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Releases

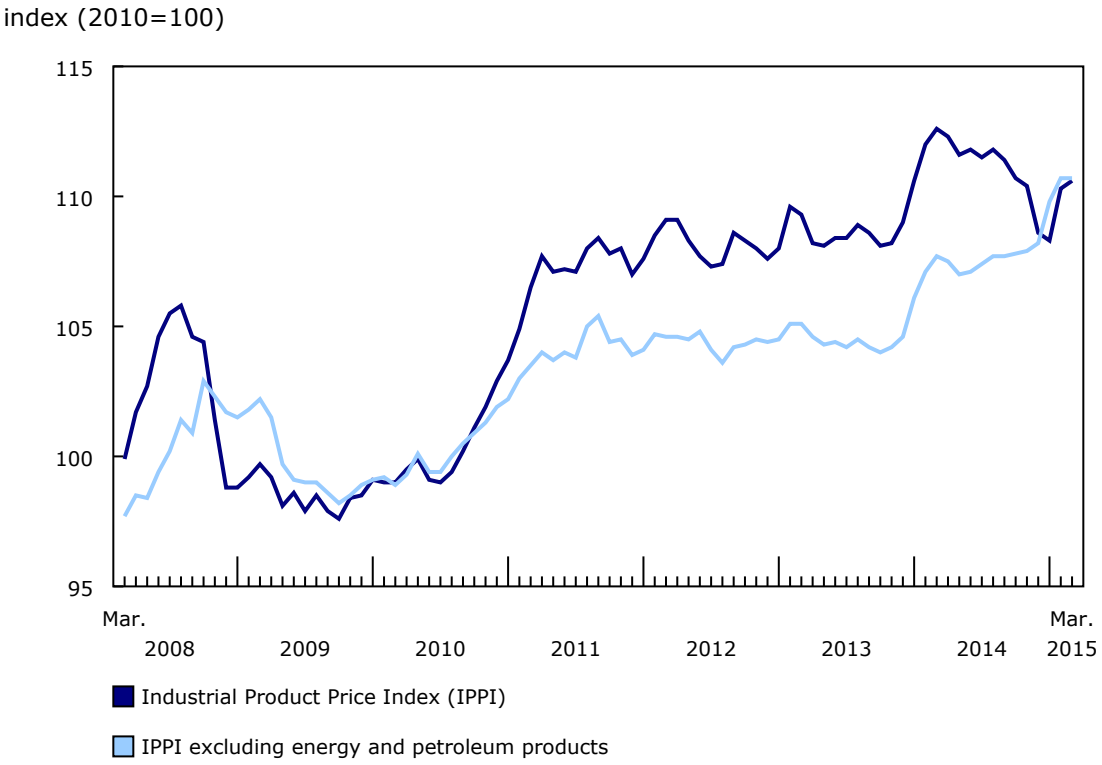
New products and studies

Releases

Industrial product and raw materials price indexes, March 2015

The Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) increased 0.3% in March, largely as a result of higher prices for energy and petroleum products. The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) declined 0.9%, mainly because of lower prices for crude energy products.

Chart 1
Prices for industrial goods increase



Source(s): CANSIM table 329-0074.

Industrial Product Price Index, monthly change

The IPPI increased 0.3% in March following a 1.8% gain in February. Of the 21 commodity groups, 11 were up, 7 were down and 3 were unchanged.

The main contribution to the increase in March was energy and petroleum products (+1.8%). The gain was mainly led by higher prices for motor gasoline (+5.2%), while lower prices for diesel fuel (-0.9%) slightly moderated the gain. The IPPI excluding energy and petroleum products was unchanged, after five consecutive monthly increases.

Also contributing to the gain were higher prices for motorized and recreational vehicles (+0.3%) as well as chemicals and chemical products (+0.2%).

The gain in motorized and recreational vehicles was led by higher prices for passenger cars and light trucks (+0.5%) and, to a lesser extent, motor vehicle engines and motor vehicle parts (+0.4%) as well as aircraft (+0.7%).

The rise in chemicals and chemical products was mainly a result of higher prices for petrochemicals (+1.9%) and ammonia and chemical fertilizers (+1.7%), while lower prices for plastic resins (-1.5%) moderated the gain in the commodity group.

