



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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2006 Census: Labour market activities, industry, occupation, education, language of work, place of work and mode of transportation

On March 4, 2008, Statistics Canada will release detailed analyses of data from the 2006 Census on labour market activities, industry, occupation, education and language of work.

The findings will be released in three online documents: *Canada's Changing Labour Force, 2006 Census*; *Educational Portrait of Canada, 2006 Census*; and *Using Languages at Work in Canada, 2006 Census*.

These reports will be available on our website at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time, on March 4. Also available will be several tables that contain 2006 Census data on place of work and mode of transportation. The analysis for these variables will follow on April 2, 2008.

The labour market report will provide an in-depth assessment of changes in employment by industry between 2001 and 2006, changes in occupations and the impact of the aging workforce. It will also look at immigrants in the workforce, and developments in unpaid work.

The education document presents the findings of the census questions pertaining to the education of the adult population aged between 25 and 64. It examines three specific areas: the educational attainment of Canadians in this age group, the fields they are studying, and where they are studying.

The document on languages examines the use of the two official languages and non-official languages in the workplace by Anglophones, Francophones and allophones, nationally and in certain census metropolitan areas.

For more information, contact Media Relations (613-951-4636), Communications and Library Services Division.



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Releases

Survey of Household Spending

2006

Household spending in 2006 continued to show the effects of the strong resource economy in the West. Spending growth in Alberta surpassed all other provinces by a wide margin.

On average, each Canadian household spent \$48,770 on goods and services, up 4.6% from 2005. This was above the inflation rate of 2.0% as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Average household spending in Alberta for goods and services increased by 14% over 2005 to \$59,740, the largest year-over-year increase for one province ever recorded by this survey. Prince Edward Island showed the second largest growth (+8%) from the previous year. Saskatchewan and Quebec also reported growth above the national average.

The slowest growth in spending on goods and services was in Manitoba, where it rose by only 1%, and in Ontario where this figure grew by just under 2%.

Newfoundland and Labrador still reported the lowest average household spending on goods and services in 2006 at \$39,520.

Basics still account for largest shares

The largest shares of Canadian household budgets were for personal taxes (20%), shelter (19%) and transportation (14%).

Personal taxes increased slightly to an average of \$13,630. However, at 20% of the average household budget this represented the lowest share since the 1992 survey.

Spending on shelter rose 5% to an average of \$12,990, largely the result of increases in spending of 14% in Alberta, 7% in Saskatchewan, and 6% in British Columbia. Shelter costs in Alberta rose by 10% in 2006, according to the CPI.

Household spending on transportation rose 4% at the national level, to an average of \$9,240, but at the provincial level, trends varied widely. Households in Alberta spent an average of \$12,160 on transportation, up 19% from 2005. Spending on vehicle purchases alone was up 22% over the previous year in this province.

Spending for purchases of vehicles was up 12% in British Columbia and 10% in both Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador, while Ontario households reported 10% less spending for vehicles. The proportion of Ontarians buying vehicles in 2006 was similar

Note to readers

This release is based on data from the 2006 Survey of Household Spending (SHS). Data were collected by personal interviews conducted from January to April 2007 from a sample of more than 21,000 private households in all 10 provinces. The survey gathered detailed information on spending patterns, dwelling characteristics, and household equipment in 2006.

Since 1999, the SHS has included households in the northern territories in odd numbered years. The 2006 data in this release represent the 10 provinces only. The 2005 data for Canada represent the 10 provinces and the territories.

The average spending for a specific good or service is calculated for all households, including those with and those without expenditures for the category, unless otherwise noted. Average spending includes sales taxes. "Personal taxes" referred to in this report refer to income and certain direct taxes.

Comparisons of expenditures between years in this release are not adjusted for inflation. The rate of inflation for selected items is mentioned where it affects the analysis of year-to-year changes in spending.

To analyze the data by income level, households were divided into five groups or quintiles based on income. Each quintile represents one-fifth of all households. They are created by ranking households in ascending order of total household income, and organizing them into five groups of equal number. Users should note that households in the lowest quintile have 1.5 members on average, compared to households in the highest quintile, which average 3.5 members.

