BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 08-06 February 8, 2008

- **Unemployment rate inches down to 4.1% in January**
- **Value of building permits increased 20.8% in December; up 8.7% for 2007**
- **Crime rate drops 4.9% in 2006**

Labour Force

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate inched down to 4.1% in January; a decline of 0.1 percentage points from the previous month.** This change in the jobless rate came about as growth in employment (+0.5%), in particular full-time positions (+0.9%), outpaced the increase in the number of people either working or looking for work (+0.4%) last month.

  British Columbia's unemployment rate remains among the lowest in the country as jobless rates in the western provinces continue to be well below the national average (5.8%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Employment in BC's goods sector jumped ahead by 1.2% in January as manufacturing, the province's largest employer in the goods sector, expanded (+1.9%) for the first time since September of 2007.** The forestry, mining & fishing industry, on the other hand, shed jobs (-5.5%), while the number of workers in construction remained relatively unchanged (-0.1%) from the previous month.

  The province's services sector also recorded solid growth (+0.4%) as most industries in the sector saw an increase in employment. While the number of jobs in the trade industry declined (-2.7%) for the third consecutive month, employment increased in the professional, scientific & technical (+6.9%), education services (+4.6%) and health care & social assistance (+4.4%) industries.. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Northeast (2.4%, *3-month moving-average; unadjusted*) continued to experience the lowest unemployment rate in BC.** The highest unemployment rate among the regions was found in North Coast/Nechako at 8.4%, however, this was a decrease of 0.9 percentage points from the previous. In Kootenay, the unemployment rate fell to 4.8% while rising jobless rates in both Victoria (3.0%) and Nanaimo (5.7%) pushed unemployment in Vancouver Island/Coast (4.5%) higher. In Thompson-Okanagan (4.8%) where an increase in the unemployment rates in Kamloops (7.0%), Kelowna (4.9%) and Vernon (3.1%) contributed to push the jobless rate higher in that region.

  Cariboo's unemployment rate inched higher by 0.2 percentage points to 5.2% in January, while in Mainland/Southwest, the unemployment rate was left unchanged at 3.6%. In Vancouver, the unemployment rate held firm at 3.7%.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada
  (Note: unemployment rate for Northeast is calculated by BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada)

Economy

- **Housing starts in the province are expected to slow (-15.2%) in 2008 and dip again (-4.7%) in 2009, according to the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).** Higher land prices along with the rising cost of labour and materials will push housing prices higher. CMHC forecasts that the number of single-unit home starts in BC will drop (-14.5%) in 2008 as is expected to be the case for multiple-unit homes (-15.6%). Likewise, CMHC predicts that resales of existing homes will be somewhat lower (-7.6%) though remain at above-average levels in 2008 as mortgage rates rise.

  Data Source: CMHC

- **The value of building permits issued by municipalities in British Columbia rose 20.8% (*seasonally adjusted*) in December.** Increases were recorded in the value of residential permits (+20.4%), while a jump in the value of

Did you know...

In 2006, Canada produced 31 million roses. That's over 2.5 million bouquets of a dozen!

Data Source: Statistics Canada

commercial sector permits (+51.3%) outweighed declines in the industrial (-12.3%) and institutional (-15.0%) sectors, pushing the total value of non-residential intentions higher by 21.6%.

There was considerable variability in the value of building permits among the province's urban centres. While Vancouver (+30.2%) and Kelowna (+20.6%) reported considerable gains in December, the value of planned building projects in both Abbotsford (-17.6%) and Victoria (-45.5%) was down sharply.

Nationally, the value of permits issued inched higher (+0.4%) as gains in residential permits (+1.8%) compensated for a decline in planned non-residential projects (-2.0%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

2007 in Review

- **The value of building permits issued in BC totalled over $12.5 million by the close of 2007, an increase of 8.7% over the previous year.** The increase was almost entirely due to a rise in the value of residential permits (+13.0%) as the value of projects for non-residential construction was flat (0.2%) with declines in both the industrial (-9.8%) and institutional (-10.8%) sectors almost completely offsetting an increase in the commercial sector (+6.1%).

