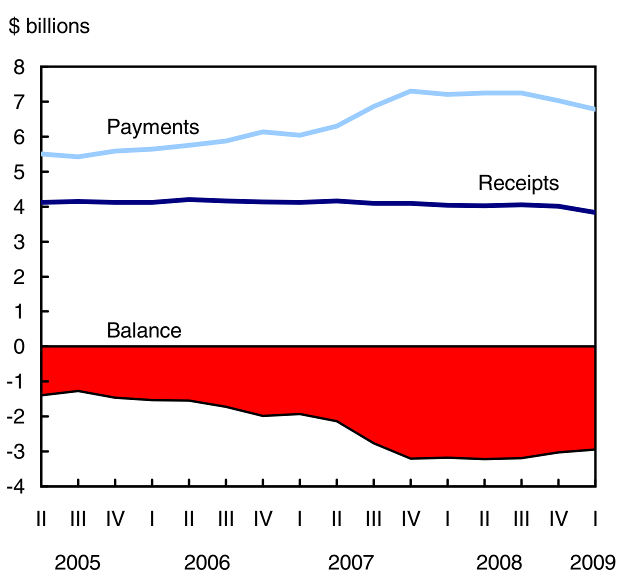
First quarter 2009 (preliminary)

Canada's international travel deficit narrowed to just over $2.9 billion in the first quarter of 2009, its lowest level since the third quarter of 2007.

The deficit shrank by $76 million from the fourth quarter of 2008, the result of a 3.5% decrease in spending by Canadian travellers outside the country, which amounted to $6.8 billion. This decline was due to lower spending by Canadians in the United States.

At the same time, spending by foreign travellers in Canada fell 4.3% from the fourth quarter of 2008 to $3.8 billion. This was the lowest level in more than five years.

Travel deficit lowest since third quarter of 2007



Travel spending by Americans hits 11-year low

United States travellers spent $1.8 billion in Canada in the first quarter of 2009, down 7.0% from the fourth quarter of 2008 and the lowest level since the third quarter of 1997.

The decrease in spending was partly the result of a 3.4% decline in overnight travel from the United States, which fell to 3.1 million trips. American travellers also made 2.2 million same-day car trips in the first quarter, down 1.8%.

The number of trips from the United States fell at a slower rate than spending. This suggests that while fewer US residents were travelling to Canada, they were also spending less on each trip.

Despite the decrease in inbound travel spending, the travel deficit with the United States fell $243 million to $1.8 billion in the first quarter of 2009, as spending by Canadians south of the border also fell significantly. Canadian residents spent $3.6 billion in the United States, down 9.5% from the fourth quarter of 2008.

Like American travellers in Canada, Canadians spent less on each trip to the United States.

> ***Note to readers***
>
> *This international travel account analysis is based on preliminary quarterly data, seasonally adjusted unless otherwise stated. Amounts are in Canadian dollars and are not adjusted for inflation.*
>
> *Receipts represent spending by foreigners travelling in Canada, including education spending, medical spending and spending by crew members. Payments represent spending by Canadian residents travelling abroad, including education spending, medical spending and spending by crew members.*
>
> *Overseas countries are those other than the United States.*

Travel deficit with overseas countries climbs to its highest level ever

Canada's travel deficit with overseas countries increased $168 million to a record high of $1.2 billion in the first quarter of 2009. This was the result of increased travel spending by Canadians in overseas countries and lower spending by travellers from overseas countries in Canada.

Canadians travelling in overseas countries spent $3.2 billion in the first quarter, up 4.1% from the fourth quarter of 2008. This occurred despite a 1.6% drop in overnight travel to overseas countries.

Meanwhile, travellers from overseas countries spent $2.1 billion in Canada in the first quarter, down 1.9%.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3152 and 5005.

The international travel account for the second quarter of 2009 will be released on August 27.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Eric Desjardins (613-951-1781; *eric.desjardins@statcan.gc.ca*) or Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-9169; fax: 613-951-2909; *tourism@statcan.gc.ca*), Tourism and Centre for Education Statistics Division.

