Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

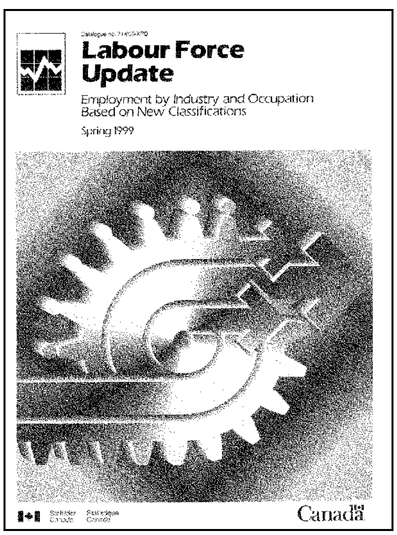
The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, May 19, 1999
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

(continued on following page)



Labour force update: Employment by industry and occupation based on new classifications

Spring 1999

This issue of *Labour force update* introduces two new classification systems, one for occupations and one for industries. Occupations for the Labour Force Survey are now being classified according to the 1991 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC 1991), which replaced the old SOC 1980 system. By industry, the Labour Force Survey is one of the first programs at Statistics Canada to release data under the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). This *Labour force update* examines these new occupation and industry groups, providing a profile of employment and an analysis of trends.

Each quarter, *Labour force update* features the latest information and relevant trends on a particular labour market issue. Informative commentary, charts and analytical tables provide concise and up-to-date information and is a useful starting point for further research.

The Spring 1999 issue of *Labour force update* (71-005-XPB, $29/$96) is now available. See *How to order publications*. You can also visit *In depth* on the Web site at *www.statcan.ca*. For more information about the product, contact Jeannine Usalcas (613-951-4720; fax: 613-951-2869; *usaljea@statcan.ca*), Labour Statistics Division.

OTHER RELEASES

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

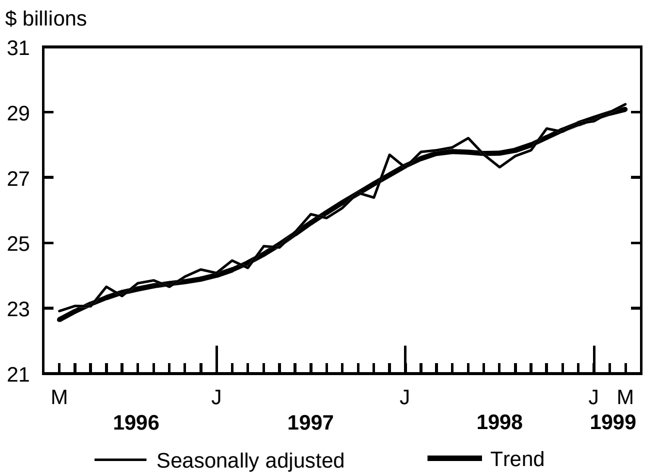
MAJOR RELEASES

Wholesale trade

March 1999 (preliminary)

Sales advances of 0.8% in March, following increases in January (+0.5%) and February (+1.0%), enabled wholesalers to report a first quarter increase of 1.8%. March's gain was broadly based with advances in 8 of the 11 trade groups. Following a slowdown which began in early 1998, wholesale sales have been rising since the summer of last year.

Another good month for wholesale sales

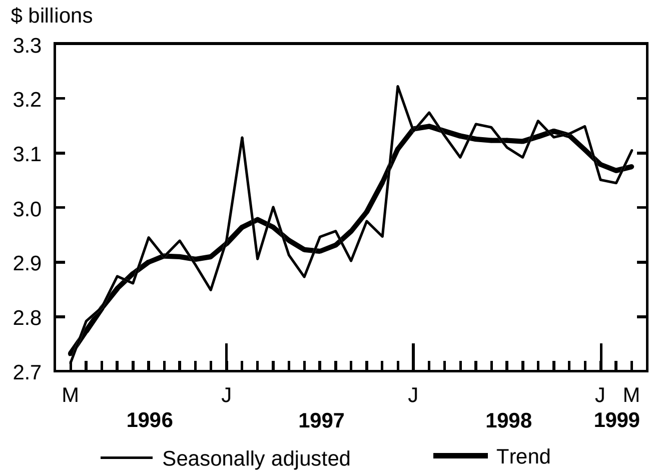


Wholesalers sold $29.3 billion of goods and services in March. Increases were reported in all trade groups except household goods (-1.7%), apparel and dry goods (-1.2%), and motor vehicles, parts and accessories (-1.1%). Among the groups with gains, strong sales were noted in lumber and building materials (+3.6%), computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery (+3.0%), and farm machinery, equipment and sales (+2.6%).

