

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, December 4, 2008

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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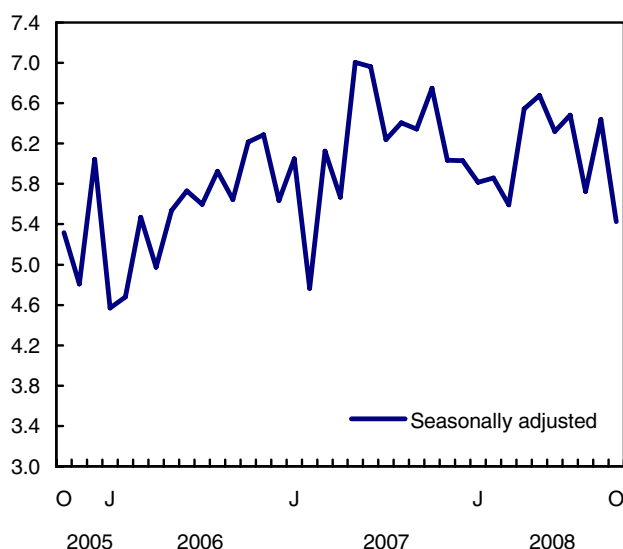
Building permits

October 2008

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Value of permits decreases in October

\$ billions



The value of non-residential permits declined 23.9% to \$2.4 billion following a 41.0% increase in September. October's decrease occurred mainly as a result of a decline in non-residential components in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Municipalities issued \$3.0 billion in permits for the residential sector in October, down 7.8%. It was the third consecutive monthly drop, and was a result of declines in both single and multiple dwellings. Provincially, British Columbia registered the largest decrease, as a result of declines in the value of multi-family permits.

On a year-to-date (January to October) basis, the total value of building permits issued by municipalities reached \$60.9 billion, down 2.3% from the same period in 2007. The residential sector decreased by 6.5%, while the non-residential sector was 4.2% higher.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which eases comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations. The Building Permits Survey covers 2,400 municipalities representing 95% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 5% of the population are very small, and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total. The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (e.g., waterworks, sewers or culverts) and land. For the purpose of this release, the census metropolitan area of Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario/Quebec) is divided into two areas: Gatineau part and Ottawa part.

Non-residential sector: Declines in all three components

The value of permits declined in all three components of the non-residential sector.

The value of institutional permits fell by 27.7% to \$731 million after more than doubling (+114.0%) in September. The decrease came mostly from lower construction intentions for medical projects in Ontario and educational projects in Saskatchewan.

Despite the decline, the value of institutional permits in October was 27.5% higher than the average monthly level of 2007.

In the industrial component, contractors took out permits worth \$388 million, down 41.5% from September. This followed a 60.9% increase the month before. The decrease came mostly from maintenance buildings in Ontario and utility buildings in Alberta.

In the commercial component, the value of permits decreased 13.4% to \$1.3 billion, after a 9.7% increase in September. The lower demand for permits associated with office and recreation buildings in both Ontario and Alberta was behind this decline.

On a year-to-date basis, the institutional and industrial components experienced increases of 16.1% and 5.8% respectively. On the other hand, the largest component (the commercial) was down 0.9% from the same period in 2007.

Residential sector: Declines in both single- and multi-family permits

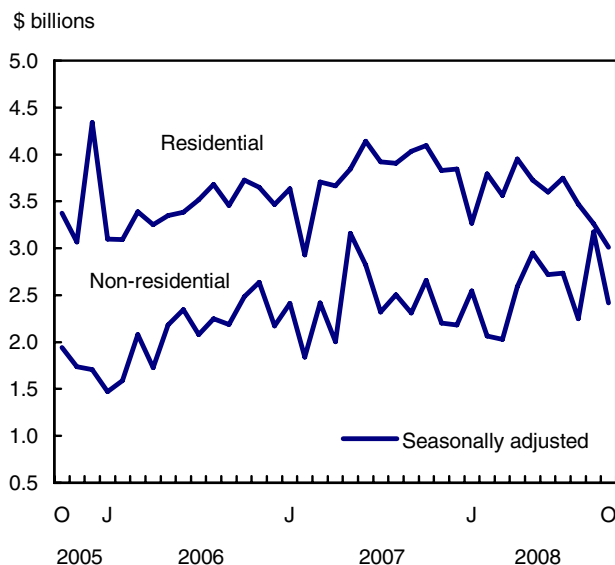
The value of single-family permits decreased 6.0% to \$2.0 billion, the fourth consecutive monthly retreat.

