

The Daily

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Consumer prices rose 0.1% in the 12 months to May 2009, down from the 0.4% increase in April. On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, consumer prices rose 0.2% from April to May.	
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Releases

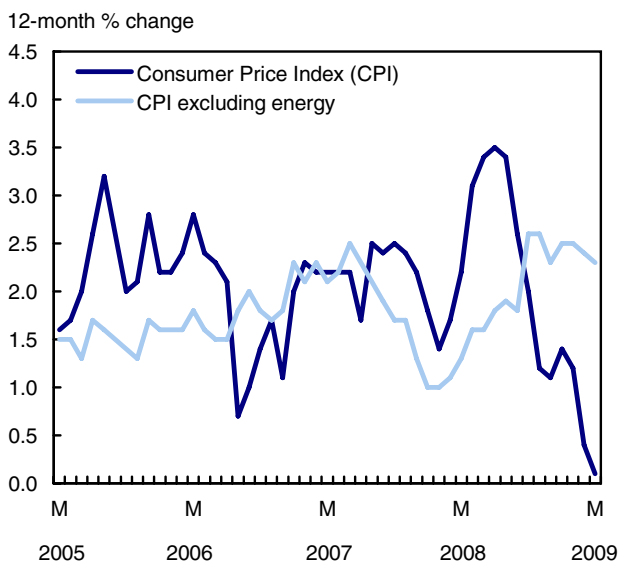
Consumer Price Index

May 2009

Consumer prices rose 0.1% in the 12 months to May 2009, down from the 0.4% increase in April.

The slowdown in the 12-month Consumer Price Index (CPI) was primarily the result of an 18.3% year-over-year price drop for energy products. Excluding energy, the CPI rose 2.3%.

12-month change in the All-items CPI slows while the CPI excluding energy remains relatively stable



The decline in the energy price index was due more to high prices in 2008 than to recent market developments. On a month-to-month basis, energy prices rose 4.4% from April to May.

Of the eight major components, upward pressure on the CPI continued to come primarily from increasing prices for food.

While food prices remained strong, the increase has been slowing since March 2009. Excluding food, the CPI fell 1.2% in the 12 months to May.

Continued price drops for gasoline and passenger vehicles drove transportation costs 8.2% lower, making this the most significant downward contributor to the CPI in the 12 months to May.

A 0.2% 12-month drop in the shelter cost index also put downward pressure on the CPI in May. It

was the first drop since July 2002. Price pressures for shelter have eased significantly in 2009, following price increases averaging 4.4% in 2008.

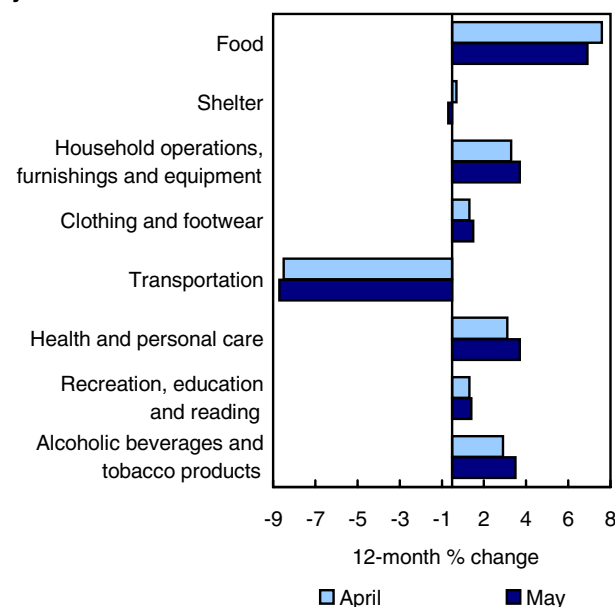
Seasonally adjusted monthly CPI increases

On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, the CPI rose 0.2% from April to May, after falling 0.2% from March to April. May's increase was due primarily to a 2.7% rise in the transportation price index. A monthly increase in prices for gasoline in May compared with April largely accounted for the rise in the transportation index.

12-month change: Food costs remain high but shelter costs slow and transportation costs decline

Food costs rose 6.4% in the 12-months to May, following a 7.1% increase in April. This was the slowest rate of growth since the 6.1% rise in October 2008.