  Nationally, eight provinces posted gains in December. Gains made in Ontario (+14.7%), Alberta (+12.8%) and Quebec (+9.2%) were among the most significant. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Most regions of the province recorded a higher total value (*unadjusted, year-to-date January to December*) of building permits issued in 2007.** Building intentions were highest in the Cariboo (+51.3%) where planned construction in residential, industrial and commercial projects soared. Nechako (+25.5%), Kootenay (+22.1%) and Thompson/Okanagan (+21.5%) all recorded significant double-digit increases in the value of permits issued, while growth recorded in Vancouver Island/Coast (+8.3%), North Coast (+6.5%) and Mainland/Southwest (+5.1%) was more moderate. Northeast (-19.9%) was the only region to post a downturn in the value of permits for 2007.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

Beer, Wine and Spirits

- **Nearly 384 million litres (+2.61%) of liquor, including domestic and imported beers, wines, spirits, coolers and ciders, worth more than $3 billion (+6.52%) was sold in BC in 2007.** All types of alcohol saw a rise in sale, particularly imported varieties of wine (+13.5%), beer (+11.6%) and spirits (+10.4%) which grew considerably faster than their domestic counterparts. *Data Source: BC Liquor Distribution Branch*

Crime Statistics

- **The overall crime rate in BC declined 4.9% to 113.6 offences per 1,000 population in 2006.** The violent crime rate inched higher (+0.2%) largely as a result of an increase in the number of robberies (+2.7%) and non-sexual assaults (+1.8%). The property crime rate, on the other hand declined 8.7% as the number of reported thefts (-6.9%), particularly motor vehicle theft (-15.1%), has been steadily declining since a peak in 2003. The number of other crimes reported inched slightly higher (+0.2%) in 2006.

  Data Source: Crime Statistics in British Columbia 2006, Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General, BC

- **Crime rates in BC's most populated municipalities declined in 2006.** Richmond (-11.8%), Kelowna (-9.3%) and Coquitlam (-6.9%) reported the largest crime rate decreases and Vancouver (-0.9%) also reported a lower crime rate. While the crime rate in Victoria (-2.7%) was down, communities surrounding the capital including View Royal (+34.8%), Colwood (+22.7%) and Langford (+18.6%) reported significantly higher crime rates in 2006.

  Data Source: Municipal Crime Rate Report, Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General, BC

Participation in Sport

- **Following the national trend, participation in sport by British Columbians aged 15 years and older dropped from 35.8% in 1998 to 26.3% in 2005.** An aging population and a lack of time are cited as reasons for the decline in participation. It is noted, however, that many do not take part in organized sport, but regularly engage in other physical activities such as jogging and gardening. *Data Source: SC, Catalogue 81-595-MIE2008060*

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February 8, 2008

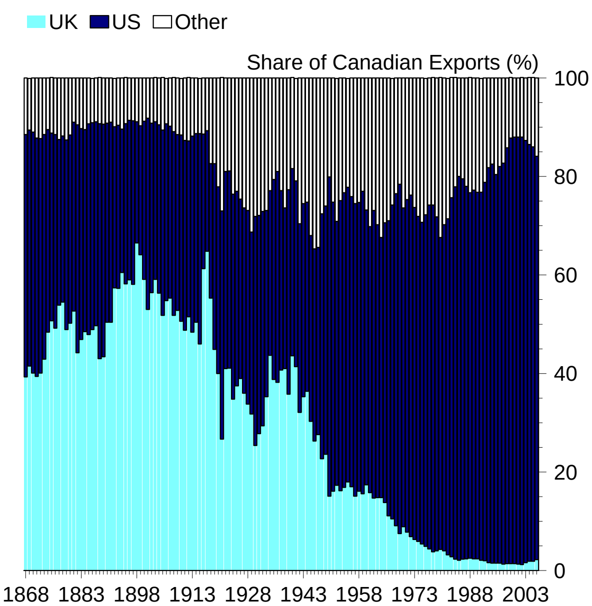
Contact: Dan Schrier
(250) 387-0376
Originally published in
Exports Issue 07-11

