



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Wednesday, January 30, 2008**

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## Releases

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## **Federal government finance: Assets and liabilities**

As of March 31, 2007

At March 31, 2007, the federal government's net financial debt (defined as the excess of liabilities over financial assets) decreased to \$508.1 billion, a 1.2% or \$6.0 billion decline from March 31, 2006. An increase of \$5.1 billion in financial assets and a decrease of \$0.9 billion in liabilities explain this drop. The federal government net financial debt has decreased for the 10th consecutive year, a decline of \$80.3 billion from 1997 to 2007.

The increase of \$5.1 billion in financial assets results mainly from increases in international reserves held in the Exchange Fund Account for use in managing foreign currency transactions. The decrease in liabilities of \$0.9 billion is primarily explained by decreases in interest-bearing debt instruments, particularly bonds and debentures, saving bonds and Canada bills, which are partly offset by increases in treasury bills and liabilities to pension plans. The liabilities for pension plans represent the federal government's obligations for the public sector pension plans it sponsors, such as the Public Service Superannuation Account and the Canadian Forces Pension Fund Account.

As a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), the federal government net financial debt decreased from 36.8% in 2006 to 34.8% in 2007, the lowest since 1984. As of March 31, 2007, the federal government's net financial debt as a percentage of GDP represents less than half of the peak of 70.9%, posted in 1996. This improvement in federal government finance between 1996 and 2007 is mainly explained by an increase in the Canadian nominal GDP of more than 75%, combined with a decline in the net financial debt of 12.2%, from \$578.7 billion in 1996 to \$508.1 billion in 2007.

On a per capita basis, the federal government's net financial debt reached a peak in 1997 at \$19,732. It has since steadily declined to reach \$15,458 as of March 31, 2007 down from \$15,798 one year earlier.

These statistics are based on the data released by the federal government in its Public Accounts

as of March 31, 2007 and converted to Statistics Canada's Financial Management System (FMS). The federal government introduced accrual accounting in their 2003 financial statements. To retain comparability with prior years, these changes are not included in the FMS presentation.

**Note:** The Financial Management System (FMS) provides a standardized presentation of government accounting for the federal, provincial and local governments in Canada. The individual governments' accounting systems are not directly comparable because the policies and structure of governments differ.

The FMS adjusts data from government Public Accounts and other records to provide detailed data that permit inter-government comparisons as well as compatible national aggregates that are consistent over time. As a result, FMS statistics may not accord with the figures published in government financial statements. A reconciliation statement between the Public Accounts and the FMS is available on CANSIM.

This release is part of a series of data products related to government balance sheets. Provincial and territorial general government balance sheets were released December 11, 2007. Local government and consolidated government balance sheets will be released in April.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 385-0010, 385-0014, 385-0018 and 385-0025.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1709.**

Data tables on the federal government finance: Assets and liabilities are also available under the *National economic account* module of our website.

For more information or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-0767; [fe-pid-dipinfo@statcan.ca](mailto:fe-pid-dipinfo@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or quality of this release, contact Philippe Samborski (613-951-7101; [philippe.samborski@statcan.ca](mailto:philippe.samborski@statcan.ca)), Public Institutions Division. □

## Federal government net financial debt at March 31<sup>1</sup>

|      | Net<br>financial<br>debt | Net<br>financial<br>debt<br>percentage<br>of<br>GDP <sup>2</sup> | Net<br>financial<br>debt<br>per<br>capita <sup>3</sup> |
|------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
|      | \$ millions              | %                                                                | \$                                                     |
| 1971 | 18,581                   | 20.4                                                             | 863                                                    |
| 1975 | 24,769                   | 15.6                                                             | 1,075                                                  |
| 1980 | 72,555                   | 25.1                                                             | 2,971                                                  |
| 1985 | 209,891                  | 45.8                                                             | 8,143                                                  |
| 1991 | 395,075                  | 58.1                                                             | 14,142                                                 |
| 1992 | 428,682                  | 62.2                                                             | 15,167                                                 |
| 1993 | 471,061                  | 66.7                                                             | 16,472                                                 |
| 1994 | 513,219                  | 69.8                                                             | 17,755                                                 |
| 1995 | 550,685                  | 70.5                                                             | 18,852                                                 |
| 1996 | 578,718                  | 70.9                                                             | 19,607                                                 |
| 1997 | 588,402                  | 69.4                                                             | 19,732                                                 |
| 1998 | 581,581                  | 65.2                                                             | 19,333                                                 |
| 1999 | 574,468                  | 62.1                                                             | 18,949                                                 |
| 2000 | 561,733                  | 55.8                                                             | 18,359                                                 |
| 2001 | 545,300                  | 49.8                                                             | 17,640                                                 |
| 2002 | 534,690                  | 48.3                                                             | 17,101                                                 |
| 2003 | 526,492                  | 44.8                                                             | 16,673                                                 |
| 2004 | 523,648                  | 42.8                                                             | 16,418                                                 |
| 2005 | 523,344                  | 40.0                                                             | 16,250                                                 |
| 2006 | 514,099                  | 36.8                                                             | 15,798                                                 |
| 2007 | 508,109                  | 34.8                                                             | 15,458                                                 |

1. This table is derived using the Financial Management System.

2. From CANSIM table 380-0002, Gross domestic product (GDP), expenditure-based, quarterly.

3. From CANSIM table 051-0005, Estimates of population, Canada, provinces and territories, quarterly.

## Computer and peripherals price indexes

November and December 2007

In November, the index for commercial computers decreased 1.2% from October to 32.6 (2001=100). The index for consumer computers also declined, down 3.0% to 13.0.

