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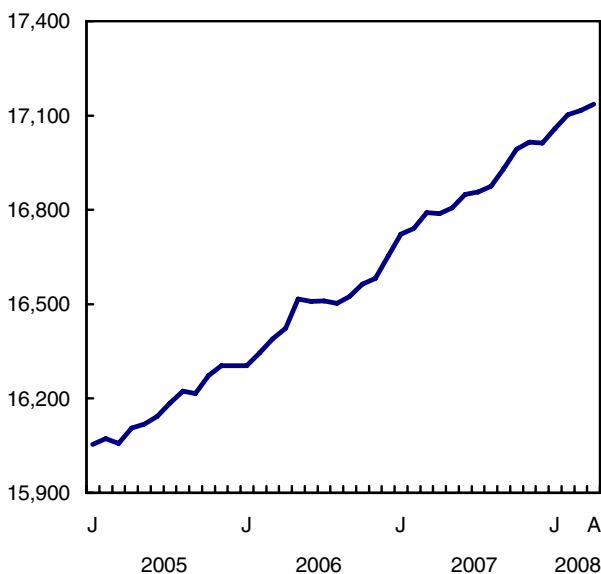
Labour Force Survey

April 2008

Employment edged up slightly in April (+19,000), similar to the increase observed in March. This follows large gains at the start of the year. The unemployment rate nudged up to 6.1% in April as more people entered the labour force. Self-employment and full-time work accounted for all of the gains in April.

Employment

thousands



Over the past 12 months, employment increased by an estimated 348,000 (+2.1%), with full time growing twice as fast as part time. The employment rate, the share of the working-age population who are employed, continued to hover around a record high in April.

Adjusted for comparability with the United States, the employment rate increased 0.5 percentage points over the last 12 months, reaching 64.5% in April 2008. This contrasts with the United States, where the rate fell 0.3 percentage points to 62.7% over the same period. Employment in construction and financial activities has declined in the United States while these industries, especially construction, have added employment in Canada over the past 12 months. Both countries, however, have experienced pronounced employment declines in manufacturing.

In April, employment increased in accommodation and food services, as well as construction. Over the past 12 months, the construction industry led employment growth, adding 113,000 workers.

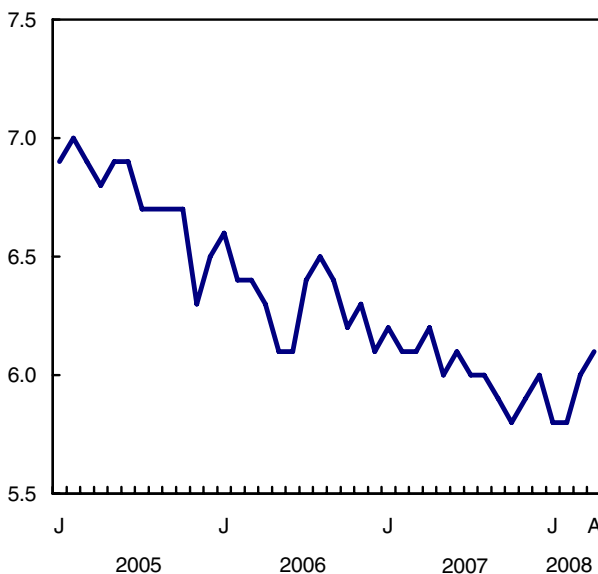
Manufacturing continued its decline in April, with losses in Ontario and British Columbia. Overall, the number of factory workers has decreased by 112,000 since April 2007.

While there were small employment increases across most of the country, Manitoba was the only province with strong growth in April. Quebec, on the other hand, was the only province to experience a loss for the month.

Year-over-year growth in average hourly wages was 4.3% in April, slightly lower than earlier in the year, but continuing well above the most recent increase in the Consumer Price Index (+1.4%). Provincially, the strongest wage growth has been in Newfoundland and Labrador, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Unemployment rate

%



Employment gains in accommodation and food as well as construction

With gains in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia, accommodation and food services continued to add employment in April (+22,000). These recent increases

offset losses observed towards the latter part of last year.

Construction employment continued on its upward trend in April (+16,000). This brings employment gains over the last 12 months to 113,000 (+10.1%), the largest of any industry.

Manufacturing employment edged down in April, continuing the downward slide that began towards the end of 2002. Over the last 12 months alone, employment fell by 112,000, with nearly half the losses in Ontario (-50,000) and the remainder mainly in British Columbia (-29,000), Quebec (-13,000) and Alberta (-11,000).

