

The Daily

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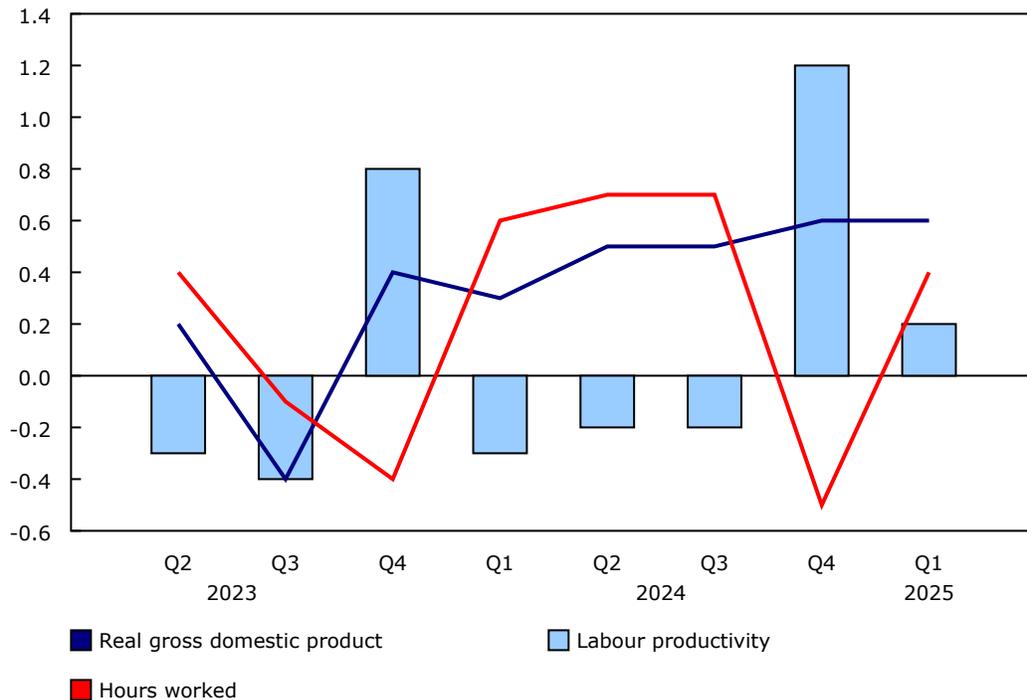
Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, first quarter 2025

Productivity continues to grow in the first quarter, but at a more modest pace than in the previous quarter

Labour productivity of Canadian businesses grew 0.2% in the first quarter of 2025, a marked slowdown compared to the 1.2% growth observed in the fourth quarter of 2024. This also represents a second consecutive quarterly increase—the first time there have been consecutive quarterly increases since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chart 1
Productivity growth slows sharply in the first quarter

quarterly % change



Note(s): Q = quarter.
Source(s): Table 36-10-0206-01.

In the first quarter, hours worked devoted to the production in the business sector rebounded after a quarter of decline. Meanwhile, growth in business output continued at the same pace as in the previous quarter but outpaced the growth in hours worked.

Real gross domestic product of businesses rose 0.6% in the first quarter, an identical pace to the previous quarter.

Goods-producing businesses are mainly responsible for the overall growth in productivity

In the first quarter, the overall growth in productivity was mainly attributable to goods-producing businesses. Productivity growth in goods-producing businesses, which had reached 0.3% in the previous quarter, accelerated to 0.8% in the first quarter, with four of the five sectors posting increases.

In service-producing businesses, productivity declined 0.5% in the first quarter, after rebounding sharply in the previous quarter (+1.3%).

Overall, productivity rose in half of the 16 main industry sectors in the first quarter. Wholesale trade (+2.6%), agriculture and forestry (+2.0%) and utilities (+1.5%) recorded the largest gains, while real estate (-3.9%) posted the largest decline.

