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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 29, 2008
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Releases

2006 Census profiles

Within 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 (costs vary for different geography levels), contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre.

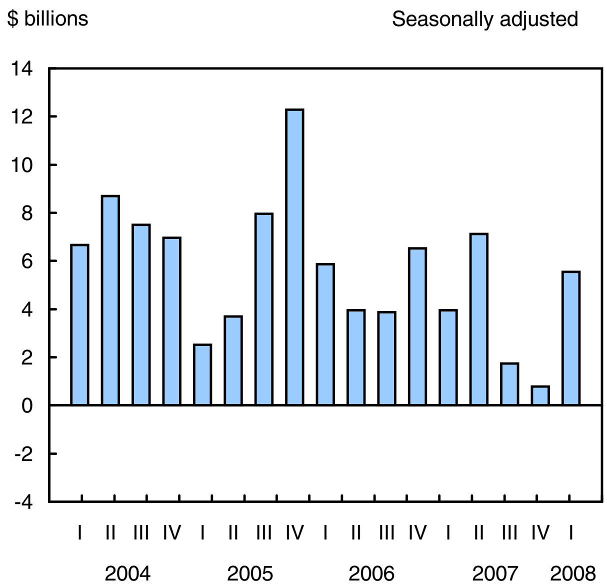
Releases

Canada's balance of international payments

First quarter 2008

The current account surplus with the rest of the world (on a seasonally adjusted basis) increased sharply to $5.6 billion in the first quarter of 2008, led by higher prices for several exported commodities combined with a lower travel deficit. The deficits on commercial services and investment income were largely unchanged.

Current account balance



In the capital and financial account (not seasonally adjusted), foreign direct investment flows into Canada slowed significantly from the acquisitions-driven pace of the previous quarter, while Canadian direct investment abroad continued to strengthen. Canadian portfolio investors focused on foreign equities, while their non-resident counterparts' investment flows were dominated by federal bonds.

Goods surplus strengthens

The goods surplus widened to $13.4 billion during the first quarter, up strongly from the previous two quarters. Much of the increase came from gains on the export side that were again dominated by the growth in the value of exports of energy products.

Exports of goods reached $116.7 billion in the first quarter, growing 5% from the previous quarter. With price gains in excess of 20% in the first quarter, export values of crude petroleum plus natural gas advanced sharply. Higher prices were also important factors in higher exports of industrial goods, notably precious metals and alloys, and of agricultural products, on record sales of wheat and canola. Exports of automotive products declined for the fourth consecutive quarter, reaching their lowest levels since the end of 1996.

Imports were up $1.4 billion in the first quarter, largely reflecting higher volumes and prices for energy products. However, these gains were partially offset by lower imports of automotive products.

Note to readers

Annual and quarterly data have been revised for the reference years 2004 to 2007. This is in keeping with the general policy to revise national accounts statistics back four years at the time of the first quarter data release. In general, the revisions reflect more current sources of information coming from annual surveys and administrative data.

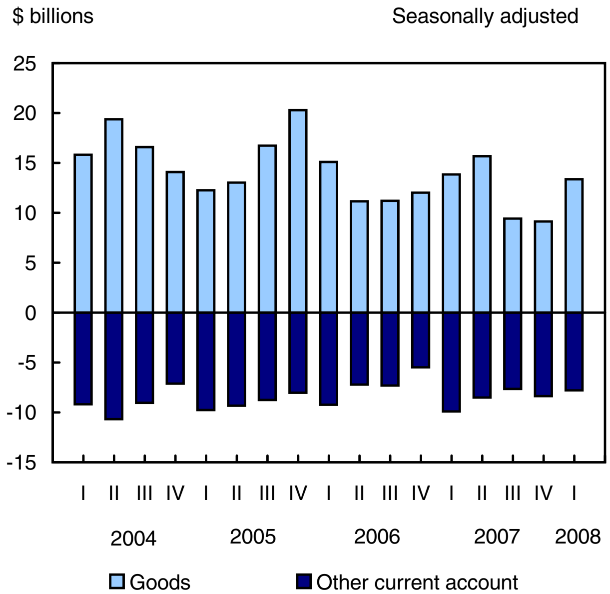
*The **balance of payments** covers all economic transactions between Canadian residents and non-residents, in two accounts — the current account and the capital and financial account.*

*The **current account** covers transactions in goods, services, investment income and current transfers. Exports and interest income are examples of receipts, while imports and interest expense are payments. The overall balance of receipts and payments is Canada's current account **surplus** or **deficit**.*

*The **capital and financial account** is mainly composed of transactions in financial instruments. Financial assets and liabilities with non-residents are presented in three functional classes: direct investment, portfolio investment and all other types of investment. These flows arise from financial activities of either Canadian residents (foreign assets of Canadian investors) or non-residents (Canadian liabilities to foreign investors). Transactions resulting in capital inflows to Canada are presented as positive values while those giving rise to capital outflows from Canada are shown as negative values.*

*In principle, a current account surplus corresponds to an equivalent net outflow in the capital and financial account; and, a current account deficit corresponds to an equivalent net inflow in the capital and financial account. In other words, the two accounts should add to zero. In practice, as data are compiled from multiple sources, this is rarely the case and gives rise to measurement error. The **statistical discrepancy** is the unobserved net inflow or outflow.*

Goods and other current account balances



Services deficit narrows modestly

Following a substantial increase in the fourth quarter of 2007, the services deficit narrowed slightly in the first quarter of 2008, led by travel.

