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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, December 22, 2000
For release at 8:30 a.m.

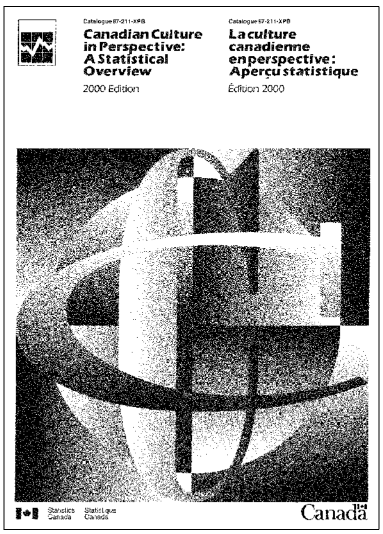
MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

(continued on page 2)

Season's Greetings

Because of the holidays, *The Daily* will not be published from December 27 through January 2. Publication will resume on Wednesday, January 3, 2001. The staff of *The Daily* sends you best wishes for a safe and happy holiday.



Canadian culture in perspective: A statistical overview

2000 Edition

The third edition of *Canadian culture in perspective: A statistical overview*, available today, provides a comprehensive statistical portrait of the health and vitality of cultural activities and industries in Canada.

This compendium incorporates data from all surveys in Statistics Canada's Culture Statistics Program, as well as data from other internal and external sources, enabling readers to track various themes and trends over time.

This edition contains sections on: the economic impact of the culture sector, culture activities by tourists and the international trade position of the culture sector; on social dimensions of culture, including characteristics of the cultural labour force, philanthropic behaviour, and the consumers of cultural goods and services; and on various sectors such as heritage, the performing arts and festivals, visual arts and libraries. It also explores ownership and content issues in the culture industries (publishing, film, broadcasting and music).

Canadian culture in perspective: A statistical overview (87-211-XIB, $31/$23; 87-211-XPB, $31/$23) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, contact Mary Cromie (613-951-6864), Culture Statistics Program.

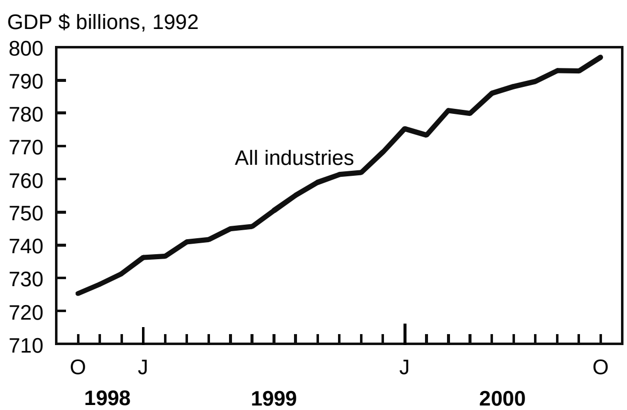
MAJOR RELEASES

Gross domestic product at factor cost by industry
October 2000

Gross domestic product advanced 0.5% in October, after levelling off at the end of the third quarter. The economy's resilience paralleled renewed employment growth in recent months. If the economy were flat for the remainder of the year, economic growth in 2000 would show a 4.6% annual gain.

Industries providing telecommunications products and services returned to their leading role in the expansion of the economy after an uncharacteristic decline in September. The economy was also bolstered by a broad-based gain in manufacturing output, as well as by increases in wholesaling and business services. However, a sharp decline in auto sales led to lower retail activity. Logging activity fell for a third consecutive month in October, bringing the industry back to production levels encountered early in the year. Construction output eased back slightly, capping four months of gains.

Economic growth resumed

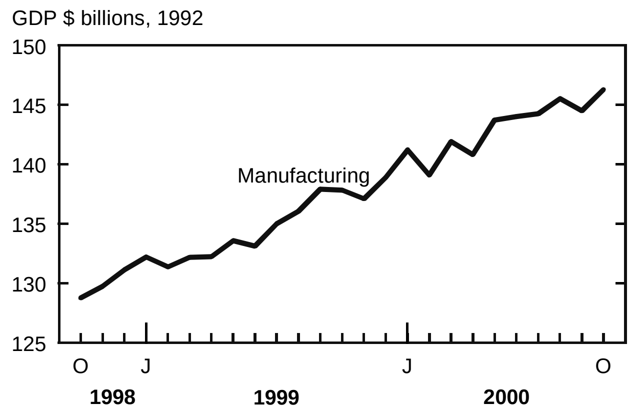


Resurgent electronics production led broad-based manufacturing increase

Total manufacturing production rose 1.3% on a broad-based gain that saw inventories continue to rise after building up in the third quarter. Manufacturing output was led by the electrical and electronic equipment industry, but was also buoyed by increased production of wood, plastic and primary metal products. The automotive industry, traditionally the engine of growth in manufacturing, saw only a modest gain. These increases were partly offset by declines in the rubber and beverages industries. Overall, 17 of 22 major industry groups, accounting for almost 90% of total manufacturing production, advanced in October.

