



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, February 6, 2003  
Released at 8:30 am Eastern time

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Building permits, annual 2002 and December 2002** 2  
Municipalities issued \$45.9 billion in building permits in 2002, breaking the previous annual record of \$40.0 billion set in 1989. The feverish demand right across the country for new housing was the cornerstone of this exceptional year. Non-residential construction intentions, as a result of their sluggishness at the beginning of the year, were below their 2001 level.

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Building permits

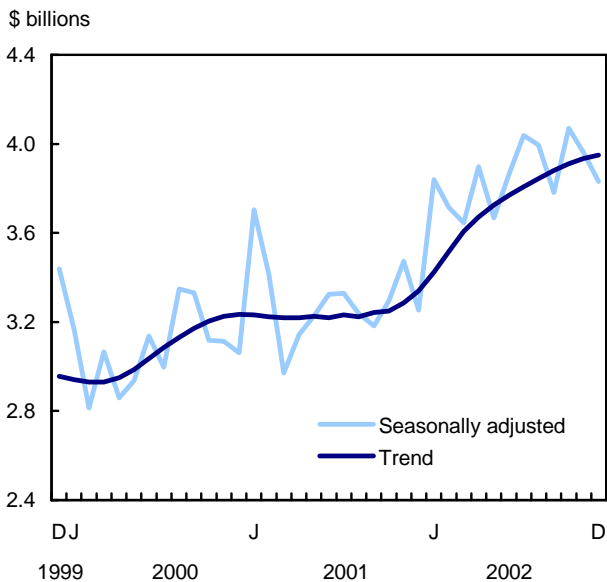
Annual 2002 (preliminary) and December 2002

Municipalities issued \$45.9 billion in building permits in 2002, breaking the previous annual record of \$40.0 billion set in 1989. The feverish demand right across the country for new housing was the cornerstone of this exceptional year. Non-residential construction intentions, as a result of their sluggishness at the beginning of the year, were below their 2001 level.

Last year's \$45.9 billion annual (preliminary) total was a 16.0% increase from 2001 and a seventh straight annual increase in overall construction intentions.

The value of residential permits totalled \$29.0 billion in 2002, up 32.1% from 2001, fuelled by strong increases for both single- and multi-family dwellings. For the first time since 1989, the 200,000-unit mark was surpassed for a single year, as municipalities authorized the construction of 212,400 new dwelling units in 2002.

#### Total value of permits decline in December



The value of non-residential permits retreated to \$16.8 billion in 2002, down 4.1% from 2001, as record intentions for institutional construction partly offset significant declines in the industrial and commercial components.

Regionally, Toronto and Vancouver led the pack in terms of annual growth (in dollars). Both were powered

#### Note to readers

This release presents seasonally adjusted monthly data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations. The annual totals correspond to the sum of the unadjusted monthly figures and are preliminary.

The Building and Demolitions Permits Monthly Survey covers 2,350 municipalities representing 95% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 5% of the population are very small, and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total.

The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (for example, waterworks, sewers or culverts) and land.

by vigorous construction intentions in the residential sector. Twenty-five of the 28 metropolitan areas showed increases from 2001.

In December, the value of building permits declined for a second consecutive month, down 3.2% to \$3.8 billion. Non-residential building permits dropped 14.8% to \$1.4 billion, as the commercial and institutional components retreated. Residential permits remained high, however, increasing 4.6% to \$2.5 billion, as both single- and multi-family components gained ground.

#### Residential sector sets a flood of new records

In 2002, permits for single-family dwellings (which represent more than 70% of the residential sector) totalled \$20.9 billion, up 32.0% from 2001. The increase came from feverish demand for new single-family dwellings and from the rising cost of building these new units. A total of 127,450 of these new units were authorized, 29.0% more than in 2001; the average estimated construction cost increased 4.7%.

The value of multi-family permits advanced 32.3% in 2002 and totalled \$8.1 billion. Gains came from all types of multi-family dwellings — semi-detached (+8.3%), row house (+39.0%) and apartment (+38.8%).

