

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

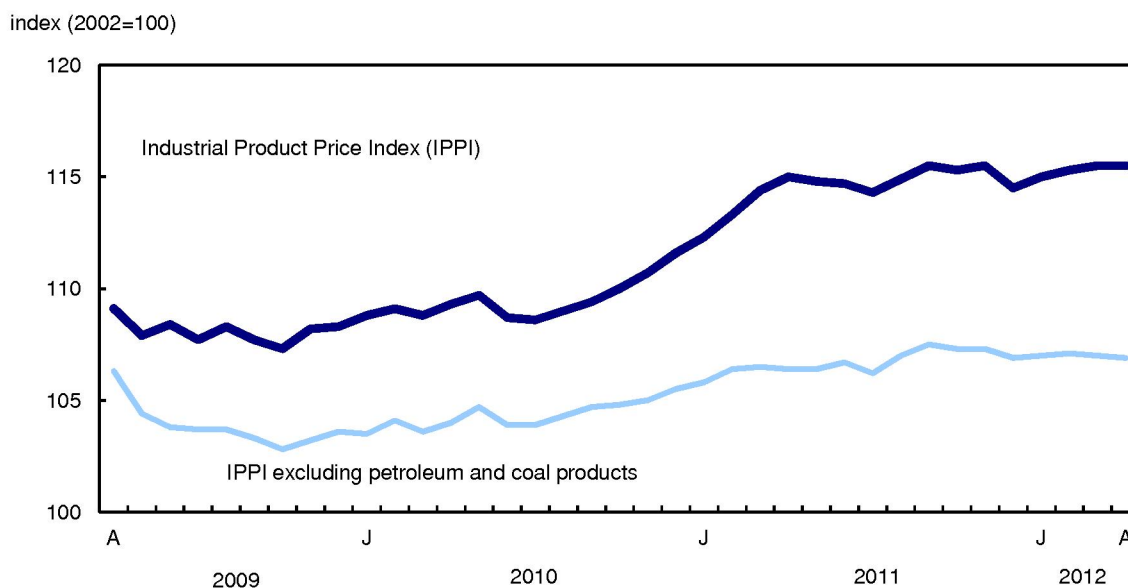
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Releases

Industrial product and raw materials price indexes, April 2012

Relative to March, the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) was unchanged in April. Increases in chemical products (+1.7%) and petroleum and coal products (+0.4%) were offset by a decline in primary metal products (-2.1%). The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) fell 2.0%, largely because of mineral fuels.

Chart 1 Prices for industrial goods unchanged



Industrial Product Price Index, monthly change

After three consecutive advances, the IPPI was steady in April. Of the major commodity groups, eight were up, nine were down and four were unchanged.

Among the commodities that rose, chemical products (+1.7%) and petroleum and coal products (+0.4%) were the most influential.

The increase in chemical products was mainly attributable to fertilizers (+12.2%), specifically urea (+30.5%). Higher urea prices were partly a result of strong demand in the United States.

Petroleum and coal products were pushed upward mainly by gasoline prices (+2.7%), which posted their fourth consecutive gain.

In contrast, declines in prices of primary metal products (-2.1%), especially aluminum products (-3.7%), copper and copper alloy products (-4.5%), nickel products (-4.4%) and other non-ferrous metal products (-1.9%), partly offset the increases in chemicals and in petroleum and coal products.

Decreases were also observed in meat, fish and dairy products (-0.5%) and motor vehicles and other transportation equipment (-0.1%).

Some Canadian producers who export their products are generally paid on the basis of prices set in US dollars. Consequently, the 0.1% increase in the value the Canadian dollar relative to the US dollar in April had the effect of slightly reducing the corresponding prices in Canadian dollars. However, the exchange rate had a negligible impact on the index as a whole.

In April, the IPPI excluding petroleum and coal products edged down 0.1% for the second consecutive month.