British Columbia still looking for a comeback

Despite a rise of 2.0% in March, first-quarter sales for wholesalers in British Columbia were down 1.8% over the previous quarter, making it the only province to post a first-quarter decline. Except for the fourth quarter of 1998 (+0.4%), the last four quarters for British Columbian wholesalers have been negative.

Wholesalers in British Columbia continue to lag



Although sales in Saskatchewan dropped 7.3% in March, increases in January (+4.5%) and February (+7.5%) gave the province a first quarter rise of 5.6%. However, this followed two consecutive quarters of strong diminished sales in 1998, -10.9% in the third quarter and -5.8% in the fourth quarter, where the traditional farm machinery, equipment and supplies sector had held back overall sales in the province. Sales had been increasing for the two years prior to mid-1998.

Wholesale sales were up in 9 of the 12 provinces and territories. Besides Saskatchewan, other declines occurred in the Northwest Territories (-11.1%) and Nova Scotia (-1.1%).

Sales of lumber and building materials continue to rise

Lumber and building materials rose 3.6% in March. Wholesale sales for this trade group have been improving since mid-1998. Prior to this, sales had been falling since the spring of 1997. Interestingly, the other products trade group, which includes forest products such as raw logs and pulp, also rose in March (+1.7%).

The low Canadian dollar, and a continued strong economy and robust housing market in the United States helped sales in March. Canadian wholesalers of lumber and building materials report that direct and indirect exports to the United States to supply millworks, furniture makers and big-box hardware and lumber stores are having a positive effect on their sales. In addition, the cautious optimistic view held by some industry watchers that Japan's economic problems may have finally bottomed out may also be having an effect.

Sales up in computer, packaged software and other electronic machinery

Wholesale sales of computer, packaged software and other electronic machinery increased 3.0% in March. Sales have been generally increasing over the last few years, punctuated by a period of strong sales in 1998. The general strength of sales in this trade group could be attributed to not only the sales of goods by wholesalers, but also services such as repairs and training.

Sales rise for the beverage, drug and tobacco products sector

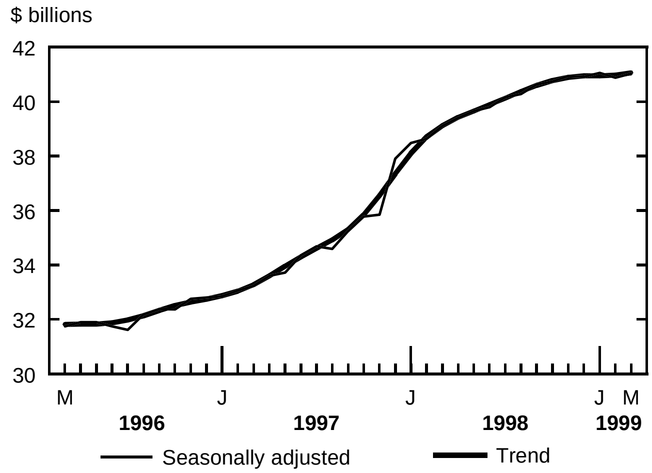
Beverage, drug and tobacco products rose 1.9% in March. Generally, sales had been rising since late 1996 until a period of slower sales occurred in 1998. Sales have been increasing since the end of 1998. A partial contributor to this increase could be the aging Canadian population. Several media reports suggest that pharmaceutical companies are aggressively marketing their products to a better informed and health conscious public, particularly to older Canadians.