These great results arose from a combination of several factors. The highest annual growth rate in employment since 1987, very low mortgage rates, the scarcity of dwellings available for rent or sale, and rising disposable income together created exceptional conditions that attracted consumers to the new home market.

All provinces, territories and metropolitan areas showed growth in residential construction intentions in 2002. The Atlantic provinces, Quebec, Ontario,

Alberta and the Northwest Territories all set new annual highs in terms of value of residential permits. As well, 14 metropolitan areas reached new annual peaks in the residential sector. These are good indications that the housing boom hit every part of the country.

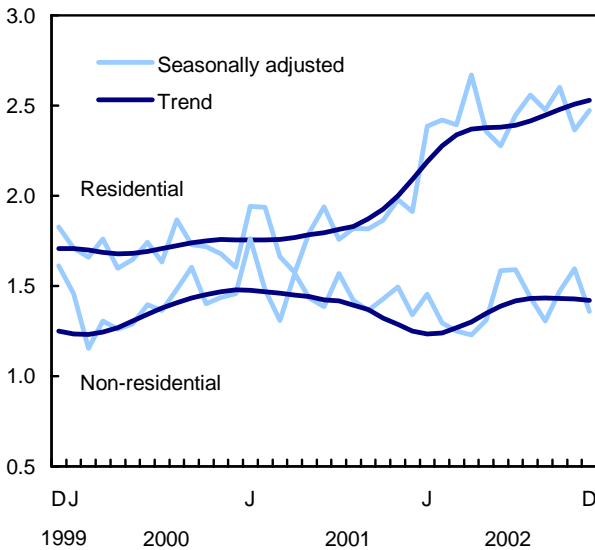
**Single- and multi-family permits both up in December**

The value of single-family permits totalled \$1.8 billion in December, up 5.1% from November, the fourth monthly increase in five months. Also climbing, multi-family permits rose 3.1% to \$685 million.

Among the provinces, the largest increases (in dollars) in the residential sector in December occurred in British Columbia (+22.1%) and Alberta (+14.2%). In Alberta, December's \$451 million was higher than the previous peak (\$427 million) reached in July 2002. December's largest drop was in Quebec (-10.3%), a third consecutive monthly decline.

**Residential and non-residential sectors move in opposite directions**

\$ billions



**Non-residential posts second highest annual figures in 13 years**

Despite a 4.1% drop, the non-residential sector recorded its second highest annual value in the last 13 years, reaching \$16.8 billion. Record institutional intentions partly offset significant declines in the industrial and commercial components.

The institutional component was the only component to record an annual increase within the non-residential sector. Institutional permits reached a

record \$5.5 billion, up 8.5%, driven mainly by the social services and educational categories.

In Ontario, the double cohort of students who will enter their first year of university or college is reflected in the province's higher institutional construction intentions. As well, Quebec reached a record high in 2002, the result of increased construction intentions in the educational category.

Commercial intentions fell for the second year in a row in 2002, down 8.4% from 2001 to \$8.1 billion. Mainly, the decline was due to fewer projects in the office buildings category. Office vacancy rates were higher in 2002, but the commercial vacancy rates fell in many centres as retail sales improved. The higher construction intentions seen in 2001 for office buildings may have stalled demand for this type of building.

The industrial component dropped 11.1% to \$3.2 billion, the lowest level since 1996. A strong drop in the manufacturing plant category caused this decrease, as fewer large projects were planned.

Fourteen of the 28 census metropolitan areas posted annual decreases in the value of their non-residential permits. The largest decline occurred in the Montréal area, followed closely by Toronto. Both areas were down from 2001, mainly because of fewer construction intentions in the office buildings category. The strongest increase was in St. Catharines–Niagara, where the restaurant and hotel category turned in large growth.