All provinces, except Manitoba and Newfoundland and Labrador, recorded a decline in the value of single-family permits in October. The largest declines (in dollars) occurred in Alberta and British Columbia.

Municipalities issued \$1.0 billion worth of permits for multi-family dwellings in October, down 10.9% from September and the third consecutive monthly decrease. Although seven provinces reported a decrease in October, British Columbia accounted for most of the decline at the national level. Alberta and Saskatchewan registered increases.

Municipalities approved 14,454 new dwellings in October, down 9.8% from September. Of these, 7,376 were multi-family units, down 12.4%, while 7,078 were single-family units, a 6.9% decline.

Both the residential and non-residential sectors decline



Permits down in most provinces

The value of building permits fell in eight provinces in October.

The most significant decreases occurred in Ontario, (-24.8% to \$1.8 billion), Saskatchewan (-58.7% to \$138 million) and Alberta (-17.5% to \$844 million). The decreases came mainly from the non-residential sector. In contrast, all three provinces recorded increases of at least 10% in September.

Quebec reported an 8.5% increase to \$1.3 billion, as a result of higher construction intentions in industrial and institutional buildings. Newfoundland and Labrador also reported an increase as a result of gains in commercial intentions.

Metropolitan areas: Large decreases in Toronto and Saskatoon

Of the 34 census metropolitan areas, 19 recorded decreases in the value of building permits in October.

The largest declines occurred in Toronto, followed by Saskatoon and Edmonton, mostly as a result of drops in the non-residential sector.

The value of permits rose in Guelph as a result of increases in non-residential permits. After two consecutive monthly declines, Calgary registered increases in both the residential and non-residential sectors.

Available on CANSIM: tables 026-0001 to 026-0008 and 026-0010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The October 2008 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001-XWE, free) will be available soon.

The November building permit estimate will be released on January 9, 2009.

To order data, contact Joanne Bureau (toll-free 1-800-579-8533; 613-951-9689). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Nicole Charron (613-951-0087), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

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Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area¹

	June 2008	July 2008	August 2008	September 2008 ^r	October 2008 ^p	September to October 2008
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions					% change
Total	4,619.4	4,697.4	4,094.3	4,357.3	3,878.6	-11.0
St. John's	43.2	60.6	70.6	41.0	52.2	27.5
Halifax	59.9	74.8	39.5	70.7	55.9	-20.9
Moncton	25.6	25.6	40.5	26.3	23.7	-10.2
Saint John	24.5	19.5	22.8	28.0	23.9	-14.7
Saguenay	28.4	23.7	32.2	34.8	67.6	94.0
Québec	168.7	174.4	118.9	149.5	120.8	-19.3
Sherbrooke	27.8	27.0	47.4	27.7	32.1	15.8
Trois-Rivières	27.2	29.6	19.6	31.0	36.9	19.1
Montréal	483.7	573.0	552.8	566.0	592.1	4.6
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	195.6	262.1	166.6	247.2	280.5	13.5
Gatineau part	40.5	116.8	28.5	55.9	52.3	-6.4
Ottawa part	155.1	145.3	138.1	191.2	228.2	19.3
Kingston	23.0	16.1	19.2	15.2	15.2	0.4
Peterborough	13.3	11.2	44.7	11.1	18.1	62.5
Oshawa	103.7	93.3	51.1	59.7	14.8	-75.2
Toronto	1,062.4	1,130.9	1,003.3	1,047.8	830.8	-20.7
Hamilton	68.7	69.4	100.8	109.5	71.3	-34.9
St. Catharines-Niagara	40.6	37.7	41.1	55.5	22.4	-59.6
Kitchener	75.0	178.3	87.8	58.6	79.2	35.1
Brantford	16.7	15.0	10.5	31.7	12.9	-59.5
Guelph	15.5	12.3	32.5	17.1	82.8	383.9
London	72.9	83.4	72.5	76.0	52.0	-31.6
Windsor	18.1	37.4	20.7	16.3	10.5	-35.3
Barrie	178.9	18.0	36.7	17.2	18.3	6.4
Greater Sudbury	20.6	22.3	40.7	30.2	23.2	-23.3
Thunder Bay	10.0	41.0	9.8	7.3	7.8	6.5
Winnipeg	68.4	146.7	87.1	121.9	84.0	-31.1
Regina	74.9	38.2	27.4	30.2	36.6	21.3
Saskatoon	57.7	148.6	79.4	179.8	54.6	-69.6
Calgary	422.8	435.0	315.0	271.9	320.0	17.7
Edmonton	400.6	289.8	240.7	349.3	272.7	-21.9
Kelowna	75.6	49.8	44.8	70.1	35.0	-50.1
Abbotsford	28.9	44.1	12.3	6.4	16.3	157.1
Vancouver	601.8	425.3	480.2	474.8	453.4	-4.5
Victoria	85.0	83.4	125.2	77.4	61.1	-21.0

