

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, June 20, 2008

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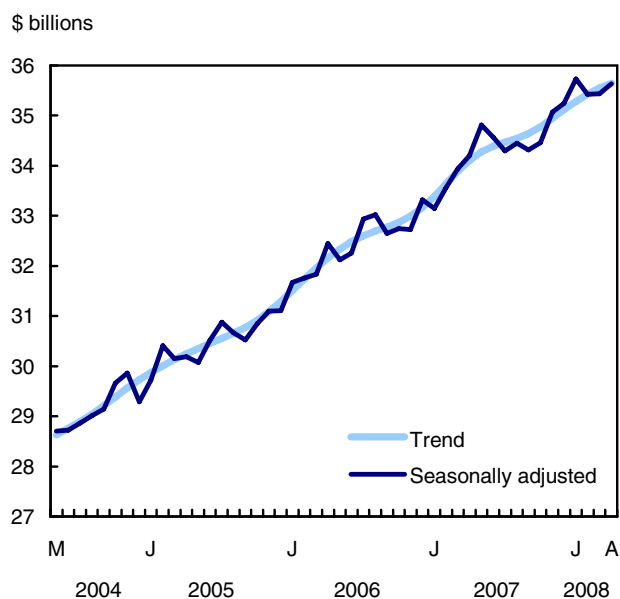
Retail trade

April 2008

Retail sales rebounded in April with a 0.6% increase to an estimated \$35.6 billion. This sales gain followed a pause in March that could largely be attributed to adverse weather conditions.

April marked the fifth monthly increase in retail sales in seven months. Although sales moderated in the middle of 2007, on the whole, retail sales have generally been rising at a rapid pace since 2004.

Retail sales rebound after a pause



Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0014 to 080-0017.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2406 and 2408.

The April 2008 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-XWE, free) will be available shortly.

Data on retail trade for May will be released on July 22.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Claude Bilodeau (613-951-1816), Distributive Trades Division.

Retail sales

	April 2007	January 2008 ^r	February 2008 ^r	March 2008 ^r	April 2008 ^p	March to April 2008	April 2007 to April 2008
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
Automotive	11,946	12,654	12,468	12,491	12,472	-0.2	4.4
New car dealers	6,550	6,635	6,499	6,499	6,431	-1.0	-1.8
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,530	1,694	1,624	1,610	1,576	-2.1	3.0
Gasoline stations	3,866	4,326	4,344	4,382	4,465	1.9	15.5
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	2,493	2,587	2,549	2,545	2,585	1.6	3.7
Furniture stores	846	863	849	835	862	3.3	1.9
Home furnishings stores	502	524	512	516	513	-0.6	2.1
Computer and software stores	124	117	115	116	120	3.3	-3.4
Home electronics and appliance stores	1,021	1,083	1,073	1,079	1,091	1.1	6.9
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	2,152	2,265	2,250	2,241	2,227	-0.6	3.5
Home centres and hardware stores	1,746	1,832	1,826	1,825	1,819	-0.3	4.2
Specialized building materials and garden stores	407	433	424	416	408	-2.0	0.3
Food and beverage stores	7,665	7,806	7,806	7,816	7,845	0.4	2.3
Supermarkets	5,489	5,590	5,587	5,610	5,620	0.2	2.4
Convenience and specialty food stores	821	839	835	833	840	0.8	2.3
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,355	1,377	1,383	1,374	1,386	0.9	2.2
Pharmacies and personal care stores	2,303	2,413	2,383	2,407	2,421	0.6	5.2
Clothing and accessories stores	1,956	2,028	2,012	1,957	2,012	2.8	2.9
Clothing stores	1,491	1,559	1,545	1,497	1,558	4.1	4.5
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	465	468	467	460	455	-1.2	-2.3
General merchandise stores	3,948	4,176	4,171	4,176	4,250	1.8	7.6
Miscellaneous retailers	1,738	1,799	1,787	1,802	1,819	0.9	4.6
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	872	888	884	901	908	0.8	4.1
Miscellaneous store retailers	866	910	902	901	910	1.0	5.1
Total retail sales	34,201	35,728	35,424	35,435	35,631	0.6	4.2
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	26,121	27,399	27,301	27,326	27,624	1.1	5.8
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	544	586	582	577	582	0.9	6.9
Prince Edward Island	132	142	141	141	141	-0.4	6.2
Nova Scotia	957	1,015	1,015	1,024	1,008	-1.6	5.4
New Brunswick	760	806	803	783	802	2.5	5.6
Quebec	7,563	7,893	7,883	7,648	7,911	3.4	4.6
Ontario	12,199	12,755	12,536	12,665	12,749	0.7	4.5
Manitoba	1,151	1,252	1,244	1,263	1,239	-1.9	7.6
Saskatchewan	1,056	1,172	1,174	1,196	1,188	-0.6	12.5
Alberta	5,054	5,178	5,166	5,199	5,105	-1.8	1.0
British Columbia	4,665	4,797	4,749	4,810	4,775	-0.7	2.4
Yukon	41	44	44	44	45	1.1	9.3
Northwest Territories	56	61	62	60	61	0.4	8.3
Nunavut	23	25	25	25	25	2.2	8.3

