



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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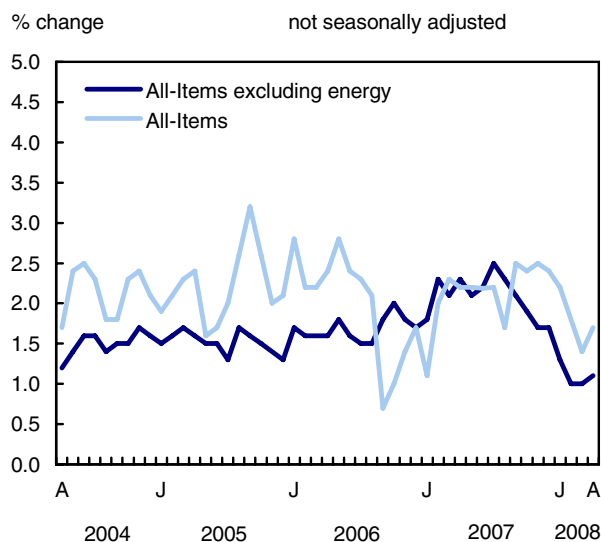
Consumer Price Index

April 2008

Consumer prices accelerated for the first time in six months in April in the wake of higher gasoline prices and fewer incentives on passenger vehicles.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 1.7% between April 2007 and April 2008, up from the 1.4% increase in March. This was the first acceleration of the all-items index since November 2007.

Percentage change from the same month of the previous year



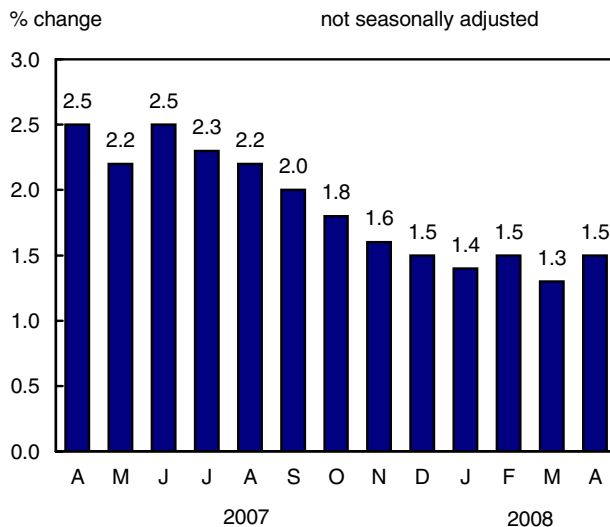
Gasoline was the main contributor to both the acceleration and the 12-month increase of the all-items index. Gasoline prices rose 11.6% between April 2007 and April 2008, compared with a 7.9% increase posted a month earlier.

The all-items index excluding gasoline increased by 1.3% during the 12-month period. A second contributing factor to the acceleration in April was less downward pressure from passenger vehicle prices. They declined in April, but at a slower pace than in the previous month.

The 12-month change in the Bank of Canada's core index, which is used to monitor the inflation control

target, rose 1.5% in April, faster than the 1.3% increase in March. Less downward pressure from passenger vehicles prices contributed to this acceleration.

Percentage change over 12 months in the Bank of Canada's core index



On a seasonally adjusted basis, the all-items index and the core index rose 0.4% between March and April 2008. The increase in the core index was the sharpest since May 2006.

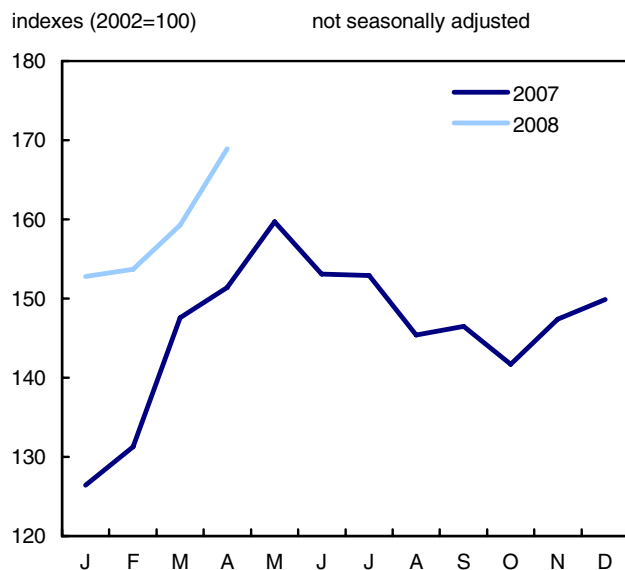
12-month change: Gasoline fuels acceleration of all-items index