The increase in the IPPI was largely moderated by a 1.1% decline for primary non-ferrous metal products. The main reason for the decline in this commodity group was lower prices for unwrought precious metals and precious metal alloys (-3.2%) and, to a lesser extent, other unwrought non-ferrous metals and non-ferrous metal alloys (-2.4%). Moderating the decline in this commodity group were higher prices for unwrought copper and copper alloys (+3.6%).

Also putting downward pressure on the IPPI were lower prices for primary ferrous metal products (-1.1%) and, to a lesser extent, meat, fish and dairy products (-0.2%).

The decline in primary ferrous metal products was mainly attributable to lower prices for iron and steel basic shapes (-1.4%), as well as wire and other rolled and drawn steel products (-1.8%).

The decline in meat, fish, and dairy products was mainly a result of lower prices for fresh and frozen pork (-2.7%), while higher prices for fresh and frozen beef and veal (+0.7%) partly moderated the decline. The price of fresh and frozen pork has declined 16.3% since peaking in July 2014.

Some IPPI prices are reported in US dollars and are converted to Canadian dollars using the average monthly exchange rate. Consequently, any change in the value of the Canadian dollar relative to the US dollar will affect the level of the index. From February to March, the Canadian dollar depreciated 1.0% relative to the US dollar. If the exchange rate had remained constant, the IPPI would have increased 0.1% instead of increasing 0.3%.

Industrial Product Price Index, 12-month change

The IPPI decreased 1.8% over the 12-month period ending in March, after decreasing 1.5% in February.

Compared with the same period last year, the decline of the IPPI was largely attributable to energy and petroleum products (-23.5%). Motor gasoline (-23.9%) and, to a lesser extent, diesel fuel (-24.3%) and light fuel oils (-21.3%) were the main reasons for the decline in this commodity group. Excluding energy and petroleum products, the IPPI rose 2.8% compared with the same month last year.

To a lesser extent, chemicals and chemical products (-6.8%) also contributed to the decline in the IPPI. The decrease was primarily a result of lower prices for aromatic hydrocarbon gases (-37.8%) as well as liquefied refinery gases, and acyclic hydrocarbons not elsewhere classified (-25.7%).

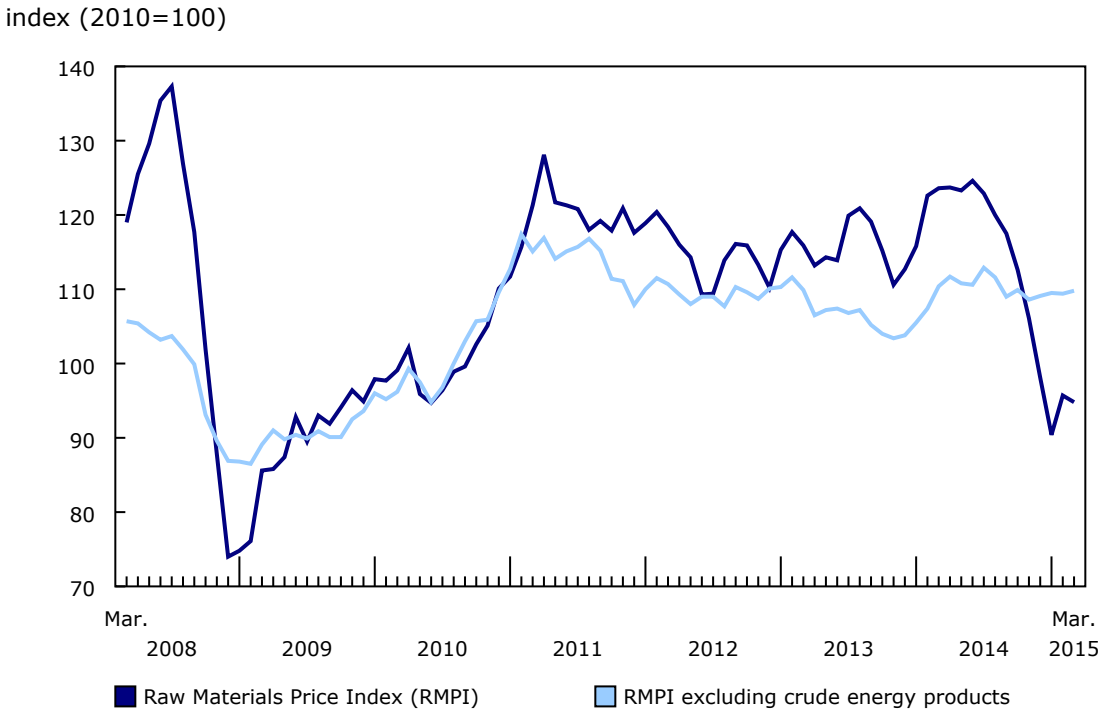
The year-over-year decline in the IPPI was moderated by higher prices for motorized and recreational vehicles (+9.3%). The increase was mainly attributable to higher prices for passenger cars and light trucks (+9.9%) and, to a lesser extent, motor vehicle engines and motor vehicle parts (+6.3%) as well as aircraft (+15.1%).