Manitoba adds employment in April

In April, employment increased by an estimated 9,000 in Manitoba, boosting employment growth over the past 12 months to 3.1%. The added employment in April pushed the unemployment rate down 0.5 percentage points to 3.8%, the second lowest in the country after Alberta. Manitoba's employment and participation rates both attained all-time highs in April.

Employment in Ontario edged up 12,000 in April, mainly among younger workers, bringing growth since April 2007 to 2.2%, just above the national average. Increases over this period occurred in construction as well as several service industries. However, the downward trend in manufacturing employment continued, with a decline of 15,000 in April.

Newfoundland and Labrador experienced an employment gain in April (+2,400), continuing the upward trend which started last summer, bringing its employment rate to a record high of 52.6%. Over the last 12 months, employment has increased by 2.3%, with growth stemming from construction, professional, scientific and technical services as well as public administration.

In Alberta and British Columbia, the continued strength of the labour market resulted in record high employment rates in April for both provinces. Employment growth in British Columbia and Alberta over the last 12 months has been above the national average, at 3.4% and 3.0% respectively. In April, there was little change in employment in both provinces.

Employment in Quebec fell by an estimated 20,000 in April, mostly among youths, pushing the unemployment rate in the province up 0.3 percentage points to 7.6%. This is the first significant employment decline in two years. There were fewer people working

this April in a number of service industries and in agriculture. The decrease leaves employment in the province up only 0.7% (+27,000) above the level of 12 months ago.

More adult women working

Women aged 25 and over were the only demographic group to experience employment growth in April (+17,000), once again keeping their unemployment rate below that of adult men (4.7% versus 5.2%). Despite this month's increase, the rate of employment growth for adult women since April 2007 (+1.6%), was below that of adult men (+2.4%).

Note: The Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates are based on a sample, and are therefore subject to sampling variability. Estimates for smaller geographic areas or industries will have more variability. For an explanation of sampling variability of estimates, and how to use standard errors to assess this variability, consult the "Data quality" section of the publication *Labour Force Information* (71-001-XWE, free).

Available on CANSIM: tables 282-0001 to 282-0042, 282-0047 to 282-0064 and 282-0069 to 282-0099.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.

A more detailed summary, *Labour Force Information* (71-001-XWE, free) is now available online for the week ending April 19. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *Free Internet publications*, choose *Labour*. LAN and bulk prices are available on request. The CD-ROM *Labour Force Historical Review*, 2007 (71F0004XCB, \$209) is now available. See *How to order products*.

Data tables are also now available online. From the *By Subject* module of our website, choose *Labour*.

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on June 6.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Danielle Zietsma (613-951-4243; danielle.zietsma@statcan.ca), or Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750; vincent.ferrao@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

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Labour force characteristics by age and sex

	March 2008	April 2008	March to April 2008	April 2007 to April 2008	March to April 2008	April 2007 to April 2008
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Both sexes 15+						
Population	26,803.4	26,839.2	35.8	363.3	0.1	1.4
Labour force	18,216.0	18,239.8	23.8	350.1	0.1	2.0
Employment	17,116.8	17,136.0	19.2	347.8	0.1	2.1
Full-time	14,008.8	14,029.4	20.6	311.2	0.1	2.3
Part-time	3,108.0	3,106.6	-1.4	36.6	0.0	1.2
Unemployment	1,099.2	1,103.8	4.6	2.3	0.4	0.2
Participation rate	68.0	68.0	0.0	0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.0	6.1	0.1	-0.1	...	...
Employment rate	63.9	63.8	-0.1	0.4	...	...
Part-time rate	18.2	18.1	-0.1	-0.2	...	...
Youths 15 to 24						
Population	4,369.8	4,371.3	1.5	24.3	0.0	0.6
Labour force	2,943.7	2,982.8	39.1	75.5	1.3	2.6
Employment	2,620.7	2,631.0	10.3	59.0	0.4	2.3
Full-time	1,443.9	1,464.6	20.7	45.0	1.4	3.2
Part-time	1,176.8	1,166.3	-10.5	13.9	-0.9	1.2
Unemployment	323.0	351.8	28.8	16.5	8.9	4.9
Participation rate	67.4	68.2	0.8	1.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	11.0	11.8	0.8	0.3	...	...
Employment rate	60.0	60.2	0.2	1.0	...	...
Part-time rate	44.9	44.3	-0.6	-0.5	...	...
Men 25+						
Population	10,961.5	10,978.6	17.1	169.5	0.2	1.6
Labour force	8,149.4	8,134.2	-15.2	167.8	-0.2	2.1
Employment	7,721.8	7,714.1	-7.7	184.4	-0.1	2.4
Full-time	7,227.6	7,216.8	-10.8	181.0	-0.1	2.6
Part-time	494.2	497.2	3.0	3.3	0.6	0.7
Unemployment	427.7	420.1	-7.6	-16.5	-1.8	-3.8
Participation rate	74.3	74.1	-0.2	0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.2	5.2	0.0	-0.3	...	...
Employment rate	70.4	70.3	-0.1	0.6	...	...
Part-time rate	6.4	6.4	0.0	-0.2	...	...
Women 25+						
Population	11,472.1	11,489.3	17.2	169.5	0.1	1.5
Labour force	7,122.9	7,122.8	-0.1	106.7	0.0	1.5
Employment	6,774.3	6,791.0	16.7	104.5	0.2	1.6
Full-time	5,337.4	5,347.9	10.5	85.1	0.2	1.6
Part-time	1,437.0	1,443.1	6.1	19.4	0.4	1.4
Unemployment	348.6	331.9	-16.7	2.3	-4.8	0.7
Participation rate	62.1	62.0	-0.1	0.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.9	4.7	-0.2	0.0	...	...
Employment rate	59.1	59.1	0.0	0.0	...	...
Part-time rate	21.2	21.3	0.1	0.0	...	...