Shelter costs dip into negative territory, year over year



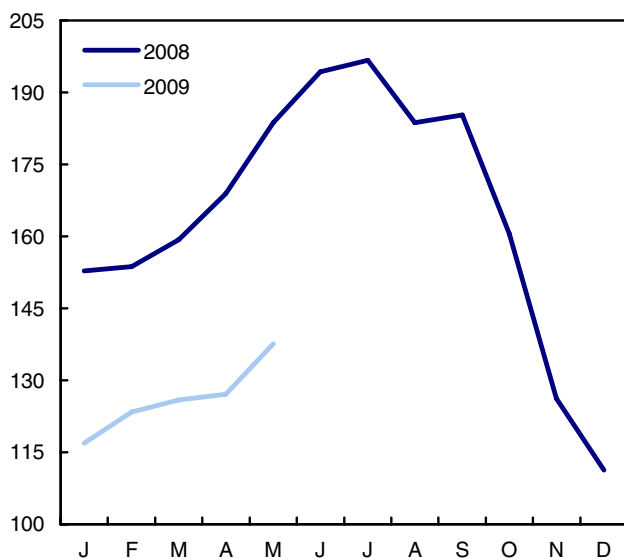
Costs for food continued to be pushed up, primarily by prices for food purchased from stores, which rose 7.4% in May. The increase in prices for food purchased from stores was slower than the increases of 9.5% in March and 8.3% in April.

Price increases for food were widespread in the 12 months to May. Large increases were recorded for fresh vegetables, non-alcoholic beverages, fresh fruit and beef.

Gasoline prices fell 25.1% from May 2008 to May 2009 following a 12-month decline of 24.7% in April. The 12-month decline in May was due more to high prices in 2008 than to recent market developments. On a month-to-month basis, gasoline prices rose 8.3% from April to May.

Drop in 12-month gasoline price index due more to high prices in 2008

index (2002=100)



The cost of purchasing passenger vehicles fell 6.6% in May, following an 8.3% year-over-year drop in April.

An increase in passenger vehicle insurance premiums tempered the overall decline in costs for transportation.

The slowdown in costs for shelter was due primarily to reduced upward pressure from mortgage interest costs. Stronger price declines for fuel oil and other fuels, natural gas and homeowner's replacement costs also contributed to the slowdown in May.

The mortgage interest cost index, which measures the change in the interest portion of payments on outstanding mortgage debt, rose 1.9% in May 2009 compared with May last year. This was slower than the 3.2% rise posted in the 12 months to April, and significantly slower than the average increase of 8.0% observed in 2008. The gradual slowing in the evolution of the mortgage interest cost index reflects the

downward trend in mortgage interest rates and housing prices.

Prices for fuel oil and other fuels declined 40.6% in May after falling 33.5% in April.

In addition, natural gas prices fell 18.8% in the 12 months to May, on the heels of a 17.5% drop in April. Natural gas prices fell in all provinces, especially in Alberta and Nova Scotia, where consumers paid 42.4% and 37.1% less in the 12 months to May, respectively.

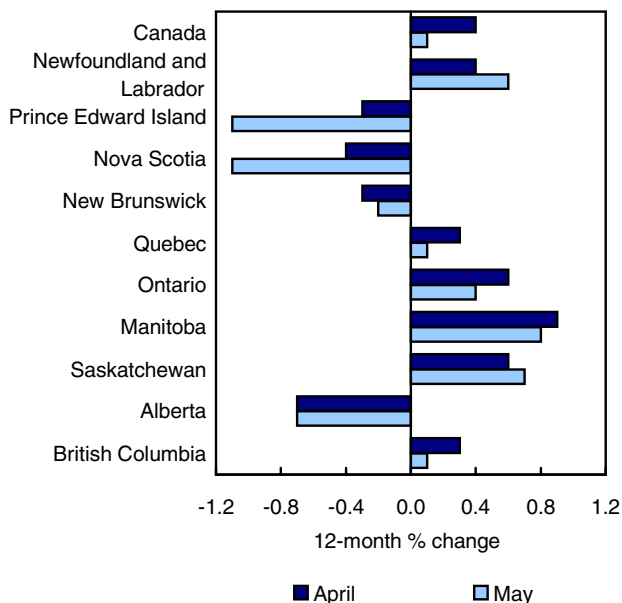
Homeowner's replacement costs fell 3.4% in the 12 months to May. This was a larger 12-month drop than the 2.8% fall recorded in April and the 2.1% drop in March.