Also moderating the year-over-year decline in the IPPI were higher prices for meat, fish and dairy products (+4.6%), specifically fresh and frozen beef and veal (+24.4%). Moderating the increase in this group were lower prices for fresh and frozen pork (-8.6%), which saw its first year-over-year decrease since March 2013. Year-over-year prices for meat, fish and dairy products have not declined since July 2010.

Raw Materials Price Index, monthly change

The RMPI fell 0.9% in March following a 5.9% gain in February. Of the six commodity groups, four were up, one was down and one was unchanged.

Chart 2
Prices for raw materials decrease



Source(s): CANSIM table 330-0008.

The decline in the RMPI was largely a result of lower prices for crude energy products (-2.8%), specifically conventional crude oil (-2.9%). The RMPI excluding crude energy products increased 0.4%.

Moderating the decline in the RMPI were higher prices for animals and animal products (+0.5%) as well as metal ores, concentrates and scrap (+0.3%).

Higher prices for cattle and calves (+2.4%) were the main reason for the increase for animals and animal products, while lower prices for hogs (-1.9%) moderated the gain.

Raw Materials Price Index, 12-month change

The RMPI fell 23.3% over the 12-month period ending in March, following a 21.9% decline in February.

The year-over-year decline in the RMPI was almost entirely attributable to lower prices for crude energy products (-42.8%), specifically conventional crude oil (-43.8%). The RMPI excluding crude energy products decreased 0.5% year over year.

Also contributing to the decline, but to a much lesser extent, was metal ores, concentrates and scrap (-2.4%).

Note to readers

The Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) and Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) are available at the Canada level only. Selected commodity groups within the IPPI are also available by region.

With each release, data for the previous six months may have been revised. The indexes are not seasonally adjusted.

*The **Industrial Product Price Index** 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 the 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. However, the conversion into Canadian dollars only reflects how respondents provide their prices. This is not a measure that takes the full effect of exchange rates into account.

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 it is available on CANSIM in table 176-0064 (series v37426). Monthly and annual variations in the exchange rate, as described in the release, are calculated according to the indirect quotation of the exchange rate (for example, CAN$1 = US$X).

*The **Raw Materials Price Index** 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]	March 2014	February 2015[r]	March 2015[p]	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015
	%	(2010=100)			% change	
Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI)	**100.00**	**112.6**	**110.3**	**110.6**	**0.3**	**-1.8**
IPPI excluding energy and petroleum products	**86.40**	**107.7**	**110.7**	**110.7**	**0.0**	**2.8**
Aggregation by commodities						
Meat, fish, and dairy products	7.21	115.0	120.5	120.3	-0.2	4.6
Fruit, vegetables, feed and other food products	7.53	112.2	111.7	111.9	0.2	-0.3
Beverages (except juices)	1.92	104.7	105.4	105.4	0.0	0.7
Tobacco products	0.25	121.0	130.2	130.3	0.1	7.7
Textile and leather products	0.57	105.9	107.5	108.2	0.7	2.2
Clothing, footwear and accessories	0.51	102.3	103.8	103.8	0.0	1.5
Chemicals and chemical products	8.46	115.3	107.3	107.5	0.2	-6.8
Plastic and rubber products	2.79	106.9	110.3	110.6	0.3	3.5
Lumber and other wood products	2.27	104.7	108.0	107.9	-0.1	3.1
Pulp and paper products	4.09	102.3	104.7	104.8	0.1	2.4
Energy and petroleum products	13.60	143.4	107.8	109.7	1.8	-23.5
Primary ferrous metal products	3.32	106.0	108.3	107.1	-1.1	1.0
Primary non-ferrous metal products	8.03	105.5	108.8	107.6	-1.1	2.0
Fabricated metal products and construction materials	3.17	102.6	105.9	106.0	0.1	3.3
Motorized and recreational vehicles	17.23	105.9	115.3	115.7	0.3	9.3
Machinery and equipment	5.73	104.9	107.6	107.8	0.2	2.8
Electrical, electronic, audiovisual and telecommunication products	4.69	103.4	107.8	108.2	0.4	4.6
Furniture and fixtures	1.49	102.8	103.5	103.5	0.0	0.7
Cement, glass, and other non-metallic mineral products	2.34	106.0	108.0	107.6	-0.4	1.5
Packaging materials and containers	2.38	107.5	112.2	111.8	-0.4	4.0
Miscellaneous products	2.41	109.4	111.0	110.7	-0.3	1.2