To streamline and simplify collection there have been some important changes in the methodology for 2006. Data for 2002 to 2005 have been revised to be more comparable to the new methodology, which may affect comparisons with previous years for some purposes. For more details, see the User Guide for the Survey of Household Spending, 2006 (62F0026MIE2008001), which is now available from the Publications module of our website. Revised data for 2002 to 2005 are available on CANSIM and in the publication Spending Patterns in Canada (62-202-XWE, free) which is also available on our website. Revised data for years prior to 2002 will be made available at a later date.

to previous years, but the average amount spent per purchase was down. Although the price of gasoline rose 5% in Ontario, average spending for fuel dropped 1%.

Canadians used public transportation more in 2006, with spending increasing 17% to \$970. Most of this was for air travel, which increased by 22% to \$530 per household. Spending for city commuter bus, subway and other means of public transport rose by 11% to \$220.

Spending on clothing increased a strong 13% to an average of \$2,870 in 2006. Canadians also spent 9% more on household furnishings, raising the average to \$2,130.

Households spent slightly more on food, with the average increasing from \$6,980 in 2005 to \$7,050 in 2006. However, as a proportion of total spending it was the lowest ever. In the 1960s, food represented the largest proportion of household expenditure, accounting for nearly 19% of total spending. However, this proportion has declined constantly since then to just over 10% of total spending in 2006.

Wireless communication takes a bigger share

Household spending on cell phone and other wireless services was up more than 18% from 2005 to an average of \$470. At the same time, spending for conventional landline telephone service continued to fall, dropping 3% to \$650.

Over two-thirds (68%) of households reported owning at least one cell phone, up from 64% in 2005. Moreover, 1 in 5 households reported owning two cell phones, while 1 in 10 households had three or more.

Some 644,000 households, or 1 in 20 of the total, reported they used cell phones only and had no conventional landline phone. Of these, nearly 80% were renters, and 60% were one person households.

Households in Alberta reported the highest spending on communications, \$1,900, up 15% from the previous year.

Calgary was the most wireless city, with 87% of households having a cell phone. Households in Calgary spent \$750 on average on cell phones in 2006, more than they did on conventional phone lines (\$700).

Quebec posted the lowest average spending on communications at \$1,120, and also continued to report the lowest rate of cell phone ownership. Only 56% of Quebec households owned a cell phone.

Record number of households bought new computer hardware

A record 31% of households reported buying new computer hardware, although average spending remained unchanged at \$290 per household. Computer equipment prices fell by 18% in 2006, according to the CPI.

More than three-quarters of all households reported owning a computer in 2006. Nearly 97% of the highest income households had a computer, and 93% had internet access from home. In comparison, 45% of households in the lowest income group had a computer, and one-third had home access to the internet.

Average spending on internet access services rose 12% in 2006 to \$270. This was in part the result of a 6% increase in households with home internet access (to 68%) combined with a 14% increase in households

with high-speed service. Only 1 in 10 households still reported using dial-up service.

Entertainment: Ownership of DVD players surpass VCRs for first time

Households spent 38% more in 2006 on new audio equipment, such as digital music players, and 16% more on new video equipment, including big-screen TVs. For the first time, more households reported owning a DVD player (83%) than a VCR (82%).

While spending on digital cameras grew 6%, spending for conventional cameras declined by 29%, and that for film and processing was down 8%.

Spending on movies, the most common entertainment service, fell 8% to \$97 per household.

Spending on reading materials decreased 5% to \$260 per household. Spending on newspapers declined 7%, while expenditures for periodicals and magazines dropped 10%. Alberta households bucked this trend, spending 8% more on reading materials than in 2005. Households in Prince Edward Island were the biggest newspaper buyers, spending an average of \$114 per year.

Alberta households reported the highest spending in nearly every entertainment category. On average, they spent \$150 for live performing arts (+28%), \$120 on live sports (+81%), \$210 on audio equipment (+37%), and \$470 on video equipment (+65%).

Health care up, tobacco products down

Health care accounted for \$1,870 from the average household budget in 2006, a 6% gain from 2005.