> ***Note to readers***
>
> *The gross domestic product of an industry is the value added by labour and capital in transforming inputs purchased from other producers into outputs. Monthly gross domestic product by industry is valued at 1992 prices. The estimates presented here are seasonally adjusted at annual rates.*

Rebound in manufacturing



After a decline in September, output of electrical and electronic products rose 3.2% in October, the ninth increase in 10 months. Output of telecommunications equipment rose the most, but significant gains were also reported by makers of other electronic products, the latter being related to new product launches. The electrical and electronic products industry has accounted directly for 75% of the manufacturing sector's growth so far this year.

Production of autos was flat in October, reflecting the marked slowdown in auto sales in the United States, the destination of about 90% of Canadian-produced vehicles. Parts production rose 1.3%, however, partly offsetting a September decline. Auto sales in the United States fell in both October and November, in tandem with a sharp drop in consumer purchase intentions. High inventory levels have led to production cutback announcements in the auto industry, which began to be implemented in November.

The wood product industries regained some of the ground lost since March; production rose 3.0% in October. An upswing in home-building in Canada and recent stability in U.S. housing starts after a precipitous decline in the first half of the year provided a much-needed respite to Canadian wood product manufacturers.

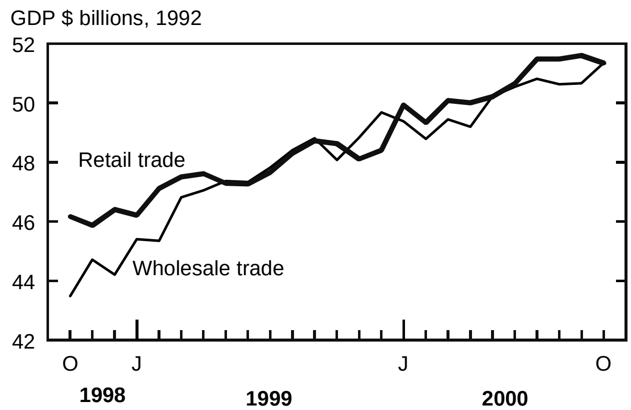
In an effort to cut back bloated inventories, wood producers had curtailed production sharply in recent months. Sash and door producers swung back with a 3.9% increase and sawmills' output came up 2.7% from some of the lowest levels seen since early 1999. Despite the latest increase, multi-year low prices meant that many sawmills were producing at or below break-even points in October. The glut in wood products had a negative impact on the logging industry, where production fell for a third consecutive month.

Pulp and paper mills posted yet another month of record production, on the strength of back-to-back increases in pulp production. Production in the non-ferrous smelting industries bounced back from a September shutdown, helping to lift the primary metal products industry by 2.0%. Plastics production rose 4.9% in October, primarily on higher output of other plastic products.

Wholesale gain erased previous months' declines

Wholesalers more than made up for two lacklustre months, posting a 1.4% increase in activity in October. Distributors of food, motor vehicles and parts and other products such as agricultural chemicals, seeds, newsprint and toys rebounded from declines in September, while receipts from computer and software sales continued to grow strongly for a second consecutive month. However, wholesalers of hardware and building products saw demand drop for the fifth time so far in 2000, leaving both of these store types at or below the levels of activity achieved at the beginning of the year.

Wholesale recovered while retail lost ground



Slump in auto sales slowed retail

Retail sales fell 0.5% in October, as sharply lower traffic at auto dealer showrooms more than offset higher sales at department and grocery stores. The year 2000 has seen the most significant decline in auto prices since 1991, as generous incentives were used to attract consumers to showrooms. With fewer incentives to sustain them, sales of cars and trucks plunged in October. Sales of larger gas-guzzling vehicles were the hardest-hit, although sales of cars also declined. Department stores were significantly busier in October, erasing a two-month slide, while grocery store sales increased after two flat months.

Engineering and scientific firms behind increase in business services

Business services advanced 1.3% in October. Almost half of the growth originated in firms providing architectural, engineering and scientific services, but most categories of business service firms enjoyed a good month. However, for the first time in seven months, computer service providers did not figure prominently in overall business services growth, as their output rose only marginally.