The main upward pressure on the all-items index and its acceleration came from gasoline prices. Pump prices rose by 11.6% between April 2007 and April 2008, compared with a 7.9% increase over the previous period. The highest increases were posted on the Prairies.

The reduction of incentives offered by car manufacturers also contributed to the acceleration of the all-items index.

Another significant upward contributor to the increase in consumer prices in April was mortgage interest cost. Again in April, new housing prices exerted more upward pressure on this index than mortgage interest rates.

Evolution of the gasoline price index



Prices for fuel oil and other fuels surged 36.9% in April, the fastest increase since September 2005 for these products derived from crude oil. In the Atlantic provinces, this component exerted the strongest upward pressure on consumer prices.

Homeowner's replacement cost, which represents the cost of maintaining a housing structure, rose 4.6%. This was weaker growth than increases posted in February and March.

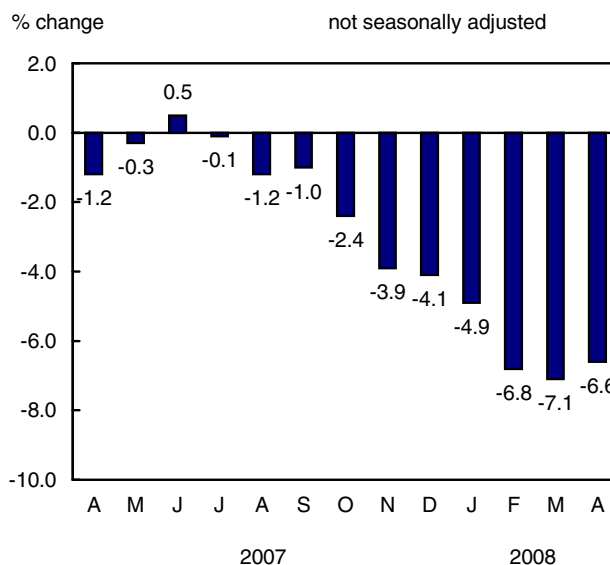
Prices for bakery products surged 10.4% between April 2007 and April 2008, the steepest rise since November 1981. In spite of this increase, prices for food purchased from stores went up by 0.9% in April, a slower pace than the all-items index.

Prices for fresh vegetables continued to fall in April. Fresh vegetable prices were relatively higher at this period last year when supplies were hit by a frost in California. The appreciation of the Canadian dollar may have also helped lower prices of imported vegetables.

The decline in passenger vehicle prices mitigated, to some extent, the increase in the all-items index. The price of passenger vehicles fell 6.6% in

April 2008 compared with the same month of the previous year, a less substantial drop than the 7.1% decline in March.

Percentage change over 12 months in the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles index



Women's clothing prices declined 6.7%. Prices for computer equipment and supplies continued their downward trend in April, mainly because of lower prices for laptops.

Price increase in Ontario remains the slowest in April

Despite a 0.5 percentage point acceleration of the 12-month all-items index in Ontario between March and April, mainly due to higher gasoline prices, Ontario again posted the smallest increase in consumer prices (+1.3%).

Alberta and Saskatchewan recorded increases of 3.2%, which were the highest of all provinces. These increases mainly reflect higher new housing costs.

