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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, July 14, 2009
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Releases

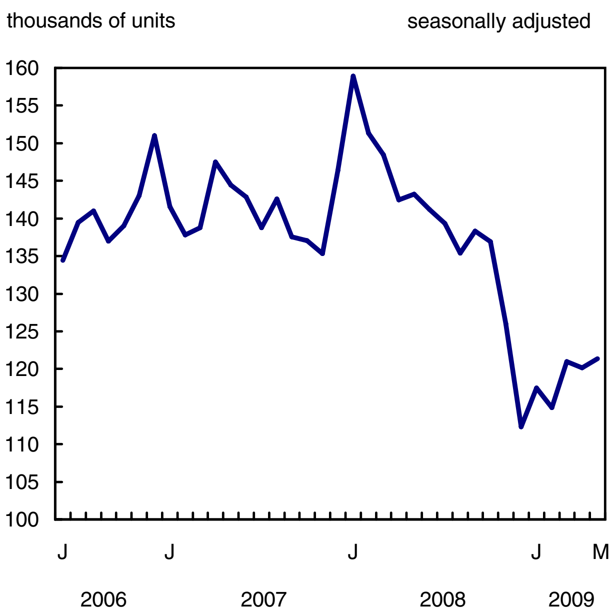
Releases

New motor vehicle sales

May 2009

Increased truck sales led to a 1.0% rise in the number of new motor vehicles sold in May to 121,348 units. After falling sharply in the latter part of 2008, sales of new motor vehicles have generally been rising since the beginning of 2009.

New motor vehicle sales

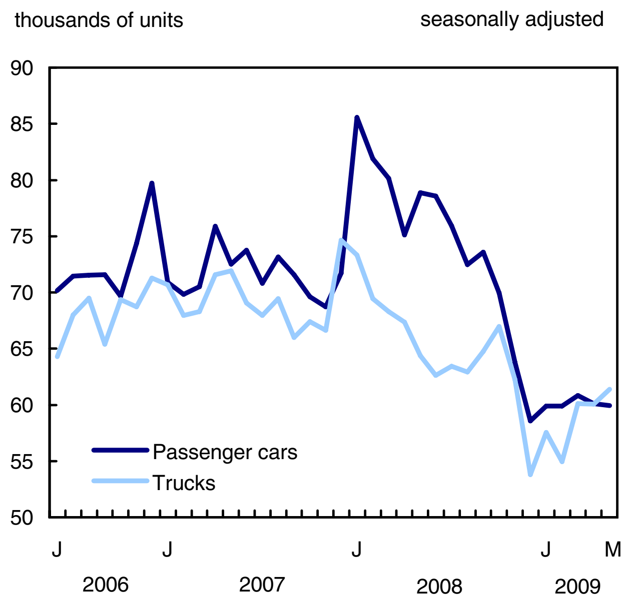


Preliminary industry data indicate that the number of new motor vehicles sold fell about 1% in June.

Higher truck sales lead to overall increase

Sales of new trucks (which include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses) were up 2.2% to 61,392 units in May. Truck sales exceeded passenger car sales in May for only the fourth time in the last 10 years.

Passenger car and truck sales



The number of new passenger cars sold in May was down 0.3%, totalling 59,956 vehicles. Sales of North American-built passenger cars rose 1.4% from April, when sales were at their lowest level since October 1982. Sales of overseas-built passenger cars fell 2.4% in May, which did not offset the sales gain of 3.6% in April.

Sales up in most provinces

Higher sales were recorded in seven provinces in May. The main contributor to the increase in Canada was a 2.0% gain in Ontario. The largest percentage increase occurred in Nova Scotia (+8.5%), where sales rose for the fourth consecutive month.

A 1.6% advance in sales in British Columbia marked the third consecutive increase in the number of new motor vehicles sold in that province. Sales in British Columbia had been on a downward trend since early 2008.

The 1.4% sales drop in Quebec, the only province where sales declined for a second consecutive month, did not offset March's increase.

Available on CANSIM: table 079-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2402.

The May 2009 issue of *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (63-007-X, free) will be available soon.

Data on new motor vehicle sales for June will be released on August 14.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; *retailinfo@statcan.gc.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jian Zhu (613-951-4906), Distributive Trades Division.