Over 100 Years of Canadian Exports

Since Confederation, the volume and destination of Canadian merchandise exports have been influenced by a combination of geo-political and economic events, ranging from the two world wars to Canada's international trade agreements.[1] From the beginning, the United States was one of the most significant trade partners for Canada, which, given its proximity and the size of its economy, should not come as much of a surprise. However, the American abrogation of the reciprocity treaty (a free trade agreement between Canada and the US) in 1866, just before Confederation, put pressure on Canada to find new markets for its goods.

Through much of the first 50 years of Canadian Confederation, the United Kingdom was the top destination for Canadian commodity exports, often importing more than half the value of all goods shipped out of Canada. In the early years of World War I, shipments to the United Kingdom climbed to over 60% as Canada helped supply war-torn Europe with grain, clothing, weapons and metal manufactures. The total value of Canadian exports almost quadrupled from the beginning of the war in 1914-15 to a few years later in 1917-18, but once the war was over, demand from Europe fell and so too did the value of goods exported from Canada. There was also a shift in the destination of Canadian goods, back to the United States, which hit an all-time low of less than 30% of Canadian exports during the war period, but recovered its share to around 35%-40% once the war ended.

The United States has been a significant trade partner for Canada since Confederation



Source: Canada Year Book / Statistics Canada

While the United States received a similar share of Canadian exports before and after the war, the same was not true of the United Kingdom. Following World War I, shipments to the UK slipped below 40% for the first time in 50 years and never really recovered to their previous lofty levels.

The effect of the two world wars on Canadian trade can most clearly be seen by examining trade with Germany. Prior to the First World War, Canada shipped around one percent of its exports to Germany. During the war, since Germany was an enemy to Canada, naturally exports fell to zero. Between the two world wars, trade with Germany not only recovered, but grew significantly, peaking at 3.5% in the late 1920s.

[1] Note that export data prior to 1988 are extracted from annual editions of the Canada Year Book and may include some unrevised data. Data prior to 1937 were reported on a fiscal year basis, rather than by calendar year. In earlier years not all countries were reported and some were grouped together, so figures reported by world region may not be exact. Total Canadian exports include Newfoundland prior to 1901, but Newfoundland has been subtracted from the total thereafter. Similarly, the United States includes Hawaii and Alaska from 1901 onward.

With World War II, Canada and Germany were once again enemies and trade fell to zero once more. It took a little longer for exports to Germany to recover after World War II, but by the 1950s, Canada was exporting more goods than ever to Germany, peaking at 4.2% in 1958. Since that time, the share of Canadian exports to Germany has been trending down, to less than one percent of total shipments, although Germany remains one of Canada's top 10 export destinations.

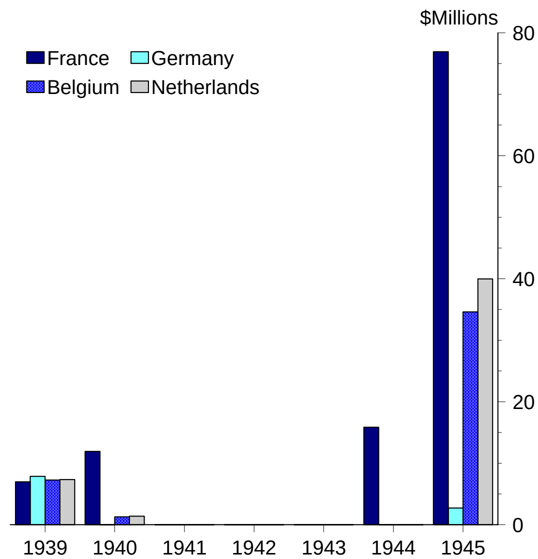
Canada's trade with Germany has fluctuated dramatically over the last century

Source: Canada Year Book / Statistics Canada

As with World War I, the end of World War II resulted in a substantial drop in the value of Canadian exports as demand from Europe fell for goods not available domestically during the conflict.