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas

Note: Data may not add up to totals as a result of rounding.

Value of building permits, by province and territory

	June 2008	July 2008	August 2008	September 2008 ^r	October 2008 ^p	September to October 2008
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions					% change
Canada	6,318.5	6,479.8	5,723.8	6,437.6	5,427.4	-15.7
Residential	3,600.5	3,745.8	3,472.4	3,263.5	3,010.3	-7.8
Non-residential	2,718.1	2,733.9	2,251.4	3,174.1	2,417.0	-23.9
Newfoundland and Labrador	71.1	81.1	95.9	68.3	74.9	9.7
Residential	44.6	66.1	50.5	47.0	46.2	-1.6
Non-residential	26.5	15.0	45.4	21.3	28.7	34.8
Prince Edward Island	12.9	15.3	15.9	23.0	17.5	-23.6
Residential	10.2	8.9	9.2	11.0	8.9	-18.6
Non-residential	2.7	6.4	6.7	12.0	8.6	-28.1
Nova Scotia	135.5	121.4	97.3	141.5	104.0	-26.5
Residential	82.9	74.4	62.3	61.8	60.0	-2.9
Non-residential	52.6	47.0	35.0	79.7	44.0	-44.8
New Brunswick	108.7	85.0	130.5	113.2	102.6	-9.3
Residential	53.0	41.9	60.1	66.1	45.6	-31.0
Non-residential	55.7	43.1	70.4	47.0	57.0	21.2
Quebec	1,158.9	1,325.1	1,157.8	1,217.7	1,321.3	8.5
Residential	728.6	847.3	750.9	780.8	758.9	-2.8
Non-residential	430.3	477.8	406.9	437.0	562.5	28.7
Ontario	2,248.9	2,326.4	2,056.1	2,401.1	1,806.6	-24.8
Residential	1,336.9	1,377.7	1,223.9	1,061.3	1,041.6	-1.9
Non-residential	912.1	948.7	832.2	1 339.8	765.0	-42.9
Manitoba	122.5	200.5	142.5	179.2	140.8	-21.4
Residential	77.5	124.4	90.6	116.5	92.4	-20.7
Non-residential	45.0	76.2	52.0	62.7	48.4	-22.9
Saskatchewan	194.0	283.5	155.2	335.2	138.4	-58.7
Residential	114.2	95.8	99.7	85.4	88.7	3.9
Non-residential	79.8	187.8	55.5	249.8	49.6	-80.1
Alberta	1,186.7	1,131.5	917.2	1,023.4	844.1	-17.5
Residential	493.8	475.3	428.4	433.9	429.8	-0.9
Non-residential	693.0	656.1	488.8	589.5	414.3	-29.7
British Columbia	1,063.0	890.2	942.5	910.9	863.4	-5.2
Residential	647.2	623.2	689.2	583.2	428.1	-26.6
Non-residential	415.8	267.0	253.3	327.8	435.4	32.8
Yukon	3.7	8.4	7.9	5.9	3.3	-43.5
Residential	3.0	6.0	4.0	4.6	1.6	-64.8
Non-residential	0.7	2.5	3.9	1.3	1.7	34.9
Northwest Territories	2.5	3.1	2.1	5.3	5.7	8.0
Residential	1.2	2.7	1.6	0.8	3.9	386.1
Non-residential	1.3	0.4	0.5	4.5	1.8	-58.9
Nunavut	10.0	8.3	2.9	13.0	4.7	-63.7
Residential	7.6	2.3	2.1	11.3	4.6	-59.3
Non-residential	2.5	6.0	0.8	1.6	0.1	-94.4