Among the provinces, Quebec posted the largest decline (-13.7% to \$3.4 billion), as decreases in the industrial and commercial components more than offset an increase in the institutional component. The most significant growth in dollar terms in 2002 was in Ontario (+8.3% to \$7.8 billion), leading to that province's highest annual value since 1989.

**Non-residential sector hit by a strong drop in commercial intentions in December**

The lowest commercial construction intentions since January 1998 pushed the non-residential sector down sharply in December (-14.8% to \$1.4 billion).

Following a strong November, commercial permits fell 22.8% to \$556 million. The fall was seen in all construction categories except service stations. The largest loss occurred in Ontario (-45.3% to \$173 million).

After two monthly rises, the value of permits for institutional projects dropped 17.2% to \$508 million, largely because of decreases in the social services and medical categories. Ontario recorded the largest decline (-36.1% to \$241 million), following a record high in October and a virtually unchanged value in November.

Intentions in the industrial component increased 12.8% to \$295 million, reflecting a large increase in the manufacturing plant category. Mainly, the lift came from a large project in Saskatchewan.

Among the provinces, decreases in the commercial and institutional components led Ontario to the largest drop in December in the non-residential sector (-31.6% to \$572 million). Conversely, a large gain in the industrial component led Saskatchewan to December's strongest increase (+151.7% to \$72 million).

**Available on CANSIM: tables 026-0001 to 026-0008, 026-0010 and 026-0015.**

**Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2802.**

### Value of building permits

Census metropolitan area	November 2002 <sup>r</sup>	December 2002 <sup>p</sup>	November to December 2002	2001	2002	2001 to 2002
				Seasonally adjusted		Not seasonally adjusted
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
St. John's	19.3	21.4	10.7	182.0	247.7	36.1
Halifax	53.4	39.8	-25.5	317.0	469.2	48.0
Saint John	7.0	5.0	-28.6	80.1	98.1	22.5
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	12.2	9.2	-24.5	171.1	174.7	2.1
Québec	54.4	72.0	32.3	770.0	812.3	5.5
Sherbrooke	10.6	7.0	-33.8	164.6	182.4	10.8
Trois-Rivières	24.8	10.1	-59.2	118.8	169.8	43.0
Montréal	467.0	447.9	-4.1	4,218.1	4,614.5	9.4
Hull	34.1	30.3	-11.1	322.9	457.7	41.8
Ottawa	100.1	110.8	10.6	1,518.6	1,655.4	9.0
Kingston	32.4	8.8	-72.8	157.5	285.3	81.1
Oshawa	97.4	47.8	-50.9	609.1	786.5	29.1
Toronto	769.6	740.3	-3.8	8,233.9	9,222.2	12.0
Hamilton	83.2	66.1	-20.6	831.0	1,080.2	30.0
St. Catharines-Niagara	49.3	77.1	56.6	388.9	726.3	86.8
Kitchener	48.9	78.8	61.1	999.5	960.4	-3.9
London	83.0	52.1	-37.1	697.2	723.3	3.7
Windsor	93.6	29.8	-68.2	571.7	725.9	27.0
Sudbury	24.5	4.0	-83.7	123.4	178.9	45.0
Thunder Bay	10.2	26.6	159.8	107.6	186.1	73.0
Winnipeg	37.3	48.5	30.2	416.3	476.8	14.5
Regina	13.9	16.7	20.2	187.7	161.1	-14.2
Saskatoon	18.1	16.9	-6.6	282.5	287.4	1.7
Calgary	223.3	266.1	19.2	2,309.2	2,713.2	17.5
Edmonton	195.9	167.6	-14.4	1,461.7	1,798.9	23.1
Abbotsford	15.1	13.5	-10.1	188.5	184.9	-1.9
Vancouver	318.0	397.7	25.1	2,983.1	3,579.6	20.0
Victoria	38.7	27.5	-29.1	359.4	447.6	24.5

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

**Note:** Data may not add to totals because of rounding.

The December 2002 issue of *Building permits* (64-001-XIE, \$14/\$145) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

The January building permit estimate will be released March 6.

