

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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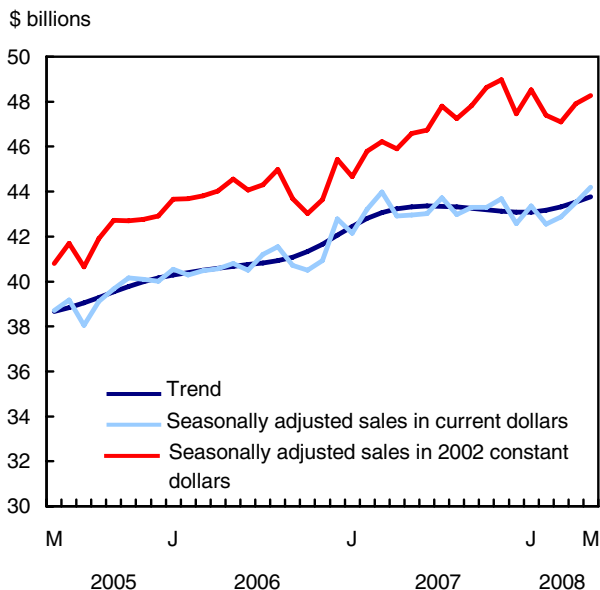
Wholesale trade

May 2008

The value and volume of wholesale trade rose in May, due in large part to higher global demand for agricultural chemical products.

Current dollar wholesale trade rose 1.6% to \$44.2 billion in May, the fourth gain in the last five months. When removing the effect of price changes, sales in constant dollars increased by 0.7% in May.

Wholesale sales continue to increase



Overall, six of seven wholesale sectors reported higher sales values, with the only decline coming from the automotive sector. Both motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts and accessories fell.

Since February 2008, the trend in current dollar wholesale trade has been slightly upwards. This follows a period, from July 2007 to February 2008, where sales had been trending gradually down, largely as a result of a slowdown in exports of motor vehicles and lumber.

Strong gains for agricultural chemical products

The "other products" sector, which consists primarily of agricultural fertilizers and supplies, chemicals, recycled materials and paper products, recorded its

Note to readers

The volume of sales (in constant dollars) is calculated by deflating current dollar sales using import and industry product price indexes. Since many of the goods sold by wholesalers are imported, any fluctuation in the value of the Canadian dollar can lead to differences between the level and growth rates of the volume of sales and those in current dollars. For example, in periods where the Canadian dollar is appreciating, as has recently been the case, prices tend to fall and, as a consequence, the level in volume can be higher than that of current dollars.

The volume of wholesale sales is a chained Fisher volume estimate with 2002 as the reference year.

strongest gain this year as current dollar sales rose 9.5% to \$6.4 billion in May.

Sales of agricultural chemicals such as fertilizers were particularly strong, reflecting strong global demand for these products. Exports of fertilizers and fertilizer materials were 57.7% higher in May compared with the same month in 2007. In addition, based on figures from the Industrial Product Price Index, overall fertilizer prices in May were 27.5% higher than May 2007 prices.

Farm products posted their largest monthly increase in two years, as current dollar sales increased 7.3% in May to \$474.6 million. This strong gain reversed all of the decreases registered in the first five months of 2008.

Saskatchewan and Alberta lead the way

In Saskatchewan, sales increased for a third straight month in May, up 5.8% to \$1.7 billion. Higher sales of building supplies and farm products were largely responsible for the increase.

Sales in Alberta (+4.7%) rose for a fifth consecutive month on the strength of several sectors, notably building supplies, machinery and equipment, and "other products".

Only two provinces showed drops in May: British Columbia (-1.3%), which was affected by declines in the building materials, and the machinery and equipment sectors, and Newfoundland and Labrador (-0.4%).