For a more detailed analysis, consult the publication *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-XWE, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

The April 2008 issue of the *Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 87, no. 4 (62-001-XWE, free), is now available from

the *Publications* module of our website. A paper copy is also available (62-001-XPE, \$12/\$111). A more detailed analysis of the CPI is available in this publication. See *How to order products*.

The May Consumer Price Index will be released on June 19.

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

□

Consumer Price Index and major components (2002=100)

	Relative importance ¹	April 2008	March 2008	April 2007	March to April 2008	April 2007 to April 2008
Unadjusted						
					% change	
All-items	100.00²	113.5	112.6	111.6	0.8	1.7
Food	17.04	113.5	112.6	112.2	0.8	1.2
Shelter	26.62	121.2	120.1	116.2	0.9	4.3
Household operations and furnishings	11.10	104.4	104.1	103.3	0.3	1.1
Clothing and footwear	5.36	94.3	96.0	97.7	-1.8	-3.5
Transportation	19.88	120.1	117.8	118.6	2.0	1.3
Health and personal care	4.73	108.3	107.9	106.8	0.4	1.4
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	101.6	101.3	100.9	0.3	0.7
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	126.7	126.6	124.5	0.1	1.8
All-items (1992=100)		135.1	134.1	132.8	0.7	1.7
Special aggregates						
Goods	48.78	109.2	108.1	109.2	1.0	0.0
Services	51.22	117.7	117.1	113.9	0.5	3.3
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	109.9	109.6	108.7	0.3	1.1
Energy	9.38	150.2	143.2	139.1	4.9	8.0
Core Consumer Price Index (CPI) ³	82.71	111.2	110.9	109.6	0.3	1.5

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.ca/english/sdds/index.htm).

2. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

3. The measure of the Core 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 the Core CPI index, please consult the Bank of Canada website: (www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm).

Consumer Price Index by province, and for Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit¹ (2002=100)

	April 2008	March 2008	April 2007	March to April 2008	April 2007 to April 2008
Unadjusted					
				% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador	113.6	112.9	111.1	0.6	2.3
Prince Edward Island	116.7	115.8	113.7	0.8	2.6
Nova Scotia	115.5	114.5	112.5	0.9	2.7
New Brunswick	112.8	112.1	111.2	0.6	1.4
Quebec	112.4	111.7	110.6	0.6	1.6
Ontario	112.5	111.7	111.1	0.7	1.3
Manitoba	112.7	111.8	110.9	0.8	1.6
Saskatchewan	115.4	114.5	111.8	0.8	3.2
Alberta	121.3	119.8	117.5	1.3	3.2
British Columbia	111.8	110.8	109.9	0.9	1.7
Whitehorse	111.8	111.0	108.7	0.7	2.9
Yellowknife ²	114.9	113.3	110.4	1.4	4.1
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	109.0	108.2	107.7	0.7	1.2

1. View the geographical details for the city of Whitehorse, the city of Yellowknife and the town of Iqaluit.

2. Part of the increase first recorded in the shelter index for Yellowknife for December 2004 inadvertently reflected rent increases that actually occurred earlier. As a result, the change in the shelter index was overstated in December 2004, and was understated in the previous two years. The shelter index series for Yellowknife has been corrected from December 2002. In addition, the Yellowknife all-items Consumer Price Index and some Yellowknife special aggregate index series have also changed. Data for Canada and all other provinces and territories were not affected.

Leading indicators

April 2008

The composite leading indicator rose 0.1% in April after no change in March. Only 3 of the 10 components declined, the fewest since the turmoil erupted in global financial markets last summer. As recently as December, 6 components were declining. The stock market posted the largest turnaround.

Prices on the Toronto stock market rebounded in April, after trending down for five straight months. Subsequently, the market hit a new record high in May. Stock prices were buoyed by surging commodity prices and strength in the information technology sector.

Household demand was sustained by further gains in spending on durable goods. These offset a seventh straight decline for housing, notably as housing starts retreated sharply in April after a strong start to the year.

The leading indicator for the United States pointed to continued weakness, falling 0.2% for its eighth consecutive monthly decrease. Housing and auto sales remained the major drags on the economy.