After a record high in the fourth quarter, the expenditures of Canadian travellers going to the United States dropped in the first quarter, as fewer Canadians crossed the border for both same-day and overnight trips. The travel deficit with overseas countries widened while that with the United States was reduced. Nevertheless, the travel deficit with the United States was the second largest on record at $2.2 billion.

The deficit on investment income remains steady

During the first quarter of 2008, the investment income deficit was marginally reduced by $0.2 billion. The deficit on income from portfolio securities continued to narrow, while profits earned by operations of Canadian direct investors abroad declined by less than the reduction in net earnings of foreign direct investors on their investment in Canada.

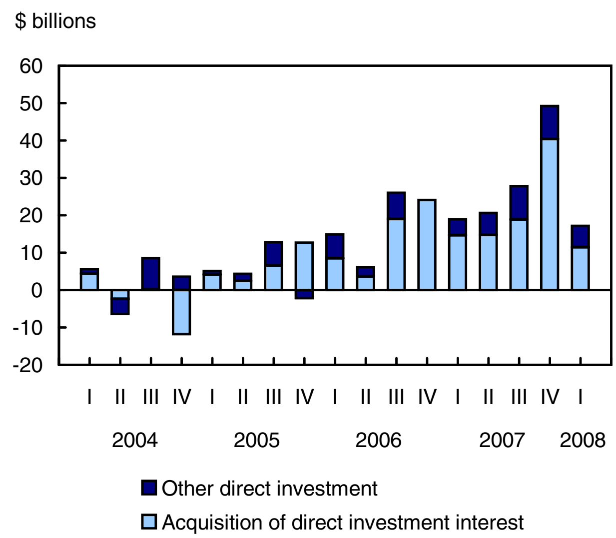
Canadian direct investment abroad surpasses inward direct investment flows

Inflows into the Canadian economy by foreign direct investors slowed considerably in the first quarter while Canadian direct investment into foreign economies picked up speed. The resulting $5.1 billion net direct investment outflow was the first net outflow since the second quarter of 2006.

With the Canadian dollar losing some ground against its US counterpart but still remaining near parity, Canadian direct investors made sizable acquisitions of foreign firms ($11.7 billion) in the first quarter, mainly in the finance and insurance sector. They also injected significant funds into existing foreign affiliates ($10.5 billion).

On the other hand, the acquisitions-driven pace of foreign direct investment in Canada at the time of the fourth quarter of 2007 was not sustained. The slowdown also reflected much reduced investment activity in the Canadian resource-based sector, compared with the last few quarters. The overall direct investment inflow of $17.2 billion, while still significant, was the lowest level in close to two years.

Foreign direct investment in Canada



Canadian bonds attract foreign investors

Non-resident investors purchased $9.9 billion worth of Canadian securities over the first quarter, following three consecutive quarters of divestment. The bulk of the quarter's foreign investment occurred in outstanding Canadian-dollar denominated bonds, in the context of a higher inflation reading and declining bond yields in the United States. They also acquired Canadian equities ($3.7 billion), coinciding with a 3.5% drop in stock prices.

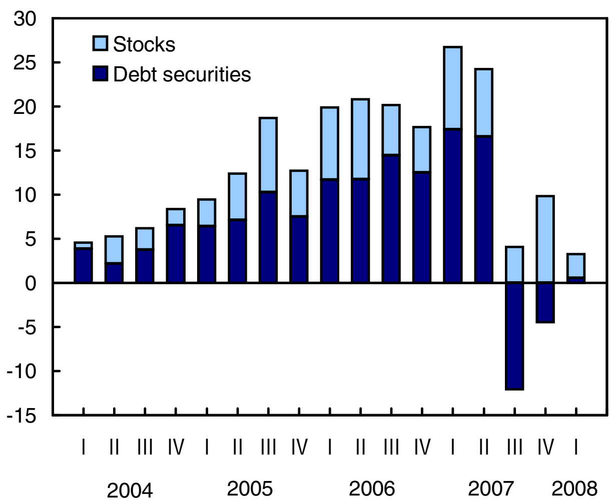
Non-residents were especially active in bonds of the federal government and its enterprises, which offer low credit and liquidity risks. This was in contrast to foreign activity in the Canadian money market, which produced a $3.5 billion divestment. Canadian short-term rates were sharply reduced in the first quarter, making long-term debt instruments relatively more attractive.