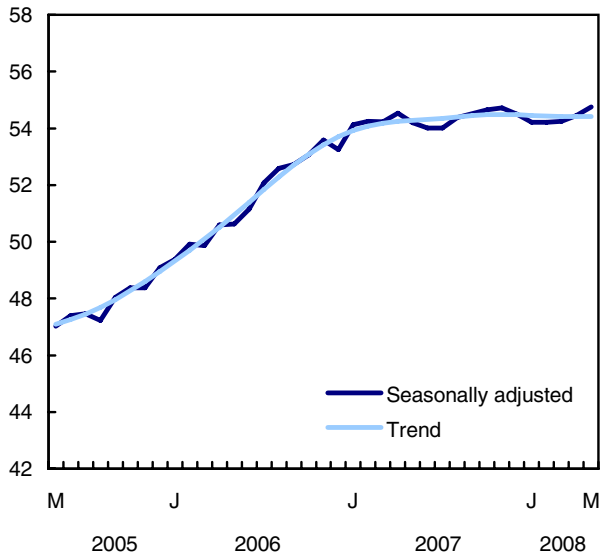
Inventories up for the third month in a row

Inventories rose for the third consecutive month in May, up 0.6% to \$54.8 billion. Overall, 10 out of the 15 trade groups, representing 82% of inventories, reported increases in May.

The inventory-to-sales ratio declined for a second consecutive month, from 1.25 in April to 1.24 in May.

Inventories rise for a third consecutive month

\$ billions



Available on CANSIM: tables 081-0007 to 081-0010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

The May 2008 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008-XWE, free) will soon be available.

Wholesale trade estimates for June will be released on August 19.

To obtain data or general information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Pierre Desjardins (613-951-9682; pierre.desjardins@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

Wholesale merchants' inventories and inventory-to-sales ratio

	May 2007	February 2008 ^r	March 2008 ^r	April 2008 ^r	May 2008 ^p	April to May 2008	May 2007 to May 2008	April 2008 ^r	May 2008 ^p
	Wholesale inventories					Inventory-to-sales ratio			
	seasonally adjusted								
	\$ millions					% change			
Inventories	54,197	54,215	54,252	54,447	54,761	0.6	1.0	1.25	1.24
Farm products	194	156	165	180	173	-4.1	-10.6	0.41	0.36
Food products	4,169	4,238	4,360	4,320	4,347	0.6	4.3	0.63	0.63
Alcohol and tobacco	298	342	354	347	338	-2.5	13.5	0.53	0.50
Apparel	1,651	1,764	1,759	1,741	1,752	0.7	6.1	2.21	2.22
Household and personal products	3,901	4,038	4,081	4,046	4,071	0.6	4.3	1.49	1.45
Pharmaceuticals	3,461	3,608	3,590	3,800	3,780	-0.5	9.2	1.20	1.20
Motor vehicles	4,666	4,539	4,347	4,322	4,285	-0.9	-8.2	0.78	0.78
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,321	3,196	3,259	3,243	3,270	0.8	-1.5	2.09	2.14
Building supplies	5,863	5,989	5,903	5,966	6,028	1.0	2.8	1.60	1.62
Metal products	3,076	2,755	2,776	2,784	2,795	0.4	-9.1	1.79	1.76
Lumber and millwork	1,262	1,088	1,063	1,103	1,078	-2.2	-14.5	1.20	1.14
Machinery and equipment	11,776	11,614	11,570	11,453	11,506	0.5	-2.3	2.38	2.39
Computer and other electronic equipment	1,755	1,573	1,646	1,704	1,712	0.5	-2.4	0.61	0.61
Office and professional equipment	2,617	2,672	2,701	2,661	2,721	2.2	4.0	1.29	1.31
Other products	6,187	6,641	6,680	6,779	6,905	1.9	11.6	1.15	1.07