r revised
p preliminary
1. The relative importance is based on the annual 2010 values of production.
Source(s): CANSIM table **329-0074**.

Table 2
Raw Materials Price Index – Not seasonally adjusted

	Relative importance[1]	March 2014	February 2015[r]	March 2015[p]	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015
	%	(2010=100)			% change	
Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI)	**100.00**	**123.6**	**95.7**	**94.8**	**-0.9**	**-23.3**
RMPI excluding crude energy products	**51.83**	**110.4**	**109.4**	**109.8**	**0.4**	**-0.5**
Crude energy products	48.17	137.7	81.0	78.7	-2.8	-42.8
Crop products	8.68	125.6	126.3	126.4	0.1	0.6
Animals and animal products	15.51	128.6	128.5	129.2	0.5	0.5
Non-metallic minerals	1.85	107.1	111.8	111.8	0.0	4.4
Logs, pulpwood, natural rubber and other forestry products	2.84	111.3	108.8	108.9	0.1	-2.2
Metal ores, concentrates and scrap	22.96	92.5	90.0	90.3	0.3	-2.4

r revised
p preliminary
1. The relative importance is based on the annual 2010 values of raw material inputs into production.
Source(s): CANSIM table **330-0008**.

Available in CANSIM: tables 329-0074 to 329-0077 and 330-0008.

Table 329-0074: Industrial Product Price Index, by major commodity aggregations.

Table 329-0075: Industrial Product Price Index, by commodity.

Table 329-0076: Industrial Product Price Index, for selected groups, by region.

Table 329-0077: Industrial Product Price Index, by North American Industry Classification System.

Table 330-0008: Raw Materials Price Index, by commodity.

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

The industrial product and raw materials price indexes for April will be released on May 28.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; **infostats@statcan.gc.ca**) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; **mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca**).

Study: Changes in debt and assets of Canadian families, 1999 to 2012

Between 1999 and 2012, the value of debt and assets held by Canadian families both rose. However, the debt and assets increased at different rates by category of family.

In 2012, 71% of all Canadian families had some debt, up from 67% in 1999. Debt includes both mortgages and consumer debt such as car loans, lines of credit, vehicle loans, personal loans and student debt.

Between 1999 and 2012, the median debt held by indebted families—the value separating the top half of families with the most debt from the bottom half—increased by $23,400 (in 2012 constant dollars) to $60,100.

To provide a complete perspective on household finances, it is important to also examine changes in the value of assets among families with debt.

The median assets of Canadian families with debt rose by $179,800 over the same period (in 2012 constant dollars) to $405,200. Assets include financial assets (employer pension and non-pension) and non-financial assets such as real estate assets.

Such results suggest that the value of assets rose at least as rapidly as the value of debt for many Canadian families. In fact, median assets increased by 80% while median debt was up by 64%.

Even though both debt and assets increased for nearly all types of families, the magnitude of the changes was not necessarily the same in all family categories.

Debt and asset changes not always similar across family categories

Among couple families with children under 18, for example, median debt more than doubled, increasing by $87,400 over the period. At the same time, median assets in these families increased by $245,100 (or up 86%).

The median debt increased more modestly among families without children under 18 (up $42,500 or 88%), but these families also benefited from a significant increase in median assets (up $253,200 or 78%).

Another important family dimension is the age of the major income earner. Among families in the 35-to-44 age group, median debt rose by $79,600 over the period (a 126% increase). Meanwhile, median assets rose by $179,800 (or up 77%).