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note: Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

Retail sales

	April 2007	March 2008 ^r	April 2008 ^p	April 2007 to April 2008
	Unadjusted			
	\$ millions			% change
Automotive	12,792	11,954	14,114	10.3
New car dealers	7,221	6,360	7,708	6.7
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,796	1,375	2,012	12.0
Gasoline stations	3,774	4,219	4,394	16.4
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	2,206	2,316	2,312	4.8
Furniture stores	798	775	804	0.6
Home furnishings stores	455	467	487	7.0
Computer and software stores	114	123	114	-0.2
Home electronics and appliance stores	838	950	908	8.4
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	2,099	1,716	2,238	6.6
Home centres and hardware stores	1,705	1,387	1,835	7.6
Specialized building materials and garden stores	394	330	403	2.3
Food and beverage stores	7,159	7,498	7,352	2.7
Supermarkets	5,171	5,490	5,348	3.4
Convenience and specialty food stores	804	789	813	1.1
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,184	1,219	1,191	0.7
Pharmacies and personal care stores	2,214	2,345	2,353	6.3
Clothing and accessories stores	1,821	1,638	1,920	5.4
Clothing stores	1,405	1,289	1,496	6.4
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	416	349	424	2.1
General merchandise stores	3,710	3,622	4,016	8.3
Miscellaneous retailers	1,584	1,590	1,673	5.6
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	795	772	831	4.6
Miscellaneous store retailers	789	818	842	6.7
Total retail sales	33,585	32,679	35,980	7.1
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	24,567	24,944	26,259	6.9
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland and Labrador	513	499	572	11.4
Prince Edward Island	122	120	133	9.0
Nova Scotia	913	932	981	7.4
New Brunswick	744	712	803	7.9
Quebec	7,775	7,066	8,313	6.9
Ontario	11,739	11,483	12,839	9.4
Manitoba	1,128	1,169	1,251	11.0
Saskatchewan	1,047	1,091	1,198	14.4
Alberta	4,980	4,926	5,092	2.2
British Columbia	4,507	4,551	4,670	3.6
Yukon	38	39	43	12.3
Northwest Territories	54	66	60	10.6
Nunavut	23	25	26	11.7

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note: Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

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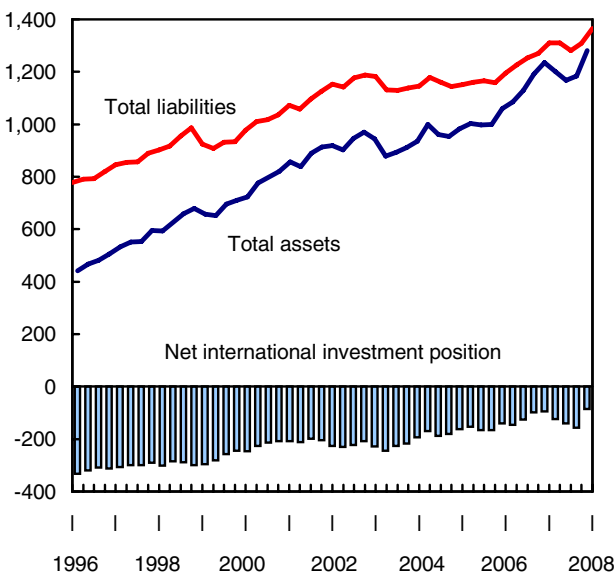
Canada's international investment position

First quarter 2008

Canada's net international investment position improved in the first quarter of 2008, largely reflecting both a pickup in Canadian direct investment abroad as well as the effect of a depreciating domestic currency (especially against non-US currencies) on Canadian holdings of foreign securities.

