



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Canadian international merchandise trade, July 2003**

Exports and imports of merchandise both increased in July. Canadian companies sent \$32.7 billion of goods abroad, up 0.5% from June. At the same time, they brought in \$28.3 billion of goods, a 1.2% increase.

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- **Working hours in Canada and the United States, 1979 to 2000**

Americans aged 16 to 69 increasingly worked more hours than Canadians throughout the 1990s, according to a new study examining average annual hours. This hours gap was likely related to the sluggish economic growth in Canada relative to the United States during much of the 1990s.

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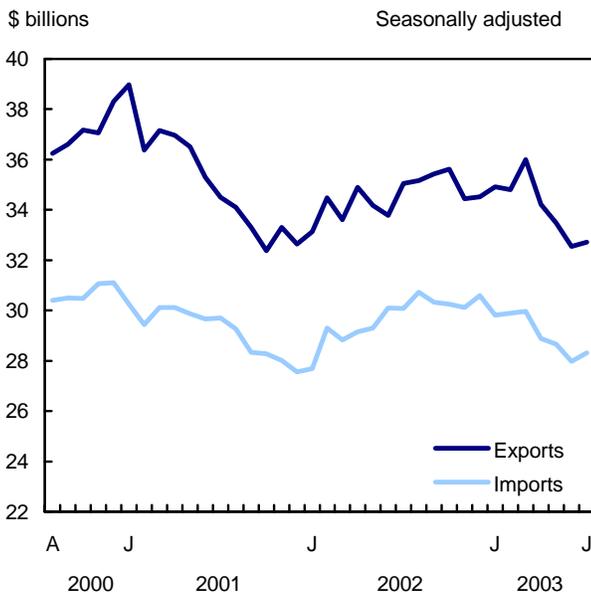
MAJOR RELEASES

Canadian international merchandise trade

July 2003

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Exports and imports



With the gap between exports and imports narrowing, Canada's merchandise trade balance fell from almost \$4.6 billion to just over \$4.4 billion.

Most of the export growth was attributable to strong advances in the automotive and energy sectors. These gains were partly offset by declines in the machinery and equipment sector, and the industrial goods and materials sector. On the import side, modest increases in Canada's largest four sectors (machinery and equipment, automotive products, consumer goods and industrial goods and materials) outpaced small declines in energy and agricultural products.

Note to readers

As a result of the recent power outage in Ontario, several working days were lost in the current production cycle. As a result, non-US exports may be under-represented and subject to larger-than-normal revision in subsequent months. Exports to the United States and imports are not affected.

In addition, a larger-than-usual adjustment has been made to the previously published data on merchandise trade related to the rapid appreciation of the Canadian dollar in the second quarter. Export values have been revised up by \$1 billion and \$2.6 billion for the first two quarters of 2003, respectively, via a balance of payments adjustment.

The use of a single set of customs documents as the basis for trade data in each of the national currencies requires exchange rate conversions at various points in the data processing. When exchange rates are stable or shift gradually, this presents little problem; however, the second quarter saw the largest exchange rate shift in a single quarter in over half a century. When the trade data were reconciled with production and income data used to compile the quarterly national accounts GDP figures, discrepancies emerged, in part as a result of the exchange rate conversions inherent in the calculation of trade statistics.

These adjustments are preliminary estimates that may also be subject to larger-than-normal revisions for the first two quarters of 2003 in subsequent releases and are beyond the scope of regular revisions that occur on an ongoing basis for each month of the current year.

The trade surplus with the United States expanded from \$7.9 billion to almost \$8.2 billion, as exports grew faster than imports.

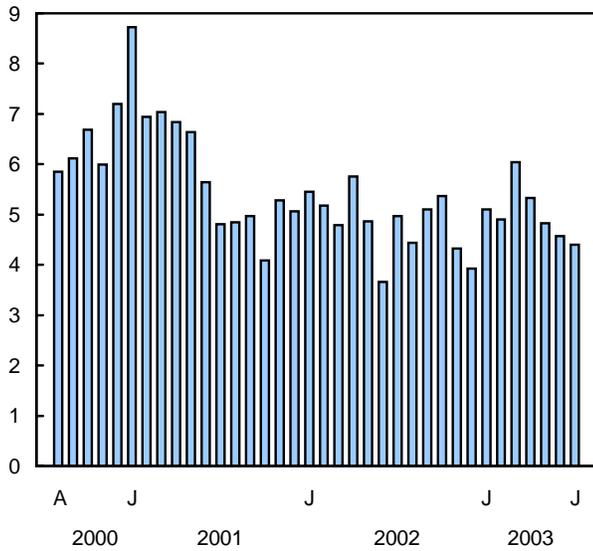
Companies sent \$28.0 billion in goods south of the border, up 2.7% from June, and imported \$19.9 billion in goods, a 2.4% increase.