Canadian investors continue to shy away from foreign debt instruments

Canadian investors were less focused on foreign securities in the first quarter of 2008. They purchased $3.3 billion worth of foreign securities, mainly equities. Purchases of foreign shares were substantially weaker than previous periods, reflecting a general softening in global stock prices over the first quarter.

Canadian portfolio investment abroad[1]

$ billions



1. Reverse of balance of payments signs.

Residents were net buyers of foreign bonds after two quarters of sizeable divestments, but activity was very modest in light of the record purchases over the first half of 2007. This was reflected in the scarcity of new issues of maple bonds. The appreciating Canadian dollar, combined with the recent credit crunch, contributed to increased costs related to the issue of new maple bonds. At the same time, Canadians turned to more secure investment vehicles, placing substantial funds in deposit-assets.

Available on CANSIM: tables 376-0001 to 376-0017 and 376-0035.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1534, 1535, 1536 and 1537.

The first quarter 2008 issue of *Canada's Balance of International Payments* (67-001-XWE, free) will be available soon.

The balance of international payments data for the second quarter of 2008 will be released on August 28.

For general information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-1855; *infobalance@statcan.ca*), Balance of Payments Division.

❑

Balance of payments

	First quarter 2007	Second quarter 2007	Third quarter 2007	Fourth quarter 2007	First quarter 2008	2006	2007
	Not seasonally adjusted						
	$ millions						
Current account							
Receipts							
Goods and services	133,893	138,995	130,747	126,697	131,027	520,960	530,332
Goods	118,573	121,951	111,695	110,833	115,745	453,732	463,051
Services	15,320	17,044	19,052	15,864	15,282	67,227	67,280
Investment income	16,361	18,151	18,220	18,685	17,694	64,497	71,417
Direct investment	8,207	9,578	9,696	9,657	8,935	34,978	37,139
Portfolio investment	5,373	5,621	5,449	5,240	5,531	17,387	21,683
Other investment	2,781	2,951	3,074	3,788	3,228	12,131	12,595
Current transfers	2,545	2,150	2,142	2,709	2,578	9,700	9,545
Current account receipts	**152,800**	**159,295**	**151,109**	**148,091**	**151,298**	**595,156**	**611,294**
Payments							
Goods and services	125,871	128,687	123,521	123,394	124,485	486,245	501,474
Goods	104,312	106,949	101,920	101,825	101,403	404,253	415,006
Services	21,559	21,738	21,601	21,569	23,081	81,992	86,468
Investment income	22,120	21,548	20,717	21,227	20,303	77,872	85,611
Direct investment	10,008	9,832	9,220	9,384	8,832	34,354	38,444
Portfolio investment	7,839	7,757	7,707	7,506	7,504	29,270	30,809
Other investment	4,273	3,958	3,790	4,337	3,967	14,247	16,358
Current transfers	3,662	2,037	2,397	2,505	3,278	10,809	10,601
Current account payments	**151,654**	**152,272**	**146,635**	**147,125**	**148,065**	**574,925**	**597,686**
Balances							
Goods and services	8,022	10,308	7,226	3,302	6,543	34,715	28,858
Goods	14,261	15,002	9,775	9,007	14,341	49,480	48,046
Services	-6,239	-4,695	-2,549	-5,705	-7,799	-14,765	-19,188
Investment income	-5,759	-3,397	-2,497	-2,541	-2,609	-13,375	-14,194
Direct investment	-1,801	-254	476	274	103	623	-1,305
Portfolio investment	-2,467	-2,136	-2,257	-2,266	-1,973	-11,883	-9,126
Other investment	-1,491	-1,007	-715	-549	-739	-2,115	-3,763
Current transfers	-1,117	113	-255	204	-700	-1,109	-1,056
Current account balance	**1,146**	**7,023**	**4,473**	**965**	**3,233**	**20,231**	**13,607**
Capital and financial account[1, 2]							
Capital account	**1,241**	**1,014**	**1,037**	**907**	**1,261**	**4,130**	**4,199**
Financial account	**-7,374**	**-8,225**	**-9,017**	**2,666**	**1,361**	**-21,328**	**-21,951**
Canadian assets, net flows							
Canadian direct investment abroad	-17,245	-11,624	-12,920	-16,017	-22,241	-44,373	-57,806
Portfolio investment	-26,757	-24,266	7,979	-5,378	-3,258	-78,492	-48,422
Foreign bonds	-17,186	-16,336	1,688	2,932	-691	-43,602	-28,903
Foreign stocks	-9,339	-7,691	-4,082	-9,828	-2,688	-28,090	-30,941
Foreign money market	-232	-239	10,373	1,518	121	-6,800	11,422
Other investment	-18,449	-16,572	-19,848	-8,997	-17,315	-36,022	-63,866
Loans	-5,009	2,582	-9,162	1,770	-3,477	-12,314	-9,819
Deposits	-5,578	-13,168	-16,555	-6,691	-14,306	-8,997	-41,993
Official international reserves	-4,722	-366	-144	588	247	-1,013	-4,644
Other assets	-3,139	-5,620	6,013	-4,664	220	-13,698	-7,410
Total Canadian assets, net flows	**-62,450**	**-52,462**	**-24,789**	**-30,392**	**-42,814**	**-158,886**	**-170,093**
Canadian liabilities, net flows							
Foreign direct investment in Canada	19,019	20,647	27,770	49,270	17,184	71,198	116,706
Portfolio investment	6,737	-2,061	-9,144	-27,122	9,875	31,656	-31,591
Canadian bonds	7,970	-2,168	541	5,198	9,651	17,130	11,540
Canadian stocks	-532	-899	-8,524	-32,039	3,717	10,814	-41,994
Canadian money market	-702	1,006	-1,160	-280	-3,493	3,711	-1,137
Other investment	29,321	25,651	-2,854	10,910	17,116	34,704	63,027
Loans	4,398	2,796	-3,946	7,423	511	14,638	10,670
Deposits	21,844	22,334	-21	4,417	16,170	20,384	48,574
Other liabilities	3,079	522	1,114	-931	435	-318	3,783
Total Canadian liabilities, net flows	**55,076**	**44,237**	**15,772**	**33,058**	**44,175**	**137,558**	**148,143**
Total capital and financial account, net flows	**-6,133**	**-7,212**	**-7,980**	**3,573**	**2,622**	**-17,198**	**-17,752**
Statistical discrepancy	4,987	188	3,506	-4,538	-5,855	-3,033	4,144