12-month change in the Industrial Product Price Index

Compared with the same month a year earlier, the IPPI rose 0.4% in April. The slowdown of the growth of the index has continued since September 2011.

The increase in the IPPI was led by higher prices for motor vehicles and other transportation equipment (+2.7%).

More modest advances were observed in chemical products (+2.5%) and in fruit, vegetables, feeds and other food products (+2.2%).

The growth of the IPPI was moderated largely by a decrease in primary metal products (-9.4%), which posted a sixth consecutive decline. The largest contributors to the decrease were other non-ferrous metal products (-13.0%), nickel products (-29.3%), aluminum products (-11.1%) and copper and copper alloy products (-10.1%).

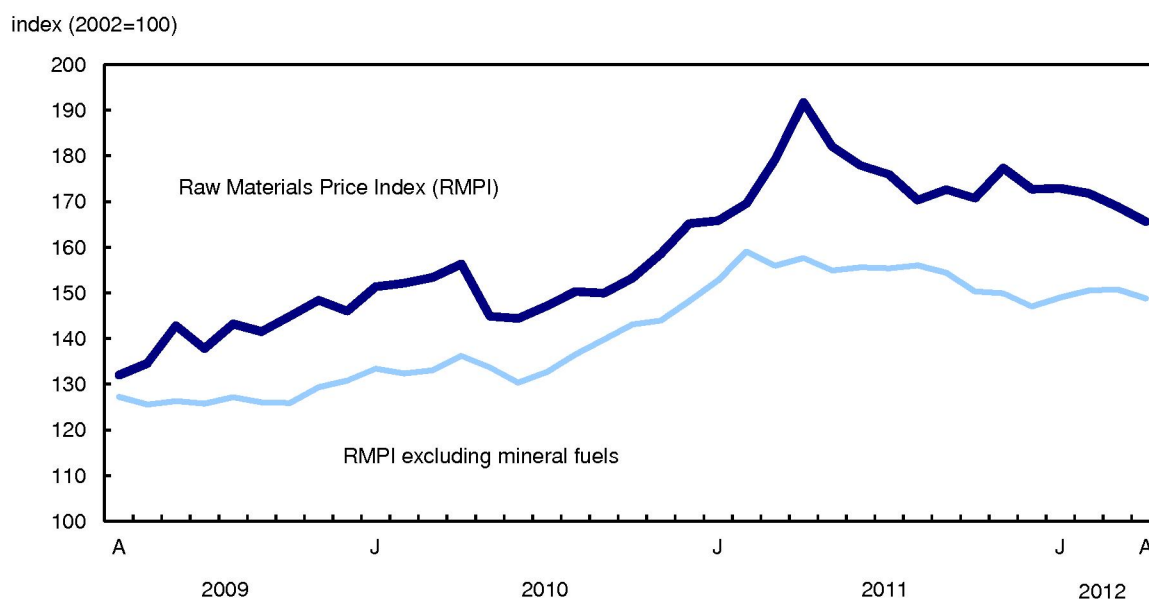
The 3.5% decline in the value of the Canadian dollar against the US dollar contributed to the growth of the index in April. Without the impact of the exchange rate, the IPPI would have fallen 0.4% instead of increasing 0.4%.

The IPPI excluding petroleum and coal products was up 0.5% relative to April 2011.

Raw Materials Price Index, monthly change

The RMPI declined 2.0% in April, the third consecutive monthly decrease. The downward trend of the index was slightly more pronounced in April, following declines of 0.6% in February and 1.7% in March.

Chart 2
Prices for raw materials decrease



In April, the decrease of the index was mostly the result of mineral fuels (-2.8%), particularly crude petroleum (-2.6%).

The decline of the RMPI was moderated primarily by vegetable products (+1.4%), especially oilseeds (+6.5%) and grains (+1.3%).

In the oilseeds group, higher prices were observed for canola (+6.2%) and soybeans (+6.3%). The increase in soybean and canola prices was partly attributable to a decline in global supply, especially in South America, where drought disrupted normal production.