Canada's total non-US trade deficit widened this month by \$441 million, mostly the result of lower export activity with the European Union and other OECD countries (please see first paragraph of *Note to readers*). Exports to the European Union fell 21.1% to \$1.5 billion, while imports climbed 5.2% to just under \$3.0 billion. Exports to other OECD countries dropped 15.4% and imports fell at a slower pace, down only 2.1% to \$1.6 billion.

In addition, Canada's trade deficit with Japan declined from \$309 million to \$210 million, as imports fell 13.9%, almost twice the rate of decline (-6.7%) in exports.

Trade balance

\$ billions



Automotive and energy products lead export growth

Automotive and energy products fuelled the growth in exports in July. However, exports declined in three major areas: industrial goods and materials, machinery and equipment and consumer goods.

Overall, seasonally adjusted exports in the automotive sector rose 3.5% to more than \$7.4 billion. Increases were widespread for all automotive sectors, with a 3.4% increase in passenger autos and chassis exports leading the way. The motor vehicle parts sector ended four consecutive months of decline with a 4.2% increase, as production and assembly plants shifted from earlier routine summer slowdowns to new model production. Trucks and other motor vehicle exports rose 2.6% in July. These exports were 18.3% higher than they were one year ago, making this the only automotive sector to show a year-over-year gain.

Foreigners bought 17.9% more crude petroleum than in June, as they sought to replenish stocks, keeping prices strong. High summer demand for gasoline brought on a 9.4% gain in petroleum and coal products. Exports of these two energy sectors combined, destined mainly for the United States, were responsible for the entire increase and pushed overall energy product exports to almost \$5.2 billion, up 5.2% from June.

Offsetting these increases, electricity exports fell 10.6% to only \$117 million. Exports of natural gas, Canada's largest exported energy commodity, fell 2.9%, mainly because of price declines. Nonetheless, natural

gas exports still remain 50.9% higher than they were a year ago.

Exports of forestry products climbed 4.3% to \$2.8 billion, halting a six-month slide. The main factors behind the gain were a 10.5% rebound in wood pulp and other wood products (largely volume-related), and a 2.4% increase in newsprint and other paper and paperboard. Lumber exports fell a marginal 0.5%, as volumes declined but prices went up. However, a 9.7% increase in exports of other fabricated wood materials picked up the slack, pushing lumber and sawmill products up 3.5% to \$1.3 billion, as prices recovered from their recent low levels.

Exports of agricultural and fishing products grew 4.2%, despite virtually non-existent Canadian beef exports, as foreign borders remained closed following the mad cow disease scare. A 68.5% spike in wheat exports, mainly to non-US destinations, led this growth, as prices were on the decline and volumes at record lows. This increase is largely volume-related, as western wheat producers anticipate better yields this year due to improved growing conditions. Offsetting this increase was a 1.1% setback in other agricultural and fishing products, led by fish and meat product drops.

On the down side, exports of machinery and equipment fell 2.2% to just under \$7.1 billion. On a year-to-date basis, exports in the sector amounted to about \$52.9 billion between January and July, down 6.8% from the same period of 2002. Exports of industrial machinery were down 7.0% in July, while exports of aircraft and other transportation equipment improved 6.2%.

Exports of industrial goods and materials fell 1.3% in July to \$5.2 billion. Exports in this sector have shown a downward trend since the beginning of 2003, falling \$460 million. A 9.7% drop in metals and alloys, where exports fell for every commodity except iron and aluminum, overshadowed otherwise small gains in this area. Leading the drop was a 26.7% decline in precious metals and alloys.

Imports climb on surging aircraft and rebounds in automotive

Imports rose in the top four sectors, halting three months of decline in Canada's overall import trade.

