

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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## Releases

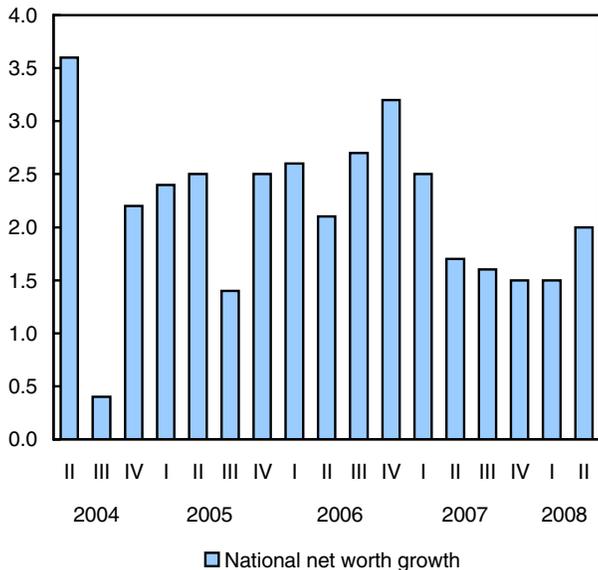
### National balance sheet accounts

Second quarter 2008

National net worth rose 2.0% in the second quarter of 2008, as an increase in the value of non-financial assets was moderated by the rise in net foreign indebtedness. National net worth, total assets less financial liabilities, increased \$111 billion in the second quarter of 2008, resulting in a per capita national net worth of \$174,300, up from \$171,500 in the previous quarter.

#### National net worth continues to advance

% change, not seasonally adjusted



National wealth, defined as the sum of economy-wide non-financial assets, amounted to \$5.9 trillion, up 2.7% from the previous quarter. This was an increase from the 2.4% growth posted for the same quarter last year. Residential real estate accounted for about half of the gain in national wealth.

The second quarter of 2008 showed a substantial improvement in saving for the corporate sector. The expansion in corporate saving resulted from significant price driven growth in profits, particularly for energy products. Saving in the corporate sector remains a driving force behind the gains in national net worth.

#### Note to readers

The national balance sheet accounts are statements of the balance sheets of all of the various sectors of the economy. They consist of the non-financial assets owned in the various sectors of the economy and of financial claims outstanding.

**National wealth** is the sum of non-financial assets (produced assets, land surrounding structures and agricultural land) in all sectors of the economy.

**National net worth** is national wealth less net foreign liabilities (i.e., what is owed to non-residents less what non-residents owe to Canadians). Alternatively, it is the sum of the net worth of the persons and unincorporated business, corporate and government sectors.

**National saving** is the sum of saving of the persons and unincorporated business, corporate and government sectors. National saving and investment contribute to the change in national net worth.

The revaluation of assets and liabilities also contributes to changes in national net worth. The causes of revaluation include changes in non-financial asset prices, equity prices, interest rates, exchange rates and loan allowances.

Quarterly series, both book and market value, are available from the first quarter of 1990. Marketable securities are at market value, unless otherwise stated. For more information on the market value estimates, consult the Balance sheet estimates at market value page of our website.

Canada's net foreign indebtedness (with tradable securities on a market value basis) increased during the second quarter following a decrease in the first quarter of 2008. Growth in Canadian liabilities to non-residents, particularly net new Canadian bond issues, exceeded growth in Canadian assets abroad. The value of foreign assets held by Canadians decreased during the quarter, as asset growth was constrained by the appreciating Canadian dollar. However, non-resident holdings of Canadian equities were up strongly during the quarter, reflecting the gains in Canadian stock markets.

#### Growth in household net worth advances

In the second quarter of 2008, household net worth expanded by 2.8%, following a 0.5% increase in the first quarter. Gains in the market value of equities were the largest contributor to the advance in household net worth, followed by residential real estate.