The main contributors to the rise in grain prices were oats (+4.0%), wheat (+2.7%) and barley (+2.0%).

The RMPI excluding mineral fuels posted a 1.3% decrease in April, ending a string of three consecutive monthly advances.

12-month change in the Raw Materials Price Index

Compared with the same month a year earlier, the RMPI was down 13.6%, its second consecutive decrease. The decline of the index was more pronounced in April, partly because it had reached an exceptionally high level a year earlier.

The index was pushed downward mainly by mineral fuels prices (-21.3%) and, to a lesser extent, non-ferrous metals (-12.2%).

Crude petroleum (-21.8%) was primarily responsible for the decline in mineral fuels, posting its second consecutive decrease.

All major non-ferrous metal product groups except precious metals were down. Among the main contributors to the decline were copper concentrates (-12.8%), other non-ferrous base metals (-21.1%), non-ferrous metal scrap (-10.6%) and zinc concentrates (-15.3%).

Year over year, the RMPI excluding mineral fuels declined 5.6% in April.

Note to readers

All data in this release are seasonally unadjusted and usually subject to revision for a period of six months (for example, when the July index is released, the index for the previous January becomes final).

*The **Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI)** reflects the prices that producers in Canada receive as the goods leave the plant gate. It does not reflect what the consumer pays. Unlike the Consumer Price Index, the IPPI excludes indirect taxes and all the costs that occur between the time a good leaves the plant and the time the final user takes possession of it, including transportation, wholesale and retail costs.*

Canadian producers export many goods. They often indicate their prices in foreign currencies, especially in US dollars, which are then converted into Canadian dollars. In particular, this is the case for motor vehicles, pulp, paper and wood products. Therefore, a rise or fall in the value of the Canadian dollar against its US counterpart affects the IPPI. But the conversion into Canadian dollars only reflects how respondents provide their prices. Moreover, this is not a measure that takes into account the full effect of exchange rates, since that is a more difficult analytical task.

The conversion of prices received in US dollars is based on the average monthly exchange rate (noon spot rate) established by the Bank of Canada and is available on CANSIM in table 176-0064 (series v37426). Monthly and annual variations in the exchange rate, as described in the text, are calculated according to the indirect quotation of the exchange rate (for example, CANS\$1 = US\$X).

*The **Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI)** reflects the prices paid by Canadian manufacturers for key raw materials. Many of those prices are set on the world market. However, as few prices are denominated in foreign currencies, their conversion into Canadian dollars has only a minor effect on the calculation of the RMPI.*