This was the result of an 11% increase in reported out-of-pocket spending for pharmaceutical products.

Households in Alberta reported the highest average spending on health care, at \$2,440, followed by those in British Columbia at \$2,180.

Canadian households spent \$610 on tobacco products in 2006, about the same as in 2005, but 25% less than the peak of \$815 reported in 1992. Using 2001 prices, households in 1969 spent the equivalent of \$1,400 a year on tobacco products

Net spending on games of chance was down 5% to \$260. The decline occurred in non-government bingos and raffle tickets.

Food, shelter, clothing account for over half of spending by lowest income households

The one-fifth of Canadian households with the lowest income spent about \$23,780 in 2006. Of this, almost 50% went to food, shelter and clothing. Personal income taxes claimed 3% of their budget.

In contrast, the top fifth of households spent an average of \$137,820 in 2006. They allocated about 28% of their budget to food, shelter and clothing, while 29% went to personal income taxes.

These proportions were similar to 2005.

Available on CANSIM: tables 203-0001 to 203-0020.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3508.

The publication *Spending Patterns in Canada*, 2006 (62-202-XWE, free), which presents the latest results of the Survey of Household Spending for Canada, the provinces and selected metropolitan areas is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

Two tables presenting spending data are available for free. From the *Summary tables* section of our website, choose *Canada and the provinces and selected metropolitan areas*. A third table, with data on dwelling characteristics and household equipment, is also available for free.

The publication *Household Expenditures Research Paper Series: "User Guide for the Survey of Household Spending, 2006"* (62F0026MIE2008001), which presents information about survey methodology, concepts, and data quality, is available online. From the

Publications module, choose *Free internet publications*, then *Personal finance and household finance*.

Also available are 10 detailed tables at a cost of \$134 each. Of these 10 tables, 5 present detailed household spending data: *Canada, Provinces, Territories and Selected Metropolitan Areas* (62F0031XDB); *Household Income Quintile, Canada and Provinces* (62F0032XDB); *Housing Tenure, Canada* (62F0033XDB); *Household Type, Canada* (62F0034XDB); *Size of Area of Residence, Canada* (62F0035XDB).

The remaining 5 tables present data on dwelling characteristics and household equipment: *Canada, Provinces, Territories and Selected Metropolitan Areas* (62F0041XDB); *Income Quintile, Canada* (62F0042XDB); *Housing Tenure, Canada* (62F0043XDB); *Household Type, Canada* (62F0044XDB); *Size of Area of Residence, Canada* (62F0045XDB).

Custom tabulations are also available.

For more information about the Survey of Household Spending, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, or to purchase products, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division.

□

Average expenditures by household type, 2006

	Canada	Couples with children	Lone parent female	One person	Senior couples, both 65+	Home owners	Renters	Urban households	Rural households
	\$								
Total expenditure	67,736	97,911	50,026	36,270	48,450	81,361	41,313	69,028	58,580
Total current consumption	48,765	68,087	41,574	27,240	37,150	56,898	32,554	49,430	44,055
Food	7,046	9,862	6,445	3,825	6,424	7,971	5,346	7,112	6,579
Shelter	12,986	16,994	11,170	8,703	9,543	14,899	8,805	13,448	9,706
Household operation	3,251	4,755	3,247	1,829	2,322	3,815	2,192	3,246	3,281
Household furnishings and equipment	2,131	2,952	1,684	1,104	1,379	2,509	1,155	2,143	2,045
Clothing	2,870	4,290	2,700	1,281	1,822	3,349	1,966	2,953	2,282
Transportation	9,240	13,538	6,512	4,313	7,168	11,249	5,416	9,137	9,969
Health care	1,867	2,304	1,396	1,116	2,738	2,251	1,184	1,855	1,959
Personal care	1,158	1,634	1,230	599	933	1,323	833	1,187	949
Recreation	3,975	6,124	2,969	1,969	2,338	4,869	2,235	4,026	3,614
Reading materials and other printed matter	264	321	204	190	294	315	168	273	201
Education	1,157	2,179	1,747	329	139	1,287	938	1,226	667
Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages	1,475	1,630	947	1,103	870	1,482	1,434	1,463	1,560
Games of chance (net)	258	247	109	197	347	278	227	257	266
Miscellaneous expenditures	1,087	1,259	1,213	682	833	1,300	656	1,103	977
Personal taxes	13,634	22,126	5,617	6,096	7,588	17,846	5,756	14,148	9,993
Personal insurance payments and pension contributions	3,832	6,334	2,242	1,577	1,039	4,788	2,040	3,914	3,254
Gifts of money and contributions	1,505	1,364	592	1,357	2,673	1,829	962	1,537	1,278