... not applicable

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Employment by class of worker and industry (based on NAICS¹)

	March 2008	April 2008	March to April 2008	April 2007 to April 2008	March to April 2008	April 2007 to April 2008
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Class of worker						
Employees	14,508.6	14,509.4	0.8	313.3	0.0	2.2
Self-employed	2,608.2	2,626.5	18.3	34.4	0.7	1.3
Public/private sector employees						
Public	3,411.7	3,420.8	9.1	190.4	0.3	5.9
Private	11,097.0	11,088.7	-8.3	123.1	-0.1	1.1
All industries	17,116.8	17,136.0	19.2	347.8	0.1	2.1
Goods-producing sector	4,008.1	4,004.4	-3.7	16.7	-0.1	0.4
Agriculture	337.7	332.3	-5.4	3.6	-1.6	1.1
Natural resources	339.3	341.5	2.2	-9.6	0.6	-2.7
Utilities	150.9	149.0	-1.9	21.2	-1.3	16.6
Construction	1,213.3	1,229.5	16.2	113.0	1.3	10.1
Manufacturing	1,966.9	1,952.0	-14.9	-111.5	-0.8	-5.4
Service-producing sector	13,108.7	13,131.6	22.9	331.0	0.2	2.6
Trade	2,697.0	2,695.8	-1.2	10.6	0.0	0.4
Transportation and warehousing	864.8	859.0	-5.8	30.9	-0.7	3.7
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,074.3	1,078.4	4.1	21.8	0.4	2.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,198.3	1,199.4	1.1	90.7	0.1	8.2
Business, building and other support services	721.1	709.4	-11.7	20.6	-1.6	3.0
Educational services	1,190.8	1,204.6	13.8	25.7	1.2	2.2
Health care and social assistance	1,883.1	1,885.4	2.3	38.1	0.1	2.1
Information, culture and recreation	756.2	763.3	7.1	-12.5	0.9	-1.6
Accommodation and food services	1,053.7	1,075.9	22.2	5.2	2.1	0.5
Other services	743.1	734.0	-9.1	21.4	-1.2	3.0
Public administration	926.3	926.5	0.2	78.7	0.0	9.3

1. North American Industry Classification System.

Note: Related to CANSIM tables 282-0088 and 282-0089.