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International travel account receipts and payments

	First quarter 2008[r]	Fourth quarter 2008[r]	First quarter 2009[p]	Fourth quarter 2008 to first quarter 2009
	Seasonally adjusted			
	$ millions			% change
United States				
Receipts	1,893	1,910	1,777	-7.0
Payments	4,186	3,944	3,567	-9.5
Balance	-2,294	-2,033	-1,790	
All other countries				
Receipts	2,142	2,095	2,055	-1.9
Payments	3,023	3,088	3,216	4.1
Balance	-881	-993	-1,160	
Total				
Receipts	4,034	4,006	3,833	-4.3
Payments	7,209	7,032	6,782	-3.5
Balance	-3,175	-3,026	-2,950	

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
Note: *Data may not add to totals due to rounding.*

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Characteristics of international travellers

Fourth quarter 2008 and annual 2008 (preliminary)

Travel into Canada from both the United States and overseas countries fell in the fourth quarter of 2008, as the global economic downturn took hold.

The number of overnight trips from the United States dropped to 2.2 million, a 5.9% decline from the fourth quarter of 2007. This was the lowest level recorded since 1996. There were sharp declines in American travel for both business purposes and pleasure.

Overnight travel from countries other than the United States fell for the first time in the fourth quarter since 2003. Overseas visitors made just over 792,000 overnight trips to Canada, down 3.4%.

In the opposite direction, Canadians made fewer overnight trips to the United States in the fourth quarter. However, Canadians made more overnight trips to countries other than the United States during the quarter.

Fewer Americans coming to Canada

American travellers spent about $1.1 billion in Canada in the fourth quarter of 2008, down 1.8% from the same quarter in 2007.

Americans took 984,000 overnight trips to Canada for pleasure, a 9.7% decrease. Business travel was down by 5.2%.

Travel by air fell 4.6%, although spending by Americans who flew to Canada rose 1.9%.

Among the top 10 states of origin, 8 recorded declines in overnight trips to Canada in the fourth quarter of 2008. Travel increased from only Texas and Massachusetts. The largest declines occurred in travel from Washington, which was down 17.6% and Michigan (-15.1%).

Overseas travel declined

The decline in overseas trips to Canada was largely attributable to a decrease in pleasure trips, which fell by 12.0% from the fourth quarter of 2007. The number of business trips was up 3.8%.

Overseas tourists spent $1.0 billion on overnight travel in Canada, down 6.1% from the fourth quarter of 2007.

Among the top 10 overseas markets, 6 recorded declines in the number of overnight trips to Canada. The most important declines occurred in travel from South Korea (-25.4%), Japan (-20.1%) and the United Kingdom (-14.7%).

Overnight travel from Japan reached its lowest level since 1987. Travel from South Korea was at its lowest since 2001, while trips from the United Kingdom hit their lowest level since 2003.

Canadians decrease travel to United States

Canadians took just under 3.8 million overnight trips to the United States in the fourth quarter of 2008, down 9.6% from the same quarter a year earlier.

The number of overnight auto trips declined 15.0%, while travel by air was down by 0.8%.

Business travel fell 16.6%, while overnight travel to visit friends and relatives dropped 16.1%. More than half of all overnight trips to the United States were for pleasure. The number of these trips declined by 2.4%.

Canadian travel increased for just 3 of the top 10 destination states in the fourth quarter: Nevada (+12.0%), Florida (+2.3%) and California (+0.2%). The states with the largest decreases were Washington (-20.6%) and Maine (-18.1%).

Canadians continue to travel overseas

Canadians took 1.7 million overnight trips to countries other than the United States in the fourth quarter of 2008, up 9.1% from the same quarter of 2007. This was a continuation of an upward trend that started in 2001. Canadians spent $2.4 billion on these trips, up 3.4%.