Budget share of major spending categories by income quintile, 2006

	Lowest quintile	Second quintile	Third quintile	Fourth quintile	Highest quintile
	\$				
Average household expenditures	23,778	38,510	57,353	81,227	137,815
	%				
Budget share for major spending categories					
Food	15.6	13.9	11.8	10.2	8.0
Shelter	29.8	23.7	20.9	18.7	15.6
Clothing	4.2	4.4	4.1	4.2	4.2
Transportation	12.9	14.4	14.9	14.3	12.6
Personal taxes	3.3	9.2	14.9	19.4	28.7

Employment Insurance

December 2007 (preliminary)

An estimated 458,900 Canadians (seasonally adjusted) received regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits in December, up 10,060 from the previous month and the first increase in five months. The number of persons receiving regular EI benefits went up in eight provinces, increasing by more than 2% in Ontario (+5.6%), Saskatchewan (+2.8%) and Quebec (+2.6%).

Compared with December 2006, the number of Canadians receiving regular benefits fell by 5.9%. Provincially, the largest year-over-year drop was in Alberta (-13.8%), Manitoba (-13.6%), and Saskatchewan (-13.4%).

Regular benefit payments in December totalled \$705.0 million, while 225,700 people made initial and renewal claims.

Note: Employment Insurance Statistics Program data are produced from an administrative data source and may, from time to time, be affected by changes to the *Employment Insurance Act* or administrative

procedures. The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who received Employment Insurance benefits from the 2nd to the 8th of the month. This coincides with the reference week of the Labour Force Survey. The regular benefit payments figure measures the total of all monies paid to individuals from the 1st to the end of the month.

Available on CANSIM: tables 276-0001 to 276-0006, 276-0009, 276-0011, 276-0015 and 276-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2604.

Data on Employment Insurance for January will be released on March 25.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-4090; toll-free 1-866-873-8788; labour@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091), Labour Statistics Division.

Employment Insurance statistics

	December 2007	November 2007	December 2006	November to December 2007	December 2006 to December 2007
Seasonally adjusted					
				% change	
Regular beneficiaries	458,900 ^P	448,840 ^r	487,730	2.2	-5.9
Regular benefits paid (\$ millions)	705.0 ^P	697.2 ^r	697.7	1.1	1.0
Initial and renewal claims received (thousands)	225.7 ^P	210.7 ^r	208.5	7.1	8.3
Unadjusted					
All beneficiaries (thousands) ¹	738.5 ^P	649.3 ^P	764.9		
Regular beneficiaries (thousands)	473.2 ^P	391.1 ^P	501.9		
Initial and renewal claims received (thousands)	317.3	247.5	259.5		
Payments (\$ millions)	1,304.1	1,054.2	1,126.5		
Year-to-date (January to December)					
	2007	2006	2006 to 2007	% change	
Claims received (thousands)	2,649.2	2,674.0	-0.9		
Payments (\$ millions)	14,504.8	14,499.0	0.0		

^r revised

^P preliminary

1. "All beneficiaries" includes all claimants receiving regular benefits (for example, as a result of layoff) or special benefits (for example, as a result of illness) and are representative of data for the Labour Force Survey reference week which is usually the week containing the 15th of the month.