Canada's international investment position

\$ billions



Gains in Canada's international assets were twice those of its international liabilities. Canada's international assets increased to \$1,280.9 billion, up \$96.5 billion from the end of 2007. On the other side of the ledger, foreign holdings of Canadian liabilities rose more moderately by \$56.7 billion to \$1,366.1 billion.

As a result, net foreign debt declined substantially to \$85.2 billion. This represented 5.4% of Canada's gross domestic product, down sharply from 8.0% in the fourth quarter of 2007.

Canada's net direct investment position widens

Direct investment abroad by Canadian firms rose by \$36.9 billion to \$551.4 billion in the first quarter of 2008. This 7.2% increase was almost evenly split between transactions and the impact of the depreciation of the Canadian dollar. Canadian direct investors made sizable acquisitions of foreign firms and also injected significant funds into existing foreign affiliates in the

Note to readers

Canada's international investment position presents the value and composition of its foreign assets and liabilities owed to the rest of the world. Canada's net international investment position is the difference between these foreign assets and liabilities. Canada is a net debtor nation, meaning that our international liabilities are greater than our assets. This excess of international liabilities over assets can be referred to as Canada's net international liabilities or Canada's net foreign debt.

Currency valuation

The value of assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currency are converted to Canadian dollars at the end of each period for which a balance sheet is calculated. Most of Canada's foreign assets are denominated in foreign currencies, while less than half of our international liabilities are in foreign currencies.

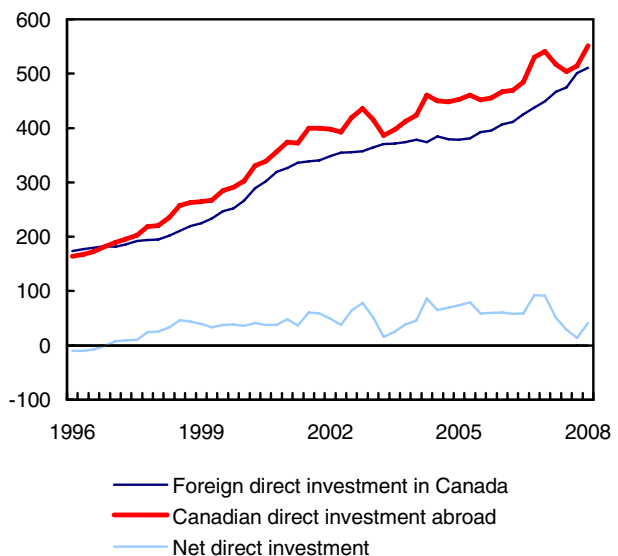
When the Canadian dollar is appreciating in value, the restatement of the value of these assets and liabilities in Canadian dollars lowers the recorded value. The opposite is true when the Canadian dollar is depreciating.

quarter. On the other hand, foreign direct investment in Canada grew more modestly (+\$9.7 billion), as the activity of the fourth quarter of 2007 was not sustained.

Foreign direct investment flows into Canada slowed significantly from the acquisitions-driven pace of previous quarters, while Canadian direct investment abroad continued to strengthen. This, along with the depreciation of the Canadian dollar, resulted in the first widening in the net direct investment position (the difference between direct investment abroad and direct investment in Canada) since the end of 2006.

Direct investment position

\$ billions



Marked increases in the value of both portfolio assets and liabilities

There was a marked increase in the value of Canadian portfolio investment assets abroad, which reached \$379.6 billion at the end of the first quarter of 2008. Even though transactions on foreign securities were up modestly in the first quarter of 2008 (+\$3.3 billion), the devaluation of the Canadian dollar added another \$21.3 billion to the position. Investment in foreign stocks recorded the largest gains, closing the quarter at \$227.4 billion.

Canadian portfolio liabilities to the rest of the world recorded the largest increase in more than six years. Canadian bonds fuelled this gain with \$9.7 billion worth of transactions and a weakening Canadian dollar, which added \$11.5 billion to the portion of Canadian bonds issued in foreign currencies. At the end of the first quarter, Canadian portfolio securities held by non-residents stood at \$506.9 billion, up \$20.2 billion from a quarter earlier.

Other investment items also record significant changes

Other domestic assets rose sharply, mostly as a result of transactions in deposits and currency devaluation. Canadian deposits abroad were up 12.6% during the quarter. Other domestic liabilities also rebounded during the quarter, almost entirely from a strong increase in deposits in Canada by non-residents.