The Canadian trade data provides an interesting record of the events of the war. By examining the value of exports to countries in Europe, one can plainly see the timeline of German occupation (i.e., when Canadian exports to those countries fell to zero).

Canadian export data tells the story of occupation during World War II

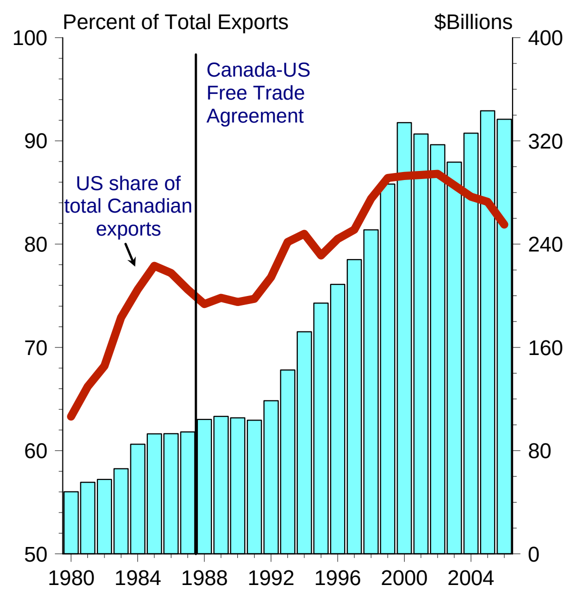


Source: Canada Year Book

While post-war reconstruction played a significant role in the volume and destination of Canadian exports following World War II, nevertheless the shift towards the United States was underway. The United Kingdom was far less influential on Canadian trade and its share of Canadian commodity exports trended down from 30% at the end of the war to less than 2% by the 1990s. At the same time, the share of exports to the US climbed to 60% through the 1950s and early 1960s, then rose to close to 70% through the 1970s and inched up further to 75% in the 1980s.

The signing of the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement (CUFTA) in late 1987 was the catalyst for a burst of growth in Canadian exports. Although there was little change for the first few years of the agreement, once the tariff walls came down in accordance with the agreement's schedule, exports to the United States began to climb and the share of Canada's exports headed south rose to as high as 87% by 2000.

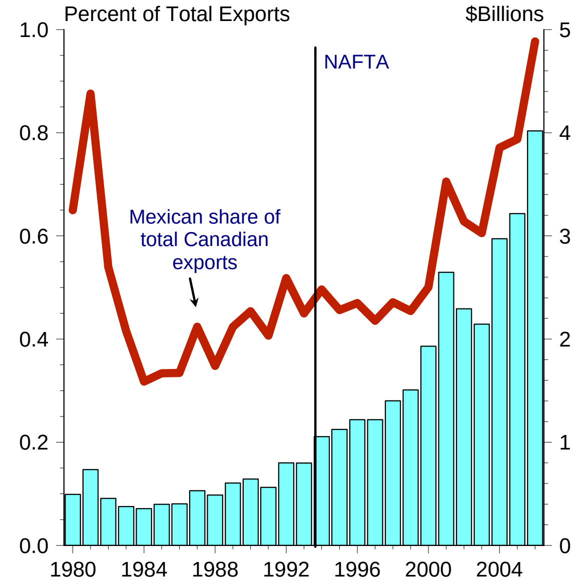
The share of Canadian exports shipped to the United States climbed to over 80% once the Canada-US free trade deal came into full force