Hours worked rebound after a quarter of decline

Hours worked in the business sector rebounded 0.4% in the first quarter of 2025, following a 0.5% decline in the previous quarter.

The growth in hours worked in the first quarter reflects the 0.8% increase in the number of jobs, while hours worked per job decreased 0.4%.

In the first quarter, the growth in hours worked was mainly attributable to service-producing businesses (+0.6%), while hours worked in goods-producing businesses were essentially unchanged.

Overall, hours worked increased in 10 of the 16 main industry sectors and were essentially unchanged in accommodation and food services.

Unit labour costs decline for the first time in five quarters

Unit labour costs—that is, the cost of labour required to produce one unit of output—of businesses declined 0.3% in the first quarter, after increasing in the previous four quarters.

This decline observed in the first quarter reflects a marked slowdown in the growth of hourly compensation (from 1.6% in the fourth quarter of 2024 to a slight decrease of 0.1% in the first quarter of 2025), while productivity increased 0.2%.

Sustainable Development Goals

On January 1, 2016, the world officially began implementing the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)—the United Nations' transformative plan of action that addresses urgent global challenges over the following 15 years. The plan is based on 17 specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The release "Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost" is an example of how Statistics Canada supports the reporting on the global SDGs. This release will be used to help measure the following goal:



Learn more about labour productivity

To learn more about productivity, the factors that influence it and why it matters for Canadians, listen to the Eh Sayers podcast episode, "[Why economists are sounding the alarm on productivity.](#)"

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Note to readers

Revisions

With this release, data were revised back to the first quarter of 2024 at the aggregate and industry levels. These data updates are consistent with those incorporated in the release on quarterly gross domestic product (GDP) by income and expenditure and the release on monthly GDP by industry, released on May 30, 2025.

This release also incorporates the new 2024 benchmark data on provincial and territorial labour productivity and related measures, published on May 20, 2025.

Productivity measures

The term **productivity** in this release refers to labour productivity. For the purposes of this analysis, labour productivity and related variables cover the business sector only.

Labour productivity is a measure of real GDP per hour worked.

Unit labour cost is defined as the cost of workers' wages and benefits per unit of real GDP.

The approach to measuring real output in the business sector differs from the one that is used in the estimates by industry. For the business sector, output is measured using the expenditure-based GDP approach at market prices, while the measure of output by industry is based on the value-added approach at basic prices.

All the growth rates reported in this release are rounded to one decimal place. They are calculated with index numbers rounded to three decimal places, which are now available in data tables.

All necessary basic variables for productivity analyses (such as hours worked, employment, output and compensation) are seasonally adjusted. For information on seasonal adjustment, see [Seasonally adjusted data – Frequently asked questions](#).

Next release

Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost data for the second quarter of 2025 will be released on September 3, 2025.

Table 1
Business sector: Labour productivity and related variables for Canada¹ – Seasonally adjusted

	First quarter 2023	Second quarter 2023	Third quarter 2023	Fourth quarter 2023	First quarter 2024	Second quarter 2024	Third quarter 2024	Fourth quarter 2024	First quarter 2025
	% change from the previous quarter								
Canada									
Labour productivity	-0.8	-0.3	-0.4	0.8	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2	1.2	0.2
Real gross domestic product (GDP)	1.0	0.2	-0.4	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6
Hours worked	1.8	0.4	-0.1	-0.4	0.6	0.7	0.7	-0.5	0.4
Hourly compensation	1.0	2.1	1.3	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.4	1.6	-0.1
Unit labour cost	1.8	2.4	1.7	-0.1	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.4	-0.3
Unit labour cost in US dollars	2.3	3.0	1.8	-1.6	1.8	-0.9	0.9	-2.1	-2.8
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Second quarter 2024	Third quarter 2024	Fourth quarter 2024	First quarter 2025
	% change from the previous year					% change from the same quarter of the previous year			
Canada									
Labour productivity	8.9	-4.9	-0.6	-2.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.5	0.9
Real GDP	-6.8	6.7	4.8	1.1	1.1	0.7	1.6	1.9	2.3
Hours worked	-14.0	11.7	5.4	3.3	1.1	0.8	1.6	1.4	1.3
Hourly compensation	12.8	-1.3	4.7	4.9	3.0	2.8	1.9	2.8	2.2
Unit labour cost	3.5	3.9	5.3	7.1	3.0	3.0	1.8	2.3	1.2
Unit labour cost in US dollars	2.5	11.1	1.4	3.3	1.4	1.1	0.2	-0.4	-4.8