Exploration services buoyed mining

Mining sector output rose 0.9% in October, buoyed by a sharp increase in drilling and rigging activity. After poor weather conditions had dampened exploration activity in recent months, a return to more normal temperatures caused the number of rigs drilling in Western Canada to rise sharply. However, an unplanned extension of maintenance work helped keep a lid on oil production in October.

Modest slowdown capped recent construction gains

Output in the construction industry, essentially unchanged in September, fell 0.2% in October on continued weakness in non-residential construction and a modest reversal in residential building activity. The decline in work on non-residential projects was the third monthly drop in a row. This came after a slip in the value of building permits, especially for commercial building projects, where activity has consistently fallen since April 2000. October's modest decline in home-building activity followed three robust increases, as the industry bounced back from strike-induced period of weakness in the spring.

Other industries

Financial services output was up 0.7% in October, boosted by higher volumes of stock market activity. The telecommunications services industries were buoyed by increased long-distance use. The production of electricity turned down for a second month, reflecting mild October weather.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4677-4681.

The October 2000 issue of *Gross domestic product by industry* (15-001-XIE, $11/$110) is scheduled for release in January 2001. A print-on-demand version is available at a different price. See *How to order products*.

To purchase data, contact Yolande Chantigny (1-800-887-IMAD; *imad@statcan.ca*). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Richard Evans (613-951-9145; *evanric@statcan.ca*), Industry Measures and Analysis Division. □

Gross domestic product at factor cost by industry, 1992 prices

	May 2000[r]	June 2000[r]	July 2000[r]	Aug. 2000[r]	Sept. 2000[r]	Oct. 2000[p]	Sept. to Oct. 2000	Oct. 2000	Oct. 1999 to Oct. 2000
	seasonally adjusted								
	month-to-month % change						$ change[1]	$ level[1]	% change
All industries	**0.8**	**0.3**	**0.2**	**0.4**	**0.0**	**0.5**	**4,153**	**796,986**	**4.6**
Goods producing industries	**1.1**	**0.1**	**-0.3**	**0.6**	**-0.5**	**0.7**	**1,764**	**260,755**	**4.3**
Agricultural	-0.6	0.6	-2.3	-0.2	0.1	-0.1	-14	12,875	-4.8
Fishing and trapping	2.1	-8.6	4.0	-6.6	-0.9	-1.6	-11	661	-6.4
Logging and forestry	5.2	-0.1	1.0	-4.3	-4.5	-2.6	-125	4,676	-2.5
Mining (including milling), quarrying and oil wells	0.8	1.0	-2.5	-0.4	-0.1	0.9	236	27,428	5.1
Manufacturing	2.1	0.2	0.2	0.9	-0.7	1.3	1,822	146,308	6.7
Construction	-2.0	0.1	0.7	0.6	0.1	-0.2	-70	42,639	1.9
Other utilities	1.9	-1.2	-1.0	1.5	-0.7	-0.3	-74	26,168	1.2
Services producing industries	**0.6**	**0.3**	**0.4**	**0.3**	**0.3**	**0.4**	**2,389**	**536,231**	**4.7**
Transportation and storage	2.2	0.3	0.2	0.5	-0.1	0.1	33	36,976	4.4
Communications	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.0	-0.2	1.0	292	30,962	11.1
Wholesale trade	2.1	0.6	0.5	-0.4	0.1	1.4	689	51,353	5.2
Retail trade	0.4	0.9	1.6	0.0	0.2	-0.5	-265	51,337	6.7
Finance and insurance	0.0	-0.8	0.1	1.2	0.3	0.7	327	44,232	8.0
Real estate and insurance agents	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3	261	83,368	2.8
Business services	0.4	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.3	669	51,411	11.0
Government services	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.3	119	47,645	2.8
Educational services	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	59	40,984	0.5
Health and social services	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.1	64	46,486	0.4
Accommodation and food	0.8	0.4	-0.1	0.6	1.2	0.3	55	21,383	4.5
Other services	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	86	30,094	1.7
Other aggregations									
Industrial production	1.9	0.1	-0.4	0.8	-0.6	1.0	1,984	199,904	5.7
Non-durable manufacturing	1.3	0.4	-0.1	-0.5	-0.4	0.8	456	58,067	2.6
Durable manufacturing	2.6	0.1	0.3	1.8	-0.9	1.6	1,366	88,241	9.6
Business sector	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.6	3,873	667,398	5.2
Non-business sector	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	280	129,588	1.4

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*
1 *Millions of dollars at annual rate.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Steel primary forms

Week ending December 16, 2000 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending December 16 totalled 267 606 tonnes, down 0.3% from 268 290 tonnes a week earlier and down 18.5% from 328 521 tonnes in the same week of 1999. The year-to-date total at the end of the reference week was 16 135 738 tonnes, a 3.6% increase compared with 15 577 794 tonnes for the same period in 1999.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean-Marie Houle (613-951-4925; *houlejm@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending November 21, 2000

Non-intermodal traffic loaded during the seven-day period ending November 21 was 5.0 million tonnes up 1.6% compared with the same week of 1999. The number of cars loaded increased 1.7%.