Imports of machinery and equipment, Canada's largest import sector, rose 1.0% to nearly \$8.3 billion in July. This was mainly attributable to aircraft and other transportation equipment (+29.0%). Over the last two months, imports of completed aircraft have risen, reversing some of the weakness experienced in the early second quarter. Office machines and equipment also contributed to this growth with a 5.6% increase.

Seasonally adjusted imports of automotive products rebounded 1.7% in July, on the strength of a 4.4% motor

vehicle parts increase, as manufacturers geared up for 2004 model production. Imports of trucks and other motor vehicles increased 4.7%. These increases were offset by a 4.2% reduction in imports of passenger autos and chassis, the second consecutive slide in this sector.

Imports of industrial goods and materials jumped 3.0% to \$5.4 billion. Chemicals and plastics expanded 5.7% to \$2.1 billion, while other industrial goods and materials grew 3.0%, recouping some recent losses. Imports of fabricated basic metal products, which include bolts, screws, pipes, valves and other basic hardware, jumped \$34 million in July.

Consumer goods, Canada's fourth largest import sector edged up 0.6% or \$23 million in July. Apparel and footwear declined a slight 0.1%, but a solid 6.6% jump in house furnishings pushed the miscellaneous consumer goods sector to more than \$3.1 billion, a 0.8% increase.

The remaining import sectors, agricultural and fishing products, energy and forestry products, all experienced import declines in July. The largest decline was a 5.1% drop in energy products. Imports of crude petroleum, which represent more than 60% of Canada's energy imports, fell to nearly one-half of their record level set in March. In July, they fell 13.6% to \$861 million. Coal and other related products grew 31.4%. Imports of petroleum and coal products edged up 1.5%.

In spite of increases for all fruits and vegetables, imports of agricultural and fishing products fell 1.5%, mostly the result of a drop in beverage imports and a setback in meat and meat preparations. This occurred

as consumers increased their consumption of Canadian beef, helping the industry cope with its trade restrictions.

Available on CANSIM: tables 226-0001, 226-0002, 227-0001, 227-0002, 228-0001 to 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0040.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The June 2003 issue of *Canadian international merchandise trade*, Vol. 57, no. 6 (65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141) is now available; the July issue will be available soon. The publication will include tables by commodity and country on a customs basis. Current account data (which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, service transactions, investment income and transfers) are available quarterly in *Canada's balance of international payments* (67-001-XIB, \$29/\$93; 67-001-XPB, \$38/\$124). See *How to order products*.

Merchandise trade data are available in PDF format on the morning of release.

For more information on the publications, contact Jocelyne Elibani, (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9647). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Matthew MacDonald (613-951-8551), International Trade Division.