Net international indebtedness with portfolio investment at market value largely unchanged

Canada's overall net international investment position can also be calculated with assets and liabilities of tradable securities valued at market prices. Although it edged up in the first quarter of 2008, net foreign debt was much lower by this measure, sitting at \$22.2 billion. This gap reflected the differing composition between international portfolio assets and liabilities. A much larger portion of Canadian holdings of foreign securities is placed in stocks, and these have a correspondingly larger impact when they are stated at market value.

Available on CANSIM: tables 376-0037, 376-0039 to 376-0041, 376-0055 to 376-0057 and 376-0059.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1537.

The first quarter 2008 issue of *Canada's International Investment Position* (67-202-XWE, free) will soon be available.

For more information, contact Client Services (613-951-1855; infobalance@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Komal Bobal (613-951-6645) or Christian Lajule (613-951-2062), Balance of Payments Division.

□

Canada's international investment position at period-end

	Fourth quarter 2004	Fourth quarter 2005	Fourth quarter 2006	Fourth quarter 2007	First quarter 2008
	\$ billions				
Assets					
Canadian direct investment abroad	448.5	455.2	530.0	514.5	551.4
Portfolio investment abroad					
Foreign bonds	58.6	82.4	124.4	136.7	144.5
Foreign bonds at market value	62.9	88.9	134.0	154.5	169.4
Foreign stocks	195.8	197.2	227.9	210.1	227.4
Foreign stocks at market value	348.4	445.7	583.6	557.0	525.6
Foreign money market	11.1	13.1	20.0	7.5	7.6
Foreign money market at market value	11.1	13.1	20.1	7.5	7.7
Other investments					
Loans	49.5	46.1	72.4	76.1	85.1
Deposits	109.4	120.8	131.4	156.9	176.6
Official international reserves	40.3	38.0	41.0	40.6	43.6
Official international reserves at market value	41.4	38.4	40.9	40.7	44.2
Other assets	39.6	47.0	45.0	42.0	44.6
Total assets					
at book value	952.8	999.8	1,191.9	1,184.4	1,280.9
with portfolio investment at market value	1,147.0	1,255.2	1,557.3	1,549.2	1,604.6
Liabilities					
Foreign direct investment in Canada	379.5	395.2	437.8	500.9	510.6
Portfolio investment					
Canadian bonds	402.2	384.2	408.1	382.1	404.1
Canadian bonds at market value	432.9	410.9	432.3	397.4	428.6
Canadian stocks	100.0	93.5	97.0	82.7	84.0
Canadian stocks at market value	247.3	273.3	345.0	327.8	320.1
Canadian money market	19.6	20.8	24.5	22.0	18.7
Canadian money market at market value	19.7	20.9	24.7	22.2	18.9
Other investment					
Loans	44.1	42.7	52.6	53.0	53.7
Deposits	176.0	201.0	226.8	243.5	269.2
Other liabilities	21.7	21.8	22.5	25.3	25.7
Total liabilities					
at book value	1,143.2	1,159.2	1,269.2	1,309.4	1,366.1
with portfolio investment at market value	1,321.3	1,365.9	1,541.6	1,570.1	1,626.8
Net international investment position					
at book value	-190.4	-159.5	-77.3	-125.0	-85.2
with portfolio investment at market value	-174.3	-110.7	15.6	-20.8	-22.2



Fruit and vegetable production

Spring 2008

More than 8,800 farm operators intended to be involved in fruit and vegetable cultivation in the spring of 2008, according to new data from the Fruit and Vegetable Survey.

About 6,200 fruit operators planned to cultivate 283,000 acres of fruit, of which 69.2% will bear fruit in 2008. Survey results indicate that 61.6% of the fruit bearing area will produce fruit destined for processing.

Over half (54.3%) of the fruit area in Canada will be reserved for blueberry production, while apple and grapes combined accounted for 26.9%.

An estimated 4,000 vegetable growers planned to cultivate 264,000 acres of vegetables, not including potatoes.

Results show 57.5% of the cultivated vegetable area will produce vegetables destined for a fresh market, while the rest will be sent for processing. Corn accounted for 21.5% of the vegetable area, while green peas and carrots represented 21.1%.

Note: As a result of the release of data from the 2006 Census of Agriculture on May 16, 2007, estimates for figures of area, production and value between 2002 and 2006 for the *Fruit and Vegetable Production* series have been revised, where necessary to align with those from the census. Other variables were also adjusted accordingly, where appropriate.