Household debt (consumer credit and mortgage liabilities), as a percentage of net worth, held steady during the quarter, with increases in debt offset by gains in financial assets. Households had 19.6 cents of debt

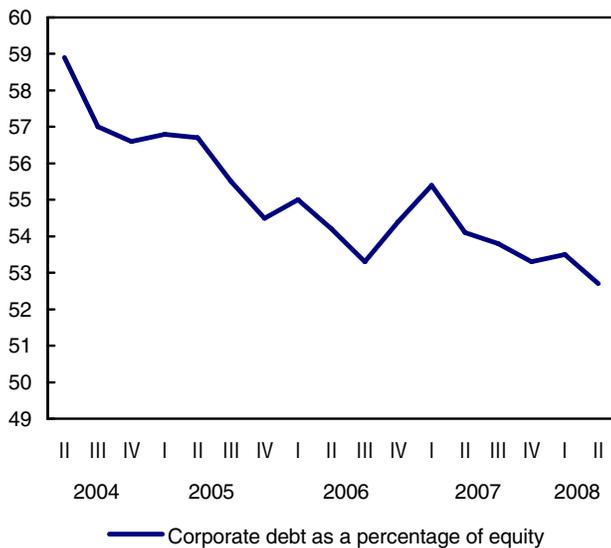
for every dollar of net worth and \$1.25 of debt for every dollar of personal disposable income.

### Corporate debt-to-equity continues to trend down

Increased saving in the corporate sector translated into a further decline in non-financial private corporations' leverage, which has trended down for most of the last two decades. In the second quarter of 2008, corporations had about 52.7 cents of debt for every dollar of equity (at book value). Continued generation of undistributed corporate profits has helped the corporate sector remain a net lender to the rest of the economy, a trend which emerged in the 1990s.

### Corporate leverage continues to ease

as a percentage of equity, not seasonally adjusted data



### Financial institutions asset growth reflects an upswing in the stock market

The portfolios of institutional investors, such as mutual funds and trustee pension plans, benefited from an upswing in the equities market. Increases in mortgage and consumer credit holdings also contributed to the increase in financial sector assets.

### Government net debt-to-gross domestic product declines further

Government net debt declined in the second quarter of 2008. Government net debt (at book value) as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) edged down to just over one-third of GDP, down considerably from over 90% in the mid-1990s.

Available on CANSIM: tables 378-0003 to 378-0010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1806.

The second quarter 2008 issue of *National Balance Sheet Accounts, Quarterly Estimates*, Vol. 6, no. 2 (13-214-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

The second quarter 2008 issue of *Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review*, Vol. 7, no. 2 (13-010-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

The complete quarterly *National Balance Sheet Accounts: Data Tables*, no. 2 (13-022-XWE, free) are also 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 information officer (613-951-3640; [iead-info-dcrd@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:iead-info-dcrd@statcan.gc.ca)), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

□

**National balance sheet accounts<sup>1</sup>**

	First quarter 2007	Second quarter 2007	Third quarter 2007	Fourth quarter 2007	First quarter 2008	Second quarter 2008	2006	2007
Market value, not seasonally adjusted								
\$ billions								
<b>National net worth</b>								
National wealth	5,323	5,451	5,560	5,632	5,717	5,870	5,205	5,632
	2.3	2.4	2.0	1.3	1.5	2.7	8.1	8.2
Net foreign debt	29	-6	-29	-21	-19	-61	16	-21
	81.3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
National net worth	5,353	5,445	5,531	5,612	5,698	5,809	5,221	5,612
	2.5	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.5	2.0	11.0	7.5
National net worth per capita (dollars)	162,800	165,100	167,100	169,300	171,500	174,300	159,200	169,300
	2.3	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.6	9.9	6.3

... not applicable

1. The first line is the series itself expressed in billions of dollars. The second line is the period-to-period percentage change.



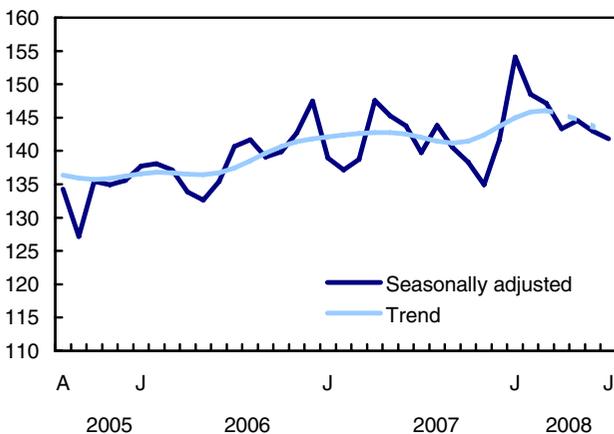
## New motor vehicle sales

July 2008

Dealerships sold 141,818 new vehicles in July, down 0.8% from June as a result of lower sales of overseas-built passenger cars.