In the case of computer peripherals, monitor prices decreased 3.8% to 48.4 in November, while printer prices fell 0.4% to 46.6.

In December, the index for commercial computers increased 0.3% from November to 32.7 (2001=100). The index for consumer computers remained unchanged at 13.0.

In the case of computer peripherals, monitor prices decreased 0.2% to 48.3 in December, while printer prices fell 5.4% to 44.1.

These indexes are available at the Canada level only.

**Note:** Effective with the February 2008 release of the computer and peripheral price indexes, the indexes will be converted from a 2001 reference year to a 2002 reference year. Previously these indexes were computed with weights that were updated quarterly. The weights will now be updated annually. Also, these indexes will now be published with two decimal places. Therefore, CANSIM tables 331-0001 and 331-0002 will

be terminated and be replaced by tables 331-0004 and 331-0005. The new tables have been recalculated back to January 2002.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 331-0001 and 331-0002.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5032.**

For more information on these indexes, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; [prices-prix@statcan.ca](mailto:prices-prix@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lu Li (613-951-1290; [lu.li@statcan.ca](mailto:lu.li@statcan.ca)), Prices Division.

## Estimates of the number of census families

As of July 1, 2007 (preliminary estimates)

Estimates of the number of census families as of July 1, 2007, for Canada, the provinces and territories, are now available.

Except for the territories, estimates are distributed by structure of family (husband-wife or lone-parent), size, age group of children, age group of husband and wife for husband-wife families as well as age group and sex of parent in lone-parent families.

These estimates are based on the 2001 Census counts adjusted for net census undercoverage and updated between censuses from migrations, deaths, divorces, marriages and common-law unions coming from different administrative sources.

**Available on CANSIM: table 051-0003.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3606.**

Data will appear in the CD-ROM *Annual Demographic Statistics Compendium, 2006/2007*, to be released in March.

For more information, to obtain additional data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-767-5611; 613-951-2320; fax: 613-951-2307; [demography@statcan.ca](mailto:demography@statcan.ca)), Demography Division. ■

## **Postal code conversion file**

September 2007

The September 2007 update of the *Postal Code Conversion File* (PCCF) is now available. This file links the six-character postal codes to the standard 2006 Census geographic areas (such as dissemination areas, census tracts and census subdivisions). By linking postal codes to the Statistics Canada geographic areas, the file facilitates the extraction and subsequent aggregation of data for selected geographic areas. The PCCF also associates each postal code with a longitude and latitude coordinate to support mapping applications. The file also indicates the source, quality and type of linkage made between the postal code and the geographic area.

The September 2007 update of the *Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File* (2003 Representation Order) is also available. This product, a subset of the PCCF, provides a link between the six-character postal code and Canada's federal electoral districts (commonly known as federal ridings). The "unique link" variable indicates if the postal code is linked to one or more federal electoral districts (FEDs). The *Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File* now

includes the variable "weight." When the postal code is linked to more than one FED, the "weight" estimates the proportion of the population of the postal code that resides within each FED.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3901.**

The *Postal Code Conversion File* (92-153-XCB, \$10,000; update 92-153-UCB, \$1,670) and the *Postal Codes by Federal Riding File* (92F0193XCB, \$2,500; update 92F0193UCB, \$500) are available in ASCII format on diskette or CD-ROM. The reference guides for the *Postal Code Conversion File* (92-153-GWE, free) and the *Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File* (92F0193GWE, free) are also available in electronic format.

For more information, contact GeoHelp (613-951-3889; [geohelp@statcan.ca](mailto:geohelp@statcan.ca)), Geography Division. ■

## **Traveller accommodation services price indexes**

Fourth quarter 2007

Statistics Canada today publishes monthly indexes for the fourth quarter of 2007 that measure price movements of accommodation services. These indexes reflect changes in room rates, excluding all indirect taxes, for overnight or short stays with no meals or other services provided. The indexes are available by province and by territory, for Canada, by major client group.

**Available on CANSIM: table 326-0013.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2336.**

For more information on these indexes, contact Client Services (613-951-9606; toll-free 1-866-230-2248; [prices-prix@statcan.ca](mailto:prices-prix@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Matthew MacDonald (613-951-8551; [matthew.macdonald2@statcan.ca](mailto:matthew.macdonald2@statcan.ca)), Prices Division. ■

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## New products

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**Statistical Methods Research and Development Program... Achievements, 2005/2006**  
**Catalogue number 12-206-XIE**  
(free).

**Statistical Methods Research and Development Program... Achievements, 2006/2007**  
**Catalogue number 12-206-XIE**  
(free).

**Postal Code Conversion File, 2006 Census, Reference Guide, Census year 2006**  
**Catalogue number 92-153-GWE**  
(free).

**Postal Code Conversion File (PCCF): Update, September 2007**  
**Catalogue number 92-153-UCB**  
(various prices).

**Postal Codes by Federal Ridings (2003 Representation Order) File (PCFRF), 2006 Census, Reference Guide, Census year 2006**  
**Catalogue number 92F0193GWE**  
(free).

**Postal Codes by Federal Ridings (2003 Representation Order) File (PCFRF), 2006 Census: Update, Census year 2006**  
**Catalogue number 92F0193UCB**  
(various prices).

**All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.**

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# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997  
For release at 9:30 a.m.

## MAJOR RELEASES

- Urban transit, 1996** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 21 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4  
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

## OTHER RELEASES

- Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3  
Short-term Expectations Survey 2  
Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 12  
Egg production, Apr. 1997 13

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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## Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications and library Services Division, Statistics Canada, 10G, R.H. Coats Building, 100 Tunney's Pasture Driveway, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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