In addition, as consumers become more discriminating in their choice of beverages, newer products and brands are entering the distribution system. It appears that Canadian wholesalers may be reaping the benefits of this products expansion.

Wholesaler inventories are levelling off

Wholesalers increased their inventories slightly to $41.1 billion in March (+0.3%). However, this month continued the levelling off of inventories which started at the beginning of 1998. Prior to 1998, inventories had been on the rise since mid-1996.

Inventories are levelling off



The inventories-to-sales ratio declined for the second consecutive month, from 1.41 in February to 1.40 in March. Prior to February, the ratio was 1.43 for three of the four previous months. The ratio began to fall last summer after rising since late 1997.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 59, 61, 648 and 649.

The March 1999 issue of *Wholesale trade* (63-008-XIB, $14/$140) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For data or general information, contact the Client Services Unit (1-877-421-3067 or 613-951-3549; *wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Alexander Hays (613-951-3552; *haysale@statcan.ca*), Wholesale Trade Section, Distributive Trades Division. □

Wholesale merchants' sales and inventories

	March 1998[r]	Dec. 1998[r]	Jan. 1999[r]	Feb. 1999[r]	March 1999[p]	Feb. to March 1999	March 1998 to March 1999
	seasonally adjusted						
	$ millions					% change	
Sales, all trade groups	**27,831**	**28,609**	**28,738**	**29,037**	**29,282**	**0.8**	**5.2**
Food products	4,212	4,478	4,633	4,505	4,529	0.5	7.5
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	1,888	1,901	1,926	1,932	1,969	1.9	4.3
Apparel and dry goods	552	553	531	562	555	-1.2	0.6
Household goods	814	791	774	786	773	-1.7	-5.1
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	5,011	5,275	5,152	5,266	5,209	-1.1	4.0
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	1,922	1,882	1,874	1,939	1,942	0.1	1.0
Lumber and building materials	2,020	2,143	2,127	2,196	2,275	3.6	12.6
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	745	617	736	766	786	2.6	5.5
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies	4,137	4,154	4,285	4,235	4,239	0.1	2.5
Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery	2,446	2,935	2,896	2,953	3,041	3.0	24.3
Other products	4,085	3,879	3,807	3,898	3,966	1.7	-2.9
Sales by province and territory							
Newfoundland	194	197	205	204	204	0.2	5.2
Prince Edward Island	49	50	49	49	50	1.8	2.2
Nova Scotia	501	569	557	548	543	-1.1	8.2
New Brunswick	337	331	345	350	360	2.8	6.8
Quebec	5,497	5,800	5,923	5,972	6,047	1.3	10.0
Ontario	13,501	14,175	14,226	14,349	14,436	0.6	6.9
Manitoba	933	935	921	979	1,031	5.3	10.5
Saskatchewan	938	805	841	904	838	-7.3	-10.6
Alberta	2,723	2,588	2,578	2,601	2,633	1.2	-3.3
British Columbia	3,132	3,130	3,062	3,054	3,114	2.0	-0.6
Yukon	11	11	12	9	12	29.7	5.9
Northwest Territories	14	17	17	18	16	-11.1	8.1
Inventories, all trade groups	**39,103**	**40,821**	**41,099**	**40,980**	**41,097**	**0.3**	**5.1**
Food products	2,599	2,684	2,662	2,674	2,695	0.8	3.7
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	2,110	2,247	2,222	2,256	2,246	-0.5	6.4
Apparel and dry goods	1,218	1,234	1,237	1,249	1,253	0.3	2.9
Household goods	1,543	1,530	1,527	1,551	1,533	-1.2	-0.7
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	5,497	5,860	5,872	5,818	5,902	1.5	7.4
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	3,348	3,486	3,500	3,534	3,518	-0.4	5.1
Lumber and building materials	3,397	3,672	3,734	3,567	3,627	1.7	6.8
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	2,258	2,304	2,277	2,283	2,285	0.1	1.2
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies	9,544	9,790	9,907	9,990	10,065	0.7	5.5
Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery	2,354	2,650	2,593	2,621	2,536	-3.2	7.7
Other products	5,236	5,364	5,568	5,437	5,438	0.0	3.9

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Employment according to new classification systems

The new issue of *Labour force update*, available today, profiles employment according to new occupation and industry classification systems.