By comparison, the median debt of families in the 55-to-64 age group rose by $23,100 over the period, compared with a $252,700 increase in median assets.

For some family categories, increases in debt were not matched with a statistically significant rise in assets. This was the case among non-homeowners, single people (unattached individuals) and families whose major income earner was between 15 and 34 years old.

Most of the increases in debt values were attributable to rising mortgage debt. In the case of assets, a large portion of the increase was a result of rising real estate values.

Debt rising as a proportion of income, but not as a proportion of assets

Another perspective on family finances can be obtained by examining debt-to-asset and debt-to-income ratios. The first ratio divides total family debt by total family assets, while the second divides total family debt by the family's annual after-tax income.

Because they are expressed as medians, and also because the macroeconomic account concepts of debt and income differ from household survey concepts, these ratios cannot be compared with household debt indicators from the National Balance Sheet Accounts, which are calculated on the basis of macroeconomic statistics.

Between 1999 and 2012, the median debt-to-income ratio of Canadian families with debt increased from 0.78 to 1.10. This indicates that the median family had a debt corresponding to 110% of the family after-tax income in 2012 (up from 78% in 1999).

However, more than one-third of families had a debt-to-income ratio above 2.0 in 2012, meaning that their overall debt level was at least 200% the level of their annual after-tax income. This was the case of less than one-quarter of Canadian families in 1999.

By comparison, the median debt-to-asset ratio remained relatively stable over the period, as the median Canadian family had a debt corresponding to about one-quarter of its assets in both years (0.27 in 1999 and 0.25 in 2012).

Such results suggest that Canadian families became more indebted over the period, but did so against a backdrop of rising asset values, notably real estate worth.

Note to readers

In this study, data from the Survey of Financial Security (SFS) are used to examine the median values of debt, assets and net worth of Canadian families. The median values of the debt-to-income and debt-to-assets ratios were also examined.

The SFS is a household survey that collected information from Canadian families on assets and debts, and also on a number of other personal and family characteristics—such as age, education, income, marital status and employment. Prior to 2012, the SFS was conducted in 2005 and in 1999.

In this analysis, the focus is restricted to families with some level of debt. Debt values are expressed at the family level and include mortgage debt on the principal residence and all other real estate as well as consumer debt. Assets held by the family include real estate assets, employer pension plans and all other financial and non-financial assets.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2620.

The article "Changes in debt and assets of Canadian families, 1999 to 2012" is now available online in *Insights on Canadian Society* (**75-006-X**). From the *Browse by key resource* module of our website, choose *Publications*.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; **infostats@statcan.gc.ca**).

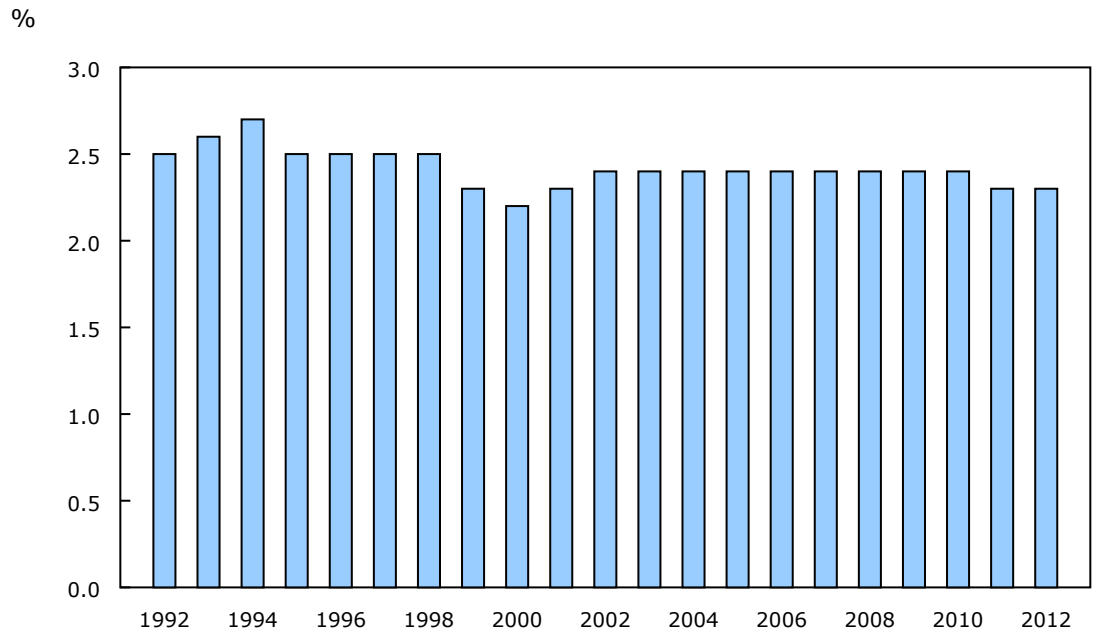
To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sharanjit Uppal (613-854-3482; **sharanjit.uppal@statcan.gc.ca**), Labour Statistics Division.