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	December 2007 ^P	November to December 2007 Seasonally adjusted	December 2006 to December 2007
		% change	
Canada	458,900	2.2	-5.9
Newfoundland and Labrador	35,580	-1.0	-2.7
Prince Edward Island	7,900	0.1	2.9
Nova Scotia	27,170	0.1	-3.2
New Brunswick	29,750	1.4	-5.7
Quebec	160,690	2.6	-8.4
Ontario	127,180	5.6	-0.5
Manitoba	9,370	1.4	-13.6
Saskatchewan	8,440	2.8	-13.4
Alberta	15,220	0.3	-13.8
British Columbia	36,110	-0.3	-11.1
Yukon	740	0.0	-2.6
Northwest Territories	630	3.3	-11.3
Nunavut	320	-3.0	-15.8

^P preliminary

Note: The number of beneficiaries includes all claimants who received regular benefits for the Labour Force Survey reference week, usually containing the 15th day of the month.

Payroll employment, earnings and hours

December 2007 (preliminary)

In December, the average weekly earnings of payroll employees (seasonally adjusted) decreased 0.1% or by \$0.71 from November to \$782.02. Compared with a year earlier, average weekly earnings were up 3.1%.

In Canada's largest industrial sectors, earnings were up 3.4% in health and social assistance, 2.8% in manufacturing, 2.6% in educational services, and 1.4% in retail trade compared with a year earlier.

Alberta (+4.3%) and Saskatchewan (+5.4%) had the strongest year-over-year earnings growth among all provinces.

Nationally, the number of occupied payroll jobs climbed 13,900 (+0.1%) in December to 14,454,900. Among the provinces, Saskatchewan (+0.8%), Newfoundland and Labrador (+0.3%), British Columbia (+0.3%), Prince Edward Island (-0.3%), and New Brunswick (-0.3%) had the largest month-to-month changes.

The industrial sector showing the strongest employment growth in December was mining and oil and gas extraction (+0.8%).

Overall, payroll employment has grown by 237,100 (+1.7%) since the beginning of 2007.

Employment in the construction sector had the highest growth rate in 2007 at 7.6%, followed by mining, oil and gas extraction (+5.0%).

The average hourly earnings for hourly paid employees edged up 0.1% in December to \$19.55. The average weekly hours for hourly paid employees decreased 0.1 hours to 30.9.

Available on CANSIM: tables 281-0023 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-XIB, free).

Data on payroll employment, earnings and hours for January will be released on March 30.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-2869; labour@statcan.ca). To enquire about revisions, concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Peter Lorenz (613-951-4167), Labour Statistics Division. □

Average weekly earnings (including overtime) for all employees

Industry group (North American Industry Classification System)	December 2006	November 2007 ^r	December 2007 ^p	November to December 2007	December 2006 to December 2007	Year-to-date average 2007 ¹
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$			% change		
Industrial aggregate	758.56	782.73	782.02	-0.1	3.1	3.2
Forestry, logging and support	972.86	958.44	963.22	0.5	-1.0	-0.4
Mining and oil and gas extraction	1,375.75	1,459.45	1,461.54	0.1	6.2	5.6
Utilities	1,100.14	1,146.89	1,152.02	0.4	4.7	3.4
Construction	903.83	958.66	959.77	0.1	6.2	4.4
Manufacturing	925.04	958.57	950.75	-0.8	2.8	3.6
Wholesale trade	895.15	923.61	923.42	0.0	3.2	4.5
Retail trade	485.47	495.45	492.13	-0.7	1.4	0.8
Transportation and warehousing	791.55	803.50	815.36	1.5	3.0	2.1
Information and cultural industries	948.37	986.72	980.39	-0.6	3.4	4.2
Finance and insurance	983.36	1,017.32	1,018.75	0.1	3.6	3.5
Real estate and rental and leasing	698.85	714.66	712.48	-0.3	2.0	4.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	982.77	996.90	1,007.47	1.1	2.5	2.1
Management of companies and enterprises	917.29	958.55	976.48	1.9	6.5	-0.8
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	629.01	631.94	635.04	0.5	1.0	6.0
Educational services	820.71	840.52	842.30	0.2	2.6	1.4
Health care and social assistance	687.18	713.99	710.46	-0.5	3.4	3.7
Arts, entertainment and recreation	437.31	463.72	465.26	0.3	6.4	3.6
Accommodation and food services	318.64	332.09	334.12	0.6	4.9	6.6
Other services (excluding public administration)	601.28	619.81	620.18	0.1	3.1	4.6
Public administration	940.72	986.03	981.94	-0.4	4.4	4.0
Provinces and territories						
Newfoundland and Labrador	705.24	726.33	734.57	1.1	4.2	3.7
Prince Edward Island	624.29	632.09	631.11	-0.2	1.1	3.9
Nova Scotia	666.24	682.29	681.20	-0.2	2.2	2.3
New Brunswick	701.73	722.54	724.82	0.3	3.3	3.7
Quebec	709.56	733.76	735.85	0.3	3.7	2.9
Ontario	793.01	813.53	810.74	-0.3	2.2	2.7
Manitoba	694.35	720.56	721.35	0.1	3.9	4.2
Saskatchewan	704.79	740.53	742.62	0.3	5.4	4.5
Alberta	824.61	854.73	860.31	0.7	4.3	4.7
British Columbia	751.25	769.67	769.02	-0.1	2.4	2.8
Yukon	861.18	900.75	902.74	0.2	4.8	3.3
Northwest Territories ²	960.33	1023.65	1016.27	-0.7	5.8	3.2
Nunavut ²	890.85	953.96	954.63	0.1	7.2	5.7