In 1998, one quarter of all workers, or 3.6 million people, were employed in sales or service occupations, according to data from the Labour Force Survey which recently adopted the 1991 Standard Occupational Classification System. This large occupation group includes all those working as retail salespeople, cashiers, waiters and waitresses, childcare workers, police officers, firefighters and many others.

In terms of absolute change, sales and service jobs have increased more than any other occupation group during the 1990s. People in sales and service occupations, on average, had the lowest hourly wages and, since many work relatively few hours, they also had the lowest weekly wages.

However, also growing strongly were jobs in natural and applied science occupations, the highest-paid occupational group. So far this decade, the number of workers in this group has jumped by one-third. Most of this increase came in 1997 and 1998 as demand for computer systems analysts and programmers skyrocketed.

In Ottawa-Hull, the percentage of workers engaged in natural and applied science jobs (11%) is nearly double the national average. This is a reflection of the high concentration of large high-tech, computer-oriented firms in the area. Second to Ottawa-Hull is Calgary, where over 9% of workers are in natural and applied science jobs. This may be due to a need for engineers to support the oil and gas industry which is dominant in the province.

With the advent of the North American Free Trade Agreement, a common industrial classification system was needed to facilitate the analysis of economic trends between countries. The Labour Force Survey is one of the first programs at Statistics Canada to release data under the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

In 1998, almost one-third of workers had a job or a business in just two sector groups within NAICS — trade and manufacturing. Of the more than 14 million employed people in 1998, four million worked in either trade or manufacturing.

Employment growth in each of these large industries has been slow over this decade. During the early 1990s the number of workers in manufacturing fell almost 15% and, with strong growth in the last two years, has only recently recovered to its pre-recession level.

Instead, job growth this decade has been focussed in a number of other industries, most significantly in professional, scientific and technical services (up 61% since 1989) and management, administrative and other support services (up 54%).

Two-thirds of this decade’s growth in professional, scientific and technical services has come from computer systems design services and a number of consulting services. Even with this strong growth, engineering and architecture make up the largest portion of this group.

Within management, administration and other support services, those providing services to buildings (for example, janitorial services and landscaping) made up the largest component and contributed the largest percentage of the increase since 1989.

Also included in the issue of *Labour force update* released today is a section outlining how the Labour Force Survey derives its industry and occupation estimates, from the questions asked of respondents to the coding and quality control procedures used during the processing of the data. This section ends with a description of the methods that were developed to produce historical data. Finally, six tables in the appendix allow an evaluation of the relationships between the old and new classification systems.

Labour force update (71-005-XPB, $29/$96) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325; fax: 613-951-2869; *bowlgeo@statcan.ca*), Labour Statistics Division. □

Employment by occupation and industry

	Employment level (000's)		%	Employment	%
	Annual average in 1998	Change since 1989	change since 1989	distribution in 1998 (%)	point change since 1989
All occupations/industries	**14,326**	**1,240**	**9.5**	**100.0**	**0.0**
By occupation					
Management	1,490.4	234.7	18.7	10.4	0.81
Business, finance and administrative	2,501.8	-41.7	-1.6	17.5	-1.97
Natural and applied sciences	823.3	208.7	34.0	5.7	1.05
Health	746.5	102.4	15.9	5.2	0.29
Social science, education, government service and religion	958.4	210.3	28.1	6.7	0.97
Art, culture, recreation and sport	398.6	79.6	25.0	2.8	0.34
Sales and service	3,584.7	461.3	14.8	25.0	1.15
Trades, transport and equipment operators	2,058.8	-11.2	-0.5	14.4	-1.45
Primary sector	601.9	-1.0	-0.2	4.2	-0.41
Processing, manufacturing and utilities	1,161.9	-2.8	-0.2	8.1	-0.79
By industry					
Goods-producing sector	3,742	-79	-2.1	26.1	-3.1
Agriculture	419	-7	-1.6	2.9	-0.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas	297	-17	-5.4	2.1	-0.3
Utilities	117	-10	-7.9	0.8	-0.2
Construction	762	-53	-6.5	5.3	-0.9
Manufacturing	2,147	8	0.4	15.0	-1.4
Service-producing sector	10,585	1,320	14.2	73.9	3.1
Trade	2,183	72	3.4	15.2	-0.9
Transportation and warehousing	701	52	8.0	4.9	-0.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	846	30	3.7	5.9	-0.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	897	340	61.0	6.3	2.0
Management, administrative and other support	492	173	54.2	3.4	1.0
Educational services	943	128	15.7	6.6	0.4
Health care and social assistance	1,465	237	19.3	10.2	0.8
Information, culture and recreation	632	98	18.4	4.4	0.3
Accommodation and food services	916	138	17.7	6.4	0.4
Other services	719	82	12.9	5.0	0.2
Public administration	790	-30	-3.7	5.5	-0.8