□

Merchandise trade

	June 2003 ^r	July 2003	June to July 2003	July to July 2003	January to July 2002	January to July 2003	January- July 2002 to January- July 2003
Seasonally adjusted, \$ current							
	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		% change
Principal trading partners							
Exports							
United States	27,296	28,042	2.7	-4.5	200,392	199,646	-0.4
Japan	780	728	-6.7	-15.7	5,772	5,922	2.6
European Union	1,884	1,486	-21.1	-24.8	13,473	13,544	0.5
Other OECD countries ¹	1,016	860	-15.4	-13.0	7,037	6,964	-1.0
All other countries	1,564	1,600	2.3	-13.5	12,450	12,596	1.2
Total	32,540	32,717	0.5	-6.7	239,123	238,675	-0.2
Imports							
United States	19,411	19,883	2.4	-7.9	147,163	142,758	-3.0
Japan	1,089	938	-13.9	3.5	6,665	6,648	-0.3
European Union	2,834	2,980	5.2	-5.0	20,716	20,875	0.8
Other OECD countries ¹	1,593	1,560	-2.1	-0.8	10,999	11,748	6.8
All other countries	3,044	2,953	-3.0	2.6	18,897	21,480	13.7
Total	27,972	28,313	1.2	-5.9	204,439	203,509	-0.5
Balance							
United States	7,885	8,159	...	...	53,229	56,888	...
Japan	-309	-210	...	...	-893	-726	...
European Union	-950	-1,494	...	...	-7,243	-7,331	...
Other OECD countries ¹	-577	-700	...	...	-3,962	-4,784	...
All other countries	-1,480	-1,353	...	...	-6,447	-8,884	...
Total	4,569	4,402	...	...	34,684	35,166	...
Principal commodity groupings							
Exports							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,185	2,276	4.2	-12.6	18,074	16,657	-7.8
Energy products	4,903	5,158	5.2	27.5	26,142	37,589	43.8
Forestry products	2,659	2,773	4.3	-5.8	21,921	19,627	-10.5
Industrial goods and materials	5,275	5,209	-1.3	-14.4	41,003	38,192	-6.9
Machinery and equipment	7,236	7,074	-2.2	-13.5	56,714	52,885	-6.8
Automotive products	7,190	7,440	3.5	-12.6	56,699	51,980	-8.3
Other consumer goods	1,409	1,368	-2.9	-8.6	10,184	9,997	-1.8
Special transactions trade ²	624	836	34.0	28.2	4,645	4,721	1.6
Other BOP adjustments	1,060	581	-45.2	9.8	3,739	7,027	87.9
Imports							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,820	1,792	-1.5	-4.4	12,590	12,854	2.1
Energy products	1,465	1,390	-5.1	2.1	8,761	11,578	32.2
Forestry products	248	247	-0.4	-7.5	1,805	1,777	-1.6
Industrial goods and materials	5,214	5,370	3.0	-7.4	39,853	38,868	-2.5
Machinery and equipment	8,206	8,285	1.0	-6.4	61,246	58,113	-5.1
Automotive products	6,281	6,386	1.7	-8.2	46,393	46,251	-0.3
Other consumer goods	3,778	3,801	0.6	-3.8	26,612	27,193	2.2
Special transactions trade ²	439	542	23.5	12.9	3,468	3,209	-7.5
Other BOP adjustments	521	500	-4.0	-5.7	3,713	3,665	-1.3

^r Revised figures

¹ Includes Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Poland, South Korea, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia.

² These are mainly low valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.

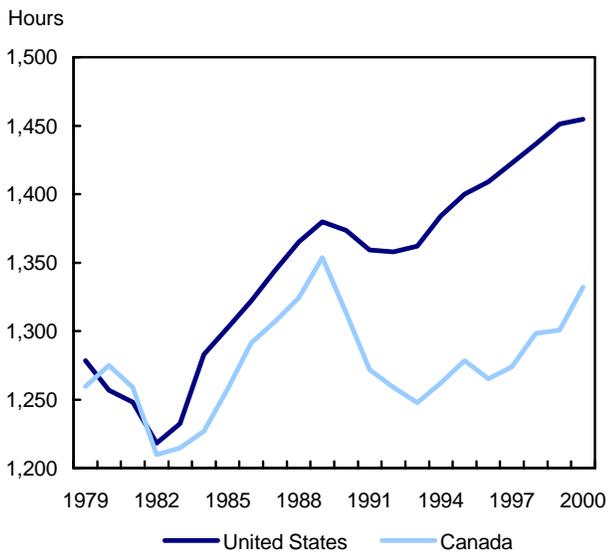
... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

Working hours in Canada and the United States

1979 to 2000

Americans aged 16 to 69 increasingly worked more hours than Canadians throughout the 1990s, according to a new study examining average annual hours. This hours gap was likely related to the sluggish economic growth in Canada relative to the United States during much of the 1990s.

Average hours worked per person per year, Canada and the United States



Hours per person was defined as the average number of hours worked by the working age population, which includes working and non-working individuals aged 16 to 69. In 1979, there was little difference in average hours worked per year between Canada and the United States. In that year, working-age Canadians worked 1,260 hours per year, compared with 1,279 hours for Americans.

Hours grew in both countries in the 1980s, but differences in working hours were still small in 1989, as Canadians worked 1,354 hours compared with 1,380 for Americans.

By 2000, Americans were working 1,455 hours on average during the year, much more than the 1,332 hours supplied by Canadians.

While average hours worked per working age person grew slowly in Canada compared with the United States, working hours in some other countries declined over this period. For example, comparable

Note to readers

This study uses data from the Survey of Consumer Finances and the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics for Canada, as well as the March Supplement of the Current Population Survey for the United States to estimate usual hours worked per year. The concept of usual hours refers to hours usually worked at all jobs and includes time off due to illness, holidays or slack work. This study compares hours measured in similar ways in the two countries.