1. *A minus sign denotes an outflow of capital resulting from an increase in claims on non-residents or from a decrease in liabilities to non-residents.*
2. *Transactions are recorded on a net basis.*

Current account

	First quarter 2007	Second quarter 2007	Third quarter 2007	Fourth quarter 2007	First quarter 2008	2006	2007
	Seasonally adjusted						
	$ millions						
Receipts							
Good and services	135,918	135,282	131,114	128,018	133,426	520,960	530,332
Goods	119,112	118,279	114,509	111,151	116,713	453,732	463,051
Services	16,806	17,003	16,605	16,866	16,713	67,227	67,280
Travel	4,126	4,204	4,143	4,161	4,109	16,610	16,634
Transportation	3,074	3,079	2,998	3,005	3,042	11,879	12,157
Commercial services	9,170	9,291	9,043	9,271	9,148	37,008	36,775
Government services	435	429	421	429	413	1,730	1,714
Investment income	16,623	17,482	18,432	18,879	17,982	64,497	71,417
Direct investment	8,332	9,183	9,951	9,672	9,072	34,978	37,139
Interest	414	485	520	516	228	1,477	1,935
Profits	7,918	8,698	9,431	9,156	8,844	33,501	35,203
Portfolio investment	5,381	5,457	5,507	5,338	5,517	17,387	21,683
Interest	2,025	2,139	2,092	1,832	1,637	6,172	8,089
Dividends	3,356	3,317	3,415	3,505	3,880	11,216	13,594
Other investment	2,910	2,842	2,973	3,870	3,393	12,131	12,595
Current transfers	2,334	2,372	2,456	2,384	2,284	9,700	9,545
Private	734	649	668	605	682	2,698	2,656
Official	1,599	1,723	1,788	1,779	1,602	7,002	6,890
Total receipts	**154,875**	**155,136**	**152,002**	**149,281**	**153,692**	**595,156**	**611,294**
Payments							
Good and services	126,174	124,010	126,580	124,710	125,577	486,245	501,474
Goods	105,273	102,629	105,108	101,996	103,346	404,253	415,006
Services	20,901	21,381	21,472	22,714	22,230	81,992	86,468
Travel	6,032	6,209	6,892	7,530	7,184	23,402	26,663
Transportation	4,898	4,977	4,800	5,358	5,281	18,695	20,032
Commercial services	9,705	9,927	9,508	9,551	9,489	38,853	38,691
Government services	266	269	272	275	276	1,042	1,082
Investment income	21,805	21,570	21,063	21,173	20,044	77,872	85,611
Direct investment	9,893	9,721	9,287	9,542	8,853	34,354	38,444
Interest	613	631	617	622	613	2,469	2,484
Profits	9,280	9,090	8,670	8,920	8,240	31,886	35,960
Portfolio investment	7,819	7,713	7,725	7,553	7,492	29,270	30,809
Interest	5,895	5,752	5,641	5,458	5,489	22,294	22,746
Dividends	1,923	1,961	2,084	2,095	2,003	6,976	8,063
Other investment	4,094	4,136	4,051	4,078	3,698	14,247	16,358
Current transfers	2,940	2,423	2,618	2,620	2,514	10,809	10,601
Private	1,999	1,558	1,608	1,630	1,562	7,261	6,794
Official	941	866	1,010	990	952	3,548	3,807
Total payments	**150,919**	**148,004**	**150,260**	**148,503**	**148,134**	**574,925**	**597,686**
Balances							
Good and services	9,744	11,272	4,534	3,307	7,849	34,715	28,858
Goods	13,839	15,650	9,401	9,155	13,366	49,480	48,046
Services	-4,095	-4,378	-4,867	-5,848	-5,517	-14,765	-19,188
Travel	-1,906	-2,005	-2,749	-3,369	-3,074	-6,792	-10,029
Transportation	-1,823	-1,897	-1,802	-2,353	-2,239	-6,816	-7,875
Commercial services	-534	-635	-465	-280	-341	-1,845	-1,915
Government services	169	160	149	155	137	688	632
Investment income	-5,182	-4,088	-2,631	-2,293	-2,062	-13,375	-14,194
Direct investment	-1,561	-539	664	130	219	623	-1,305
Interest	-199	-146	-97	-106	-385	-992	-548
Profits	-1,362	-392	761	236	604	1,615	-757
Portfolio investment	-2,437	-2,256	-2,217	-2,215	-1,975	-11,883	-9,126
Interest	-3,870	-3,613	-3,549	-3,625	-3,852	-16,122	-14,657
Dividends	1,433	1,357	1,331	1,410	1,877	4,239	5,531
Other investment	-1,184	-1,294	-1,077	-208	-305	-2,115	-3,763
Current transfers	-606	-52	-162	-236	-230	-1,109	-1,056
Private	-1,265	-909	-940	-1,025	-880	-4,563	-4,139
Official	659	857	778	789	650	3,454	3,083
Current account	**3,956**	**7,132**	**1,742**	**778**	**5,557**	**20,231**	**13,607**