Among the 10 most popular countries, Canadian travel overseas rose during the fourth quarter to all countries except Italy, China and the Netherlands. The largest increases were in travel to Greece (+33.3%), Cuba (+25.5%) and the Dominican Republic (+23.3%).

Annual 2008

On an annual basis, the number of overnight trips from the United States to Canada declined by 6.6% from 2007 to just under 12.5 million in 2008. On the other hand, travel from countries other than the United States was up 1.8%.

In the opposite direction, Canadians took more overnight trips abroad to both the United States and overseas nations. Overnight travel to the United States was up 6.5%, while overseas travel rose 9.7%.

Canadians visited Mexico more often than any other overseas country in 2008. The number of overnight visits to Mexico rose 10.7% to 1.1 million. Overnight travel to the second most popular overseas market, the United Kingdom, was up 7.5%.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3152.

This release summarises data now available from the International Travel Survey. Tables, various statistical profiles and microdata files of characteristics of international travellers using revised third quarter 2008 data as well as the preliminary fourth quarter 2008 and preliminary full year 2008 data are now available on request.

Data on characteristics of international travellers for the first quarter 2009 will be released on August 27.

To obtain one or more of these products, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-9169; fax: 613-951-2909; *tourism@statcan.gc.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Paul Durk (613-951-5859; fax: 613-951-2909; *paul.durk@statcan.gc.ca*), Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics Division.

Top 10 US states visited by Canadian residents

	Fourth quarter 2007[r]	Fourth quarter 2008[p]	Fourth quarter 2007 to fourth quarter 2008	Fourth quarter 2007[r]	Fourth quarter 2008[p]	Fourth quarter 2007 to fourth quarter 2008
	Overnight visits			Expenditures		
	thousands		% change	$ millions		% change
State						
New York	686	571	-16.7	215	196	-8.9
Florida	511	522	2.3	468	506	8.0
Washington	470	373	-20.6	109	84	-22.4
Nevada	286	321	12.0	261	311	19.1
Michigan	362	317	-12.4	80	75	-6.9
California	295	295	0.2	238	244	2.8
Pennsylvania	185	160	-13.5	38	38	1.1
Maine	172	141	-18.1	57	51	-10.0
Minnesota	140	134	-3.9	48	48	1.0
South Carolina	153	134	-12.3	71	61	-14.8

r *revised*
p *preliminary*

Top 10 overseas countries visited by Canadians

	Fourth quarter 2007[r]	Fourth quarter 2008[p]	Fourth quarter 2007 to fourth quarter 2008
	overnight visits (thousands)		% change
Mexico	227	263	16.0
United Kingdom	198	228	14.6
France	146	157	7.4
Dominican Republic	123	152	23.3
Cuba	82	103	25.5
Italy	133	102	-23.5
Germany	70	74	5.7
China	72	66	-8.2
Netherlands	56	51	-9.2
Greece	33	44	33.3

r *revised*
p *preliminary*

Overnight travel between Canada and other countries

	Fourth quarter 2007[r]	Third quarter 2008[r]	Fourth quarter 2008[p]	Fourth quarter 2007 to fourth quarter 2008	Fourth quarter 2007[r]	Third quarter 2008[r]	Fourth quarter 2008[p]	Fourth quarter 2007 to fourth quarter 2008
	Trips				Expenditures			
	thousands			% change	$ millions			% change
Canadian trips abroad	**5,698**	**7,904**	**5,437**	**-4.6**	**4,883**	**5,943**	**4,951**	**1.4**
To the United States	4,168	6,069	3,766	-9.6	2,547	2,965	2,536	-0.4
To other countries	1,531	1,835	1,671	9.1	2,336	2,979	2,415	3.4
Travel to Canada	**3,210**	**6,995**	**3,041**	**-5.3**	**2,207**	**5,266**	**2,122**	**-3.9**
From the United States	2,389	5,213	2,248	-5.9	1,126	2,833	1,106	-1.8
From other countries	820	1,782	792	-3.4	1,081	2,433	1,016	-6.1

r *revised*
p *preliminary*

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Food services and drinking places

March 2009 (preliminary)

Current dollar sales for the food services and drinking places industry decreased 0.8% from the previous month to just under $4.0 billion in March. This comes after an increase in sales in both January and February.