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Wholesale merchants' sales

	May 2007	February 2008 ^r	March 2008 ^r	April 2008 ^r	May 2008 ^p	April to May 2008	May 2007 to May 2008
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
Total, wholesale sales	42,957	42,550	42,864	43,514	44,203	1.6	2.9
Farm products	469	448	454	442	475	7.3	1.1
Food, beverages and tobacco products	7,371	7,439	7,461	7,518	7,541	0.3	2.3
Food products	6,737	6,791	6,785	6,860	6,863	0.0	1.9
Alcohol and tobacco	634	648	676	658	678	3.1	6.9
Personal and household goods	6,347	6,562	6,463	6,668	6,761	1.4	6.5
Apparel	733	789	747	788	790	0.3	7.8
Household and personal products	2,766	2,730	2,715	2,716	2,811	3.5	1.6
Pharmaceuticals	2,848	3,043	3,001	3,164	3,160	-0.1	11.0
Automotive products	8,071	7,058	7,148	7,114	7,004	-1.5	-13.2
Motor vehicles	6,517	5,558	5,607	5,566	5,478	-1.6	-15.9
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	1,554	1,500	1,542	1,548	1,526	-1.4	-1.8
Building materials	6,336	6,002	6,116	6,206	6,254	0.8	-1.3
Building supplies	3,762	3,630	3,738	3,728	3,727	0.0	-0.9
Metal products	1,454	1,462	1,482	1,558	1,585	1.7	9.0
Lumber and millwork	1,120	911	895	920	942	2.4	-15.9
Machinery and electronic equipment	9,142	9,259	9,477	9,685	9,727	0.4	6.4
Machinery and equipment	4,483	4,641	4,802	4,804	4,820	0.3	7.5
Computer and other electronic equipment	2,581	2,608	2,636	2,816	2,828	0.5	9.6
Office and professional equipment	2,078	2,010	2,040	2,065	2,079	0.6	0.0
Other products	5,219	5,782	5,744	5,881	6,440	9.5	23.4
Total, excluding automobiles	34,885	35,492	35,715	36,400	37,198	2.2	6.6
Sales, province and territory							
Newfoundland and Labrador	239	276	257	254	253	-0.4	5.7
Prince Edward Island	41	38	40	40	40	0.5	-2.4
Nova Scotia	560	580	575	589	592	0.4	5.7
New Brunswick	416	426	424	427	433	1.3	4.0
Quebec	8,133	8,172	8,057	8,079	8,199	1.5	0.8
Ontario	21,935	20,711	21,036	21,397	21,665	1.3	-1.2
Manitoba	1,115	1,106	1,062	1,075	1,083	0.8	-2.8
Saskatchewan	1,163	1,414	1,589	1,599	1,691	5.8	45.3
Alberta	4,881	5,368	5,463	5,516	5,774	4.7	18.3
British Columbia	4,394	4,370	4,290	4,447	4,390	-1.3	-0.1
Yukon	12	14	12	14	12	-12.8	6.6
Northwest Territories	64	70	58	74	66	-11.3	2.6
Nunavut	3	3	2	3	4	24.8	25.8

^r revised

^p preliminary

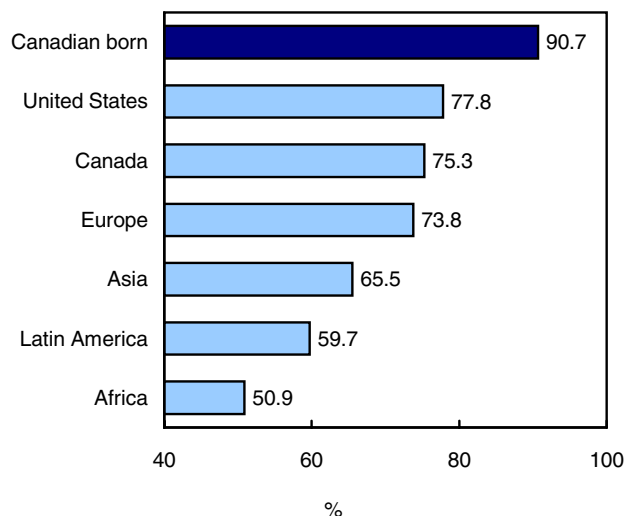
Note: Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

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Study: Canadian immigrant labour market: Analysis by region of highest postsecondary education 2007

As immigrants integrate into the Canadian labour market, many initially face difficulties finding employment. A new study reveals that even university-educated immigrants aged 25 to 54 who arrived in Canada within the previous five years were less likely to be employed in 2007 than their Canadian born counterparts. This was true regardless of the country in which they obtained their degree.

Employment rate for university-educated immigrants aged 25 to 54 who landed in Canada between 2002 and 2007, by location of education, 2007 annual average



Employment rates for these immigrants varied according to where they received their university degree, with those educated in Western countries generally having higher rates than those educated elsewhere.