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Rate of change is obtained by comparing 12-month average of 2007 with that of 2006, and is subject to revision for next month's release.

2. Data not seasonally adjusted.

Number of employees

Industry group (North American Industry Classification System)	December 2006	October 2007	November 2007 ^r	December 2007 ^p	October to November 2007	November to December 2007	December 2006 to December 2007
Seasonally adjusted							
	thousands				% change		
Industrial aggregate	14,217.7	14,420.1	14,440.9	14,454.9	0.1	0.1	1.7
Forestry, logging and support	57.5	52.8	52.8	52.2	0.0	-1.1	-9.2
Mining and oil and gas extraction	186.8	197.9	194.6	196.1	-1.7	0.8	5.0
Utilities	121.0	124.2	124.3	124.7	0.1	0.3	3.1
Construction	752.6	804.5	810.3	809.5	0.7	-0.1	7.6
Manufacturing	1,832.2	1,793.3	1,784.4	1,773.1	-0.5	-0.6	-3.2
Wholesale trade	750.1	764.8	763.1	762.9	-0.2	0.0	1.7
Retail trade	1,754.6	1,815.1	1,816.8	1,826.0	0.1	0.5	4.1
Transportation and warehousing	639.7	650.9	650.3	653.5	-0.1	0.5	2.2
Information and cultural industries	353.9	357.2	354.9	354.8	-0.6	0.0	0.3
Finance and insurance	615.7	635.5	636.1	636.2	0.1	0.0	3.3
Real estate and rental and leasing	246.4	254.6	253.6	253.6	-0.4	0.0	2.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	714.4	732.1	731.0	730.8	-0.2	0.0	2.3
Management of companies and enterprises	97.4	98.9	98.8	98.7	-0.1	-0.1	1.3
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	706.0	720.4	722.6	722.8	0.3	0.0	2.4
Educational services	1,061.4	1,096.0	1,095.3	1,087.2	-0.1	-0.7	2.4
Health care and social assistance	1,456.8	1,485.5	1,486.2	1,488.0	0.0	0.1	2.1
Arts, entertainment and recreation	239.5	241.8	241.7	242.6	0.0	0.4	1.3
Accommodation and food services	1,028.0	1,063.3	1,066.5	1,066.1	0.3	0.0	3.7
Other services (excluding public administration)	517.8	529.4	530.7	532.4	0.2	0.3	2.8
Public administration	815.3	830.0	831.7	833.8	0.2	0.3	2.3
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	177.6	184.3	183.9	184.5	-0.2	0.3	3.9
Prince Edward Island	57.0	59.2	59.5	59.4	0.5	-0.2	4.2
Nova Scotia	386.0	389.9	391.0	391.3	0.3	0.1	1.4
New Brunswick	309.4	305.4	306.6	305.5	0.4	-0.4	-1.3
Quebec	3,260.6	3,288.2	3,291.7	3,286.7	0.1	-0.2	0.8
Ontario	5,455.3	5,527.8	5,525.2	5,526.4	0.0	0.0	1.3
Manitoba	530.2	540.2	542.3	541.3	0.4	-0.2	2.1
Saskatchewan	419.4	430.8	430.7	434.3	0.0	0.8	3.6
Alberta	1,709.8	1,742.2	1,748.6	1,748.5	0.4	0.0	2.3
British Columbia	1,852.3	1,902.9	1,908.4	1,913.4	0.3	0.3	3.3
Yukon	17.2	18.1	18.0	17.8	-0.6	-1.1	3.5
Northwest Territories ¹	22.7	24.0	23.4	23.7	-2.5	1.3	4.4
Nunavut ¹	10.8	10.9	11.0	10.5	0.9	-4.5	-2.8