1. Calculations of growth rates are based on index numbers rounded to three decimal places.

Source(s): Table 36-10-0206-01.

Table 2
Labour productivity and related measures, by business sector industry, seasonally adjusted, first quarter 2025

	Real gross domestic product	Hours worked	Labour productivity	Total compensation per hour worked
	% change from the previous quarter			
Business sector, goods	0.8	-0.0	0.8	0.8
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	-0.3	-2.3	2.0	5.5
Mining and oil and gas extraction	1.4	1.6	-0.3	-1.4
Utilities	3.5	1.9	1.5	-4.3
Construction	0.3	-0.3	0.6	2.8
Manufacturing	0.4	0.3	0.2	-0.9
Business sector, services	0.2	0.6	-0.5	-0.5
Wholesale trade	1.5	-1.1	2.6	-0.4
Retail trade	0.2	-0.1	0.3	-1.7
Transportation and warehousing	0.1	2.0	-1.8	-0.1
Information and cultural industries	0.3	-0.1	0.4	-0.6
Finance and insurance, and holding companies	0.6	1.1	-0.5	-0.8
Real estate and rental and leasing	-2.0	1.9	-3.9	-3.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	-0.3	0.6	-0.9	0.8
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	0.5	1.7	-1.2	1.7
Arts, entertainment and recreation	0.0	0.2	-0.2	2.5
Accommodation and food services	1.2	0.0	1.1	-1.0
Other business services	0.3	1.2	-0.9	-2.3

Source(s): Table [36-10-0207-01](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [5042](#).

Available tables: [36-10-0206-01](#) and [36-10-0207-01](#).

The document "[Labour productivity measurement at Statistics Canada](#)," which is part of *Latest Developments in the Canadian Economic Accounts* ([13-605-X](#)), is available.

The study, "[Canadian regional labour statistics and inter-regional movements of paid workers, 2001 to 2021](#)," which is part of *Latest Developments in the Canadian Economic Accounts* ([13-605-X](#)), is available.

The [Economic accounts statistics](#) portal, accessible from the *Subjects* module of the Statistics Canada website, features an up-to-date portrait of national and provincial economies and their structures.

The *Latest Developments in the Canadian Economic Accounts* ([13-605-X](#)) is available.

The *User Guide: Canadian System of Macroeconomic Accounts* ([13-606-G](#)) is available.

The *Methodological Guide: Canadian System of Macroeconomic Accounts* ([13-607-X](#)) is available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca).

Mining industries: Annual principal statistics, 2023

Principal statistics from the Annual Mineral Production Survey are now available for reference year 2023. The tables present employment and financial data for the mining industry using the North American Industry Classification System at the national, provincial and territorial levels.

In 2023, total revenues for the metal ore mining and the non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying industry groups decreased 9.3% compared with the previous year to \$59.7 billion.

Total expenses for the metal ore mining and the non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying industry groups increased 8.6% compared with 2022 to \$43.2 billion in 2023.

For every dollar of revenue generated in 2023, establishments in the metal ore mining and the non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying industry groups incurred \$0.73 in expenses, up from \$0.61 in 2022.