Data from the Fruit and Vegetable Survey, conducted in the spring of 2008, are now available.

Available on CANSIM: tables 001-0009, 001-0012 and 001-0013.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3407 and 3411.

An analysis of these data will be offered in the June 2008 issue of *Fruit and Vegetable Production*, Vol. 77, no. 1 (22-003-XIE, free), which will soon be available. Data are made available on the Internet twice a year, in February and June.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; agriculture@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lorie Shinder (613-951-0524; lorie.shinder@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Refined petroleum products

April 2008 (preliminary)

Data on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for April. Other selected data about these products are also available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

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 and Energy Division. ■

Large urban transit

April 2008 (preliminary)

Combined ridership on 10 large urban transit systems in Canada was 3.0% higher in April compared with the same month in 2007.

Approximately 117.5 million passenger trips were taken on these transit systems in April. These systems account for about 80% of total urban transit in Canada.

The trips generated \$194.5 million in revenue in April (excluding subsidies), up 5.2% over April 2007.

Available on CANSIM: table 408-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2745.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 613-951-0009; transportationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Total income of farm operators

2006

Data on total income of farm operators are now available for 2006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3447.

For custom data requests, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; agriculture@statcan.ca). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this

release, contact Sylvana Beaulieu (613-951-5268; sylvana.beaulieu@statcan.ca), or Lina Di Piéto (613-951-3171; fax: 613-951-3868; lina.dipietro@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Longitudinal Administrative Databank 1982 to 2006

Data for 2006 have been added to the Longitudinal Administrative Databank (LAD). This databank now spans 25 years, from 1982 to 2006, and contains information about individuals and census families.

The LAD consists of a 20% longitudinal sample of Canadian taxfilers and provides researchers and analysts with a tool for studying the changes in income experienced by individuals and their families. The LAD contains a wide variety of income and demographic variables such as employment income, self-employment income, Registered Retirement Savings Plan contributions, alimony, age, sex, and census family composition. Its large sample ensures

reliable estimates for Canada, the provinces, census metropolitan areas, and some subprovincial regions, based on aggregations of postal codes.

The LAD also contains information from the Longitudinal Immigration Database. It covers almost 600,000 immigrants landed between 1980 and 2003 and provides information on their key characteristics at landing.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4107.

The *Longitudinal Administrative Data Dictionary*, 2006 (12-585-XIE, free) will soon be available. Custom tabulations, including 2006 data, are available (13C0019, various prices).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-652-8443; 613-951-9720; fax: toll-free 1-866-652-8444 or 613-951-4745; saadinfo@statcan.ca), Small Area and Administrative Data Division. ■

New products

**Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators:
Air Quality Indicators: Data Sources and
Methods, 2007**
Catalogue number 16-254-XWE
(free).

**Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators:
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Indicator: Data
Sources and Methods, 2007**
Catalogue number 16-255-XWE
(free).

**Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators:
Freshwater Quality Indicator: Data Sources and
Methods, 2007**
Catalogue number 16-256-XWE
(free).

Wholesale Trade, April 2008, Vol. 71, no. 4
Catalogue number 63-008-XWE
(free).

**Inuit in Canada: Findings from the Aboriginal
Peoples Survey: Survey of Living Conditions in the
Arctic: "Inuit Children's Leisure Time Activities:
Report", no. 4**
Catalogue number 89-627-XWE2008004
(free).

**Inuit in Canada: Findings from the Aboriginal
Peoples Survey: Survey of Living Conditions in the
Arctic: "Inuit Children's Leisure Time Activities:
Fact Sheet", no. 5**
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Catalogue 11-001-XIE (English) 11-001-XIE-0001-0001-0001

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 \$5.0 billion in the first quarter of 2008, led by higher prices for several exported commodities compared 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
Within the releases of the census 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.




Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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Release dates: June 23 to 27, 2008

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
23	Waste management industry: Business and government sectors	2006
24	Preliminary estimates of principal field crop areas	June 2008
24	National balance sheet accounts	First quarter 2008
24	Employment Insurance	April 2008
25	Envirostats	2006
25	Canada's population estimates	April 1, 2008
26	Study: Consumer prices: The year 2007 in review	2007
27	Industrial product and raw materials price indexes	May 2008
27	National tourism indicators	First quarter 2008
27	Payroll employment, earnings and hours	April 2008