Year-over-year consumer prices slow down in most provinces

While components responsible for the change in consumer prices varied considerably, the main downward contributors in all provinces were declines in prices for gasoline and other energy components. Rising prices for food was the main upward contributor.

Compared with April, consumer prices fell at a faster pace in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia in the 12 months to May.

Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia post largest slowdowns, year over year



In Prince Edward Island, consumer prices fell 1.1% year-over-year in May after falling 0.3% in April. The slowdown was due primarily to steeper declines in prices for gasoline. Gasoline prices fell 27.2% in

the 12 months to May, larger than the 23.6% drop observed in April. Reduced upward pressure from electricity prices and larger price drops for fuel oil and other fuels also contributed to the slowdown in Prince Edward Island.

Larger year-over-year price drops for fuel oil and other fuels also largely accounted for the slowdown in Nova Scotia. Prices for fuel oil and other fuels fell 38.6% in the 12 months to May after falling 32.5% in April. Larger price declines for gasoline also contributed to the slowdown in Nova Scotia. Overall, consumer prices in Nova Scotia fell 1.1% in the 12 months to May, after falling 0.4% in April.

In Ontario, consumer prices rose 0.4% in the 12 months to May, on the heels of the 0.6% rise in April. In Quebec, consumer prices remained relatively stable, advancing at a 12-month rate of growth of 0.1% in May, following a 0.3% rise in April.

12-month change in the Bank of Canada's core index

The Bank of Canada's core index advanced 2.0% over the 12 months to May, up from the 1.8% rise posted in April.

The seasonally adjusted monthly core index increased 0.3% from April to May, after increasing 0.2% from March to April.

For a more detailed analysis, consult the publication *The Consumer Price Index*.

Available on CANSIM: tables 326-0009, 326-0012, 326-0015 and 326-0020 to 326-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2301.

More information about the concepts and use of the CPI are also available online in *Your Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (62-557-X, free), from the *Publications* module of our website.

The May 2009 issue of *The Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 88, no. 5 (62-001-X, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. A paper copy is also available (62-001-X, \$12/\$111). A more detailed analysis of the CPI is available in this publication. See *How to order products*.

The June Consumer Price Index will be released on July 17.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Dissemination Unit (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-2848; prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca), Consumer Prices Division.

□

Consumer Price Index and major components, Canada¹(2002=100)

	Relative importance ²	May 2008	May 2009	April 2008 to April 2009	May 2008 to May 2009
Unadjusted					
				% change	
All-items	100.00³	114.6	114.7	0.4	0.1
Food	17.04	114.6	121.9	7.1	6.4
Shelter	26.62	121.6	121.4	0.2	-0.2
Household operations and furnishings	11.10	104.3	107.6	2.8	3.2
Clothing and footwear	5.36	93.0	93.9	0.8	1.0
Transportation	19.88	123.6	113.5	-8.0	-8.2
Health and personal care	4.73	108.6	112.1	2.6	3.2
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	102.9	103.8	0.8	0.9
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	127.4	131.2	2.4	3.0
All-items (1992=100)		136.4	136.6	0.3	0.1
Special aggregates					
Goods	48.78	110.4	108.1	-2.0	-2.1
Services	51.22	118.7	121.3	2.5	2.2
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	110.3	111.7	1.2	1.3
Energy	9.38	158.4	129.4	-17.5	-18.3
Core CPI ⁴	82.71	111.5	113.7	1.8	2.0

1. The month-to-month percentage changes are available from the monthly publication *The Consumer Price Index*.
2. 2005 CPI basket weights at April 2007 prices, Canada: Effective May 2007. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 at (www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm).
3. Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
4. The measure of Core Consumer Price Index (CPI) excludes from the all-items CPI the effect of changes in indirect taxes and eight of the most volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada: fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuel; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies. For additional information on Core CPI, please consult the Bank of Canada website: (www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm).