The price of food purchased in restaurants increased by 0.1% between February and March, according to the Consumer Price Index.

In March, three of the four sectors in the industry posted lower sales relative to February. The largest sales decrease was in limited service restaurants where patrons order and pay for their meals at the counter, down 1.1%.

Sales at full-service restaurants, where patrons order and pay for meals at their table, decreased by 0.8%, while sales at drinking places declined by 0.3%.

Sales in the special food services sector, which comprises food service contractors, caterers and mobile food services, increased by 0.8%.

Across the country, seven provinces registered lower sales, while three had increases. The largest sales decrease was in British Colombia while Prince Edward Island posted the largest increase.

Note: All data in this release are seasonally adjusted and expressed in current dollars.

Preliminary data are provided for the current reference month. Unadjusted data, based on late responses, are revised for the two previous months. Seasonally adjusted data were revised back to January 2008.

Starting in the summer of 2009, annual revisions will take place once a year, for all months in the previous years to improve data quality and coherence.

Available on CANSIM: table 355-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2419.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marc Racette (613-951-2924; fax: 613-951-6696; *marc.racette@statcan.gc.ca*), or Pierre Felx (613-951-0075; *pierre.felx@statcan.gc.ca*), Service Industries Division.

Food services and drinking places

	March 2008[r]	December 2008[r]	January 2009[r]	February 2009[r]	March 2009[p]	February to March 2009
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ thousands					% change
Total, food services sales	**3,862,335**	**3,898,234**	**3,967,405**	**4,008,800**	**3,976,911**	**-0.8**
Full-service restaurants	1,761,296	1,770,810	1,790,325	1,827,382	1,812,067	-0.8
Limited-service eating places	1,592,442	1,627,592	1,664,682	1,680,528	1,662,366	-1.1
Special food services	315,774	299,918	310,773	293,604	295,888	0.8
Drinking places	192,823	199,914	201,625	207,286	206,590	-0.3
Provinces and territories						
Newfoundland and Labrador	43,399	47,565	49,091	48,716	49,001	0.6
Prince Edward Island	12,959	13,395	13,253	13,207	13,315	0.8
Nova Scotia	98,591	97,662	101,145	101,161	99,916	-1.2
New Brunswick	68,112	71,056	71,925	73,785	73,115	-0.9
Quebec	758,598	798,378	781,289	823,654	827,848	0.5
Ontario	1,461,734	1,471,115	1,497,175	1,513,340	1,501,843	-0.8
Manitoba	113,987	113,350	118,368	117,977	116,094	-1.6
Saskatchewan	104,058	108,534	109,887	111,064	109,791	-1.1
Alberta	545,838	539,480	556,604	560,048	551,519	-1.5
British Columbia	643,947	626,399	657,003	635,025	624,163	-1.7
Yukon	3,360	3,994	3,882	3,916	F	F
Northwest Territories	7,157	6,740	7,201	6,366	F	F
Nunavut	595	566	582	541	F	F

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

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Machinery and equipment price indexes

First quarter 2009

The Machinery and Equipment Price Index (MEPI) stood at 102.8 (1997=100) in the first quarter of 2009, up 2.1% from the fourth quarter of 2008. The import component index rose 3.0%, while the domestic index increased by 0.4%.

Compared with the first quarter 2008, the total MEPI was up 19.0%, with the import index increasing by 28.4%, while the domestic index rose by 4.8%.

The Canadian dollar lost 2.6% of its value against the US dollar in the first quarter of 2009. Variations in exchange rates can have a strong influence on the MEPI. This is because of the high weight that machinery and equipment imported by industries has, relative to those purchased domestically, in the index.