To order data, contact Vere Clarke (613-951-6556 or 1-800-579-8533; [clarver@statcan.ca](mailto:clarver@statcan.ca)). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; [saineti@statcan.ca](mailto:saineti@statcan.ca)), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

**Value of building permits**

Provinces/territories	November 2002 <sup>r</sup>	December 2002 <sup>p</sup>	November to December 2002	2001	2002	2001 to 2002
	Seasonally adjusted			Not seasonally adjusted		
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>3,960.0</b>	<b>3,831.9</b>	<b>-3.2</b>	<b>39,555.1</b>	<b>45,896.1</b>	<b>16.0</b>
Residential	2,365.5	2,473.5	4.6	21,995.5	29,048.1	32.1
Non-residential	1,594.6	1,358.5	-14.8	17,559.6	16,848.0	-4.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	30.2	29.8	-1.3	298.3	381.4	27.8
Residential	19.1	15.4	-19.7	185.6	241.1	29.9
Non-residential	11.1	14.4	30.6	112.7	140.2	24.4
Prince Edward Island	11.4	9.3	-18.2	217.2	143.3	-34.0
Residential	8.3	6.7	-20.1	64.3	96.3	49.9
Non-residential	3.0	2.6	-13.0	152.9	47.0	-69.2
Nova Scotia	82.2	70.5	-14.3	699.9	879.7	25.7
Residential	67.5	53.5	-20.7	467.8	626.6	34.0
Non-residential	14.8	17.0	15.4	232.2	253.0	9.0
New Brunswick	49.4	51.3	3.9	535.1	660.7	23.5
Residential	28.7	37.2	29.8	284.4	370.4	30.2
Non-residential	20.8	14.1	-31.9	250.7	290.3	15.8
Quebec	782.7	741.0	-5.3	7,571.1	8,618.7	13.8
Residential	456.2	409.0	-10.3	3,647.1	5,231.8	43.5
Non-residential	326.5	332.0	1.7	3,924.0	3,386.9	-13.7
Ontario	1,831.4	1,591.4	-13.1	17,768.3	20,991.3	18.1
Residential	994.5	1,019.0	2.5	10,543.1	13,168.9	24.9
Non-residential	836.9	572.4	-31.6	7,225.2	7,822.4	8.3
Manitoba	57.3	71.0	23.9	739.2	882.6	19.4
Residential	35.2	36.8	4.7	340.7	443.2	30.1
Non-residential	22.1	34.2	54.6	398.5	439.4	10.3
Saskatchewan	47.2	97.0	105.7	703.3	711.5	1.2
Residential	18.6	25.1	35.1	222.0	275.2	24.0
Non-residential	28.6	71.9	151.7	481.3	436.3	-9.3
Alberta	570.6	604.2	5.9	5,911.7	6,821.3	15.4
Residential	394.6	450.7	14.2	3,351.3	4,606.5	37.5
Non-residential	176.0	153.6	-12.7	2,560.4	2,214.8	-13.5
British Columbia	491.9	558.8	13.6	4,954.8	5,653.5	14.1
Residential	338.8	413.8	22.1	2,829.9	3,886.9	37.4
Non-residential	153.1	145.0	-5.3	2,124.9	1,766.6	-16.9
Yukon	2.3	3.5	55.2	49.8	31.3	-37.2
Residential	1.7	2.8	68.3	16.1	22.0	36.5
Non-residential	0.6	0.7	16.1	33.6	9.2	-72.6
Northwest Territories	2.5	3.6	44.7	76.0	79.0	4.0
Residential	2.1	3.1	48.0	27.7	55.7	100.8
Non-residential	0.4	0.6	29.0	48.2	23.3	-51.6
Nunavut	1.1	0.4	-62.0	30.4	41.9	37.7
Residential	0.2	0.4	72.2	15.5	23.4	50.7
Non-residential	0.9	0.1	-93.6	14.9	18.5	24.2

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

**Note:** Data may not add to totals because of rounding.

## OTHER RELEASES

### Help-wanted Index

January 2003

The Help-wanted Index (1996=100) fell for the sixth consecutive month to 111.6, down 1.7% from December.