The gap in employment rates between degree-holding immigrants and the Canadian born, however, narrowed the longer an immigrant had been in Canada. For university-educated immigrants who had landed in Canada more than 10 years earlier, their employment rate in 2007 was comparable to that of the Canadian born.

Note to readers

Studies have shown that newcomers to Canada experience challenges entering the labour market. For example, difficulties with recognition of foreign credentials, as well as insufficient knowledge of official languages, contribute to earnings and employment rate gaps between immigrants and the Canadian born. Studies have also indicated, however, that these gaps are narrower for immigrants who have been in Canada for longer periods of time.

This study, the fourth in a series of analytical articles based on data on immigrants from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), examines the relationship between the countries where immigrants received their highest level of postsecondary education and their labour market outcomes in 2007.

To better understand the labour market experiences of immigrants, the LFS began collecting information in January 2006 that specifically identified working-age immigrants (those aged 15 and over).

Five questions were added to the survey to identify immigrants and to determine when they had landed in Canada, in which country they were born and where they had received their highest level of education. These questions, added as a result of a partnership with Human Resources and Social Development Canada and Citizenship and Immigration Canada, now allow the LFS to provide regular information on the immigrant labour market.

The first report of the series, released in The Daily on September 10, 2007, provided an overview of immigrants in the labour force in 2006. The second addressed how well immigrants from specific countries of birth fared in the Canadian labour market in 2006. The third provided an update on the labour market outcomes of immigrants based on 2007 data.

A final report, scheduled for the fall of 2008, will examine the characteristics of immigrant employment in Canada, such as industry and occupation of employment, wages, average hours worked, union status, full-time/part-time status and unpaid overtime hours.

Over one-third of immigrants have a university degree

In 2007, 37% or 1.2 million immigrants of core working age, those aged 25 to 54, had a university degree, compared with only 22% of the core working-age Canadian born. The difference was even more pronounced among those who immigrated between 2002 and 2007, with more than half of these immigrants, or 320,000, having a university degree.

Within that group of recent newcomers, over half had received their highest degree in Asia, followed distantly by Europe, Canada, Africa, Latin America and the United States.

Recent newcomers with Canadian degrees have lower employment rates

In 2007, out of all core working-age immigrants with a degree, one in three, or more than 420,000, had obtained their highest degree in Canada. Most of these

Canadian-educated immigrants had arrived in Canada before 1997.

About 28,000 core working-age immigrants who landed between 2002 and 2007 received their highest degree in Canada. Despite their Canadian education, the employment rate in 2007 for these newcomers was 75.3%, much lower than the average of 90.7% for their Canadian born, university-educated counterparts.

Age and school attendance influence immigrant employment rates

There are a number of reasons why immigrants, particularly those who had landed more recently, may have had difficulty finding employment. Past studies have pointed to difficulties such as foreign credential recognition, language barriers, comparability of educational attainment, lack of Canadian work experience and knowledge of the Canadian labour market.

The study shows that age and school attendance also affect the degree to which highly-educated immigrants are active in the economy.

In 2007, newcomers who landed between 2002 and 2007 and who had a Canadian university degree were, on average, five years younger than Canadian born with degrees. Given their age and relatively short time span since landing, these immigrants were less likely to have significant Canadian work experience, or overall work experience, than their Canadian born peers.

In 2007, university-educated Canadian born, and immigrants who landed in the previous five years, differed in their school attendance. Almost 1 in 5 immigrant university graduates were attending school in Canada in 2007, even though they already had a university degree, compared with 1 in 15 of their Canadian born counterparts.

For those immigrants with a Canadian degree, school attendance was even higher, with 1 in 3 back in school.

The majority of all university-educated immigrants attending school who arrived between 2002 and 2007 were not working or looking for work, while most degree-holding Canadian born students were either working or looking for work.

Gender was also an important factor. Immigrant women represented nearly half of university-educated immigrants who arrived between 2002 and 2007. However, their participation in the labour force was significantly lower, particularly for those born or educated in Asia.