■

Payroll employment, earnings and hours
March 2008 (preliminary)

The average weekly earnings of employees stood at $788.71 in March, up 0.3% from February. Compared with a year earlier, average weekly earnings were up 3.2%.

In Canada's largest industrial sectors, earnings rose 4.3% in health and social assistance, 2.7% in retail trade, 2.6% in educational services, and 2.3% in manufacturing compared with a year earlier.

Alberta (+6.3%) and Saskatchewan (+5.6%) posted the strongest year-over-year earnings growth among the provinces.

Nationally, the number of occupied payroll jobs edged up 6,900 (+0.05%), from February to March 2008, to 14,497,000. Across the provinces, Alberta recorded the largest increase (+0.5%) while Prince Edward Island (-0.5%) had the largest decline.

Overall, payroll employment has grown by 260,400 (+1.8%) since March 2007.

The average hourly earnings for hourly paid employees increased 0.8% to $19.83 in March, while the average weekly hours for hourly paid employees decreased 1.0% to 30.8 hours.

Available on CANSIM: tables 281-0023 to 281-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2612.

Detailed industry data, data by size of enterprise based on employment, and other labour market indicators will be available soon in the monthly publication *Employment, Earnings and Hours* (72-002-XIB, free).

Data on payroll employment, earnings and hours for April 2008 will be released on June 27.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-2869; *labour@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Peter Lorenz (613-951-4167), Labour Statistics Division. ❑

Average weekly earnings (including overtime) for all employees

Industry group (North American Industry Classification System)	March 2007	February 2008[r]	March 2008[p]	February to March 2008	March 2007 to March 2008	Year-to-date average 2008[1]
	seasonally adjusted					
	$			% change		
Industrial aggregate	**764.43**	**786.58**	**788.71**	**0.3**	**3.2**	**3.0**
Forestry, logging and support	970.09	998.50	987.43	-1.1	1.8	1.4
Mining and oil and gas	1,396.07	1,488.87	1,529.80	2.7	9.6	7.6
Utilities	1,111.50	1,176.22	1,174.32	-0.2	5.7	5.9
Construction	923.17	945.56	956.96	1.2	3.7	3.6
Manufacturing	933.66	956.21	955.07	-0.1	2.3	2.7
Wholesale trade	905.06	928.55	931.55	0.3	2.9	2.7
Retail trade	478.41	487.69	491.41	0.8	2.7	1.6
Transportation and warehousing	795.81	823.41	825.90	0.3	3.8	3.4
Information and cultural industries	962.03	991.17	979.90	-1.1	1.9	3.1
Finance and insurance	980.55	1,012.02	1,010.91	-0.1	3.1	3.6
Real estate and rental and leasing	708.06	706.28	712.67	0.9	0.7	0.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	973.84	1,016.46	1,032.35	1.6	6.0	4.7
Management of companies and enterprises	931.90	1,028.82	1,030.26	0.1	10.6	11.0
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	638.43	639.12	637.75	-0.2	-0.1	-0.4
Educational services	828.43	849.58	849.95	0.0	2.6	2.5
Health care and social assistance	698.19	728.25	728.53	0.0	4.3	4.3
Arts, entertainment and recreation	444.57	483.65	490.64	1.4	10.4	9.6
Accommodation and food services	320.54	337.31	337.48	0.1	5.3	4.2
Other services (excluding public administration)	600.26	614.64	617.66	0.5	2.9	3.0
Public administration	956.04	985.31	982.39	-0.3	2.8	3.1
Provinces and territories						
Newfoundland and Labrador	701.90	730.12	740.04	1.4	5.4	4.4
Prince Edward Island	631.02	633.11	635.88	0.4	0.8	1.1
Nova Scotia	673.23	682.67	685.75	0.5	1.9	1.9
New Brunswick	702.16	723.42	727.15	0.5	3.6	3.5
Quebec	723.27	729.07	739.40	1.4	2.2	2.6
Ontario	798.20	819.67	818.79	-0.1	2.6	2.4
Manitoba	695.30	720.55	720.61	0.0	3.6	4.0
Saskatchewan	712.45	746.12	752.11	0.8	5.6	4.8
Alberta	821.95	870.49	873.66	0.4	6.3	4.9
British Columbia	754.92	775.85	778.15	0.3	3.1	2.7
Yukon	851.77	898.63	904.28	0.6	6.2	4.5
Northwest Territories[2]	985.15	1,039.31	1,045.73	0.6	6.1	5.0
Nunavut[2]	921.16	928.53	917.62	-1.2	-0.4	0.5