Table 1
Industrial product price index – Not seasonally adjusted

	Relative importance ¹	April 2011	March 2012 ^r	April 2012 ^p	March to April 2012	April 2011 to April 2012
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI)	100.00	115.0	115.5	115.5	0.0	0.4
IPPI excluding petroleum and coal products	93.70	106.4	107.0	106.9	-0.1	0.5
Aggregation by commodities						
Meat, fish and dairy products	6.08	109.5	109.9	109.4	-0.5	-0.1
Fruit, vegetable, feeds and other food products	5.52	124.7	127.1	127.4	0.2	2.2
Beverages	1.52	120.0	123.0	123.5	0.4	2.9
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.56	172.9	177.2	177.2	0.0	2.5
Rubber, leather and plastic fabricated products	3.51	115.9	119.7	119.9	0.2	3.5
Textile products	1.37	102.5	103.2	103.1	-0.1	0.6
Knitted products and clothing	1.33	100.7	102.7	102.8	0.1	2.1
Lumber and other wood products	6.04	88.4	90.4	90.3	-0.1	2.1
Furniture and fixtures	2.19	116.5	118.0	118.0	0.0	1.3
Pulp and paper products	6.40	99.1	98.8	98.9	0.1	-0.2
Printing and publishing	1.84	103.2	104.9	104.8	-0.1	1.6
Primary metal products	6.99	161.0	149.1	145.9	-2.1	-9.4
Fabricated metal products	4.45	124.6	124.9	124.9	0.0	0.2
Machinery and equipment	4.41	102.4	105.4	105.4	0.0	2.9
Motor vehicles and other transport equipment	24.34	75.4	77.5	77.4	-0.1	2.7
Electrical and communications products	5.02	92.2	93.0	92.9	-0.1	0.8
Non-metallic mineral products	2.07	117.6	118.6	118.7	0.1	0.9
Petroleum and coal products	6.30	243.4	243.4	244.3	0.4	0.4
Chemicals and chemical products	7.19	136.3	137.4	139.7	1.7	2.5
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.60	119.3	123.4	123.2	-0.2	3.3
Miscellaneous non-manufactured products	0.30	292.3	271.8	270.3	-0.6	-7.5
Intermediate goods²	62.15	124.2	123.9	123.7	-0.2	-0.4
First-stage intermediate goods ³	7.56	150.0	140.8	138.7	-1.5	-7.5
Second-stage intermediate goods ⁴	54.60	120.7	121.5	121.6	0.1	0.7
Finished goods⁵	37.85	99.7	101.9	102.1	0.2	2.4
Finished foods and feeds	7.12	117.3	119.6	119.6	0.0	2.0
Capital equipment	12.19	85.2	87.2	87.2	0.0	2.3
All other finished goods	18.54	102.5	104.7	105.2	0.5	2.6

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. The relative importance is based on the annual 2002 values of production.

2. Intermediate goods are goods used principally to produce other goods.

3. First-stage intermediate goods are items used most frequently to produce other intermediate goods.

4. Second-stage intermediate goods are items most commonly used to produce final goods.

5. Finished goods are goods most commonly used for immediate consumption or for capital investment.

Table 2
Raw materials price index – Not seasonally adjusted

	Relative importance ¹	April 2011	March 2012 ^r	April 2012 ^p	March to April 2012	April 2011 to April 2012
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI)	100.00	191.7	168.9	165.6	-2.0	-13.6
RMPI excluding mineral fuels	58.56	157.6	150.7	148.8	-1.3	-5.6
Mineral fuels	41.44	240.7	195.0	189.5	-2.8	-21.3
Vegetable products	9.89	158.1	146.3	148.3	1.4	-6.2
Animal and animal products	19.81	120.2	123.9	121.5	-1.9	1.1
Wood	11.82	92.8	91.0	91.0	0.0	-1.9
Ferrous materials	2.88	172.2	159.4	161.3	1.2	-6.3
Non-ferrous metals	11.32	285.5	258.4	250.7	-3.0	-12.2
Non-metallic minerals	2.82	160.0	162.7	162.7	0.0	1.7

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. The relative importance is based on the annual 2002 values of intermediate inputs.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 329-0056 to 329-0068 and 330-0007.

Table 329-0056: Industrial Product Price Index by major commodity aggregations.

Table 329-0057: Industrial Product Price Index by industry.

Table 329-0058: Industrial Product Price Index by stage of processing.

Tables 329-0059 to 329-0068: Industrial Product Price Index by commodity.

Table 330-0007: Raw Materials Price Index by commodity.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers 2306 and 2318.

The April 2012 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011-X, free) will soon be available.

The industrial product and raw materials price indexes for May will be released on June 29.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