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note: Data may not add up to totals as a result of rounding.

Production of principal field crops

November 2008

The final crop report for 2008 revealed that Prairie farmers harvested a record 12.5 million tonnes of canola and a record 3.6 million tonnes of dry field peas. In Eastern Canada, soybean production rose considerably with a record 600 000 tonnes of soybeans harvested in Quebec.

Growing and harvest conditions are always variable across Western Canada, but reports indicate that the fall harvest was slightly ahead of time and crop quality was above average. Cool and wet conditions held back the harvest in early fall, but little frost damage and improved conditions allowed progress to end up slightly ahead of normal. Year-end crop yields were mainly up from interim estimates with highest ever yields recorded for spring wheat, barley, canola and oats.

Canola production easily a record

Prairie canola production rose to 12.5 million tonnes, up 32.8% from 2007. The previous record for canola was 9.4 million tonnes grown in 2007. The production increase was the result of record yields and harvested areas.

On the Prairies, where 99% of canola is grown, farmers reported record production in each province. Harvested area was a record in all three provinces, and record yields were reported in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Dry field peas a record

Prairie farmers harvested a record amount of field peas. The production of field peas reached 3.6 million tonnes, up 21.7% from 2.9 million tonnes in 2007. Robust yield and record harvest area combined to produce this record.

Production rose in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Production in Saskatchewan was a record 2.7 million tonnes, and production in Alberta was a record 731 400 tonnes.

More soybeans in the East

Total soybean production rose 23.7% to 3.3 million tonnes, just short of the record 3.5 million tonnes set

Note to readers

The annual November Farm Survey of 29,900 farmers was conducted from October 24 to November 17, 2008.

National supply-disposition tables for the major grains and special crops are included in this report and will be included in future production and stock reports. These tables are comprised of three periods per year for five years. Methodology details are published annually in the October issue of Cereals and Oilseeds Review (22-007-XIB, free).

in 2006. Production increased in both Quebec and Ontario where over 90% of soybeans are grown.

Production in Quebec rose 27.1% to a record 600 000 tonnes, well above the previous high of 535 000 tonnes set in 2006. The production increase was the result of a rise in harvested area to a record 565,900 acres, up 30.5% from 2007.

Soybean production in Ontario rose by 476,300 tonnes to 2.5 million tonnes, up 23.8% from 2007, the result of a 10.4 bushel per acre increase in yield to a near record 43.4 bushels per acre.

Available on CANSIM: tables 001-0004, 001-0010, 001-0017 to 001-0020 and 001-0040 to 001-0043.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3401.

The publication *Field Crop Reporting Series: "November estimate of production of principal field crops, Canada,"* Vol. 87, no. 8 (22-002-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact David Burroughs (613-951-5138; dave.burroughs@statcan.gc.ca), Dave Roeske (613-951-0572; dave.roeske@statcan.gc.ca) or Karen Gray (204-983-2856; karen.gray@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division.