New motor vehicle sales

	May 2008	April 2009[r]	May 2009[p]	May 2008 to May 2009	April to May 2009
	Seasonally adjusted				
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	**143,247**	**120,169**	**121,348**	**-15.3**	**1.0**
Passenger cars	78,876	60,122	59,956	-24.0	-0.3
North American[1]	48,713	33,354	33,831	-30.6	1.4
Overseas	30,163	26,768	26,125	-13.4	-2.4
Trucks, vans and buses	64,371	60,047	61,392	-4.6	2.2
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,527	2,346	2,487	-1.6	6.0
Prince Edward Island	496	460	418	-15.7	-9.1
Nova Scotia	4,580	3,732	4,049	-11.6	8.5
New Brunswick	3,369	2,847	2,953	-12.3	3.7
Quebec	37,281	32,529	32,068	-14.0	-1.4
Ontario	50,775	43,402	44,272	-12.8	2.0
Manitoba	3,980	3,708	3,885	-2.4	4.8
Saskatchewan	3,979	3,693	3,863	-2.9	4.6
Alberta	20,262	15,293	14,995	-26.0	-1.9
British Columbia[2]	15,998	12,159	12,358	-22.8	1.6
	May 2008	April 2009[r]	May 2009[p]	May 2008 to May 2009	
	Unadjusted				
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	**188,137**	**146,026**	**156,025**	**-17.1**	
Passenger cars	109,387	75,332	83,181	-24.0	
North American[1]	67,352	40,460	47,369	-29.7	
Overseas	42,035	34,872	35,812	-14.8	
Trucks, vans and buses	78,750	70,694	72,844	-7.5	
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland and Labrador	3,825	3,148	3,736	-2.3	
Prince Edward Island	707	551	589	-16.7	
Nova Scotia	6,331	4,860	5,764	-9.0	
New Brunswick	4,587	3,556	4,059	-11.5	
Quebec	53,409	44,077	43,861	-17.9	
Ontario	64,143	51,047	54,979	-14.3	
Manitoba	4,824	4,236	4,554	-5.6	
Saskatchewan	4,692	4,035	4,540	-3.2	
Alberta	25,514	17,076	18,495	-27.5	
British Columbia[2]	20,105	13,440	15,448	-23.2	

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
1. *Manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico.*
2. *Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.*

Note: *Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.*

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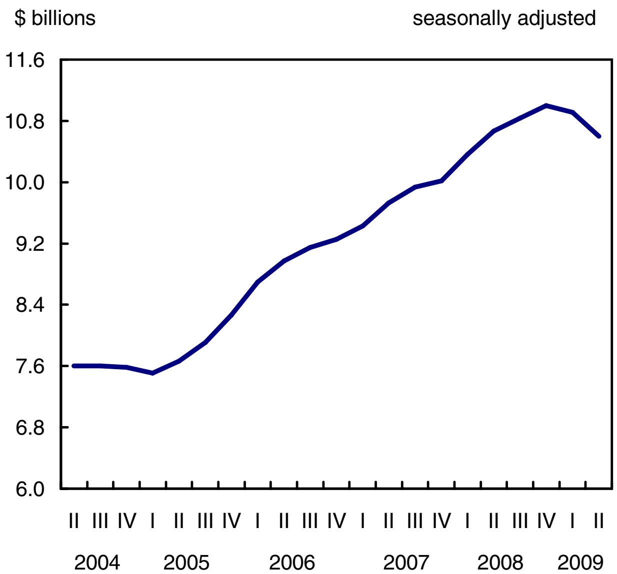
Investment in non-residential building construction

Second quarter 2009

Investment in non-residential building construction amounted to $10.6 billion (in current dollars) in the second quarter of 2009, a 2.8% drop from the first quarter and the second consective quarterly decrease. This was the result of declines in commercial and industrial building construction.

Investment declines in non residential building construction



Investors spent $6.3 billion on commercial projects, down 4.1%, while in the industrial component, investment fell 7.9% to $1.2 billion. Spending in the institutional component continued to rise, up 2.1% to $3.1 billion.

Provincially, the largest contributions to the quarterly decrease (in dollars) occurred in Alberta (-7.4% to $2.5 billion) and British Columbia (-5.2% to $1.3 billion). In both provinces, the decline was mainly due to lower spending on commercial projects.

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 this release, the census metropolitan area of Ottawa–Gatineau (Ontario/Quebec) is divided into two areas: the Ottawa part and the Gatineau part.

Saskatchewan posted the largest increase, as a result of higher spending in all three components.

Investment fell in 19 of the 34 census metropolitan areas. The largest drops were posted in Calgary, Vancouver and Montréal, and were mainly due to declines in commercial construction projects.