Labour force characteristics by province

	March 2008	April 2008	March to April 2008	April 2007 to April 2008	March to April 2008	April 2007 to April 2008
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador						
Population	425.4	425.6	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.2
Labour force	253.1	257.6	4.5	5.9	1.8	2.3
Employment	221.3	223.7	2.4	5.1	1.1	2.3
Full-time	187.4	189.1	1.7	1.2	0.9	0.6
Part-time	34.0	34.6	0.6	3.9	1.8	12.7
Unemployment	31.8	33.9	2.1	0.8	6.6	2.4
Participation rate	59.5	60.5	1.0	1.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	12.6	13.2	0.6	0.0	...	...
Employment rate	52.0	52.6	0.6	1.2	...	...
Prince Edward Island						
Population	113.8	114.0	0.2	1.1	0.2	1.0
Labour force	79.1	79.4	0.3	1.9	0.4	2.5
Employment	71.0	70.4	-0.6	0.4	-0.8	0.6
Full-time	58.8	59.4	0.6	1.2	1.0	2.1
Part-time	12.1	11.0	-1.1	-0.8	-9.1	-6.8
Unemployment	8.2	8.9	0.7	1.4	8.5	18.7
Participation rate	69.5	69.6	0.1	1.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	10.4	11.2	0.8	1.5	...	...
Employment rate	62.4	61.8	-0.6	-0.2	...	...
Nova Scotia						
Population	767.0	767.7	0.7	4.1	0.1	0.5
Labour force	487.7	490.6	2.9	1.0	0.6	0.2
Employment	449.5	452.4	2.9	2.9	0.6	0.6
Full-time	365.3	369.1	3.8	2.4	1.0	0.7
Part-time	84.1	83.3	-0.8	0.5	-1.0	0.6
Unemployment	38.3	38.2	-0.1	-1.9	-0.3	-4.7
Participation rate	63.6	63.9	0.3	-0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.9	7.8	-0.1	-0.4	...	...
Employment rate	58.6	58.9	0.3	0.0	...	...
New Brunswick						
Population	616.6	617.0	0.4	4.5	0.1	0.7
Labour force	400.2	400.6	0.4	8.7	0.1	2.2
Employment	366.3	367.3	1.0	4.6	0.3	1.3
Full-time	310.3	309.3	-1.0	3.6	-0.3	1.2
Part-time	56.1	57.9	1.8	0.9	3.2	1.6
Unemployment	33.9	33.3	-0.6	4.1	-1.8	14.0
Participation rate	64.9	64.9	0.0	0.9	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.5	8.3	-0.2	0.8	...	...
Employment rate	59.4	59.5	0.1	0.3	...	...
Quebec						
Population	6,353.5	6,358.9	5.4	55.4	0.1	0.9
Labour force	4,191.4	4,183.5	-7.9	43.2	-0.2	1.0
Employment	3,887.3	3,867.5	-19.8	27.1	-0.5	0.7
Full-time	3,164.0	3,154.2	-9.8	23.4	-0.3	0.7
Part-time	723.3	713.3	-10.0	3.8	-1.4	0.5
Unemployment	304.1	315.9	11.8	16.0	3.9	5.3
Participation rate	66.0	65.8	-0.2	0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.3	7.6	0.3	0.4	...	...
Employment rate	61.2	60.8	-0.4	-0.1	...	...

... not applicable

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Labour force characteristics by province

	March 2008	April 2008	March to April 2008	April 2007 to April 2008	March to April 2008	April 2007 to April 2008
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Ontario						
Population	10,459.9	10,474.4	14.5	142.7	0.1	1.4
Labour force	7,146.3	7,153.2	6.9	132.8	0.1	1.9
Employment	6,688.2	6,700.4	12.2	145.6	0.2	2.2
Full-time	5,470.6	5,481.4	10.8	120.2	0.2	2.2
Part-time	1,217.6	1,219.0	1.4	25.4	0.1	2.1
Unemployment	458.0	452.8	-5.2	-12.9	-1.1	-2.8
Participation rate	68.3	68.3	0.0	0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.4	6.3	-0.1	-0.3	...	...
Employment rate	63.9	64.0	0.1	0.6	...	...
Manitoba						
Population	905.9	907.3	1.4	10.5	0.2	1.2
Labour force	630.1	636.0	5.9	13.1	0.9	2.1
Employment	602.7	611.7	9.0	18.5	1.5	3.1
Full-time	494.0	491.3	-2.7	17.8	-0.5	3.8
Part-time	108.7	120.4	11.7	0.8	10.8	0.7
Unemployment	27.4	24.3	-3.1	-5.5	-11.3	-18.5
Participation rate	69.6	70.1	0.5	0.6	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.3	3.8	-0.5	-1.0	...	...
Employment rate	66.5	67.4	0.9	1.3	...	...
Saskatchewan						
Population	762.2	763.7	1.5	15.1	0.2	2.0
Labour force	529.9	533.0	3.1	9.7	0.6	1.9
Employment	508.2	510.1	1.9	8.2	0.4	1.6
Full-time	418.4	420.1	1.7	17.7	0.4	4.4
Part-time	89.8	90.0	0.2	-9.4	0.2	-9.5
Unemployment	21.8	22.8	1.0	1.4	4.6	6.5
Participation rate	69.5	69.8	0.3	-0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.1	4.3	0.2	0.2	...	...
Employment rate	66.7	66.8	0.1	-0.2	...	...
Alberta						
Population	2,779.2	2,783.8	4.6	59.3	0.2	2.2
Labour force	2,075.9	2,076.5	0.6	57.9	0.0	2.9
Employment	2,004.5	2,008.1	3.6	57.9	0.2	3.0
Full-time	1,695.7	1,695.6	-0.1	58.3	0.0	3.6
Part-time	308.8	312.5	3.7	-0.4	1.2	-0.1
Unemployment	71.4	68.5	-2.9	0.1	-4.1	0.1
Participation rate	74.7	74.6	-0.1	0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	3.4	3.3	-0.1	-0.1	...	...
Employment rate	72.1	72.1	0.0	0.5	...	...
British Columbia						
Population	3,619.9	3,626.9	7.0	69.8	0.2	2.0
Labour force	2,422.2	2,429.4	7.2	75.8	0.3	3.2
Employment	2,317.9	2,324.3	6.4	77.2	0.3	3.4
Full-time	1,843.7	1,859.6	15.9	65.0	0.9	3.6
Part-time	474.2	464.7	-9.5	12.2	-2.0	2.7
Unemployment	104.4	105.1	0.7	-1.4	0.7	-1.3
Participation rate	66.9	67.0	0.1	0.8	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.3	4.3	0.0	-0.2	...	...
Employment rate	64.0	64.1	0.1	0.9	...	...