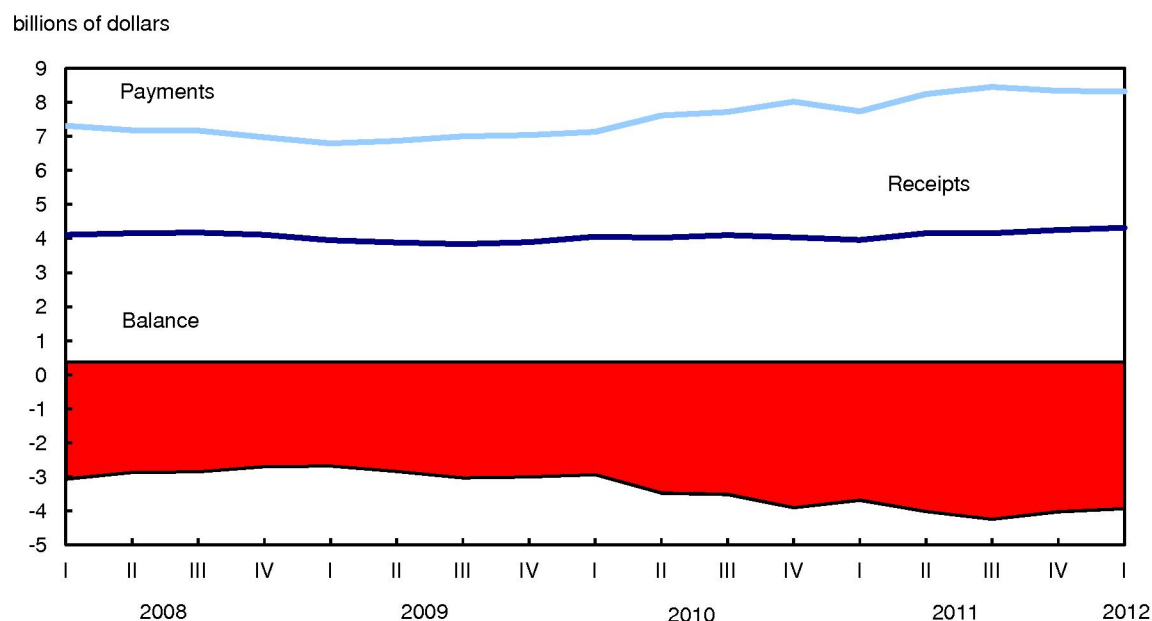
International travel account, first quarter 2012 (preliminary data)

Canada's international travel deficit with the world declined by \$85 million to \$4.0 billion during the first quarter. This was a result of a decrease in payments by Canadian travellers to the United States and an increase in receipts from overseas residents.

Canadian travellers spent \$8.3 billion outside the country during the first quarter, down 0.2% from the fourth quarter of 2011.

Receipts from all foreign travellers in Canada increased 1.6% to \$4.3 billion during the first quarter, the highest level since the fourth quarter of 2004.

Chart 1
Canada's international travel deficit decreases for the second consecutive quarter, first quarter 2012



Decrease in payments by Canadians travelling in the United States

Canada's travel deficit with the United States fell by \$91.7 million to \$3.2 billion in the first quarter, mostly the result of a decline in payments by Canadian travellers in the United States.

Canadian travellers spent \$5.0 billion in the United States in the first quarter, a 1.6% decrease. Despite this decline, the number of trips to the United States increased 2.7%.

Receipts from American travellers in Canada were up 0.6% from the previous quarter to \$1.8 billion. During the same period, the number of trips by Americans to Canada was stable.

Travel deficit with overseas nations up slightly

Payments by Canadian travellers in overseas countries rose 2.0% to a record high of \$3.3 billion in the first quarter. This increase was also accompanied by an increase in receipts by overseas travellers to Canada, which rose 2.3% to \$2.5 billion, also a record amount. As a result, Canada's travel deficit with overseas countries increased by \$6.9 million to \$782 million.

The increase in payments by Canadian travellers was in line with travel to overseas countries, up 1.6% in the first quarter to 2.3 million trips. The increase in receipts by overseas travellers in Canada was also in line with a 3.5% increase in travel to 1.2 million trips.

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.