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
1. *Rate of change is obtained by comparing three-month average of 2008 with that of 2007, and is subject to revision for next month's release*
2. *Data not seasonally adjusted.*

Number of employees

Industry group (North American Industry Classification System)	December 2007	March 2007	February 2008[r]	March 2008[p]	February to March 2008	March 2007 to March 2008	December 2007 to March 2008
	Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands				% change		
Industrial aggregate	**14,427.5**	**14,236.6**	**14,490.1**	**14,497.0**	**0.0**	**1.8**	**0.5**
Forestry, logging and support	54.9	60.1	52.5	51.4	-2.1	-14.5	-6.4
Mining and oil and gas	195.7	191.6	198.4	200.2	0.9	4.5	2.3
Utilities	123.7	121.8	123.7	123.8	0.1	1.6	0.1
Construction	808.1	763.0	816.0	815.7	0.0	6.9	0.9
Manufacturing	1,748.9	1,798.0	1,746.5	1,739.7	-0.4	-3.2	-0.5
Wholesale trade	761.7	753.8	759.4	762.7	0.4	1.2	0.1
Retail trade	1,819.6	1,771.6	1,830.3	1,832.8	0.1	3.5	0.7
Transportation and warehousing	656.0	647.7	662.0	660.4	-0.2	2.0	0.7
Information and cultural industries	354.1	351.7	357.9	358.9	0.3	2.0	1.4
Finance and insurance	631.9	620.2	634.5	637.8	0.5	2.8	0.9
Real estate and rental and leasing	253.4	248.7	251.2	251.1	0.0	1.0	-0.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	730.7	723.5	728.2	726.8	-0.2	0.5	-0.5
Management of companies and enterprises	100.4	97.2	102.7	102.3	-0.4	5.2	1.9
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	723.1	706.9	725.0	723.2	-0.2	2.3	0.0
Educational services	1,085.6	1,066.6	1,090.8	1,090.7	0.0	2.3	0.5
Health care and social assistance	1,487.4	1,463.9	1,501.2	1,504.3	0.2	2.8	1.1
Arts, entertainment and recreation	241.6	240.0	241.2	239.8	-0.6	-0.1	-0.7
Accommodation and food services	1,064.9	1,033.5	1,068.6	1,069.8	0.1	3.5	0.5
Other services (excluding public administration)	530.9	520.3	532.9	531.8	-0.2	2.2	0.2
Public administration	835.4	820.6	845.9	849.7	0.4	3.5	1.7
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	183.8	177.2	185.8	185.2	-0.3	4.5	0.8
Prince Edward Island	59.4	59.6	59.4	59.1	-0.5	-0.8	-0.5
Nova Scotia	390.7	385.9	394.1	393.7	-0.1	2.0	0.8
New Brunswick	302.1	302.2	304.2	304.1	0.0	0.6	0.7
Quebec	3,281.3	3,258.8	3,296.2	3,293.7	-0.1	1.1	0.4
Ontario	5,521.7	5,465.9	5,548.9	5,547.9	0.0	1.5	0.5
Manitoba	537.0	529.6	543.9	542.5	-0.3	2.4	1.0
Saskatchewan	430.8	419.0	433.4	434.1	0.2	3.6	0.8
Alberta	1,741.5	1,716.3	1,745.1	1,753.9	0.5	2.2	0.7
British Columbia	1,919.1	1,870.2	1,929.4	1,930.3	0.0	3.2	0.6
Yukon	18.0	17.4	18.3	18.1	-1.1	4.0	0.6
Northwest Territories[1]	23.4	23.3	23.7	23.7	0.0	1.7	1.3
Nunavut[1]	10.5	10.4	10.8	10.7	-0.9	2.9	1.9

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
1. *Data not seasonally adjusted.*

■

Study: The year in review for wholesale trade
2007

The wholesale trade sector expanded for a fourth consecutive year in 2007.