Despite the slack in auto and lumber exports to the United States, Canadian manufacturers recorded their

first back-to-back gains in new orders since June 2007. This largely reflected strong demand for airplanes. However, there are long lags in building planes, which helps explain why output and shipments continued on a slight downward trend. The cuts to output kept the downward pressure on inventories, leaving the ratio of shipments to stocks unchanged.

A more detailed analysis of the components is available online.

Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1601.

This release will be reprinted in the June 2008 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 21, no. 6 (11-010-XWB, free). For more information on the economy, consult the *Canadian Economic Observer*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Philip Cross (613-951-9162; ceo@statcan.ca), Current Economic Analysis Group.

Leading indicators

	November 2007	December 2007	January 2008	February 2008	March 2008	April 2008	Last month of data available % change
Composite leading indicator (1992=100)	228.9	228.3	228.6	228.1	228.2	228.5	0.1
Housing index (1992=100) ¹	149.8	145.8	143.9	141.4	141.1	138.4	-1.9
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,875	2,874	2,877	2,882	2,893	2,903	0.3
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	13,988	13,981	13,880	13,777	13,522	13,572	0.4
Money supply, M1 (\$ millions, 1992) ²	168,850	169,576	170,302	170,679	171,514	172,144	0.4
US Conference Board leading indicator (1992=100) ³	126.3	126.0	125.5	125.2	124.8	124.5	-0.2
Manufacturing							
Average workweek (hours)	38.4	38.3	38.2	38.1	38.1	38.0	-0.3
New orders, durables (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	26,218	25,995	26,811	25,935	26,154	26,260	0.4
Shipments/inventories of finished goods ⁴	1.81	1.81	1.82	1.81	1.80	1.80	0.00 ⁵
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	2,725	2,734	2,761	2,777	2,799	2,819	0.7
Other durable goods sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	9,285	9,240	9,276	9,405	9,510	9,631	1.3
Unsmoothed composite leading indicator	227.9	226.3	229.8	227.8	229.0	229.4	0.2

1. Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).

2. Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.

3. The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.

4. The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the second preceding month.

5. Difference from previous month.

Induced abortions

2005

Canadian women obtained fewer induced abortions in 2005 compared with the previous year, and the decline occurred mostly among women under 20 years of age.

A total of 96,815 induced abortions were performed on Canadian women in 2005, down 3.2% from 100,039 in 2004. As a result, the induced abortion rate edged down from 14.6 abortions for every 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 in 2004, to 14.1 in 2005.

Induced abortion rates fell in every age group, except among women aged 35 to 39, where it remained the same. Teenage women, under the age of 20, experienced the largest decline in rates, from 13.8 for every 1,000 women in 2004, to 13.0 in 2005. The induced abortion rate for these women has declined gradually since 1996 when it peaked at 18.9.

The crude birth rate for teenaged women has also continued to decline. In 1996, there were 18.6 live births for every 1,000 women under 20. By 2005, this had dropped to 11.1.

The number of induced abortions for every 100 live births fell to 28.3 in 2005 from 29.7 in 2004.

Induced abortions continue to be most common among women in their early 20s. They accounted for 31% of all women who obtained an induced abortion in 2005. On average, 28 women out of every 1,000, aged 20 to 24, obtained an induced abortion.

Note: Data for 2005 cover induced abortions performed in hospitals and clinics in provinces and territories,

except those performed in Manitoba clinics, which have been unavailable since 2004. As of 2004, induced abortions obtained by Canadian women in some American states are no longer collected. Users should be aware of certain limitations with the Therapeutic Abortion Survey. There are recognized issues concerning coverage, increased submission of aggregate counts instead of detailed records, and an increased reliance on age estimates.

Available on CANSIM: tables 106-9005, 106-9013 and 106-9034.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3209.

Selected tables for the years 2000 to 2005 are now available from the *Summary tables* module of our website.

Historical statistics dating back to 1970 are available in the publication *Induced Abortion Statistics* (82-223-XWE, free), from the *Publications* module of our website.