Source: Statistics Canada

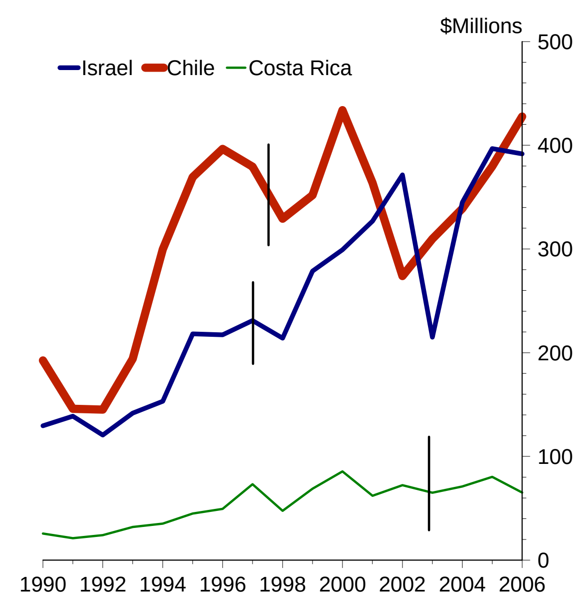
The subsequent addition of Mexico to the trade agreement (NAFTA) helped boost Canada's trade with that country with the value of exports to Mexico quintupling from \$799 million in 1993 to over \$4 billion in 2006. Mexico's share of total Canadian exports doubled in that period from less than half a percent to almost one percent in 2006. While exports to Mexico are still dwarfed by trade with the United States, Mexico has now moved up to rank fifth as a destination for Canadian goods. Canada's other free trade deals, with Israel, Chile and Costa Rica, have been far less successful in boosting exports with those countries. The aggregate value of exports to those three countries totalled was less than \$0.9 billion in 2006 with only Israel showing any appreciable growth.

The value of Canadian exports to Mexico has quintupled since NAFTA was signed and the share of total exports has doubled



Source: Statistics Canada

Canada's other free trade deals have not appeared to have much of an effect on the volume of exports



Source: Statistics Canada

Vertical bars represent dates of free trade agreements

Top 10 Canadian Commodity Export Destinations,

Country	Export Value ($Millions)	% of Total
United Kingdom	$127.5	54.8%
United States	$83.5	35.9%
British West Indies[2]	$2.7	1.2%
France	$2.1	0.9%
Australia	$2.1	0.9%
Argentina	$1.9	0.8%
British Africa[3]	$1.8	0.8%
Germany	$1.7	0.7%
Cuba	$1.2	0.5%
Belgium	$1.2	0.5%

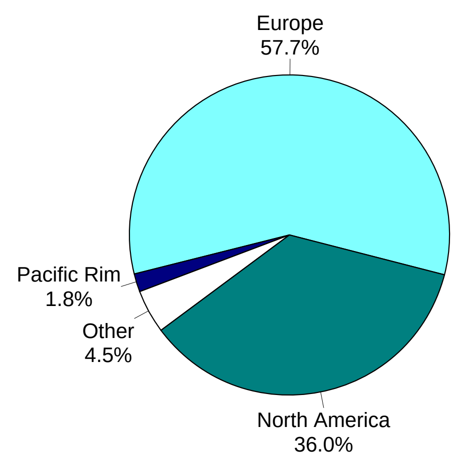
Top 10 Canadian Commodity Export Destinations,

Country	Export Value($Millions)	% of Total
United States	$336,706.7	81.9%
Japan	$9,221.1	2.2%
United Kingdom	$9,219.0	2.2%
Mainland China	$7,182.8	1.7%
Mexico	$4,017.8	1.0%
Germany	$3,482.2	0.8%
South Korea	$3,188.3	0.8%
Netherlands	$2,786.3	0.7%
France	$2,411.3	0.6%
Belgium	$2,335.7	0.6%