### New vehicle sales down due to decline in overseas-built passenger car sales

thousands of units



**Note:** The last few points could be subject to revisions when more data are added. This is indicated by the dashed line.

### Overseas-built passenger car sales drive decline

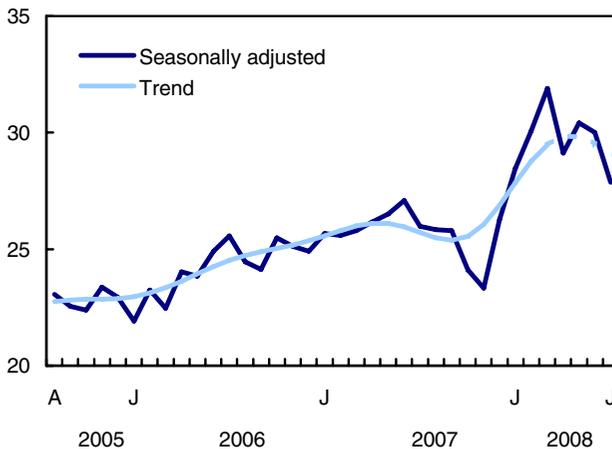
Passenger car sales decreased 2.9% to 77,122 units in July. While sales of North American-built passenger cars remained relatively unchanged, sales of overseas-built passenger cars declined 7.1% after posting strong sales growth since the end of 2007. Overseas-built cars account for about 36% of new passenger car sales.

Sales of new trucks (which include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses) increased 1.8% to 64,696 units. Truck sales have been declining since December 2007.

Preliminary industry data for August indicate a further decline in the number of new motor vehicles sold, mainly as a result of weak sales of North-American built passenger cars.

### Despite decline in July, overseas-built passenger car sales remain strong

thousands of units



**Note:** The last few points could be subject to revisions when more data are added. This is indicated by the dashed line.

### Sales in British Columbia continue their downward trend

Among the provinces, British Columbia (-7.8%) posted the largest decline in new motor vehicle sales in July. Motor vehicle sales in British Columbia have been on a downward trend since the fall of 2007, mainly as a result of weaker truck sales.

Strong sales growth was observed in Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan.

**Available on CANSIM: table 079-0003.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2402.**

The July 2008 issue of *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (63-007-XWE, free) will be available soon.

Data on new motor vehicle sales for August will be released on October 14.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; [retailinfo@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:retailinfo@statcan.gc.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mark Switzer (613-951-7137), Distributive Trades Division.

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**New motor vehicle sales**

	July 2007	June 2008 <sup>r</sup>	July 2008 <sup>p</sup>	July 2007 to July 2008	June to July 2008
Seasonally adjusted					
	number of vehicles			% change	
<b>New motor vehicles</b>	<b>139,758</b>	<b>142,970</b>	<b>141,818</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>-0.8</b>
Passenger cars	71,926	79,400	77,122	7.2	-2.9
North American <sup>1</sup>	45,942	49,390	49,255	7.2	-0.3
Overseas	25,984	30,010	27,867	7.2	-7.1
Trucks, vans and buses	67,832	63,570	64,696	-4.6	1.8
<b>New motor vehicles</b>					
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,355	2,424	2,653	12.7	9.4
Prince Edward Island	416	456	453	8.9	-0.7
Nova Scotia	4,160	4,539	4,392	5.6	-3.2
New Brunswick	3,158	3,345	3,532	11.8	5.6
Quebec	33,549	36,307	36,501	8.8	0.5
Ontario	49,844	51,281	50,930	2.2	-0.7
Manitoba	3,764	4,079	4,111	9.2	0.8
Saskatchewan	3,797	3,963	4,158	9.5	4.9
Alberta	21,918	20,547	20,309	-7.3	-1.2
British Columbia <sup>2</sup>	16,797	16,029	14,779	-12.0	-7.8
	July 2007	June 2008 <sup>r</sup>	July 2008 <sup>p</sup>	July 2007 to July 2008	
Unadjusted					
	number of vehicles			% change	
<b>New motor vehicles</b>	<b>145,370</b>	<b>163,062</b>	<b>152,704</b>	<b>5.0</b>	
Passenger cars	77,722	96,273	86,110	10.8	
North American <sup>1</sup>	47,819	59,160	52,973	10.8	
Overseas	29,903	37,113	33,137	10.8	
Trucks, vans and buses	67,648	66,789	66,594	-1.6	
<b>New motor vehicles</b>					
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,731	3,159	3,397	24.4	
Prince Edward Island	519	560	553	6.6	
Nova Scotia	4,580	5,645	4,864	6.2	
New Brunswick	3,408	4,061	4,027	18.2	
Quebec	35,557	40,573	41,118	15.6	
Ontario	50,501	59,761	52,776	4.5	
Manitoba	3,899	4,455	4,456	14.3	
Saskatchewan	4,103	4,234	4,624	12.7	
Alberta	22,236	22,129	21,006	-5.5	
British Columbia <sup>2</sup>	17,836	18,485	15,883	-10.9	