All industries recorded increases in prices of machinery and equipment purchased in the first quarter. The manufacturing sector (+2.2%) contributed the most to the total MEPI quarterly increase. Among the sector's subcomponents, the largest contributors to the quarterly increase were transportation equipment manufacturing (+2.3%), primary metal and fabricated metal product manufacturing (+2.1%) and paper manufacturing (+1.8%). The second largest contributor to the total quarterly increase was finance, insurance and real estate (+1.7%).

Among commodities, price increases for other industry specific machinery (+2.7%) and automobiles, excluding passenger vans (+1.9%) were the largest contributors to the quarterly increase.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0041 and 327-0042.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2312.

The first quarter 2009 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-X, free) will be available in July.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-3117; *prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca*), Producer Prices Division.

Machinery and equipment price indexes

Industries	Relative importance	First quarter 2009p	Fourth quarter 2008 to first quarter 2009	First quarter 2008 to first quarter 2009
	(1997=100)		% change	
Total Machinery and Equipment Price Index	**100.00**	**102.8**	**2.1**	**19.0**
Domestic	**32.03**	**111.9**	**0.4**	**4.8**
Imported	**67.97**	**98.5**	**3.0**	**28.4**
Crop and animal production	4.07	115.5	2.5	22.0
Forestry and logging	0.27	115.2	3.1	22.2
Fishing, hunting and trapping	0.08	118.6	2.0	12.0
Support activities for agriculture and forestry	0.10	113.4	2.2	20.0
Mines, quarries and oil wells	4.26	123.0	3.0	24.6
Utilities	3.55	114.3	2.5	25.2
Construction	3.54	112.1	3.0	24.0
All manufacturing	22.34	110.8	2.2	21.0
Trade	8.38	98.5	1.4	14.5
Transportation (excluding pipeline transportation)	7.66	117.5	2.4	19.2
Pipeline transportation	1.18	120.0	2.7	21.2
Warehousing and storage	0.26	119.2	2.1	19.3
Finance, insurance and real estate	19.90	93.8	1.7	17.8
Private education services	0.12	86.9	2.8	21.0
Education services (excluding private), health care and social assistance	2.09	97.5	2.2	16.8
Other services (excluding public administration)	16.39	87.8	1.6	15.1
Public administration	5.81	92.1	1.9	16.3

p *preliminary*

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Placement of hatchery chicks and turkey poults

April 2009 (preliminary)

Placements of hatchery chicks on farms totalled 58.0 million birds in April, down 1.1% from the same month in 2008. Placements of turkey poults on farms decreased 8.0% to 1.9 million birds.

Available on CANSIM: table 003-0021.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5039.

For more information, call Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandra Venturino (613-951-9278; *sandra.venturino@statcan.gc.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index

April 2009

The Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index decreased 0.5% from a month earlier to 136.0 (2003=100) in April. The courier portion fell 0.6% while the local messengers component was down 0.2%.

Note: The Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index is a monthly price index measuring the change over time in prices for courier and messenger services provided by long and short distance delivery companies to Canadian-based business clients.

These indexes are available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: table 329-0053.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5064.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-3117; *prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca*), Producer Prices Division. ■

Production and disposition of tobacco products

April 2009

Canadian manufacturers produced 1.7 billion cigarettes in April, up 5.3% from the previous month. The total number of cigarettes sold increased by 17.0% to 1.8 billion and closing inventories decreased by 8.3% to 1.8 billion cigarettes in April.

Note: This survey collects data on the production of tobacco products in Canada by Canadian manufacturers and the disposition or sales of this production. It does not collect data on imported tobacco products. Therefore, sales information in this release is not a proxy for domestic consumption of tobacco products.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0062.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2142.

The April 2009 issue of *Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products*, Vol. 38, no. 4 (32-022-X, 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 dissemination officer (613-951-9497; toll-free 1-866-873-8789; *manufact@statcan.gc.ca*), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

New products

Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products, April 2009, Vol. 38, no. 4
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