Employment gap between foreign-educated immigrants and Canadian born smaller for immigrants who had been in Canada longer

The gap in employment rates between degree-holding immigrants and the Canadian born narrowed the longer an immigrant had been in Canada. Among university-educated immigrants who had landed in Canada more than 10 years earlier, about 60% had a Canadian university degree. These immigrants had an employment rate in 2007 comparable to that of the Canadian born.

On average, these immigrants were much closer in age to their Canadian born peers. This, combined with their time in Canada, likely provided them with the tools and work experience to improve their chances of getting employment.

There were still some significant gaps in employment rates, however, for those with degrees from foreign institutions compared with the Canadian born. In 2007, for example, there were 108,000 immigrants who received a degree in Asia and had landed in Canada before 1997; their employment rate was 7.1 percentage points lower than their Canadian born counterparts.

High employment rates for Ontario and British Columbia immigrants with a Canadian degree, but low in Quebec

This study also explores the employment rates of immigrants aged 25 to 54 within the three provinces where the vast majority of immigrants choose to settle: Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec.

Quebec had the highest proportion of immigrants who had a Canadian university degree, regardless of period of landing. British Columbia, which has a high proportion of Asian immigrants, had the highest share of immigrants with a degree from Asia. In Ontario, immigrants with Asian or Canadian degrees were most common.

In Ontario and British Columbia, immigrants with Canadian degrees had employment rates similar to those of Canadian born graduates regardless of their landing period. In Quebec, however, immigrants with Canadian degrees who had arrived since 1997 had an employment rate well below that of their Canadian born counterparts.

In the three provinces, the employment rate among university-educated immigrants who arrived prior to 1997 was close to that of their Canadian born counterparts, with one notable exception: for the 61,000 Asian-educated immigrants in Ontario who arrived prior to 1997, their employment rate was below that of their Canadian born counterparts.

Low employment rates for immigrants with postsecondary diplomas from most regions and periods of landing

In 2007, 29% or about 900,000 immigrants aged 25 to 54 had a postsecondary certificate or diploma (excluding a university degree). With few exceptions, immigrants with this level of education, regardless of when they landed or where they received their diploma, had employment rates well below that of similarly-educated Canadian born.

The most notable exception was immigrants with diplomas who had landed before 1997 and had obtained their postsecondary diploma within Canada. This group, representing almost half of all immigrants with diplomas, had an employment rate that was comparable with that of their Canadian born counterparts.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.

The study, "The Canadian immigrant labour market in 2007: Analysis by region of postsecondary education," is now available as part of *The Immigrant Labour Force Analysis Series* (71-606-XWE2008004, free). From the *Publications* module of our website, under *Free Internet publications*, choose *Labour*.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jason Gilmore (613-951-7118, jason.gilmore@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division. ■

Leading indicators

June 2008

The composite leading index was unchanged in June after increases of 0.1% in April and 0.2% in May. Both new orders for manufactured goods and the housing index turned down, after exceptional gains the month before. Elsewhere, household spending remained the driving force behind growth, a reflection of strong labour market conditions.

Consumer spending on durable goods continued to grow strongly so far this year. Average hourly earnings have increased by 4.4% since June 2007, twice the rate of inflation from May 2007 to May 2008. The downturn in the housing index followed a sharp turnaround in May.

Manufacturing remained mixed. The drop in new orders continues its seesaw pattern of recent months. This volatility partly originates in the growing importance in manufacturing of the aerospace industry, where orders also tend to fluctuate markedly from month to month. Inventories levelled off, and higher output in April suggests firms at least temporarily were satisfied with the ratio of stocks to shipments. The average workweek

also stabilized in May and June, and employment growth at factories resumed in these two months.

The leading index for the United States fell 0.1%, its smallest decline since October 2007. Gains in manufacturing orders helped offset lower consumer confidence and building permits.

Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1601.

This release will be reprinted in the August 2008 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 21, no. 8 (11-010-XWB, free), which will soon be available. For more information on the economy, consult the *Canadian Economic Observer*.

A more detailed analysis of the components is available online.