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

1. Manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico.

2. Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

**Note:** Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.



## Value of natural resource assets

2007

The value of Canada's timber, energy, and mineral resource assets rose 5% in 2007 to almost \$1.3 trillion. This amounted to over 18% of Canada's total wealth including natural resources. The value of the individual resource assets showed mixed growth, with timber declining by more than 4%, energy remained almost constant, and minerals increased by more than one-third.

The value of energy assets increased just slightly in 2007 to \$735 billion, with gains in the value of crude bitumen and crude oil assets offset by declines in natural gas and coal.

Crude bitumen (also known as tar sands) increased by over 7% in value, reflecting its increasing economic importance. It alone accounted for almost half of the value of all energy assets and more than one-quarter of the value of all natural resource assets. High oil prices and increases in the reserves under active development more than offset substantial increases in operating and capital costs for crude bitumen extraction.

The value of conventional crude oil reserves increased by nearly 4%, mainly as a result of higher prices, which more than offset increased production costs. In comparison, the value of natural gas reserves fell 10% as a result of lower prices and increased production costs.

The value of mineral assets increased by more than one-third to \$273 billion. This substantial gain can be attributed to price increases, notably the price of uranium and lead, which more than doubled. Most other minerals registered double-digit price increases. Mineral assets represented just over one-fifth of total natural resource value in 2007, up almost five percentage points from 2006.

The value of timber reserves declined by more than 4% in 2007, following a similar decline in 2006. Lumber export quotas to the United States, the strong Canadian dollar and weak demand for lumber in the US housing market likely accounted for much of the decrease.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 153-0001 to 153-0008, 153-0010 to 153-0030 and 378-0005.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5114.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Joan Forbes (613-951-1801) or the Information Officer (613-951-0297; fax: 613-951-0634; [environ@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:environ@statcan.gc.ca)), Environment Accounts and Statistics Division.

## Value of natural resource reserves

	2006	2007	2006 to 2007
	\$ millions	\$ millions	% change
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,214,091</b>	<b>1,271,486</b>	<b>4.7</b>
Timber	275,462	263,459	-4.4
Energy	734,559	735,030	0.1
Crude oil	150,988	156,537	3.7
Natural gas	219,807	197,553	-10.1
Crude bitumen	318,625	342,075	7.4
Coal	45,140	38,864	-13.9
Minerals	204,071	272,998	33.8
Metallic <sup>1</sup>	164,676	217,880	32.3
Non-metallic	39,395	55,118	39.9

1. Including diamonds.

## Dairy statistics

July 2008 (preliminary)

Dairy farmers sold 636 600 kilolitres of milk and cream to dairies in July, down 2.7% from July 2007.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3430, 3431 and 3432.**

The third quarter 2008 issue of *Dairy Statistics*, Vol. 3, no. 3 (23-014-XWE, free) will be available in November.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean-Pierre Pelchat (613-951-2860; toll-free 1-800-465-1991; fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division.

## New products

**Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review**,  
Second quarter 2008, Vol. 7, no. 2  
**Catalogue number 13-010-XWE**  
(free).

**Canada's International Investment Position**, Second  
quarter 2008, Vol. 6, no. 2  
**Catalogue number 67-202-XWE**  
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**National Balance Sheet Accounts: Data Tables**,  
Second quarter 2008, no. 2  
**Catalogue number 13-022-XWE**  
(free).

**All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales  
tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery  
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**National Balance Sheet Accounts, Quarterly  
Estimates**, Second quarter 2008, Vol. 6, no. 2  
**Catalogue number 13-214-XWE**  
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