For information on long-term trends in induced abortions, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-1746; hd-ds@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division.

Induced abortion data for 2005 were collected by the Canadian Institute for Health Information. For more information on the Therapeutic Abortion Database, contact Media Relations (613-241-7860, ext. 4004), Canadian Institute for Health Information.

Induced abortions, by province of residence

	2004	2005	2004 to 2005	2004	2005
	number of abortions		% change	rate per 1,000 women ¹	
Total	100,039	96,815	-3.2	14.6	14.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	902	883	-2.1	8.1	8.1
Prince Edward Island	143	126	-11.9	4.9	4.4
Nova Scotia	1,905	1,897	-0.4	9.7	9.7
New Brunswick	920	941	2.3	5.8	6.1
Quebec	30,616	29,259	-4.4	19.6	18.8
Ontario	35,183	33,546	-4.7	13.0	12.3
Manitoba ²	2,661	2,236	-16.0	11.0	9.2
Saskatchewan	1,888	1,824	-3.4	9.3	9.1
Alberta	11,098	10,859	-2.2	15.4	14.8
British Columbia	14,145	14,444	2.1	15.7	15.9
Yukon	x	140	x	x	19.6
Northwest Territories	261	x	x	24.8	x
Nunavut	x	x	...	x	x
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	564	615	9.0	22.8	24.9
Residence unknown	14	185	1,221.4	...	...

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

... not applicable

1. Rates are calculated using female population aged 15 to 44 years.

2. In 2004 and 2005, data on induced abortions performed in clinics were not available from Manitoba. Only data on induced abortions performed in Manitoba hospitals are included.

Survey of Earned Doctorates

2005/2006

Canadian universities awarded approximately 4,100 doctoral degrees to students between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006, according to the Survey of Earned Doctorates.

The survey was first administered in 2003/2004 to all students graduating from a doctoral program at a Canadian university, and is in its third edition.

The most popular field of study was in the biological sciences, followed by engineering, humanities, social sciences, psychology and education.

The average age of doctoral graduates at graduation was 35 years old, and they took an average of five years and nine months to complete.

The majority (69%) of students were married at the time they received their doctoral degree and 36% had dependent children.

Foreign or visa students accounted for 23% of graduates. This has remained unchanged since 2003/2004.

Overall, 7 out of 10 graduates stated that their primary source of funding during graduate school either came from fellowships, scholarships, research or teaching assistantships.

Almost half (49%) of all graduates said that they had no debt related to their undergraduate or graduate studies. Just over 1 in 10 (11%) only had debt from their undergraduate studies, 22% only had debt from their graduate studies and nearly 18% had debt from both their undergraduate and graduate studies.

In all, 7 out of 10 graduates stated having firm plans in the first year after graduation. Of those, about one-quarter said they would be returning or continuing in the same employment/position which they held prior to their doctorate, whereas the remainder said they had signed a contract or made a definite commitment for other work or study.

Approximately two-third of graduates with firm plans for employment for the coming year stated that they would be doing research and development (35%) or teaching (37%) as their primary work activity.

While students in the social sciences were most likely to have firm plans after graduation, those in the humanities were less likely to have firm plans.

Of all graduates with firm employment plans, two-thirds expected annual earnings above \$55,000, with 86% of engineering students expecting such earnings compared with 45% of students in the humanities.

Overall, one in five graduates intended to move to another country after graduation. Of those intending

to move, 45% were born in Canada versus 55% born outside of Canada, and 61% were men and 26% had dependents.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3126.

For more information on Statistics Canada's Education Statistics Program, to order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-4441; TTY: 1-800-363-7629; educationstats@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

Study: Canada's trade with Russia

1998 to 2007

Russia has been growing in importance as a trading partner with Canada during the past decade, even though our trade with the giant represents only about 0.3% of our total trade with the world, according to a new study.