Focus on Canada and the United States

The United States was Canada's top trading partner for metal ores and non-metallic minerals in terms of the trade value of exports and imports in 2024. The trade value of Canada's metal ores and non-metallic mineral exports to the United States was \$6.4 billion, while the trade value of imports was \$4.3 billion. This represents positive net exports of \$2.1 billion to the United States. Compared with 2023, the trade values of exports (-\$739 million) and imports (-\$314 million) were both down in 2024. Therefore, the net exports of metal ores and non-metallic minerals to the United States decreased by \$425 million in 2024.

The United States represented 23.9% of Canada's metal ores and non-metallic mineral exports in 2024, followed by China (20.3%) and Japan (8.9%). Potash was the top mineral product exported to the United States, at \$4.2 billion in 2024. Potash represented 65.2% of Canada's metal ores and non-metallic mineral exports to the United States. This was followed by diamonds and other non-metallic minerals (except cut gemstones)—representing 13.1% of exports to the United States, with a trade value of \$844 million—and stone, sand, gravel, clay, and refractory minerals, representing 9.0% of exports to that country, with a trade value of \$582 million.

For more data and insights on areas touched by the socio-economic relationship between Canada and the United States, see the [Focus on Canada and the United States](#) webpage.

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Note to readers

Beginning with data collection for the 2019 reference year, the Annual Mineral Production Survey has been conducted as part of Statistics Canada's Integrated Business Statistics Program. This transition followed a full content review and redesign of the Minerals and Metals Production Statistics Program in the fall of 2018, in partnership with Natural Resources Canada.

Data for Quebec are collected by the Institut de la statistique du Québec.

Data from previous years can be found on the [Production of Canada's Leading Minerals](#) page of the Natural Resources Canada website.

Available tables: [16-10-0031-01](#) and [16-10-0032-01](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [5246](#).

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Mining industries: Annual energy consumption, 2023

Energy consumption statistics from the Annual Mineral Production Survey are now available for 2023. The tables present data on energy expenses and quantities purchased by types of energy for the mining industry using the North American Industry Classification System at the national, provincial and territorial levels.

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Data for Quebec are collected by the Institut de la statistique du Québec.

Data from previous years can be found on the [Production of Canada's Leading Minerals](#) page of the Natural Resources Canada website.

Available tables: [16-10-0029-01](#) and [16-10-0030-01](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [5246](#).

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Canadian Coroner and Medical Examiner Database, January 2006 to May 2025

New data from the Canadian Coroner and Medical Examiner Database (CCMED) are now available upon request. The CCMED is a database developed at Statistics Canada in collaboration with the provincial and territorial Chief Coroners and Chief Medical Examiners and the Public Health Agency of Canada. The CCMED combines information from 12 provincial and territorial databases to provide national level information on the circumstances related to deaths reported to and investigated by coroners and medical examiners.

The data from the CCMED are also available in the [research data centres](#).

The availability of national-level information about circumstances of deaths strengthens the ability to respond and protect Canadians from further preventable deaths.

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Note to readers

Data for Manitoba are not currently available in the Canadian Coroner and Medical Examiner Database. Data are preliminary and may be updated with future releases as death investigations are finalized.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [5125](#).

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Weekly aircraft movements, May 17 to 23, 2025

Weekly data on aircraft itinerant movements are now available for May 17 to 23, 2025.

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Note to readers

These weekly estimates are for airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers and are drawn from the same source as the monthly Aircraft Movement Statistics program (2715), for which data are available two months after the reference period. Because the weekly estimates are released before the two-month period is over, there are some differences in methods and data processing. As a result, the weekly estimates are not of the same quality as the monthly statistics and should be viewed only as preliminary estimates.

With each release, data for previous periods may be revised.

Available tables: table [23-10-0287-01](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [5325](#).

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Canadian foreign post indexes, June 2025

Data on Canadian foreign post indexes are now available for June.

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Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [2322](#).

The June 2025 issue of *Canadian Foreign Post Indexes* ([62-013-X](#)) is now available.

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New products and studies

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