The largest declines were in Quebec (-2.3%), Ontario (-1.6%) and Saskatchewan (-1.1%). The only recorded increases were in Prince Edward Island (+1.5%) and Nova Scotia (+1.0%).

### Help-wanted Index (1996=100)

	Jan. 2003	Dec. 2002	Jan. 2002	Dec. 2002 to Jan. 2003	Jan. 2002 to Jan. 2003
	Seasonally adjusted and smoothed			% change	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>111.6</b>	<b>113.5</b>	<b>125.8</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>-11.3</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	146.6	147.2	183.5	-0.4	-20.1
Prince Edward Island	176.5	173.9	195.1	1.5	-9.5
Nova Scotia	126.6	125.3	133.7	1.0	-5.3
New Brunswick	153.6	155.2	157.6	-1.0	-2.5
Quebec	108.3	110.8	120.6	-2.3	-10.2
Ontario	119.8	121.8	132.7	-1.6	-9.7
Manitoba	137.9	139.3	152.6	-1.0	-9.6
Saskatchewan	119.9	121.2	133.5	-1.1	-10.2
Alberta	122.4	123.3	139.6	-0.7	-12.3
British Columbia	85.5	86.3	96.1	-0.9	-11.0

**Note:** The Help-wanted Index is compiled from the number of help-wanted ads published in 22 newspapers in 20 metropolitan areas and is considered an indicator of labour demand, measuring companies' intentions to hire new workers. The index has been seasonally adjusted and smoothed to ease month-to-month comparisons.

Available on CANSIM: table 277-0002.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2606.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; [labour@statcan.ca](mailto:labour@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091) or Jamie Brunet (613-951-6684), Labour Statistics Division. ■

### Marriages

1999

The number of couples who got married increased for the first time in three years in 1999, although the total was still far short of the most recent high.

A total of 155,742 couples were married in 1999, a 1.9% increase from 1998. The number of marriages had been on the decline since 1995, when it reached 160,251.

The crude marriage rate in 1999 was unchanged at 5.1 for every 1,000 inhabitants. This was well below the rate of 7.0 in both 1988 and 1989, which followed a surge in remarriages after changes to the *Divorce Act*.

Every province recorded an increase except British Columbia (-0.6%) and Quebec (-0.1%), where the number dropped marginally. The number of marriages also decreased in the territories. The biggest increases were in Newfoundland and Labrador (+7.9%), Nova Scotia (+6.8%) and Prince Edward Island (+5.7%). The growth rate was more than 2% in the remaining provinces.

### Marriages

	1998	1999	1998 to 1999 % change
	Number		% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>152,821</b>	<b>155,742</b>	<b>1.9</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	3,150	3,400	7.9
Prince Edward Island	882	932	5.7
Nova Scotia	5,134	5,481	6.8
New Brunswick	4,063	4,147	2.1
Quebec	22,940	22,910	-0.1
Ontario	64,533	66,110	2.4
Manitoba	6,437	6,627	3.0
Saskatchewan	5,740	5,919	3.1
Alberta	17,813	18,223	2.3
British Columbia	21,749	21,622	-0.6
Yukon	167	161	-3.6
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	213	210	-1.4
Northwest Territories	..	117	..
Nunavut	..	93	..

.. Data not available.

The average age of brides was 31.3 years in 1999, an increase of 2.5 years from 1989 and 5.5 years from 1979. First-time brides were, on average, younger, with a mean age of 27.8 years in 1999. The average for previously-divorced brides was 40.5 years, and for previously widowed brides, 55.7 years.

The average age of grooms has risen in a similar fashion, reaching 33.8 years in 1999. This was

an increase of 2.4 years from 1989, and 5.4 years from 1979.

First-time grooms were also younger, on average, with a mean age of 29.8 years in 1999. The average for previously divorced grooms was 44.0 years, and for previously widowed grooms, 62.6 years.