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September and November production estimates

Crop	2007	September 2008	November 2008	2007 to November 2008
	Actual	Expected	Actual	
	thousands of metric tonnes			% change
Total wheat	20 054	27 266	28 611	42.7
Spring wheat	13 873	17 497	18 405	32.7
Durum wheat	3 681	5 070	5 519	49.9
Winter wheat	2 499	4 698	4 687	87.5
Canola	9 529	10 870	12 643	32.7
Barley	10 984	11 219	11 781	7.3
Corn for grain	11 649	9 893	10 592	-9.1
Oats	4 696	4 321	4 273	-9.0
Dry field peas	2 935	3 527	3 571	21.7
Soybeans	2,696	3 240	3 336	23.7
Flaxseed	634	768	861	35.9
Fall rye	233	307	316	35.7
Total dry beans	277	266	266	-3.8



Leading causes of death

2000 to 2004

Cancer and heart disease, the two leading causes of death for Canadians, were responsible for just over one-half (52.4%) of all deaths in 2004. However, the leading causes of death varied widely by age group.

Of 226,584 deaths in 2004, cancer accounted for 29.5% and heart disease, 22.9%. The proportion for cancer was up slightly from 2000, while the proportion for heart disease declined. Stroke, the third leading cause, was responsible for 6.5%.

These were followed in order by chronic lower respiratory diseases, unintentional injuries (accidents), diabetes, influenza and pneumonia, Alzheimer's disease, suicide and kidney disease.

Among young adults, however, it was a different story. In the age groups 15 to 24 and 25 to 34, unintentional injuries (accidents) were by far the leading cause of death, followed by suicide. Cancer placed third for both groups.

The relative burden of cancer and heart disease also had different patterns across age groups. They did not become the top two leading causes until the age group 45 to 54.

The relative burden of cancer reached its highest level for individuals aged 55 to 64, when it accounted for almost half (47.7%) of all deaths. The proportion of deaths due to cancer declined for those aged 65 to 74 (43.3%), then fell sharply to 14.5% for those aged 85 and older.

In contrast, the relative burden of heart disease increased steadily as the population aged. It surpassed the relative burden of cancer deaths at the age of 85 and older.

Mortality rates down for both cancer, heart disease

To eliminate the impact of population aging on death rates, comparisons over time are made using age-standardized mortality rates. Thus, these comparisons reflect the actual changes in mortality.

Between 2000 and 2004, age-standardized mortality rates declined for all 10 leading causes of death, except for diabetes, influenza and pneumonia.

Note to readers

Since reference year 2000, causes of death are coded to the 10th revision of the World Health Organization's International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10). From the approximately 8,000 ICD-10 codes valid for underlying causes of death, aggregated groups of causes of death were developed to summarize and to rank the leading causes of death. The methodology used to select the rankable causes was developed by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) of the US Department of Health and Human Services. Previous leading causes of death publications of Statistics Canada were based on earlier versions of International Statistical Classification of Diseases (ICD).

Rates for cancer were down 3.7%, while those for heart disease fell 16.6%.

Top three causes of death same for men and women

Men and women shared the same 10 leading causes of death in 2004, although not in the same order. For both, the top three were cancer, heart disease and stroke, which remained unchanged between 2000 and 2004.

In 2004, the ranking for three other causes (diabetes, influenza and pneumonia, and kidney disease) was also the same for both sexes.

Differences between sexes were observed in the ranking of unintentional injuries and suicide. Unintentional injuries were the fourth leading cause of death among men, but seventh among women. Suicide was the seventh leading cause among men, but tenth for women.

There were also important differences between the sexes in the number of deaths for certain leading causes of death in 2004. In the case of suicide, there were three times more suicides among men than among women, while 7 out of every 10 of deaths from Alzheimer's disease were women.

Infant deaths

As has been the case since 2000, congenital abnormalities and short gestation were the two leading causes of infant death. Together they were responsible for 37.4% of 1,775 deaths of children younger than one year old in 2004.

Canada-US comparison

Cancer outranked heart disease as the most common cause of death in Canada in 2004. However, in the United States, the ranking of these causes was reversed.

In the United States, about 23% of all deaths were attributed to cancer, compared with about 30% in Canada. Conversely, 27% of all deaths were attributed to heart disease in the United States, compared with 23% in Canada. Stroke was the third-leading cause in both countries.