Wholesale sales amounted to $517.8 billion in 2007, up 5.5% from 2006, a slightly faster pace than the growth the year before. It was the fourth year in a row that the rate of growth surpassed 5.0%, according to a year-end review published today in the *Analysis in Brief* series.

Provincially, the rate of growth accelerated in Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Manitoba. Sales in Saskatchewan rose 19.6%, the fastest rate of growth since the start of this statistical series in 1993 and the best performance among the provinces.

Alberta wholesalers had a growth rate below the national average for the first time since 2002.

While slightly higher than 2006 levels, the rate of growth for wholesalers in Ontario was below the national average for the fifth consecutive year. As a result, Ontario's share of national sales continued to slide, although it still represented just over half of the total.

Quebec wholesalers experienced a slight recovery in 2007, with the pharmaceuticals trade group still the main source of growth.

Nationally, this performance in 2007 was due, among other factors, to the "other products" sector, which posted the strongest growth in wholesale trade and had its best performance since 2003. Sales in this sector grew partly because of increased sales of agricultural chemicals and other farm supplies, as well as sales of animal feed.

This study reviews the performance of the wholesale trade sector nationally and regionally, along with some of the key factors affecting last year's performance.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

The study "Wholesale trade: The year 2007 in review" is now available online as part of the *Analysis in Brief* (11-621-MWE2008072, free) series from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marc Atkins (613-951-0291), Distributive Trades Division. ■

Public sector employment

First quarter 2008 (preliminary)

Public sector employment continues to grow at a steady pace.

In 2007, public sector employment grew 1.9% from the previous year to reach an average of 3.2 million. After years of decline throughout the 1990s due to government cutbacks, public sector employment has been increasing at a similar pace to the overall economy since 2000.

This is reflected in the proportion of public sector workers among the total employed in the labour force, which has remained stable at about 18% since 2000, well below the peak of 23% in 1992.

Since 2000, general government employment has increased on average 1.6% per year. The federal and local general governments represented most of this growth, increasing at twice the rate as that of the provincial and territorial governments.

The Newfoundland and Labrador provincial general government grew the most in 2007 from a year earlier, with an employment increase of 8.4%, followed by British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Strong economic growth as a result of the boom in the resource sectors of these provinces has likely increased demand for services. Overall, provincial general government employment growth was partially offset by small decreases in Quebec and New Brunswick.

Annual employment growth in educational institutions (universities, colleges and school boards) has remained constant at about 2.0% for the past three years. The annual employment growth rate in health and social service institutions rose from 1.8% to 2.6% in 2007. In both educational and health and social services institutions, Alberta accounted for one-quarter of this growth in 2007.

On a quarterly basis, preliminary data for the first three months of 2008 indicate that an average of 3.3 million employees worked in the public sector, up 2.4% from the first quarter of 2007. Total public sector wages and salaries rose 3.7% during the same period.

Previously published estimates have been revised from 2003 to 2007.

Note: The public sector includes all economic entities controlled by government, and is comprised of four major components: federal government (general government, which includes ministries, departments, agencies and non-autonomous funds, autonomous funds and organizations, as well as federal non-autonomous pension plans); provincial and territorial government (general government, which includes ministries, departments, agencies and non-autonomous funds, autonomous funds and organizations, as well as universities and colleges, health and social service institutions, and provincial non-autonomous pension plans); local government (general government, which includes municipalities and non-autonomous funds, autonomous funds and organizations, as well as school boards); and government business enterprises (at the federal, provincial/territorial and local levels).

A variety of data sources are used to produce the public sector estimates (refer to *Definitions, data sources and methods* below). The federal and provincial government employment data, provided mainly by the respective government central pay services, were subject to revision for the years 2003 to 2007.

Available on CANSIM: tables 183-0002 and 183-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1713.

For a more detailed description of how public sector employment is defined and reconciled with other information sources, refer to the document entitled *Reconciliation of Public Sector Employment Estimates from Multiple Information Sources* by clicking on survey number 1713.

Available on CANSIM: tables 183-0021 and 183-0022.

Data tables on public sector employment are also available in the *National economic accounts* module of our website.

For more information or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-0767; *fe-pid-dipinfo@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Alain Baril (613-951-4131; *alain.baril@statcan.ca*), Public Institutions Division.