Since 1979, the proportion of brides who had been previously divorced has increased substantially. In 1999, they accounted for 21.6% of the total, compared with only 14.1% two decades earlier.

First-time brides accounted for 75.6% of the total in 1999, down from 82.5% in 1979. The proportion of previously widowed brides fell from 3.4% to 2.8%.

The trend among grooms was similar. From 1979 to 1999, the proportion of grooms who had been previously divorced rose from 15.6% to 22.1%.

First-time grooms accounted for 81.3% of the total in 1979, but by 1999, their proportion had declined to 75.1%. In 1999, previously widowed grooms accounted for 2.8% of the total, down from 3.1% two decades earlier.

The increase in the average age of brides during this 20-year period was largely due to the rise in the age of marriage among first-time brides. The same was true for grooms.

**Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 3232.**

*Marriages, 1999* (84F0212XPB, \$20) will be available soon. To order this product or custom tabulations, contact Client Custom Services (613-951-1746; [hd-ds@statcan.ca](mailto:hd-ds@statcan.ca)).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Patricia Tully (613-951-1759; [patricia.tully@statcan.ca](mailto:patricia.tully@statcan.ca)) or Leslie Geran (613-951-5243; [leslie.geran@statcan.ca](mailto:leslie.geran@statcan.ca)), Health Statistics Division. ■

**Steel primary forms — weekly data**

Week ending February 1, 2003 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending February 1 totalled 324 491 metric tonnes, up 5.9% from 306 519 tonnes a week earlier and 6.9% from 303 450 tonnes in the same week of 2002.

The year-to-date total as of February 1 was 1 370 097 tonnes, up 2.9% from 1 331 926 tonnes in the same period of 2002.

**Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2131.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; [manufact@statcan.ca](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

**Cement**

December 2002

Data on cement are now available for December.

**Available on CANSIM: table 303-0001.**

**Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2140.**

The December 2002 issue of *Cement*, Vol. 54, no. 12 (44-001-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; [manufact@statcan.ca](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

**Aircraft movement statistics: Small airports**

July 2002

There were 88,932 take-offs and landings recorded in July at the 111 airports without air traffic control towers, down 3.5% from July 2001 when 112 airports reported 92,205 take-offs and landings.

The July 2002 monthly report, Vol. 2 (TP141, free) is available on Transport Canada's website (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/Report/tp141e/tp141.htm>).

**Note:** The TP141 monthly report is issued in two volumes. Volume 1 presents statistics for the major Canadian airports (those with Nav Canada air traffic control towers or flight service stations). Volume 2 presents statistics for the smaller airports (those without air traffic control towers). Both volumes are available free upon release at Transport Canada's website.

For more information about this website, contact Michel Villeneuve (613-990-3825; [villenm@tc.gc.ca](mailto:villenm@tc.gc.ca)) or Sheila Rajani (613-993-9822; [rajanis@tc.gc.ca](mailto:rajanis@tc.gc.ca)).

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**Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2715.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this

release, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141; fax: 613-951-0010; [aviationstatistics@statcan.ca](mailto:aviationstatistics@statcan.ca))  
Transportation Division. ■



## NEW PRODUCTS

Cement, December 2002, Vol. 54, no. 12  
Catalogue number 44-001-XIB (\$5/\$47).

Labour force information, week ending  
January 18, 2003  
Catalogue number 71-001-XIE (\$8/\$78).  
Available at 7 am Friday, February 7

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

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB are electronic versions on diskette and -XCB are electronic versions on compact disc.

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Catalogue 11-001-XIE (11-001-XIE) (11-001-XIE) (11-001-XIE)

**The Daily**  
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997  
For release at 9:30 a.m.

**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, 65th Canadian cities an average of about 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4  
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was initially weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- **Highered Index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **EGY production, April 1997** 12

**PUBLICATIONS RELEASED** 11

Statistics Canada  
Canada

### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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