For more information on *Insights on Canadian Society*, contact Sébastien LaRochelle-Côté (613-951-0803; **sebastien.larochelle-cote@statcan.gc.ca**), Labour Statistics Division.

The underground economy in Canada, 2012

In 2012, total underground activity was $42.4 billion in Canada or about 2.3% of gross domestic product (GDP). This proportion trended down during the mid- to late 1990s from a high of 2.7% in 1994 to a low of 2.2% in 2000. However, after a brief uptick in the early 2000s the proportion remained relatively stable between 2.3% and 2.4%.

Chart 1
Underground economy as a proportion of gross domestic product, Canada, 1992 to 2012



Source(s): Statistics Canada.

In 2012, the residential construction industry (28.3%), finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing and holding companies industries (13.8%), retail trade industry (12.2%) and accommodation and food services industry (11.6%) accounted for the greatest share of underground economic activity. These four industries together accounted for two-thirds of the total underground economy value added.

Underground economic activity can also be examined from an expenditure perspective. In 2012, household final consumption expenditure accounted for 65.2% of underground economy activity. Business gross fixed capital formation accounted for another 28.4%, exports 9.2% and imports negative 2.9%.

Underground activities related to household final consumption expenditure could have amounted to $2,025 per household in 2012. The top five categories of underground activity per household were related to expenditures on food and beverage services ($408 per household), paid rental fees for housing ($388 per household), tobacco ($164 per household), alcoholic beverages ($151 per household) and the operation of transportation vehicles ($117 per household).

Examined from the income-based approach, the largest share of the underground economy income went to employees (47.7%), followed by corporations (28.8%) and unincorporated businesses (23.4%). Wages paid under the table and undeclared tips accounted for an estimated $20.3 billion in 2012 or equivalent to 2.2% of the official GDP estimates of compensation of employees. This amount represented $1,466 for every job in the business sector in 2012.

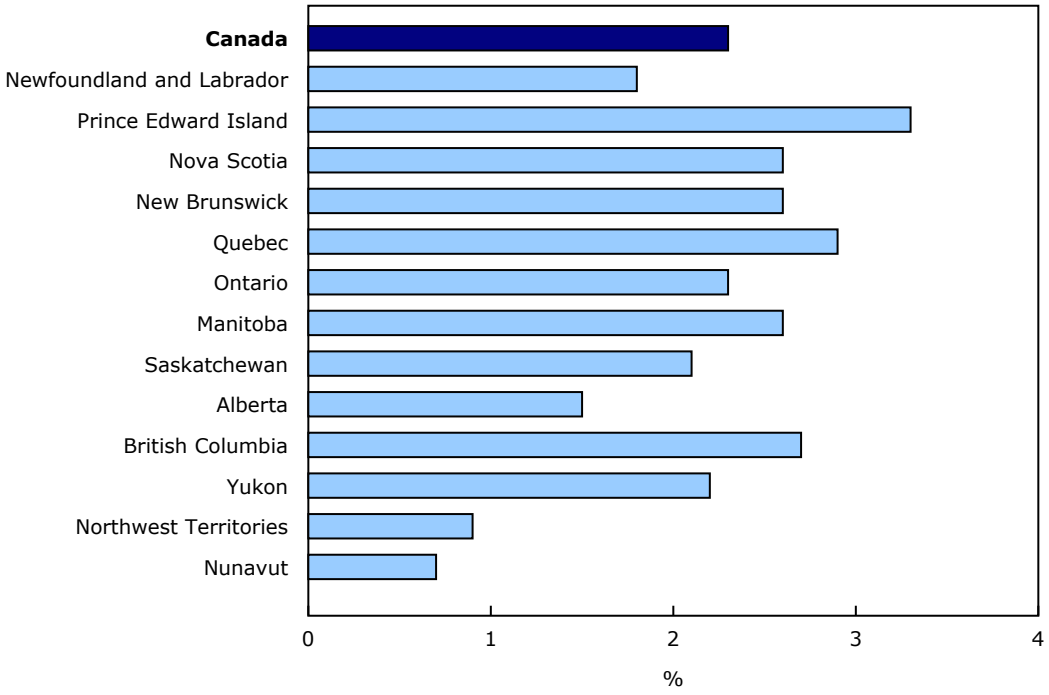
Underground economy by province and territory