Suicide outranked homicide as a leading cause of deaths among young adults aged 15 to 24 in Canada, while homicide ranked higher than suicide in the United States.

In Canada, suicide and homicide were the second and fourth leading causes of youth death. On the other

hand, homicide was the second leading cause of youth death and suicide the third in the United States.

Available on CANSIM: tables 102-0561 to 102-0563.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3231 and 3233.

The *Leading Causes of Death in Canada, 2000 to 2004* (84-215-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For general information, contact Client Services (613-951-1746; fax: 613-951-4198; hd-ds@statcan.gc.ca), Health Statistics Division.

To enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Shiang Ying Dai (613-951-1759) or Patricia Schembari (951-9502), Health Statistics Division.

Ranking and number of deaths for the 10 leading causes, Canada

Cause of death	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	rank	number	rank	number	rank	number	rank	number	rank	number
All causes of death	...	218,062	...	219,538	...	223,603	...	226,169	...	226,584
Malignant neoplasms (cancer)	1	62,672	1	63,774	1	65,103	1	65,990	1	66,947
Diseases of heart (heart disease)	2	55,070	2	53,717	2	53,355	2	52,974	2	52,000
Cerebrovascular diseases (stroke)	3	15,576	3	15,452	3	15,453	3	15,283	3	14,626
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	4	9,813	4	9,773	4	9,877	4	10,162	4	10,041
Accidents (unintentional injuries)	5	8,589	5	8,521	5	9,050	5	9,047	5	8,986
Diabetes mellitus (diabetes)	6	6,714	6	7,097	6	7,868	6	7,970	6	7,823
Influenza and pneumonia	8	4,966	8	4,776	8	4,725	8	4,957	7	5,729
Alzheimer's disease	7	5,007	7	5,477	7	5,515	7	5,504	8	5,536
Intentional self-harm (suicide)	9	3,606	9	3,692	9	3,650	9	3,765	9	3,613
Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis (kidney disease)	10	3,136	10	3,221	10	3,437	10	3,503	10	3,541
All other causes	...	42,913	...	44,038	...	45,570	...	47,014	...	47,742

... not applicable

Note: The order of the causes of death in this table is based on the ranking of the 10 leading causes of death in 2004.

Sex ratio, ranking, number and percentage of male and female deaths for the 10 leading causes, Canada, 2004

Cause of death	Males			Females			Sex ratio ¹
	rank	number	%	rank	number	%	
All causes of death	...	114,513	100.0	...	112,071	100.0	102
Malignant neoplasms (cancer)	1	35,156	30.7	1	31,791	28.4	111
Diseases of heart (heart disease)	2	27,076	23.6	2	24,924	22.2	109
Cerebrovascular diseases (stroke)	3	5,959	5.2	3	8,667	7.7	69
Accidents (unintentional injuries)	4	5,416	4.7	7	3,570	3.2	152
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	5	5,324	4.6	4	4,717	4.2	113
Diabetes mellitus (diabetes)	6	4,020	3.5	6	3,803	3.4	106
Intentional self-harm (suicide)	7	2,734	2.4	10	879	0.8	311
Influenza and pneumonia	8	2,557	2.2	8	3,172	2.8	81
Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis (kidney disease)	9	1,816	1.6	9	1,725	1.5	105
Alzheimer's disease	10	1,596	1.4	5	3,940	3.5	41
All other causes	...	22,859	20.0	...	24,883	22.2	92

... not applicable

1. Number of males per 100 females.

Note: The order of the causes of death in this table is based on the ranking of the 10 leading causes for males.

Study: Internet use and social and civic participation

2003 to 2007

Canadian Internet users tend to have large personal networks and frequent interactions with friends and family, although they tend to spend less time face-to-face with others, and more time online.

Many are using the World Wide Web in ways that facilitate social and civic participation, such as making contact with others and finding out about their communities.

Internet users, particularly those who spend more than one hour online per day, spend less time on traditional social activities, including time with family members and socializing over meals. However, they are at least as socially engaged as non-users.