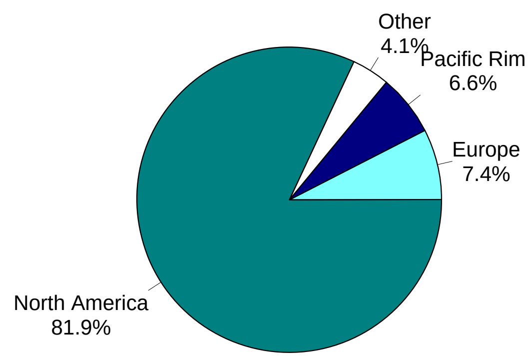
The changing political and economic structure of the world has altered the face of Canadian exports dramatically in the last century. A look at the top ten destinations for exports from Canada in 1906 compared to 2006 gives a very different picture of the market for Canadian goods. In 1906 the United Kingdom was the top destination for goods from Canada with almost 55% of Canadian exports shipped there, followed by the United States at 36%. Other British territories were important destinations for Canadian goods as evidenced by the aggregate of British West Indies countries ranking third and British African countries ranking seventh. Some countries, such as France, Germany and Belgium were top ten destinations then and have remained top ten destinations, but Argentina and Cuba were far more significant to Canada's export picture in 1906 compared to today. Cuba ranked 37th as a destination for Canadian exports in 2006 and Argentina came in at 54th.

Canada's Trade has shifted away from Europe and toward North America and the Pacific Rim

1906



2006

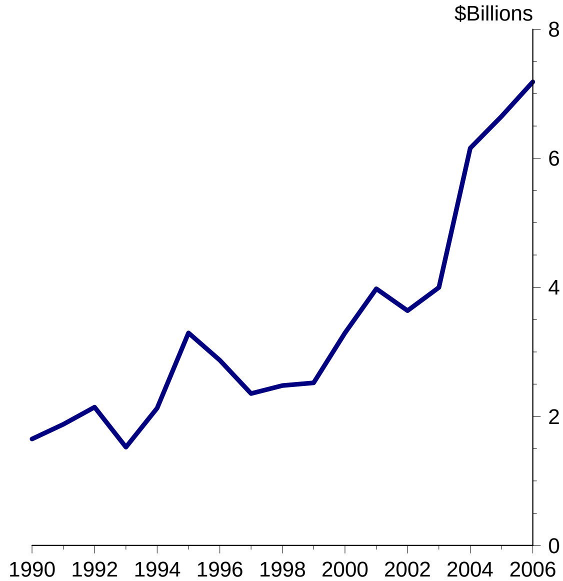


[2] British West Indies included Barbados, Bermuda, Jamaica, Leeward and Windward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago.

[3] British Africa would have roughly included the regions that today represent Botswana, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

One can easily see from the pie charts above that there has been a definite shift in exports away from European destinations and toward North America (mostly the United States) and the Pacific Rim. Three Asian countries were among the top ten destinations for Canadian exports in 2006: Japan, Mainland China and South Korea. Japan has been a significant destination for Canadian exports since the 1920s (except for the World War II period where exports fell to zero after the bombing of Pearl Harbour), but China and South Korea are a much more recent development. China's exploding economy has resulted in a surge in demand for goods, particularly raw materials, and Canada's exports to that country have risen as a result.

Canadian exports to Mainland China have grown dramatically in the last decade



Source: Statistics Canada

The last hundred years has witnessed a shift away from Canada's Commonwealth roots and toward the United States in terms of destination of exports. In more recent years, Asian destinations have taken in a greater share of Canadian goods. As China continues to develop, we could see the stranglehold that the US has on Canadian goods start to erode. Nevertheless, given the proximity of the United States to Canada, the common language, similar customs and the established trade relationships that already exist, it is unlikely that the US share of Canadian exports will drop all that far any time soon.