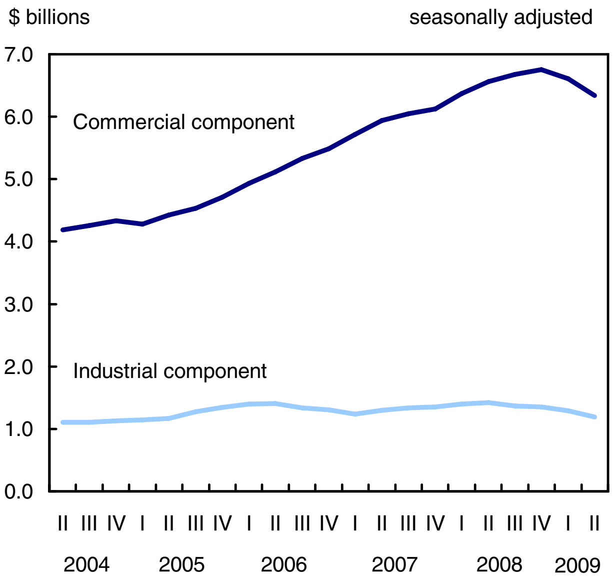
In Barrie, investments rose 21.2% to $132 million, the result of advances in the institutional component.

Decline in the commercial component

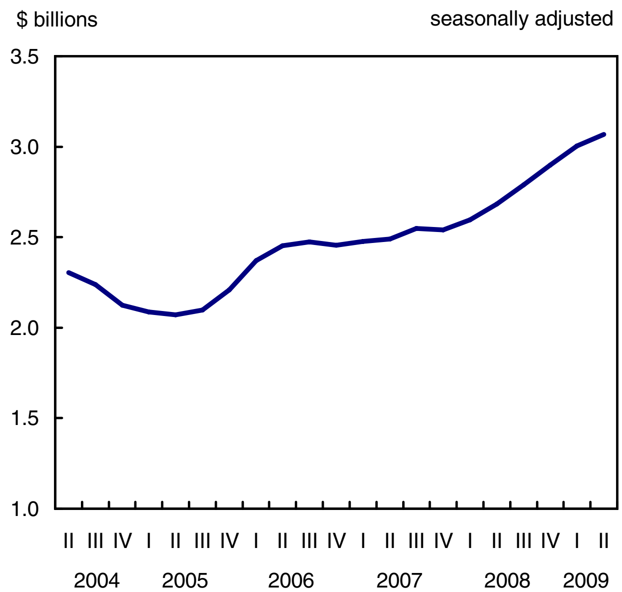
Investment in the construction of commercial buildings declined for the second consecutive quarter, mainly as a result of lower spending on the construction of office buildings and retail and wholesale outlets in Alberta and British Columbia.

Overall, six provinces and two territories recorded decreases in commercial investment. The most significant drops (in dollars) occurred in Alberta (-9.8% to $1.6 billion), British Columbia (-7.0% to $863 million) and Quebec (-4.4% to $985 million).

Commercial and industrial components decline



The institutional component increases



Ontario and Saskatchewan posted the largest increases, the result of higher spending on the construction of office buildings.

Decrease in the industrial component

Spending in the industrial component declined for a fourth consecutive quarter, as a result of decreases in all industrial building categories.

Provincially, the largest contributions to the quarterly decline (in dollars) occurred in Alberta, where investment fell 15.8% to $265 million, and in Ontario, where it was down by 7.6% to $392 million.

Only Prince Edward Island, British Colombia and Saskatchewan posted advances in the second quarter, mainly due to higher spending on the construction of manufacturing plants.

Growth in the institutional component

Spending in the institutional component advanced for a sixth consecutive quarter, principally as a result of higher investment in health care and educational buildings.

Second-quarter increases were recorded in six provinces and the Northwest Territories. Quebec recorded the largest gain in dollars, followed by Alberta, as a result of significant spending on health care and educational buildings.

After seven consecutive quarters of increases, Ontario posted the largest reduction in dollars. This was the result of lower spending in several institutional building categories.

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 from the *Summary tables* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Michel Labonté (613-951-9690; *bdp_information@statcan.gc.ca*), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

□

Investment in non-residential building construction, by census metropolitan area[1]

	Second quarter 2008	First quarter 2009	Second quarter 2009	First quarter to second quarter 2009
	Seasonally adjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Total	**7,994**	**8,323**	**8,120**	**-2.4**
St. John's	40	58	60	2.1
Halifax	81	98	93	-5.3
Moncton	42	46	39	-14.7
Saint John	28	38	42	11.5
Saguenay	35	49	63	27.3
Québec	273	270	273	1.4
Sherbrooke	41	51	43	-14.9
Trois-Rivières	47	51	44	-13.7
Montréal	907	874	823	-5.8
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	362	359	370	3.2
Gatineau part	54	78	80	3.0
Ottawa part	308	281	290	3.3
Kingston	68	80	69	-13.6
Peterborough	16	28	27	-5.2
Oshawa	88	108	110	1.4
Toronto	1,981	1,942	1,918	-1.2
Hamilton	210	234	232	-1.2
St. Catharines–Niagara	70	54	61	13.2
Kitchener	157	191	199	4.5
Brantford	17	24	29	21.4
Guelph	44	33	34	0.9
London	158	169	159	-6.3
Windsor	64	52	45	-12.3
Barrie	59	109	132	21.2
Greater Sudbury	67	62	58	-7.4
Thunder Bay	17	43	37	-13.3
Winnipeg	125	154	145	-6.2
Regina	65	76	89	17.0
Saskatoon	135	189	190	0.6
Calgary	1,251	1,198	1,123	-6.2
Edmonton	534	648	639	-1.4
Kelowna	78	74	73	-1.8
Abbotsford–Mission	55	47	40	-13.4
Vancouver	794	811	745	-8.2
Victoria	87	103	116	12.8

1. Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.
Note: *Data may not add up to totals as a result of rounding.*

Investment in non-residential building construction by province

	Second quarter 2008	First quarter 2009	Second quarter 2009	First quarter to second quarter 2009
	Seasonally adjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Canada	**10,669**	**10,909**	**10,601**	**-2.8**
Newfoundland and Labrador	68	93	88	-6.0
Prince Edward Island	22	31	35	12.7
Nova Scotia	151	176	168	-4.5
New Brunswick	148	161	155	-3.3
Quebec	1,759	1,827	1,802	-1.4
Ontario	4,001	3,999	3,987	-0.3
Manitoba	212	219	208	-5.2
Saskatchewan	297	362	380	5.1
Alberta	2,634	2,662	2,464	-7.4
British Columbia	1,355	1,349	1,279	-5.2
Yukon	9	5	5	-8.5
Northwest Territories	9	17	24	43.5
Nunavut	3	8	7	-21.3

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Canadian Vehicle Survey

2008

Canadians drove their vehicles less in 2008 compared with the previous year. This was the first annual decrease since 2004.

Faced with rising consumer fuel prices throughout most of the year, Canadians shifted much of their driving to more fuel-efficient, smaller body styles such as cars and station wagons. While the smaller styles saw an increase of 6.7% in 2008 compared with the previous year, driving was down 10.1% for larger body styles (vans, sport utility vehicles and pickups).

The number of vehicles on the road for these two styles of vehicle also moved in opposite directions in 2008, and while the average distance travelled per vehicle for the small styles was up slightly in 2008 compared with the previous year, it declined by 9.0% for the larger styles.

Available on CANSIM: tables 405-0055 to 405-0070, 405-0072 to 405-0086, 405-0088 to 405-0090, 405-0097, 405-0098, 405-0100 and 405-0111 to 405-0120.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2749.

The publication *Canadian Vehicle Survey: Annual*, 2008 (53-223-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 Réjean Doiron (613-951-5680; *rejean.doiron@statcan.gc.ca*) or Client Services (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; *transportationstatistics@statcan.gc.ca*), Transportation Division.

Vehicles and distance travelled in Canada, by type of vehicle

	2008	2007 to 2008	2008	2007 to 2008	2008	2007 to 2008
	Vehicles		Total distance travelled		Average distance travelled per vehicle	
	number	% change	millions of kilometres	% change	kilometres	% change
Total, all vehicles	**20,166,421**	**2.3**	**325,611**	**-2.0**	**16,146**	**-4.2**
Vehicles weighing less than 4.5 metric tonnes	19,426,504	2.2	294,361	-1.9	15,153	-4.1
Cars and station wagons	10,986,266	5.1	158,293	6.7	14,408	1.5
Vans, sport utility vehicles and pickups	8,379,580	-1.3	135,217	-10.1	16,136	-9.0
Trucks 4.5 metric tonnes and over	739,917	4.6	31,250	-2.6	30,860	-6.8

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Steel wire and specified wire products
May 2009

Data on steel wire and specified wire products production are now available for May.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0047.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2106.

The May 2009 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-X, 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*), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

Steel pipe and tubing
May 2009

Data on the production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing are now available for May.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2105.

The May 2009 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-X, 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*), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

New products

Canadian Vehicle Survey: Annual, 2008
Catalogue number 53-223-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 29, 2008
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Releases

Canada's balance of international payments, first quarter 2008 — 2
The current account surplus with the rest of the world (on a seasonally adjusted basis) increased sharply to $5.6 billion in the first quarter of 2008, led by higher prices for several exported commodities combined with a lower travel deficit. In the financial account, foreign direct investment flows into Canada slowed significantly from the acquisitions-driven pace of the previous quarter, while Canadian direct investment abroad continued to strengthen.

Payroll employment, earnings and hours, March 2008 — 7
Study: The year in review for wholesale trade, 2007 — 9
Public sector employment, first quarter 2008 — 10
Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index, April 2008 — 11
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2006 Census profiles

Within the inclusion of the income 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 (costs vary for different geography levels), contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre.

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