Consumer Price Index by province, and for Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit (2002=100)

	Relative importance ¹	May 2008	May 2009	April 2008 to April 2009	May 2008 to May 2009
Unadjusted					
				% change	
Canada	100.00²	114.6	114.7	0.4	0.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.27	114.5	115.2	0.4	0.6
Prince Edward Island	0.35	118.9	117.6	-0.3	-1.1
Nova Scotia	2.56	117.1	115.8	-0.4	-1.1
New Brunswick	1.97	113.9	113.7	-0.3	-0.2
Québec	21.05	113.6	113.7	0.3	0.1
Ontario	41.22	113.6	114.0	0.6	0.4
Manitoba	3.06	113.5	114.4	0.9	0.8
Saskatchewan	2.64	116.2	117.0	0.6	0.7
Alberta	11.43	122.2	121.4	-0.7	-0.7
British Columbia	14.29	112.8	112.9	0.3	0.1
Whitehorse	0.06	113.6	114.0	1.4	0.4
Yellowknife	0.08	115.7	116.0	0.3	0.3
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.02	109.8	113.6	4.1	3.5

1. 2005 CPI basket weights at April 2007 prices, Canada: Effective May 2007. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 at (www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm).
2. Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Consumer Price Index and major components (2002=100)

	Relative importance ¹	March 2009	April 2009	May 2009	March to April 2009	April to May 2009
Seasonally adjusted						
					% change	
All-items	100.00²	114.1	113.9	114.1	-0.2	0.2
Food	17.04	121.3	121.5	121.6	0.2	0.1
Shelter	26.62	122.6	121.4	121.4	-1.0	0.0
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	11.10	106.5	107.0	107.3	0.5	0.3
Clothing and footwear	5.36	94.0	94.5	94.1	0.5	-0.4
Transportation	19.88	110.5	110.5	113.5	0.0	2.7
Health and personal care	4.73	110.7	111.1	111.7	0.4	0.5
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	102.6	102.9	103.0	0.3	0.1
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	129.7	129.7	131.2	0.0	1.2
Special aggregates						
All-items excluding food	82.96	112.5	112.3	113.2	-0.2	0.8
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	111.2	111.2	111.5	0.0	0.3
All-items excluding eight of the most volatile components	82.71	111.7	111.9	112.2	0.2	0.3
Core CPI ³	82.71	113.0	113.2	113.5	0.2	0.3

1. 2005 CPI basket weights at April 2007 prices, Canada: Effective May 2007. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 at (www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm).
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Travel between Canada and other countries April 2009

Travel to Canada increased 1.1% from March to April to just under 2.3 million trips. While this was the highest level this year, inbound travel has remained fairly stable over the last 12 months.

The majority of those inbound trips, about 1.9 million, were from the United States, a 0.7% increase from March. Americans made 1.0 million overnight trips to Canada, up 1.9%. Overnight travel by car, plane and other modes of transportation all increased.

Same-day car travel from the United States fell 0.3% to 753,000. This was a continuation of a downward trend that started in July 2001. Since then, the number of same-day car trips from the United States has declined by 68.2%.

Travel from overseas countries increased 3.0% from March to 382,000 trips in April, with 9 of the top 12 overseas markets recording increases. Travel from the United Kingdom, Canada's largest overseas market, increased 6.3%.

In the opposite direction, Canadians made more than 3.9 million trips outside the country in April, unchanged from March. This was well below the level in April 2008, when Canadians made 4.4 million outbound trips.

Overnight travel to the United States reached 1.5 million trips, up 1.1% from March, with increases in overnight travel by car, plane and other modes of transportation.

Same-day car travel to the United States decreased 1.1% to 1.7 million trips. This was the seventh decline in eight months.

Canadians also made 705,000 trips to overseas countries in April, up 1.4% from March, and the second highest level ever recorded.

Available on CANSIM: tables 427-0001 to 427-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5005.

The April 2009 issue of *International Travel, Advance Information*, Vol. 25, no. 4 (66-001-P, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-9169; fax: 613-951-2909; tourism@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Eric Desjardins (613-951-1781; eric.desjardins@statcan.gc.ca), Tourism and Centre for Education Statistics Division. □