Intermodal traffic tonnage totalled 463 000 tonnes, a 5.6% increase from the same period of 1999. The year-to-date traffic tonnage figures are down 10.4%.

Total traffic increased 1.9% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 197.3 million tonnes, a decrease of 13.4% from the same period of 1999.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean-Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; *laroque@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Employer pension plans (trusteed pension funds)

Second quarter 2000

The market value of the assets of employer-sponsored pension plans was nearly $604 billion at the end of the second quarter, up 2.9% from the first quarter. This rate of growth was somewhat less than the 3.8% increase during the first quarter.

Stocks accounted for about 44% of the value of total assets, while bonds accounted for 35%, according to *Quarterly estimates of trusteed pension funds*. These proportions were virtually unchanged from the first quarter.

This publication provides data on the revenues, expenditures and assets of employer-sponsored pension plans as of June 30, 2000. It also contains a time series and analysis relating changes in the data to financial indicators.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5749.

The second quarter 2000 issue of *Quarterly estimates of trusteed pension funds* (74-001-XIB, $14/$47; 74-001-XPB, $19/$62) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information about the current survey results and related products and services, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; *income@statcan.ca*), Income Statistics Division. ■

Electric power statistics

October 2000

Reduced generating capability at hydro and nuclear plants and warmer temperatures across Canada led to lower net generation of electricity in October. Net generation of electricity decreased to 45 052 gigawatt hours (GWh), down 3.0% from October 1999. Exports decreased 34.8% to 2 770 GWh, and imports increased from 907 GWh to 946 GWh.

Reduced generating capability in Quebec and British Columbia was the main reason for a 11.5% decrease in generation of hydro electricity to 26 178 GWh. Generation from nuclear sources was down 19.3% to 4 589 GWh, owing to scheduled maintenance shutdowns of generating stations in New Brunswick and Ontario. As a result, thermal conventional generation was up 27.7% to 14 285 GWh hours, compensating for lower nuclear and hydro generation.

Year-to-date net generation at the end of October totalled 477 379 GWh hours, up 4.3% from the same period of 1999. Year-to-date exports were up 23.7% to 43 167 GWh, whereas year-to-date imports fell 17.9% from the same period of 1999 to 9 856 GWh.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3985-3999.

The October 2000 issue of *Electric power statistics* (57-001-XIB, $9/$85) will be available in January 2001. See *How to order products*.

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

André Lefebvre (613-951-3560; *alefeba@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation

November 2000

Manufacturers shipped 3 277 928 square metres of R12 factor (RSI 2.1) mineral wool batts in November, down 5.6% from 3 473 884 square metres in October and down 21.0% from 4 151 323 square metres in November 1999.

Year-to-date shipments to the end of November totalled 27 620 694 square metres, a 8.9% decrease from the same period in 1999.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 40 and 122 (series 32 and 33).

The November issue of *Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation* (44-004-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 Yasmin Sheikh (613-951-2518; *sheiyas@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Pulpwood and wood residue statistics

October 2000

Pulpwood receipts in October totalled 3 193 869 cubic metres, up 6.0% from 3 011 800 cubic metres in October 1999. Wood residue receipts went up 8.6%, from 6 998 857 cubic metres in October 1999 to 7 604 224 cubic metres in October 2000. Consumption of pulpwood and wood residue totalled 10 054 362 cubic metres, up 7.8% from 9 330 682 cubic metres in October 1999.

The closing inventory of pulpwood and wood residue decreased 3.0% to 13 035 270 cubic metres, down from 13 440 687 cubic metres in October 1999.

Data for 1999 were revised.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 54.

The October 2000 issue of *Pulpwood and wood residue statistics* (25-001-XIB, $6/$55) 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 Sara Breen (613-951-3521; *sara.breen@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Coal and coke statistics

October 2000

Lower demand in Western Canada led to reduced production for the eighth consecutive month in October. Coal production totalled 5 595 kilotonnes, down 8.3% from October 1999. The year-to-date production figure stood at 57 559 kilotonnes, down 4.7% from the same period in 1999.

A strong performance in Asian markets led to a 12.1% increase exports in October to 2 581 kilotonnes. Exports to Japan, the largest consumer of Canadian coal, increased in October 8.6% compared with October 1999 to 1 000 kilotonnes. Year-to-date total exports were 27 037 kilotonnes, down 3.6% compared with the same period in 1999.