The study, "Canada's trade with Russia, 1998 to 2007," published today in the online publication *Canadian Trade Highlights*, shows that between 1998 and 2007, Canada's merchandise trade with Russia far more than doubled.

In 2007, Canada's trade with Russia amounted to \$2.6 billion, up 154.0% from 1998. This rate of growth was four times the growth of 38.6% in Canada's total world trade.

During this decade, Canada has always had a trade deficit with Russia. The deficit peaked at \$1.2 billion in 2005, then narrowed considerably to \$289.4 million in 2007.

In recent years, Canada's trade deficit with Russia has been driven mainly by mineral fuels. If mineral fuels were excluded, Canada would have posted a trade surplus of more than \$704 million with Russia in 2007.

In 2007, Canada's total exports to Russia amounted to almost \$1.2 billion, up nearly four-fold from \$288.1 million in 1998. Canada's imports from Russia nearly doubled to \$1.4 billion from \$730.6 million in 1998.

Of Canada's 10 top exported products to Russia in 2007, 7 were manufactured goods, accounting for over 84% of total exports to Russia in 2007.

Recent gains in exports were led mostly by industrial and agricultural machinery, automotive products, meat products, and aircraft and parts. The industrial and agricultural machinery group is the largest component of

Canada's exports to Russia, accounting for over 36.0% of total exports to the country.

In terms of imports, the commodities in Canada's top purchases from Russia have changed little in the last decade, although their relative shares have changed significantly.

In 1998, imports of mineral fuels represented 15.1% of our total imports from Russia. By 2007, they represented more than two-thirds.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2201.

The study, "Canada's trade with Russia, 1998 to 2007," is now available as part of the *Canadian Trade Highlights* (65-508-XWE2007002, free) series from the *Publications* module of our website.

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 Jafar Khondaker (613-951-9786), International Trade Division. ■

Natural gas sales

	March 2007	March 2008 ^P	March 2007 to March 2008
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total sales	7 939 777	8 536 654	7.5
Residential ¹	2 234 904	2 537 861	13.6
Commercial ²	1 637 226	1 879 635	14.8
Industrial ³ and direct sales ⁴	4 067 647	4 119 158	1.3

^P preliminary

1. Gas sold for domestic purposes, including space heating, water heating, cooking, to a residential dwelling unit.

2. Gas sold to customers engaged in wholesale or retail trade, governments, institutions, office buildings, etc.

3. Gas sold to customers engaged in a process that creates or changes raw or unfinished materials into another form or product. Includes mining and manufacturing establishments. Includes firm, interruptible and buy/sell agreements.

4. Represents direct, non-utility, sales for consumption, where the utility acts solely as the transporter. ■

Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products

February 2008

Data on the net receipts of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons, liquefied petroleum gases and refined petroleum products, pipeline exports of crude oil and deliveries of crude oil by pipeline to Canadian refineries are now available for February.

Natural gas sales

March 2008 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales volumes totalled 8 537 million cubic metres in March, up 7.5% from March 2007.

Residential, commercial, and industrial (including direct sales) sector sales volumes rose due to colder than normal temperatures in most provinces.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.

For more information, to order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Available on CANSIM: tables 133-0001 to 133-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2148 and 2191.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

New products

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Catalogue number 62-001-XPE (\$12/\$111).

The Consumer Price Index, April 2008, Vol. 87, no. 4
Catalogue number 62-001-XWE
(free).

Wholesale Trade, March 2008, Vol. 71, no. 3
Catalogue number 63-008-XWE
(free).

**Canadian Trade Highlights: "Canada's trade with
Russia: 1998 to 2007"**, no. 2
Catalogue number 65-508-XWE2007002
(free).

Canada's International Transactions in Securities,
March 2008, Vol. 74, no. 3
Catalogue number 67-002-XWE
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Induced Abortion Statistics, 2005
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Thursday, June 5, 1997 For release at 9:30 a.m.	
MAJOR RELEASES	
Urban transit, 1995 Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 25 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.	2
Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995 Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses also noticeably weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.	4
OTHER RELEASES	
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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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