Travel between Canada and other countries

	April 2008 ^r	October 2008 ^r	March 2009 ^r	April 2009 ^p	March to April 2009
Seasonally adjusted					
	thousands				% change ¹
Canadian trips abroad²	4,423	4,083	3,948	3,947	0.0
To the United States	3,757	3,401	3,254	3,243	-0.3
To other countries	665	682	695	705	1.4
Same-day car trips to the United States	2,102	1,840	1,714	1,695	-1.1
Total trips, one or more nights	2,261	2,193	2,187	2,213	1.2
United States ³	1,596	1,510	1,493	1,509	1.1
Car	956	906	903	915	1.4
Plane	544	504	501	502	0.1
Other modes of transportation	96	101	89	92	2.9
Other countries ⁴	665	682	695	705	1.4
Travel to Canada²	2,306	2,277	2,243	2,267	1.1
From the United States	1,900	1,893	1,872	1,885	0.7
From other countries	406	383	371	382	3.0
Same-day car trips from the United States	753	765	755	753	-0.3
Total trips, one or more nights	1,457	1,418	1,391	1,421	2.1
United States ³	1,061	1,046	1,029	1,049	1.9
Car	619	624	642	652	1.5
Plane	311	291	274	283	3.0
Other modes of transportation	131	131	112	114	1.5
Other countries ⁴	396	372	362	372	2.7
Travel to Canada: Top overseas markets, by country of origin⁵					
United Kingdom	76	67	64	68	6.3
France	35	34	35	37	7.8
Germany	28	28	27	27	0.2
Japan	22	23	20	20	0.7
Mexico	25	22	22	20	-10.2
Australia	21	22	19	19	1.4
China	14	12	16	16	-0.6
South Korea	17	14	14	13	-4.5
Hong Kong	10	11	11	12	5.7
Netherlands	12	10	9	10	10.1
India	9	9	10	10	1.5
Switzerland	9	7	8	9	4.8

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Percentage change is based on unrounded data.

2. Totals exceed the sum of "same-day car trips" and "total trips, one or more nights" because they include all of the same-day trips.

3. Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.

4. Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.

5. Includes same-day and overnight trips.

Farm business cash flows 2008

Cash income for Canadian farm businesses rose by \$1.5 billion, or 17.5%, to \$10.4 billion from 2007 to 2008, despite declines in four provinces. This was the second consecutive annual increase.

Strong grain and oilseed prices more than offset a significant increase in operating costs.

Cash sources increased 12.1% to \$48.2 billion, while cash uses increased 10.8% to \$37.8 billion.

Cash income fell in Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Manitoba,

where large increases in expenses on inputs outpaced gains in sales. In contrast, cash income rose in the remaining provinces.

Cash available to producers through borrowing increased in 2008 as both current and long-term liabilities increased. There was a net increase of \$2.6 billion in loans outstanding in 2008.

The amount of cash available for investment or withdrawal (cash income plus the net change in loans outstanding) increased 15.8% to \$13.0 billion.

The ratio of loans outstanding to cash income, which reflects the burden of farm debt on farm cash income, fell for the second consecutive year to 4.8 in 2008.

Note: While similar to the Farm income data released on May 25, 2009, in *The Daily*, the cash flow account is a summary of cash flow in and out of farm businesses over the calendar year. The basic function of the account is to provide information on the financial position of farm establishments (that is, the amount of cash available to farm establishments to meet current obligations). Specifically, only cash flow pertaining to farm operators is included. Cash income and expenses of non-operator landlords and the personal portion of households are excluded.

This series does not include data on depreciation, which are available in the publication *Farm Operating Expenses and Depreciation Charges: Agriculture Economic Statistics* (21-012-X, free).

Available on CANSIM: table 002-0023.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5031.

The publication *Farm Business Cash Flows: Agriculture Economic Statistics*, June 2009, Vol. 8, no. 1 (21-018-X, free), is now available. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *All subjects*, choose *Agriculture*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Stephen Boyd (613-951-1875; stephen.boyd@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Balance sheet of the agricultural sector

December 31, 2008

Equity in Canada's farm sector increased 4.9% to \$264.5 billion from 2007 to 2008, as a gain in assets more than offset a rise in liabilities.

Equity rose in every province, with increases ranging from 0.4% in Newfoundland and Labrador to 8.5% in Saskatchewan.

The value of farm assets increased 5.0% to \$317.7 billion, while the level of farm liabilities reached \$53.2 billion, up 5.3%. Both assets and liabilities increased in every province.

The main contributor to the growth in assets was the value of farm real estate, which rose 5.6% to \$213.2 billion. This increase accounted for three-quarters of the growth in total farm assets in 2008, while the growth in the value of crop inventories accounted for the bulk of the remainder. Either of these two factors was more than enough to offset the decline in the value of poultry and market livestock inventories.

Current liabilities increased 7.0%, while long-term liabilities were up 4.8%.