■

Annual Survey of Manufacturers
1997

The Annual Survey of Manufacturers provides information on over 200 different industries. Principal statistics for each industry are released on CANSIM as they become available. Data for the industries listed in the following table are now available. To date, data for 204 industries have been released.

The industries listed in the table appear in *Manufacturing industries of Canada, national and provincial areas* (31-203-XPB, $68) and *Products shipped by Canadian manufacturers* (31-211-XPB, $67). See *How to order publications*. In addition, a CD-ROM on *Products shipped by Canadian manufacturers 1988-1996* (31-211-XCB, $430 for single use) is available from the Manufacturing Dissemination Unit (613-951-9497).

Eight new articles providing data and analysis on manufacturing industries ranging from plastics to the clothing industry are now available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). These articles incorporate survey results from the 1996 Annual Survey of Manufacturers, the 1998 Monthly Survey of Manufacturing and other Statistics Canada and industry sources. Also covered are rubber products industries, textiles, electrical and electronic products, fabricated metal products, and chemical and chemical products.

Articles for specific industries can be found at Statistics Canada's web site *www.statcan.ca* under *Downloadable publications (free)*. General articles on manufacturing are located under *Research papers*. Both sites will be updated regularly as new articles become available.

For further information about the articles, contact the Disclosure and Dissemination Unit, (613-951-9497; *manufact@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

For more information on data from the survey, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality for this release, contact the name listed in table below (fax: 613-951-9499; *milsomg@statcan.ca*).

Value of shipments

	1996	1997	1996 to 1997	Matrix	Contact	
	$ millions		% change			
Industry (Standard Industry Classification)						
Other plastic products, not elsewhere classified (1699)	5,527.9	5,935.8	7.4	5418	R. Sheldrick	613-951-7199
Footwear (1712)	568.4	602.0	5.9	5421	Y. Sheikh	613-951-2518
Broad knitted fabric (1831)	597.2	624.5	4.6	5428	Y. Sheikh	613-951-2518
Women's sportswear (2442)	1,440.0	1,461.7	1.5	5446	Y. Sheikh	613-951-2518
Women's clothing contractors (2445)	354.2	352.1	-0.6	5449	Y. Sheikh	613-951-2518
Children's clothing (2451)	446.6	417.7	-6.5	5450	Y. Sheikh	613-951-2518
Other clothing and apparel, not elsewhere classified (2499)	488.5	508.9	4.2	5457	Y. Sheikh	613-951-2518
Pulp (2711)	6,704.6	7,042.9	5.0	5483	G. Simard	613-951-3516
Business Forms Printing (2811)	1,093.8	998.6	-8.7	5497	P. Zylstra	613-951-3511
Machine shop (3081)	2,691.4	2,938.9	9.2	5536	É. Saint-Pierre	613-951-9837
Motor Vehicle Stampings (3253)	3,742.3	4,048.8	8.2	5557	A. Shinnan	613-951-3515
Cement (3521)	1,083.5	1,173.0	8.3	6851	É. Saint-Pierre	613-951-9837
Sporting goods (3931)	1,130.3	1,229.1	8.7	6890	R. Kowaluk	613-951-0600
Floor tile, linoleum and coated fabrics (3993)	391.7	396.8	1.3	6895	R. Kowaluk	613-951-0600
Musical instruments and sound recording (3994)	669.1	711.7	6.4	6896	R. Kowaluk	613-951-0600

■

Steel primary forms

March 1999

Steel primary forms production for March totalled 1 390 133 tonnes, a 3.6% decrease from 1 442 697 tonnes the previous year.