Table 1
International travel account receipts and payments – Seasonally adjusted

	First quarter 2011 ^r	Fourth quarter 2011 ^r	First quarter 2012 ^p	Fourth quarter 2011 to first quarter 2012
	millions of dollars			% change
Total				
Receipts	3,954	4,244	4,311	1.6
Payments	7,731	8,335	8,318	-0.2
Balance	-3,777	-4,091	-4,006	-2.1
United States				
Receipts	1,726	1,795	1,806	0.6
Payments	4,658	5,112	5,031	-1.6
Balance	-2,932	-3,316	-3,225	-2.8
All other countries				
Receipts	2,228	2,448	2,505	2.3
Payments	3,073	3,223	3,287	2.0
Balance	-845	-775	-782	0.9

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note(s): Data may not add to totals because of rounding.

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

The international travel account for the second quarter will be released on August 29.

For more information, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Riley Brockington (613-951-2995; riley.brockington@statcan.gc.ca), Tourism and Centre for Education Statistics Division.

Public sector employment, first quarter 2012 (preliminary data)

Public sector employment on a seasonally adjusted basis was 3.6 million in the first quarter, up 0.2% from the fourth quarter of 2011.

Employment increased by 6,000 in health and social services institutions and by 3,000 in local general government. These increases were partly offset by small declines in government business enterprises, federal general government and school boards.

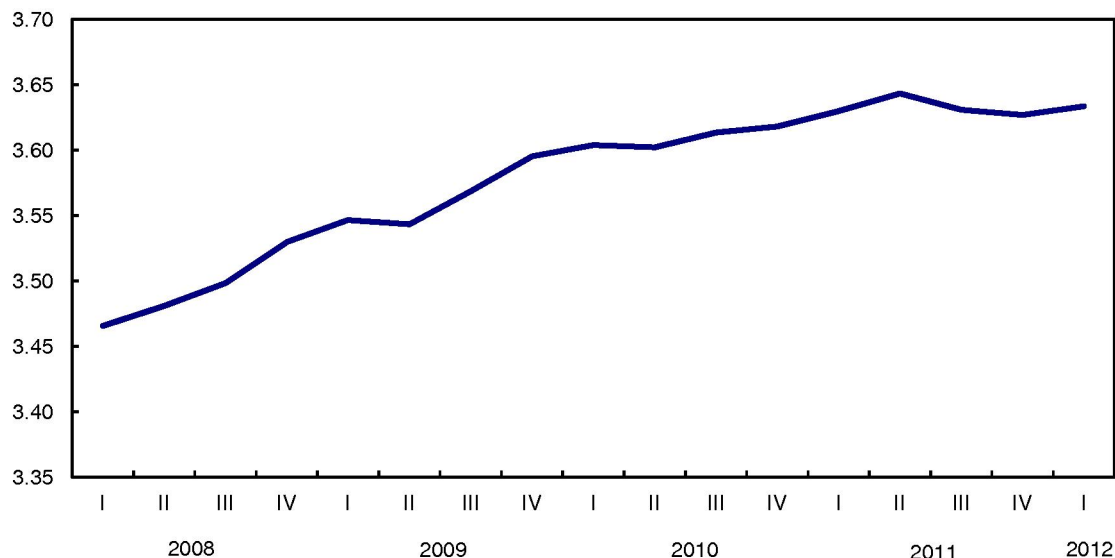
The three levels of general government (federal, provincial and territorial, and local) accounted for 38.1% of total public sector employment in the first quarter. Educational institutions represented 29.2%, followed by health and social service institutions (23.9%) and government business enterprises (8.8%).

Public sector employees represented 20.2% of total employment in Canada in the first quarter, unchanged since the third quarter of 2011. This proportion has been slowly declining since its peak (20.6%) in the fourth quarter of 2009.

Total public sector wages and salaries increased 0.9% between the first quarter of 2011 and first quarter of 2012.

Chart 1 Public sector employment

number (millions), seasonally adjusted



Note to readers

The public sector includes all economic entities controlled by government and comprises four major components: the three levels of government (federal, provincial and territorial, and local) and government business enterprises. Each level of government has a general government component comprising ministries; departments; agencies and non-autonomous funds; autonomous funds and organizations; and non-autonomous pension plans. Provincial and territorial government includes universities and colleges as well as health and social service institutions. Local government includes school boards. Government business enterprises are institutional units controlled by government; they operate on an autonomous basis as commercial corporations in the marketplace.