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Data not seasonally adjusted.

Machinery and equipment price indexes

Fourth quarter 2007

The Machinery and Equipment Price Index (MEPI) stood at 83.8 (1997=100) in the fourth quarter, down 3.3% from the third quarter. The import component index fell 5.1%, while the domestic index edged down 0.5%. Compared with the fourth quarter of 2006, the total MEPI was down 8.1%, as the import index decreased 12.3% while the domestic index edged down 0.8%.

All industries recorded decreases in prices of machinery and equipment purchased in the fourth quarter. Manufacturing industries (-3.9%) contributed the most to the total MEPI quarterly decrease. Among the sector's subcomponents, the largest contributors to

the quarterly decrease were transportation equipment manufacturing (-4.3%), primary metal and fabricated metal product manufacturing (-3.9%) and paper manufacturing (-2.9%). The second largest contributor to the total quarterly decrease was other services (excluding public administration), which fell 3.4%, with its sub-component, information and cultural industries, falling 3.6%.

Among commodities, price decreases for computers and peripherals (-6.7%) and other industry specific machinery (-4.9%) were the largest contributors to the quarterly decrease.

The US dollar depreciated 6.0% against its Canadian counterpart in the fourth quarter of 2007.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2312.

The third quarter 2007 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XWE, free) will be available soon.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Client Services Unit (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; prices-prix@statcan.ca) or Adrian Fisher (613-951-9612; adrian.fisher@statcan.ca), Prices Division.

Machinery and equipment price indexes (1997=100)

Industries	Relative importance	Fourth quarter 2007 ^P	Third to fourth quarter 2007 % change	Fourth quarter 2006 to fourth quarter 2007
Total: Machinery and Equipment Price Index	100.00	83.8	-3.3	-8.1
Domestic	32.03	103.3	-0.5	-0.8
Imported	67.97	74.7	-5.1	-12.3
Crop and animal production	4.07	92.7	-3.3	-8.0
Forestry and logging	0.27	92.1	-3.9	-8.6
Fishing, hunting and trapping	0.08	103.4	-1.9	-3.6
Support activities for agriculture and forestry	0.10	91.1	-2.9	-7.3
Mines, quarries and oil wells	4.26	95.7	-3.9	-7.2
Utilities	3.55	87.8	-4.1	-8.1
Construction	3.54	88.1	-4.4	-9.3
All manufacturing	22.34	89.1	-3.9	-8.4
Trade	8.38	82.9	-2.5	-6.6
Transportation (excluding pipeline transportation)	7.66	96.3	-3.2	-7.7
Pipeline transportation	1.18	95.7	-3.3	-6.8
Warehousing and storage	0.26	96.5	-3.0	-6.0
Finance, insurance and real estate	19.90	77.5	-2.3	-9.1
Private education services	0.12	69.4	-4.8	-10.7
Education services (excluding private), health care and social assistance	2.09	79.5	-3.6	-8.0
Other services (excluding public administration)	16.39	73.4	-3.4	-8.1
Public administration	5.81	77.9	-3.1	-6.9

^P preliminary

Railway carloadings December 2007 and annual 2007

Canada's railway industry continued to show resilience in 2007 despite a decrease in loadings in December.