Understanding and Interpreting Data

This is a practical statistical course that covers the basic aspects of survey data analysis. This course will appeal to novice analysts and those who are required to interpret statistical findings. It provides an overview of basic types of research as well as analytical requirements. This is followed by a short treatment of survey sampling and types of data. Some of the analytical techniques that will be covered include cross tabulations, chi-square and some aspects of linear regression. The workshop includes a hands on data analysis exercise and a discussion on the principles for presenting results.

- Analytical requirements and sources of data
- Survey design and sampling methods
- Types of Data
- Confidence intervals
- Grouping and graphic data
- Analytical techniques
- Interpreting and presenting analytical results

Victoria—February 27-28, 2008
Harbour Towers Hotel
Room 207, 345 Quebec St.
Victoria, BC

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8:30 am—4:30 pm
Refreshments will be served throughout the day.

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The workshop fee will be refunded (subject to a $75 administration charge) if intention to cancel is received in writing at least 3 business days before the first day of the workshop. Within 3 business days before the first day of the workshop, no refunds will be given.

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- Client satisfaction vs. employee satisfaction
- Fundamentals of collecting data and maximizing response

Questionnaires

- Question structure; open and closed questions
- Rating scales
- Questionnaire design; wording, sequencing and layout

Sampling Methods

- Probability vs. non-probability sampling
- Sample types and exit surveys
- The factors affecting sample size

Processing and Analysis

- The "drivers" of satisfaction
- Summarizing, graphing and presenting survey findings

Early Bird deadline February 26th— Don't miss it!

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Register 2 weeks before the workshop date

March 11-12, 2008
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Refreshments will be served throughout the day.

HW

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Canada

Infoline

February 8, 2008
Issue 08-06

Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the **Internet** at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Oct 1/07	% change on one year ago
BC	4,402.9	1.5
Canada	33,091.2	1.0
GDP and INCOME (Revised Nov 8)		% change on
(BC - at market prices)	2006	one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	180,328	6.4
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	158,335	3.3
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita)*	36,649	1.9
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1997 per Capita)*	23,996	5.0
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Nov	3,482	-1.8
Merchandise Exports - Nov	2,510	3.9
Retail Sales - Nov	4,762	0.2
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Dec 2007)	one year ago	% change
BC	1.2	Annual 1.8
Vancouver	1.3	average 2.0
Victoria	0.6	from 1.2
Canada	2.4	Stats Can 2.2
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Jan '08	prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,403	0.4
Employed - BC	2,305	0.5
Unemployed - BC	98	-2.9
		Dec '07
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	4.1	4.2
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	5.8	6.0
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Feb 6/08	Feb 7/07
Prime Business Rate	5.75	6.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	7.35	6.50
- 5 year	7.39	6.65
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Feb 6/08	Feb 7/07
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0026	1.1852
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9939	0.8440
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jan '08	one year ago
BC	771.68	3.8
Canada	770.02	5.1

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

High Technology - 2007

Input Indicators of the British Columbia High Technology Sector - 2007 Edition

This publication highlights conditions affecting the province's high technology sector from a supply-side perspective by tracking 37 business and economic climate indicators for BC, with comparisons to other provinces.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/busind/hi_tech.asp#HTpubs

Topic Tables – 2006 Census

What are the top languages spoken at home in your community? Where were a community's immigrants born? A different approach.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen06/topics/topics.asp

2007 Municipal Populations

Total population for municipalities and Regional Districts for July 1, 2007, as well as revised figures for 2002 to 2006, are now online.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/estspop.asp

Area Profiles

There is a new link in the **RESOURCES** tab found at the bottom of our left sidebar. This page acts as a gateway to all our area profile products. Each profile paints a statistical picture of an area using maps, charts, tables, rankings, comparisons, and more. Eight thousand individual files are available now.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/dd/profiles.asp

Released this week by BC Stats
- Business Indicators, January 2008
- Tourism Sector Monitor, January 2008
- Labour Force Statistics, January 2008
- Earnings & Employment Trends, January 2008
- Immigration Highlights, Third Quarter 2007
- **Next week**
- Exports, December 2007