The main measure used is the number of hours per person, which was defined as the average number of hours worked in a year by all individuals aged 16 to 69. It is affected by the average hours worked in a year per worker, and by the fraction of the population that worked at some time during the year.

It is important to note that the way annual working hours is measured in this study is not the same as the way hours is measured by Statistics Canada for the purpose of producing labour productivity estimates. As a result, differences will arise between the hours estimates in this study and those available from other Statistics Canada sources.

data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) show that hours per person fell 18% in Germany and 20% in France from 1979 to 1999.

This study focusses primarily on differences in working hours measured on a per working age person basis. An alternative approach is to measure hours on a per worker basis. Research by the OECD and others likewise shows an emerging gap over the same period between average annual hours worked per worker in the United States and average annual hours worked per worker in some European countries and Canada.

From 1979 to 2000, hours per worker grew 2.2% in Canada, from 1,669 to 1,706 hours per year. In contrast, hours per worker grew 9.6% in the United States, from 1,707 to 1,871 hours per year.

Hours grew in both countries during the 1980s

Both countries experienced comparable growth in average working hours per (working age) person from 1979 to 1989. During this period, average annual hours per person rose 7.9% in the United States and 7.5% in Canada.

Hours increased primarily because of a rise in hours supplied by women. American women worked 20.1% more hours in 1989 than in 1979. Canadian women increased their hours by 25.5% during the same period.

Another factor accounting for rising hours in both countries is the relative increase of prime-aged (25 to 54 years old) individuals among the working age population. This is because prime-aged individuals tend to supply more hours than younger and older individuals do.

Hours in Canada lagged behind the United States in the 1990s

Most of the current gap in annual working hours between Canada and the United States opened up during the first part of the 1990s. From 1989 to 1993, hours per person fell 7.8% in Canada compared with 1.3% in the United States. From 1993 to 2000, growth in work hours was equal in both countries, at 6.8%. Overall, from 1989 to 2000, hours per person in the United States grew 5.4%, while Canada saw a drop of 1.6%.

Average hours worked per person per year

	1979		1989		2000	
	Canada	United States	Canada	United States	Canada	United States
All	1,260	1,279	1,354	1,380	1,332	1,455
Men	1,682	1,664	1,649	1,671	1,565	1,689
Women	844	920	1,059	1,105	1,101	1,230
25 to 54	1,496	1,554	1,637	1,668	1,622	1,743
Men	2,025	2,044	1,976	2,017	1,893	2,031
Women	967	1,096	1,294	1,334	1,351	1,465

Fewer working hours could mean more leisure, less stress and higher quality of life for some. It may signal that Canadians are retiring earlier, staying in school longer, or making different choices about how to allocate family and work time. However, it may also signal that there was a shortage of demand for labour and that Canadians did not get all the work hours they wanted.

This study shows that 60% of the hours per person gap that developed in the 1990s was associated with relatively fewer hours worked in Canada among prime-aged men and women (25 to 54 years old). From 1989 to 2000, hours per prime-aged person rose 4.5% in the United States, from 1,668 to 1,743 hours per year, and fell 0.9% in Canada, from 1,637 to 1,622.

This decline in Canada from 1989 to 2000 was concentrated among prime-aged men, whose annual hours fell 4.2%, from 1,976 to 1,893. Most of this decline was due to a larger fraction of men who were not employed at all during the year. Among those who did work, hours fell only for those in the lowest wage brackets.

The fact that the working hours gap arose primarily during the early 1990s suggests that the main reason for the hours gap was the relatively deeper recession in the early 1990s in Canada followed by a sluggish recovery, which kept Canada's unemployment rate much higher

than the US rate. This suggests that much of the gap was associated with weaker labour demand rather than a decision by Canadians to pursue more leisure.

From 1999 to 2000, when Canada's unemployment rate among prime-aged men improved markedly relative to the United States, the working hours gap for prime-aged men likewise improved, dropping 25%, from 187.5 hours per year to 138.4 hours per year.

More recent data will be needed to determine whether the Canada–United States gap in annual hours has continued to narrow. However, unemployment rates in Canada have continued to improve relative to the United States since 2000, suggesting that further closing of the hours gap may have occurred.