Year-to-date production reached 3 929 697 tonnes, down 3.5% from 4 070 731 tonnes a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 58 (level 2, series 3).

The March 1999 issue of *Primary iron and steel* (41-001-XIB, $5/$47) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Andy Shinnan (613-951-3515; *shinand@statcan.ca*) , Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Shipments of rolled steel

March 1999

Rolled steel shipments for March totalled 1 397 831 tonnes, up 17.5% from 1 189 915 tonnes in February and up 4.3% from 1 340 436 tonnes in March 1998.

Year-to-date shipments at the end of March 1999 totalled 3 716 155 tonnes, up 0.5% from 3 698 132 tonnes for the same period in 1998.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 58 and 122 (series 22-25).

The March 1999 issue of *Primary iron and steel* (41-001-XIB, $5/$47) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Andy Shinnan (613-951-3515;*shinand@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Telecommunication Services Price Index
1998

An annual, Canada-level price index for long-distance telephone services to businesses (1996=100) is now available for 1998. The index measures change over time in prices for the long distance calls of businesses. The index is not subject to revision. Data are final.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9933.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact François Bordé (613-951-3370; fax: 613-951-1539; *bordfra@statcan.ca*). Goods and Services Section, Prices Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Primary iron and steel, March 1999
Catalogue number 41-001-XIB
(Canada: $5/$47; outside Canada: US$5/US$47).

Touriscope, international travel, advance information, vol. 15, no. 3
Catalogue number 66-001-PPB
(Canada: $8/$73; outside Canada: US$8/US$73).

Labour force update: employment by industry and occupation based on new classifications, Spring 1999
Catalogue number 71-005-XPB
(Canada: $29/$96; outside Canada: US$29/US$96).

All prices exclude sales tax.

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; and -XPB or -XPE denote a paper version.

How to order publications

Simplify your data search with the *Statistics Canada Catalogue* (11-204-XPE, $16; outside Canada: US$16).

Its keyword index will guide you to statistics on Canada's social and economic activity.

Order publications by phone:

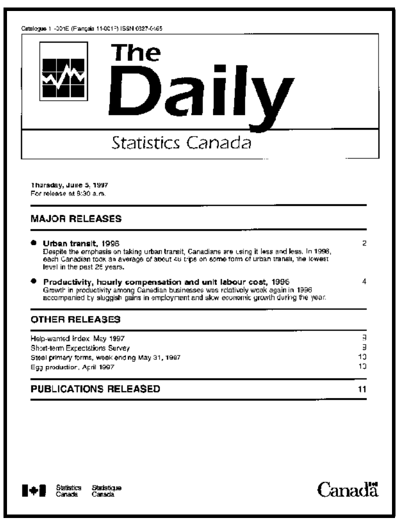
Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.

In Canada and the United States call:	**1-800-267-6677**
From other countries call:	**1-613-951-7277**
To fax your order:	**1-877-287-4369**
Address changes or account inquiries:	**1-800-700-1033**

To order a publication by mail write: Statistics Canada, Circulation Management, Operations and Integration Division, Ottawa, K1A 0T6. Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

To order by Internet: write to *order@statcan.ca* or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's Web site *(www.statcan.ca),* under the headings *Products and services, Downloadable publications.*

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.


Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index, May 1997	9
Short-term Expectations Survey	9
Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997	10
Egg production, April 1997	10

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at *http://www.statcan.ca*. To receive *The Daily* each morning by E-mail, send an E-mail message to listproc@statcan.ca. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Editor: Dan Smythe (613-951-1103, smytdan@statcan.ca)
Head of Official Release: Chantal Prévost (613-951-1088, prevcha@statcan.ca)