This is the final release of the Public sector employment program. Statistics Canada will continue to produce data on public administration employment through the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours and the Labour Force Survey.

Table 1
Public sector employment – Seasonally adjusted

	Fourth quarter 2011 ^r	First quarter 2012 ^p	Fourth quarter 2011 to first quarter 2012
	thousands		% change
Public sector	3,627	3,633	0.2
General government	1,381	1,383	0.2
Federal	417	416	-0.3
Provincial and territorial	357	357	0.2
Local	607	610	0.5
Educational institutions	1,059	1,059	0.0
Universities and colleges ¹	376	377	0.3
School boards	683	682	-0.2
Health and social service institutions	864	870	0.6
Government business enterprises	320	319	-0.4

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Includes vocational and trade institutions.

Note(s): Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 183-0002 and 183-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1713.

For a more detailed description of how public sector employment is defined and reconciled with other information sources, refer to the document entitled *Reconciliation of Public Sector Employment Estimates from Multiple Information Sources* by clicking survey number 1713.

[Data tables](#) on public sector employment are also available in the *National economic accounts* module of our website.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-0767; pssd-info-dssp@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Alain Baril (613-951-4131; alain.baril@statcan.gc.ca), Public Sector Statistics Division.

Railway carloadings, March 2012 (preliminary data)

Canadian railways carried 26.7 million tonnes of freight in March, virtually unchanged from March 2011. A drop in domestic loadings was fully offset by an increase in cargo received from US connections.

Total domestic freight loadings, composed of non-intermodal traffic (i.e., carried in bulk or loaded in box cars) and intermodal traffic (i.e., containers and trailers on flat cars), fell 1.6% to 23.4 million tonnes over the same 12-month period.

Non-intermodal cargo loadings declined 2.8% to 20.9 million tonnes. The decrease was the result of reduced traffic in more than one-third of the commodity classifications carried by the railways. The commodity groups with the largest declines in tonnage were potash, iron ores and concentrates, and coal.

In contrast, several commodity groups registered increases. Loadings of wheat increased the most, followed by fuel oils and crude petroleum, and colza seeds (canola).

Intermodal freight loadings rose 9.7% to 2.5 million tonnes. The increase occurred solely on the strength of containerized cargo shipments, as trailers loaded onto flat cars declined.

Traffic received from US connections advanced 13.1% to 3.3 million tonnes. The increase was driven by both non-intermodal and intermodal traffic.

Geographically, 59.6% of the freight traffic originating in Canada was in the Western Division of Canada, with the remainder loaded in the Eastern Division. For statistical purposes, cargo loadings from Thunder Bay, Ontario, to the Pacific Coast are classified to the Western Division while loadings from Armstrong, Ontario, to the Atlantic Coast are classified to the Eastern Division.

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 404-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2732.

The March 2012 issue of *Monthly Railway Carloadings*, Vol. 89, no. 3 (52-001-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation, April 2012

Data on mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation are now available for April.

Note to readers

Data are available upon request only.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2110.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Asphalt roofing, April 2012

Data on asphalt roofing are now available for April.

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 303-0052.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2123.

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Electric power selling price indexes, January to April 2012

Electric power selling price indexes (2009=100) are now available for January to April.

Note to readers

The Electric Power Selling Price Index is a monthly series measuring the price movements of sales of electricity by distributors to commercial and industrial users; the estimates are produced three times per year.

Data released are not seasonally adjusted.

Indexes for the current year and the previous year are subject to revision.

As of the previous release, the Electric Power Selling Price Index has been converted to 2009=100, with 2009 as the base year. The weights used in the compilation of the index have also been updated to reflect the 2009 revenues from the sale of electricity.

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 329-0073.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2325.

The April 2012 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011-X, free) will soon be available.

The electric power selling price indexes for May to August will be released on October 1.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

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