The total value of underground economic activity in 2012 was the highest in the four largest economies: Ontario ($15.3 billion), Quebec ($10.4 billion), British Columbia ($5.9 billion) and Alberta ($4.8 billion).

Between 2007 and 2012, underground activity increased in every province. Saskatchewan (+39.6%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (+31.1%) recorded the largest gains, while the Northwest Territories (+5.4%) and Nunavut (+7.1%) posted the smallest.

Despite changes in the value of underground activity, the underground economy as a proportion of GDP remained relatively stable in every province and territory. The underground economy as a proportion of GDP was the largest in Prince Edward Island, while Nunavut and the Northwest Territories had the smallest share.

Chart 2
Underground economy as a proportion of official gross domestic product by province and territory, 2012



Source(s): Statistics Canada.

The underground economy accounted for 3.3% of GDP in Prince Edward Island in 2012. Retail trade as well as accommodation and food services, which the study assumes are most likely to have underground activity, make up larger shares of Prince Edward Island's GDP relative to other provinces. These industries, along with residential construction and manufacturing, account for the majority of underground activity in Prince Edward Island.

As a proportion of GDP, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories had the smallest underground economy, accounting for 0.7% and 0.9% respectively. This study assumes that there is no underground activity in the government sector, and that underreporting of revenues (or over reporting of expenses) is less likely to occur in highly regulated industries or in large businesses. Public administration and mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction make up large shares of the economies in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.

Note to readers

Available today, for the first time, are estimates of the underground economy by province and territory for the reference years 2007 to 2012. National data are also available for the reference year 2012 while estimates for 2007 to 2011 have been revised.

*The **underground economy** can be defined as consisting of market-based economic activities, whether legal or illegal, that escape measurement because of their hidden, illegal or informal nature. For the purpose of this study, some illegal activities, such as those related to drugs and prostitution, have been excluded.*

The study presents underground economy estimates based on the three methods of measuring gross domestic product (GDP): the expenditure-based approach, the income-based approach and the industry-based approach. The data presented in this release are in current dollars. However, the study provides estimates adjusted for inflation at the national level but not by province or territory.

The underground economy estimates are fully integrated with the current framework of the Canadian System of National Accounts.

Readers should be careful in interpreting the results of this study. First, estimates presented give an upper bound, as recommended by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development handbook on measuring the non-observed economy. To derive these bounds, assumptions were made to estimate the maximum potential underground activity beyond what is already included in GDP using standard methods. Second, by its very nature, it is difficult to obtain information on the underground economy so that the estimates necessarily rely on assumptions, indicative information and various indirect methods. Third, official GDP already includes some implicit and explicit adjustments for underground activity. For these reasons, the estimates calculated in this study cannot simply be added to the official GDP to arrive at a measure of GDP including the underground economy. Estimates are also less likely to be as accurate or reliable as other Canadian Economic Accounts estimates.

The *System of macroeconomic accounts* module, accessible from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website, features an up-to-date portrait of national and provincial economies and their structure.

Data tables for the provinces and territories 2007 to 2012, and for Canada 1992 to 2012, are available upon request.

The paper "Methodology for measuring the underground economy by province and territory" is now available as part of the *Latest Developments in the Canadian Economic Accounts* (**13-605-X**). From the *Browse by key resource* module of our website choose *Publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; **infostats@statcan.gc.ca**) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; **mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca**).

Environmental protection expenditures by businesses, 2012

Canadian businesses reported that they spent $10.9 billion on environmental protection in 2012, up 15% from 2010.

Two categories of expenditures—pollution abatement and control processes, and waste management and sewerage services—accounted for just over half the total.