For example, Canadians who spend more than one hour online per day spend, on average, nearly two hours more time alone than Internet non-users. Yet, nearly one-half of Internet users' time online is spent emailing or chatting with others. In addition, Internet users spend more time talking on the phone than non-users.

In recent years, the Internet has also become a resource for telephone contact. In 2007, nearly 10% of home Internet users and more than one-quarter of recent immigrants who used the Internet from home made telephone calls online.

One-half of home Internet users aged 16 and over contacted others through instant messaging, and one-fifth contributed content online by blogging, posting images or participating in discussion groups in 2007. These activities were most common among young Canadians.

In addition, more than 4 in 10 home Internet users said they went online to research community events. This activity was particularly popular among university-educated and urban Canadians.

Canadians also used the Internet to connect with political and social issues. In 2005, just over one-half of home Internet users aged 18 and over reported that they read online newspapers or magazines about a particular social or political issue.

Further, 29% of home Internet users said they went online to read what other Canadians think about political or social issues and 14% said they used the Internet to correspond with other Canadians about these issues.

Overall, 19.2 million Canadians went online for personal non-business reasons in 2007, representing 73% of the population aged 16 and older.

Note: The study, "How Canadians' use of the Internet affects social life and civic participation," published in the *Connectedness Series*, assesses how Internet use is changing the way Canadians interact and participate in social and community activities. It also examines how different socio-demographic groups, including rural Canadians, older Canadians and recent immigrants, are using the Internet to enhance social contact and traditional social activities. Data came from five Statistics Canada surveys, as well as the Connected Lives study conducted by NetLab at the Department of Sociology at the University of Toronto. Data also came from a series of interviews NetLab conducted in the East York area of Toronto and in Chapleau, Ontario, between 2004 and 2006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 4406, 4430, 4432, 4503 and 5024.

The study, "How Canadians' use of the Internet affects social life and civic participation," 2003 to 2007, which is part of the *Connectedness Series* (56F0004MWE2008016, free), is now available. From the *Publications* module of our website under *All subjects*, select *Information and communications technology*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ben Veenhof (613-951-5067; ben.veenhof@statcan.gc.ca), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

For-hire motor carriers of freight, top carriers

Second quarter 2008

The top 97 for-hire carriers (Canadian-based trucking companies earning \$25 million or more annually) generated operating revenue of \$2.6 billion and operating expenses of \$2.4 billion in the second quarter of 2008.

For these carriers, the second quarter year-over-year growth in expenses (+2.9%) was slightly higher than that of revenue (+2.6%). During the previous eight quarters, on a year-over-year basis, growth in expenses exceeded growth in revenue, resulting in lower operating profits.

In the second quarter, the operating ratio (operating expenses divided by operating revenue) was 0.95 compared with 0.94 the previous year. A ratio greater than 1.00 represents an operating loss.

Note: Readers should note that, with few exceptions, additions and deletions to the top carriers are done only for the first quarter of each calendar year, while the composition of a top carrier may change at any time due to acquisitions or divestitures. Year-over-year variations in revenues and expenses may arise from changes to the mix of companies included in the top carriers and/or changes in the financial results reported by individual carriers. The revenues and expenses attributed to top carriers may also include that of some companies with less than \$25 million in annual revenue, particularly when these companies exist in complex

corporate structures where their individual activities may be difficult to accurately measure.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2748.

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.gc.ca), Transportation Division. ■

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 29, 2008
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Canada's balance of international payments, first quarter 2008 2
The current account surplus with the rest of the world (on a seasonally adjusted basis) increased sharply to \$5.5 billion in the first quarter of 2008, led by higher prices for several exported commodities combined with a lower import bill. In the financial account, foreign direct investment flows into Canada slowed significantly from the expansion-driven pace of the previous quarter, while Canadian direct investment abroad continued to strengthen.

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2006 Census profiles
While the majority of the income and earnings release components, the complete cumulative profile is now available for census divisions, census subdivisions, dissemination areas, forward sortation areas, designated places, urban areas, and census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with census subdivisions. To obtain these profiles in electronic format (links vary for different geography levels), contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre.




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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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