Public sector employment

	Federal general government	Provincial and territorial government			Local government		Government business enterprises	Total public sector
		General government	Universities and colleges	Health and social service institutions	General government	School boards		
	thousands							
1991	415	379	277	746	363	526	351	3,057
1992	411	378	282	749	371	534	338	3,063
1993	405	371	282	744	369	541	326	3,037
1994	394	360	276	739	366	543	324	3,003
1995	371	358	275	737	366	541	309	2,958
1996	356	335	273	708	359	548	273	2,851
1997	338	339	271	692	350	541	258	2,789
1998	331	334	270	695	341	546	261	2,779
1999	328	337	269	690	342	543	263	2,772
2000	335	339	273	691	341	541	265	2,786
2001	351	341	297	698	355	588	269	2,899
2002	359	333	310	724	359	604	270	2,960
2003	366	346	321	752	368	604	275	3,032
2004	367	344	326	753	369	613	283	3,054
2005	370	349	335	767	378	622	282	3,101
2006	387	352	340	780	386	636	284	3,165
2007	388	358	349	801	395	647	289	3,226

Public sector employment

	Fourth quarter 2006	First quarter 2007	Fourth quarter 2007	First quarter 2008
	thousands			
Public sector	**3,236**	**3,221**	**3,316**	**3,299**
Government	2,952	2,939	3,027	3,007
General government	1,115	1,105	1,142	1,135
Federal	381	382	391	393
Provincial and territorial	349	344	355	353
Local	386	378	395	389
Educational institutions	1,053	1,050	1,078	1,069
Universities and colleges[1]	361	357	375	366
School boards	691	693	703	703
Health and social services institutions	784	783	806	804
Government business enterprises	284	282	290	292

1. Includes vocational and trade institutions.
Note: *Numbers may not add up due to rounding.*

■

Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index

April 2008

The Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index (CMSPI) is a monthly price index measuring the change over time in prices for courier and messenger services provided by long and short distance delivery companies to Canadian-based business clients.

The CMSPI increased 1.0% to 136.2 (2003=100) in April. The courier portion rose 0.6%, while the local messengers component advanced 2.7%.

These indexes are available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: table 329-0053.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5064.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; *prices-prix@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. ■

Placement of hatchery chicks and turkey poults

April 2008 (preliminary)

Placements of hatchery chicks onto farms were estimated at 58.4 million birds in April, up 0.8% from April 2007. Placements of turkey poults on farms increased 15.2% to 2.1 million birds.

Available on CANSIM: table 003-0021.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5039.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandra Gielfeldt (613-951-2505; *sandy.gielfeldt@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Health Indicators

2008

The publication *Health Indicators* is a joint project between Statistics Canada and the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) that provides the latest information about the health system and the health of the population in Canada's health regions, provinces and territories. The *Health Indicators* 2008 print publication is available today and includes a selection of indicator data and presents analysis on hospitalization rates for ambulatory care sensitive conditions.

This print publication can be accessed directly from the Canadian Institute for Health Information website (*www.cihi.ca*) or through the *Highlights* section of the latest volume of the Internet publication *Health Indicators* 2008, no. 1 (82-221-XWE, free), which is now available. From the *Publications* module of our website, choose *Free Internet publications*, and then *Health*.

On June 18, 2008, the latest indicators from Statistics Canada will be accessible from the *Health Indicators* Internet publication, including health region level data collected from the 2007 Canadian Community Health Survey and the 2006 Census.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3207, 3226, 3231, 3233, 3608 and 3701.

For more information, contact Client Services (613-951-1746; *hd-ds@statcan.ca*), Health Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, or Christina Lawand (613-694-6805; *clawand@cihi.ca*), Canadian Institute for Health Information. ■

New products

Analysis in Brief: "Wholesale trade: The year 2007 in review", no. 72
Catalogue number 11-621-MWE2008072
(free).

Health Indicators, 2008, no. 1
Catalogue number 82-221-XWE
(free).

Profile for Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Divisions, Census Subdivisions and Dissemination Areas, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-581-XCB2006002
(various prices).

Profile for Canada, Provinces, Territories and Forward Sortation Areas, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-581-XCB2006003
(various prices).

Profile for Census Metropolitan Areas, Census Agglomerations and Census Subdivisions, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-581-XCB2006006
(various prices).

Profile for Designated Places, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-581-XCB2006008
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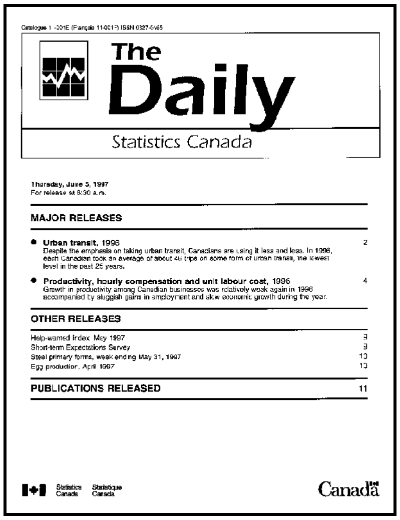
Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index, May 1997	9
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Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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