... not applicable

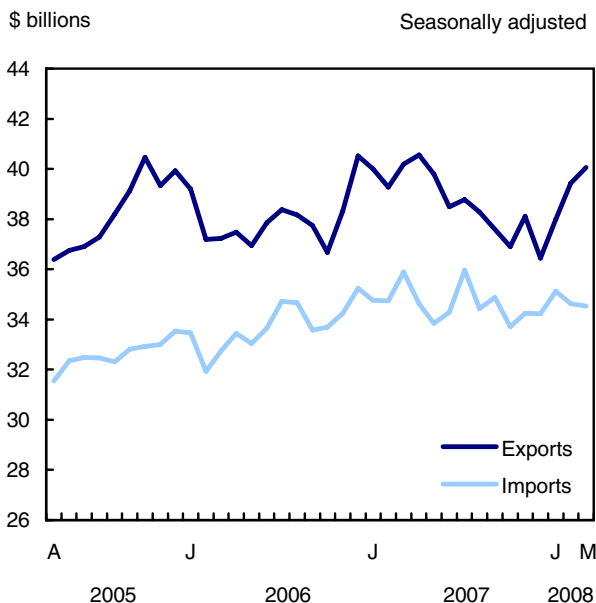
Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Canadian international merchandise trade

March 2008

Canada's merchandise trade surplus with the world expanded for the third consecutive month in March as exports grew and imports declined.

Exports and imports



The trade surplus with the world jumped to \$5.5 billion, its highest level since May 2007.

Exports to the United States climbed for the third month in a row while imports from Canada's southern neighbour decreased. Consequently, the trade surplus with the United States rose to \$8.6 billion, the highest level since April 2006.

The trade deficit with countries other than the United States fell to \$3.1 billion, contracting for the third straight month with exports increasing at a much faster pace than imports. Increased exports to Mexico and Norway contributed to the monthly rise.

Note to readers

Merchandise trade is one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services, investment income, transfers, capital and financial flows.

International merchandise trade data by country are available on both a balance of payments and a customs basis for the United States, Japan and the United Kingdom. Trade data for all other individual countries are available on a customs basis only. Balance of payments data are derived from customs data by making adjustments for items such as valuation, coverage, timing and residency. These adjustments are made to conform to the concepts and definitions of the Canadian System of National Accounts.

Constant dollars referred to in the text are calculated using the Paasche Price indices.