The oil and gas extraction industry reported spending $4.7 billion or 43% of total business environmental protection expenditures. This was the most among the 16 industry groups surveyed. The mining and quarrying industry followed, spending $1.4 billion or 12% of total expenditures, while the electric power generation, transmission and distribution industry spent just over $1.3 billion in 2012.

Provincially, businesses in Alberta reported the highest spending on environmental protection at just over $5.0 billion. This was largely attributable to the high concentration of the oil and gas extraction industry in the province.

Of the $10.9 billion in total environmental protection spending, capital expenses accounted for $5.3 billion, up 19% from 2010. Operating expenses, in turn, accounted for $5.7 billion, up 11%.

Capital expenditures

Capital spending in the oil and gas extraction industry totalled $2.6 billion on environmental protection projects, up 13% from 2010. This accounted for 49% of the total.

Investment in pollution abatement and control accounted for 45% of total capital investment, followed by pollution prevention, which represented 20%. These two activities have received the largest share of investments in each survey cycle since 2006.

Operating expenditures

As in previous years, the largest share of operating expenses was for waste management and sewerage services. In 2012, businesses spent $1.6 billion on these services, representing 27% of total operating expenditures on environmental protection.

The oil and gas extraction industry reported the highest environmental protection operating expenditures at $2.2 billion, or 38% of the total.

Spending on renewable energy and on greenhouse gas emission mitigation

Capital investments in renewable energy technologies totalled $547 million, up 20% from 2010. Investment was highest in biomass energy technologies, which accounted for more than half of the total in renewable energy technologies.

In addition, about 12% of businesses surveyed reported they had conducted a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, up from 10% of businesses in 2010.

Note to readers

This release presents data from the 2012 Survey of Environmental Protection Expenditures, which is a biennial survey of just over 3,500 establishments in selected primary industries and in the manufacturing sector.

Measures of industrial spending on environmental protection are restricted to spending made in response to current or anticipated regulations, conventions or voluntary agreements. Measures of spending on renewable energy technologies include all such expenditures, regardless of whether they were made in response to regulations or for another reason.

The survey underwent a redesign for the 2006 reference year. For this reason, comparisons with survey estimates for years prior to 2006 are not recommended.

Available in CANSIM: tables 153-0052 to 153-0056 and 153-0117 to 153-0120.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1903.

The fact sheet "Capital expenditures on environmental protection, 2012" is now available as part of the publication *Enviro Fact Sheets* (**16-508-X**) from the *Browse by 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 us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; **infostats@statcan.gc.ca**) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; **mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca**).

Railway carloadings, February 2015

The volume of rail freight carried in Canada totalled 25.7 million tonnes in February, up 7.2% from the same month last year.

Domestic rail freight originating in Canada and destined within Canada and other parts of the world rose 8.4% to 22.8 million tonnes. These shipments are composed of non-intermodal freight (that is, cargo moved via box cars or loaded in bulk) and intermodal freight (that is, cargo moved via containers and trailers on flat cars).

Non-intermodal freight increased 7.3% to 248,000 carloads. The amount of freight loaded into these cars totalled 20.4 million tonnes, up 9.7%. The gain was attributable to an increase in freight loadings in several commodity groupings, particularly iron ores and concentrates (up 1.2 million tonnes), potash (up 327 000 tonnes) and wheat (up 312 000 tonnes).

Intermodal freight loadings rose 2.0% to 160,000 units in February. From a tonnage perspective, traffic decreased 1.2% to 2.4 million tonnes. The decline stemmed from a drop in trailers loaded on to flat cars.

Traffic received from the United States fell 1.4% to 2.9 million tonnes. The drop was the result of a decrease in non-intermodal loadings.

Note to readers

The survey presents data essential to the timely analysis of the rail transportation industry and its contribution to the Canadian economy. Survey data cover carrier railways operating in Canada that provide for-hire freight service and their transportation of various railway carloading components, such as the number of rail cars, tonnage, units and 20-feet equivalent units.

Data aggregations are available for Canada, the Eastern Division and the Western Division.

The aggregations in this release are not seasonally adjusted.

Available in CANSIM: table 404-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2732.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; **infostats@statcan.gc.ca**) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; **mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca**).

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Latest Developments in the Canadian Economic Accounts
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New studies

Methodology for measuring the underground economy by province and territory
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