Hours grew faster in Canada for women aged 25 to 54

From 1979 to 2000, hours per person rose in the United States relative to Canada for all gender and age groups except for prime-aged women. Canadian women in this age group boosted their hours by 39.7% compared with an increase of 33.7% for American women. However, prime-aged women still worked less in Canada in 2000, supplying 1,351 hours on average, compared with the 1,465 hours supplied by their American counterparts.

This increase in working hours among women, coupled with declining hours for men, led to a narrowing of the hours differential between men and women. In 1979, Canadian women aged 25 to 54 worked 48% as many hours as their male counterparts. By 2000, Canadian women in this age group worked 71% as many hours as men. Similarly, American women narrowed the hours difference with American men.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3502 and 3889.

The research paper *Working hours in Canada and the United States* (11F0019MIE2003209, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the home page, select *Studies* from the left sidebar; under *Browse periodicals and series*, choose *Free and for sale*, then *Analytical Studies Branch*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Andrew Heisz (613-951-3748) or Sébastien LaRochelle-Côté (613-951-0803), Business and Labour Market Analysis Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2001

Data on the educational attainment, labour force activity and income of adults with and without disabilities are now available for 2001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3251.

The data tables *Education, employment and income of adults with and without disabilities - Tables (89-587-XIE, free)* are now available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Health*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Catherine Allan (613-951-8658), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division. ■

Domestic sales of refined petroleum products

July 2003 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products totalled 8 384 500 cubic metres in July, up 1.2 % from July 2002. Sales increased in five of the seven major product groups, with diesel fuel oil up 97 700 cubic metres, or 4.9%. Heavy fuel oil rose 92 300 cubic metres, or 19.3%, and motor gasoline sales rose 12 600 cubic metres, or 0.3%.

Sales of regular non-leaded gasoline advanced (+0.8%), but sales of mid-grade (-10.5%) and premium (-0.6%) fell from July 2002.

Year-to-date sales of refined petroleum products at the end of July increased 4.5% from the same period of 2002. Sales rose in five of the seven major product groups, with the largest increase in heavy fuel oil (942 300 cubic metres or +26.1%). Year-to-date sales of motor gasoline rose 329 700 cubic metres, or 1.5%, from the same period of 2002.

Sales of refined petroleum products

	July 2002 ^r	July 2003 ^p	July 2002 to July 2003
	Thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total, all products	8 289.0	8 384.5	1.2
Motor gasoline	3 656.3	3 668.9	0.3
Diesel fuel oil	1 992.5	2 090.2	4.9
Light fuel oil	152.1	164.1	7.9
Heavy fuel oil	477.1	569.4	19.3
Aviation turbo fuels	585.1	597.9	2.2
Petrochemical feedstocks ¹	458.3	338.4	-26.2
All other refined products	967.4	955.6	-1.2

	Jan. to July 2002 ^r	Jan. to July 2003 ^p	Jan.-July 2002 to Jan.-July 2003
	Thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total, all products	53 618.5	56 011.7	4.5
Motor gasoline	22 729.5	23 059.2	1.5
Diesel fuel oil	12 816.5	13 491.9	5.3
Light fuel oil	3 000.9	3 368.4	12.2
Heavy fuel oil	3 608.9	4 551.2	26.1
Aviation turbo fuels	3 377.7	3 418.7	1.2
Petrochemical feedstocks ¹	2 753.3	2 565.2	-6.8
All other refined products	5 331.8	5 557.1	4.2

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce chemicals, synthetic rubber and a variety of plastics.

Available on CANSIM: table 134-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

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

Export and import price indexes July 2003

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1997=100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to July 2003 for the five commodity

sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted US price indexes (1997=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to July 2003. Included with the US commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and US-only Standard International Trade Classification section indexes.

Indexes for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups are also available now on a customs basis.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001, 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0040.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The July 2003 issue of *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jocelyne Elibani (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9647), International Trade Division. ■

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Exports by commodity, June 2003, Vol. 60, no. 6
Catalogue number 65-004-XMB (\$37/\$361).

Exports by commodity, June 2003, Vol. 60, no. 6
Catalogue number 65-004-XPB (\$78/\$773).

**Education, employment and income of adults with
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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six 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 noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- Map-based index, May 1997 3
- Short-term Expectations Survey 8
- Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 12
- Egg production, Apr. 1997 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11



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