The debt-to-asset ratio was 16.7% in 2008, unchanged from 2007. This ratio, which measures the dependence of farm business on debt, was at its lowest level in nine years.

The ratio of current assets to current liabilities rose from 2.24 in 2007 to 2.32 in 2008, its highest level since 2002. This suggests an improvement in the ability of agricultural operators to pay short-term debts.

The interest coverage ratio reached a record high of 3.77 in 2008 after falling below 2.00 in 2006 and 2007. This indicates an improvement in the ability of agricultural operators to cover interest charges with the net income they generate before interest and taxes. Interest expenses declined 3.9% in 2008.

Return on equity advanced to 3.0% in 2008, the highest it has been since 1996.

Note: Assets and liabilities in the agriculture sector's balance sheet include those of farm businesses and non-operator landlords (for farm real estate assets leased to farm operators and the corresponding liabilities) and exclude the personal portion of farm households. This most closely reflects the assets and liabilities used in the production of agricultural products.

Available on CANSIM: table 002-0020.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5029.

The publication *Balance Sheet of the Agricultural Sector: Agricultural Economic Statistics*, June 2009, Vol. 8, no. 1 (21-016-X, free), is now available. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *All subjects*, choose *Agriculture*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Stephen Boyd (613-951-1875; stephen.boyd@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Study: Measuring renewable water assets in Canada

Canada's renewable water assets each year amount to a volume of water about the size of Lake Huron. These assets are mostly the result of rain and melted snow that flow over the ground, eventually reaching our rivers and lakes.

Between 1971 and 2000, the volume of this water runoff amounted to an annual average of 3 435 cubic kilometres. Lake Huron contains roughly 3 540 cubic kilometres.

This is the first comprehensive estimate of freshwater flow at the national level using a systematic

methodology that has been consistently applied across the country.

The quantity of runoff varies across the country. There is less runoff and greater year-to-year variability in the Prairie provinces and in parts of central and south-east British Columbia. Smaller quantities and higher variability point to potential issues between the availability of water resources and the often competing demands for those resources.

Each year the Canadian economy withdraws about 1.4% of the country's renewable water resources.

Industrial activities such as energy generation, mining and manufacturing withdrew approximately 40 cubic kilometres of water in 2005. Agriculture withdrew an estimated 4 cubic kilometres in 2001, while Canadian households, institutions and services withdrew another 4 cubic kilometres.

Though water withdrawals represent a small portion of total annual renewable water, the location and the

timing of the withdrawals and the location and the timing of the availability of water resources are not generally taken into account. The model used in this report can help fill some of these information gaps.

The article "Measuring renewable water assets in Canada: Initial results and research agenda" is now available in *EnviroStats*, Summer 2009, Vol. 3, no. 2 (16-002-X, free), from the *Publications* module of our website.

Also available is the full report *The Water Yield for Canada as a Thirty-year Average (1971 to 2000): Concepts, Methodology and Initial Results* (16-001-M, free).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Information Officer (613-951-0297; environ@statcan.gc.ca), Environment Accounts and Statistics Division. ■

New products

Canadian Economic Observer, June 2009, Vol. 22, no. 6

Catalogue number 11-010-X (Print \$25/\$243)

EnviroStats, Summer 2009, Vol. 3, no. 2

Catalogue number 16-002-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Balance Sheet of the Agricultural Sector -

Agriculture Economic Statistics, June 2009, Vol. 8, no. 1

Catalogue number 21-016-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Farm Business Cash Flows - Agriculture Economic Statistics, June 2009, Vol. 8, no. 1

Catalogue number 21-018-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Rail in Canada, 2007

Catalogue number 52-216-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

The Consumer Price Index, May 2009, Vol. 88, no. 5

Catalogue number 62-001-X (PDF, free; Print \$12/\$111; HTML, free)

Wholesale Trade, April 2009, Vol. 72, no. 4

Catalogue number 63-008-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

International Travel: Advance Information,

April 2009, Vol. 25, no. 4

Catalogue number 66-001-P (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 29, 2008
Released at 9:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

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 export commodities combined with a lower import deficit. In the financial account, foreign investment flows into Canada slowed significantly from the expansion-driven pace of the previous quarter, while Canadian direct investment abroad continued to strengthen.

Payroll employment, earnings and hours, March 2008 7

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2006 Census profiles

With the inclusion 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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