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

	January 2008	February 2008	March 2008	April 2008	May 2008	June 2008	Last month of data available % change
Composite leading indicator (1992=100)	228.6	228.0	227.8	228.0	228.5	228.6	0.0
Housing index (1992=100) ¹	143.9	141.4	141.2	138.8	141.0	139.5	-1.1
Business and personal services employment (thousands)	2,877	2,882	2,895	2,905	2,919	2,934	0.5
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	13,880	13,777	13,522	13,572	13,748	14,010	1.9
Money supply, M1 (\$ millions, 1992) ²	170,267	170,620	171,422	171,980	172,239	172,262	0.0
US Conference Board leading indicator (1992=100) ³	125.5	125.2	124.8	124.5	124.3	124.2	-0.1
Manufacturing							
Average workweek (hours)	38.2	38.1	38.0	37.9	37.9	37.9	0.0
New orders, durables (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	26,815	25,924	26,001	26,012	26,322	25,398	-3.5
Shipments/inventories of finished goods ⁴	1.82	1.80	1.79	1.79	1.76	1.75	-0.01 ⁵
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	2,761	2,776	2,798	2,817	2,834	2,843	0.3
Other durable goods sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	9,276	9,406	9,497	9,596	9,662	9,713	0.5
Unsmoothed composite leading indicator	229.6	227.6	227.6	228.7	229.2	229.7	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.

Canadian potato production

2008 (preliminary)

Canadian farmers, excluding Quebec producers, reduced their 2008 area planted with potatoes by 4% from last year.

Saskatchewan as well as Newfoundland and Labrador recorded no change, while the remaining provinces decreased their plantings. Alberta showed the greatest decrease (-8%), followed by British Columbia (-6%) and Nova Scotia (-4%). The remaining provinces were all down by 3%.

Note: Quebec data are not comparable between 2007 and 2008 due to a revision in the list of producers. Consequently, the provincial agency is reviewing the 2007 area planted values and may incorporate revisions with the November 2008 release to account for these additional operations.

Available on CANSIM: tables 001-0014 and 001-0045.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3401, 3407, 3446 and 3465.

The July 2008 issue of *Canadian Potato Production*, Vol. 6, no. 1 (22-008-XWE, free) is now available. From the *Publications* module of our website under *Free Internet Publications*, choose *Agriculture*.

This publication contains tables from the United State's National Agricultural Statistics Service. These potato tables will become an ongoing part of this release. They contain area planted and harvested, production and value estimates by harvest season.

For more information, call Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, call Barbara McLaughlin (902-893-7251; barbara.mclaughlin@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Stocks of frozen poultry meat

July 1, 2008 (preliminary)

Stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on July 1 totalled 78 123 metric tonnes, up 20.2% from a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0023 to 003-0024.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3425.

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. ■

Primary iron and steel

May 2008

Data on primary iron and steel are now available for May.

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0048 to 303-0051.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2116 and 2184.

The May 2008 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-XWE, free) will soon be available.

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; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

Monthly Survey of Large Retailers

May 2008

Data for the Monthly Survey of Large Retailers are now available for May.

Available on CANSIM: table 080-0009.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5027.

A data table is also available under the *Summary tables* module of our website.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Abdulelah Mohammed (613-951-7719), Distributive Trades Division. ■

New products

Industry Classification Coding System (ICCS),
Version 1.4, 2008
Catalogue number 12F0074XCB (\$300).

Canadian Potato Production, July 2008, Vol. 6, no. 1
Catalogue number 22-008-XWE
(free).

Canada's International Transactions in Securities,
May 2008, Vol. 74, no. 5
Catalogue number 67-002-XWE
(free).

The Immigrant Labour Force Analysis Series:
"The Canadian immigrant labour market in 2007:
Analysis by region of postsecondary education",
no. 4
Catalogue number 71-606-XWE2008004
(free).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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Catalogue 11-001-XIE (English) 11-001-XIE-1000-1000-1000

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 level of imports. 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 boundaries 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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22	Retail trade	May 2008
22	Film and video distribution	2006
22	Employment Insurance	May 2008
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24	Participation and Activity Limitation Survey	2006
24	Employment Insurance Coverage Survey	2007
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