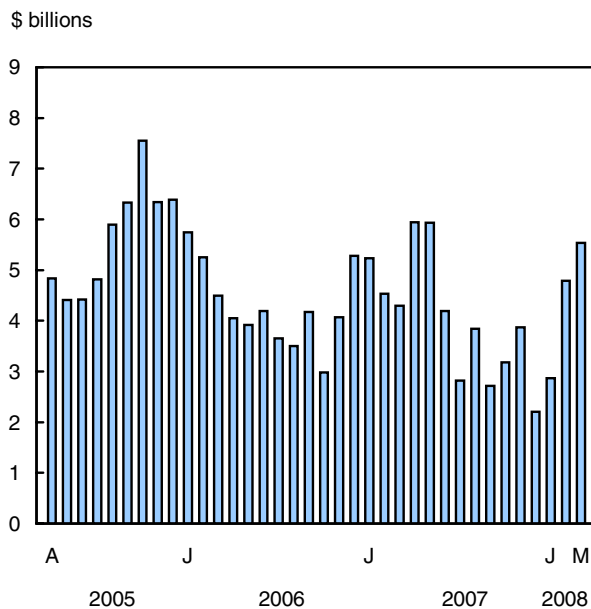
Revisions

In general, merchandise trade data are revised on an ongoing basis for each month of the current year. Current year revisions are reflected in both the customs and balance of payments based data. Revisions to customs based data for the previous year are released on a quarterly basis. Revisions to balance of payments based data for the three previous years will be available with the April reference month released, on June 10, 2008.

Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs forms, replacement of estimates with actual figures, changes in classification of merchandise based on more current information, and changes to seasonal adjustment factors.

Revised data are available in the appropriate CANSIM tables.

Trade balance



Energy products boost exports

Canada's exports rose for the third consecutive month, increasing 1.6% to \$40.1 billion in March, largely on the strength of energy products. The growth in exports overall was principally attributable to a rise in prices as volumes generally declined. Export prices have been on the rise since October 2007.

Increasing since October 2007, energy products surpassed the \$10-billion mark for the first time ever, rising 6.6%. Price hikes for natural gas and crude petroleum, combined with a volume jump in petroleum and coal products, contributed to the increase.

Contributing to a lesser degree to the growth in exports, other consumer goods rose 13.4%. These have been on a downward trend since December 2006. Commodities such as pharmaceutical, household products, toys, sporting goods, apparel and footwear are grouped in this category. Typically, pharmaceutical products are the main contributor to the volatility of this sector.

The only export sectors to falter were automotive and forestry products. After recording only five increases in the past 15 months, automotive products slid to \$5.3 billion. Trucks and other motor vehicles exports plummeted 29.9% to their lowest level in almost two decades, affected by labour disruptions in the United States.

As demand from the United States remained sluggish, forestry products fell 7.7%, continuing its decline that began in 2004. Exports of lumber and sawmill products fell to their lowest level since July 1992 as the American housing market continued to deteriorate.

Automotive products drag down imports

Imports slipped 0.3% to \$34.5 billion in March, in the wake of widespread declines in all sectors except

energy. Overall, declining import volumes outweighed the rise in prices. Automotive products posted its largest monthly decrease since August 2003, falling 11.4%, as the industry was faced with a labour dispute in the American motor vehicle parts supply chain.

Energy products, the only sector to register a gain, soared 17.6%. It has been trending upwards since October 2007. A jump in volumes of natural gas was largely responsible for this increase as Canadian inventories were re-established.

Crude petroleum imports rose 8.5% to yet another record, due to the combined impact of volume and price increases in March. Since 2003, prices have been the main driving force behind the growth of crude petroleum imports while volumes have remained relatively stable.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001 to 228-0003, 228-0033, 228-0034, 228-0041 to 228-0043 and 228-0047 to 228-0055.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The March 2008 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 62, no. 3 (65-001-XIB, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. The publication includes tables by commodity and country on a customs basis. Current account data (which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, service transactions, investment income and transfers) are available quarterly in *Canada's Balance of International Payments* (67-001-XWE, free).

For more information on products and services, contact Sharon Nevins (toll-free 1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9798). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Anne Couillard (613-951-6867), International Trade Division.