Railways loaded 21.4 million metric tonnes in December, a 12.4% decrease from November and a 6.0% drop from the December 2006 level. The drop in loadings was the second consecutive monthly decline and was attributable to reduced loadings in forestry and paper products.

The non-intermodal portion of the freight loaded in December decreased 11.9% to 19.3 million metric tonnes. Declines occurred in 56 of the 64 commodity classifications during the month. However, the drop in tonnage was mainly the result of reduced loadings in forestry and paper products, particularly loadings of lumber (-22.1%) and wood pulp (-4.3%).

The fall in lumber and wood pulp loadings was the result of a weak housing market in the United States.

The intermodal portion of the freight loaded decreased as well in December, falling 17.0% to 2.1 million metric tonnes. This decrease was the result of declines in both containers and trailers loaded on flat cars.

Rail freight traffic, either destined for or passing through Canada from the United States, declined 9.8% to 2.7 million metric tonnes in December.

On an annual basis, the majority of the months in 2007 saw an increase in loadings, with the second and third quarter loadings being the highest quarterly loadings since 1999. However, labour disruptions and weather-related issues in February, as well as tough market conditions faced by the forestry sector in December, resulted in the industry incurring a small overall decline in tonnage loaded.

For the year, railways loaded 284.5 million metric tonnes of freight, a 0.9% drop from the 287.0 million metric tonnes loaded in 2006. The decrease in loadings stemmed from a 1.2% decrease in non-intermodal loadings, which declined to 255.7 million metric tonnes.

The decline in non-intermodal loadings for the year can be attributed to market pressures affecting the forestry sector, and declining demand for exports surrounding raw minerals and manufactured products.

Within the forestry sector, lumber loadings had the largest decline, falling 15.5% to 13.5 million metric tonnes. The main factors contributing to this decline were a weak housing market in the United States, mill closures, rising lumber imports from South America, and the appreciation of the Canadian dollar.

Loadings related to raw minerals decreased 4.3% to 66.4 million metric tonnes in 2007. Iron ores and concentrates incurred the largest decrease, dropping 3.2% to 32.9 million metric tonnes. The decrease stemmed from declining demand for shipments to Asia.

On the manufacturing side, manufactured products declined for the fifth consecutive year, as loadings decreased 3.2% to 4.5 million metric tonnes. The decline occurred mostly in shipments surrounding automobiles and minivans, and parts and accessories for motor vehicles. For the year, loading of automobiles and minivans fell 5.0% to 1.7 million metric tonnes, while parts and accessories for motor vehicles fell 11.6% to 695,000 metric tonnes. Among the factors contributing to these decreases were declines in motor vehicle assembly and a slowdown in the US economy.

The remaining commodity groupings in the survey all realized gains in 2007. Among those with the

strongest gains were basic chemicals and chemicals, and agriculture and food products.

For basic chemicals and chemicals, loadings rose 9.3% to 40.6 million metric tonnes. The increase was due primarily to a 30% rise in potash loadings — itself the result of strong market conditions and increased demand from Asia and South America.

Loadings related to agriculture and food products edged up 0.6% to 34.5 million metric tonnes in 2007 — the fifth consecutive year agricultural loadings have increased.

In contrast to the decline in non-intermodal loadings, intermodal loadings increased 1.7% in 2007 to 28.8 million metric tonnes. The rise in intermodal loadings was the result of an increase in the number of containers and trailers loaded on flat cars. For the year, container loadings rose 1.7% to 27.8 million metric tonnes, while trailer loadings rose 0.6% to 984,000 metric tonnes.

Rail freight traffic destined for or passing through Canada from the United States for the year increased 13.0% to 32.3 million metric tonnes in 2007.

Available on CANSIM: table 404-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2732.

The December 2007 issue of *Monthly Railway Carloadings*, Vol. 84, no. 12 (52-001-XWE, 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 Unit (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 613-951-0009; transportationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

New products

Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire,
December 2007, Vol. 3, no. 12
Catalogue number 41-019-XWE
(free).

Monthly Railway Carloadings, December 2007,
Vol. 84, no. 12
Catalogue number 52-001-XWE
(free).

Household Expenditures Research Paper Series:
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- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
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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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