□

Merchandise trade

	February 2008 ^r	March 2008	February to March 2008	March 2007 to March 2008
Seasonally adjusted, \$ current				
	\$ millions		% change	
Principal trading partners				
Exports				
United States	30,079	30,295	0.7	-2.2
Japan	928	762	-17.9	-17.4
European Union ¹	3,206	3,233	0.8	1.0
Other OECD countries ²	1,483	1,940	30.8	2.8
All other countries	3,726	3,833	2.9	19.2
Total	39,423	40,062	1.6	-0.3
Imports				
United States	21,791	21,670	-0.6	-6.8
Japan	1,002	990	-1.2	-4.3
European Union ¹	3,333	3,295	-1.1	-13.7
Other OECD countries ²	2,191	2,137	-2.5	-5.7
All other countries	6,316	6,436	1.9	16.7
Total	34,632	34,528	-0.3	-3.8
Balance				
United States	8,288	8,625	...	...
Japan	-74	-228	...	...
European Union ¹	-127	-62	...	...
Other OECD countries ²	-708	-197	...	...
All other countries	-2,590	-2,603	...	...
Total	4,791	5,534	...	...
Principal commodity groupings				
Exports				
Agricultural and fishing products	3,188	3,339	4.7	14.8
Energy products	9,919	10,572	6.6	36.9
Forestry products	2,174	2,007	-7.7	-25.2
Industrial goods and materials	8,843	8,900	0.6	0.8
Machinery and equipment	7,418	7,461	0.6	-7.4
Automotive products	5,525	5,252	-4.9	-26.6
Other consumer goods	1,318	1,495	13.4	-8.0
Special transactions trade ³	592	619	4.6	-12.6
Other balance of payments adjustments	447	417	-6.7	-15.6
Imports				
Agricultural and fishing products	2,196	2,184	-0.5	3.0
Energy products	3,648	4,291	17.6	38.5
Forestry products	239	235	-1.7	-8.9
Industrial goods and materials	7,087	7,031	-0.8	-2.2
Machinery and equipment	9,610	9,532	-0.8	-4.3
Automotive products	6,284	5,567	-11.4	-23.9
Other consumer goods	4,476	4,365	-2.5	-8.9
Special transactions trade ³	369	573	55.3	37.7
Other balance of payments adjustments	723	748	3.5	0.9

^r revised

... not applicable

1. Includes Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom.

2. Other countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation (OECD) include Australia, Canada, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Switzerland and Turkey.

3. These are mainly low valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.

Study: Retirements in the federal public service

2007

Retirements have been increasing rapidly in the federal public service since the start of the millennium as the leading edge of the baby boom generation calls it quits, according to a new study.

In the fiscal year ending March 2007, the number of permanent public servants covered by the *Public Service Employment Act* (PSEA) who were taking their retirement amounted to almost three times the number at the start of the millennium.

The study, "Federal public service retirements: Trends in the new millennium," published today in the *Analysis in Brief* series, examined retirements since the turn of the millennium among permanent employees who occupy jobs subject to the PSEA. This universe excludes employees of separate agencies, such as the Canada Revenue Agency, and Crown corporations, such as Canada Post, as well as members of the Canadian Forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The study analyzed data on retirements, retirement eligibility and pensionable years accumulated, for both men and women.

It explains how retirements have increased more quickly in the public service than in the labour force as a whole.

One of the reasons is because permanent federal public servants covered by the PSEA are 5.3 years older on average than workers in the general labour force, and they also tend to retire 3.2 years earlier.

As of early 2007, about 8% of the workforce could retire immediately without penalty, double the proportion of 4% only six years earlier. One-quarter of the existing public service workforce studied was eligible to retire within the next five years.

Not all public servants retire immediately once eligible, though. In the fiscal year ending March 2007, about one in three of those retiring did so within the year they became eligible. About 44% put off retirement by about four years on average.

There are also those who retire before eligibility with a reduced annuity. In fiscal year 2006/2007, about one-quarter of those who retired did so, on average, 2.5 years before they were eligible. Women made up the majority of these people.

Baby boomers are the driving force behind current retirements. In the fiscal year 2006/2007, they made up two-thirds of the workforce and two-thirds of retirements.

Boomers in the public service also tended to retire younger (in their late 50s) after having banked more years of pensionable service than the pre-boomers retiring in 2006/2007.

In the fiscal year 2006/2007, the average age at retirement of the public servants studied was 58.4. They retired with 29.2 years of pensionable service on average.

Although men and women retired at about the same age on average, men accumulated more years of pensionable service than women. However, the gap in years of pensionable service between men and women has narrowed from 7.2 years to 3.4 years since the start of the millennium.

The study also found that the proportion of retirees who were women increased from 40% in fiscal year 2000/2001 to 47% in 2006/2007. Women tended to retire having had longer careers than in the past.

The analytical article "Federal public service retirements: Trends in the new millennium" is now available online in the *Analysis in Brief* series (11-621-MWE2008068, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Dan Fox (613-951-3620), Business and Labour Market Analysis Division. ■

Study: Geographic location and gains from trade

1974 to 1999

From the 1970s to 1990s, Canada's manufacturing sector became increasingly integrated into world markets as trade barriers fell, especially with the United States.

Previous research has analyzed this shift on the national scale, but there has been little attention on the impact of integration on a regional basis in Canada. In fact, this impact has not been felt equally across all geographic regions.

Using a longitudinal microdata file of manufacturing plants from 1974 to 1999, this study tested the effect of higher levels of trade across regions on the organization of production within plants.

In particular, it examined how three characteristics of industrial structure (plant size, plant specialization and the length of production runs) were related to the degree to which regions were integrated into North American markets.

The study found that higher levels of export intensity, that is, exports as a share of output, were positively associated with the three structural characteristics that help determine a plant's productivity: plants had longer production runs and were larger in size, and a smaller number of varieties were produced per plant.

However, these productivity-enhancing effects of trade were largely restricted to Ontario and, to a lesser

degree, Quebec. Manufacturers in Atlantic and Western Canada, while increasing their export intensity, did not experience the same changes to their manufacturing plants.

It was primarily in Ontario where plant scale increased the most, where product diversity declined the most and where production-run length increased the most on average. It was also in Ontario that the relationship between higher levels of export intensity and plant scale, or production-run length, was the strongest.

Why manufactures in Ontario saw greater shifts in their industrial structure is likely tied to the fact that they found themselves on the doorstep of the US market, with many millions of customers just across the border. This large and geographically proximate market made it easier for firms to increase the size of their plants and to lengthen their production runs.

In contrast, manufacturers in Atlantic and Western Canada were geographically isolated from the core of the North American market. Higher transportation costs made it potentially more difficult for these producers to take advantage of falling trade barriers.

The research paper "Geographic market access and the effects of trade on length of production run, product diversity and plant scale of Canadian manufacturing plants, 1974 to 1999" is now available as part of the *Economic Analysis Research Paper Series* (11F0027MIE2008052, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mark Brown (613-951-7292), Micro-economic Analysis Division. ■

Production of eggs and poultry

March 2008 (preliminary)

Egg production was estimated at 48.6 million dozen in March, down 2.3% from March 2007.

Poultry meat production reached 100.4 million kilograms in March, up 3.0% from March 2007.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3425 and 5039.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandy Gielfeldt (613-951-2505; sandy.gielfeldt@statcan.ca), or Bernadette Alain (902-893-7251; bernadette.alain@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Export and import price indexes

March 2008

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (2002=100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 2002 to March 2008 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted US price indexes (2002=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 2002 to March 2008. Included with the US commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and US-only Standard International Trade Classification section indexes.

Indexes on a customs basis for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups are also available on request.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001 to 228-0003, 228-0033, 228-0034, 228-0041 to 228-0043 and 228-0047 to 228-0055.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

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For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Marketing and Client Services Section (toll-free 1-800-294-5583), International Trade Division. ■

Chain Fisher real export and import values

March 2008

The monthly chain Fisher real dollar values (reference year 2002) for Canadian international merchandise trade are now available for March.

This series is not offered in CANSIM.

To order data, contact the Marketing and Client Services Section (toll-free 1-800-294-5583). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bernard Lupien (613-951-6872), International Trade Division. ■

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Catalogue number 11F0027MIE2008052
(free).

Analysis in Brief: "Federal public service retirements: Trends in the new millennium", 2000/2001 to 2006/2007, no. 68
Catalogue number 11-621-MWE2008068
(free).

Canadian International Merchandise Trade,
March 2008, Vol. 62, no. 3
Catalogue number 65-001-XIB
(free).

Labour Force Information, April 13 to 19, 2008
Catalogue number 71-001-XWE
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 The Daily Statistics Canada	
Thursday, June 3, 1997 For release at 9:30 a.m.	
MAJOR RELEASES	
Urban transit, 1996 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 Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was modestly weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.	2 4
OTHER RELEASES	
Help-wanted index, May 1997 Short-term Expectations Survey Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 Egg production, Apr. 1997	3 9 12 13
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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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The Daily, May 9, 2008

Release dates: May 12 to 16, 2008

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
12	New Housing Price Index	March 2008
13	Performing arts	2006
13	The Canadian immigrant labour market	2007
14	Health Reports	
14	Hours worked and labour productivity in the provinces and territories	2007
15	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	March 2008
15	Canadian Economic Observer	May 2008
16	New motor vehicle sales	March 2008
16	Youth crime	2006