Coke production in October decreased to 278 kilotonnes, down 1.6% from October 1999.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9.

The October 2000 issue of *Coal and coke statistics* (45-002-XIB, $9/$85) will be available in early January 2001. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact André Lefebvre (613-951-3560, *alefeba@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Restaurant, caterers and taverns

October 2000

Estimated total receipts of restaurants, caterers and taverns for October total $2.59 billion, an increase of 6.8% over the October 1999 estimate.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 62.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts methods or data quality of this release, contact Bill Birbeck (613-951-3506), Services Industries Division. ■

Stocks of frozen meat products

December 2000

Total frozen red meat in cold storage at the opening of the first business day of December amounted to 56 328 tonnes, up from 55 630 tonnes in November but down from 57 324 tonnes in December 1999.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 87 and 9518-9525.

Stocks of frozen meat products (23-009-XIE, free) is available on Statistics Canada's Web site (*www.statcan.ca*). From the *Products and services* page, choose *Free publications*, then *Agriculture*.

For more information, call 1-800-216-2299. To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Barbara McLaughlin (902-893-7251; *barbara.mclaughlin@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Literacy in Canada: Disparity between francophones and anglophones

1994

This study, available today, analyses the disparities in literacy levels between francophones and anglophones in Canada. It is based on data from the 1994 International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS), the development and management of which were co-ordinated by Statistics Canada.

Like many earlier surveys, the 1994 IALS identified sizable differences in literacy levels between francophones and anglophones. With respect to their performance on all three scales of literacy (prose, document, or quantitative literacy), francophones did less well on skill tests than anglophones.

This study uses several variables from the survey to identify factors that could explain such disparities between the two linguistic groups. For example, level of education plays a major role, as do age, sex and reading and writing habits.

Historical factors are also important, especially given the substantial progress in education achieved by francophones between 1971 and 1996. This progress was such that among young people, there is almost no gap in literacy test scores between the linguistic groups.

The study also examines substantial differences in literacy between Quebec francophones, living in a majority situation, and francophones living outside Quebec in a minority situation.

Literacy in Canada: Disparity between francophones and anglophones (89-573-XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site (*www.statcan.ca*). On the *Products and services* page, choose *Free publications*, then *Education*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data analysis of this release, contact Jean-Pierre Corbeil (613-951-2315; *corbjea@statcan.ca*), Demography Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Infomat–A weekly review, December 22, 2000
Catalogue number 11-002-XIE ($3/$109).

Infomat–A weekly review, December 22, 2000
Catalogue number 11-002-XPE ($4/$145).

Stocks of frozen meat products, December 2000
Catalogue number 23-009-XIE
(Free).

Pulpwood and wood residue statistics, October 2000
Catalogue number 25-001-XIB ($6/$55).

Oil and gas extraction, 1999
Catalogue number 26-213-XPB ($29).

Monthly survey of manufacturing, October 2000
Catalogue number 31-001-XPB ($20/$196).

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation, November 2000
Catalogue number 44-004-XIB ($5/$47).

Natural gas transportation and distribution, September 2000
Catalogue number 55-002-XIB ($13/$125).

Natural gas transport and distribution, 1999
Catalogue number 57-205-XIB ($23).

Retail trade, October 2000
Catalogue number 63-005-XIB ($16/$155).

Wholesale trade, October 2000
Catalogue number 63-008-XIB ($14/$140).

Canadian international merchandise trade, October 2000
Catalogue number 65-001-XIB ($14/$141).

Canadian international merchandise trade, October 2000
Catalogue number 65-001-XPB ($19/$188).

Import by commodity, October 2000
Catalogue number 65-007-XMB ($37/$361).

Import by commodity, October 2000
Catalogue number 65-007-XPB ($78/$773).

Quarterly estimates of trusteed pension funds, Second quarter 2000
Catalogue number 74-001-XIB ($14/$47).

Quarterly estimates of trusteed pension funds, Second quarter 2000
Catalogue number 74-001-XPB ($19/$62).

Canadian culture in perspective: A statistical overview, 2000 Edition
Catalogue number 87-211-XIB ($23).

Canadian culture in perspective: A statistical overview, 2000 Edition
Catalogue number 87-211-XPB ($31).

Science statistics, Vol. 24, no. 8
Catalogue number 88-001-XIB ($6/$59).

Literacy in Canada: Disparity between francophones and anglophones, 1994
Catalogue number 89-573-XIE
(Free).

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 -XCD are electronic versions on compact disc.

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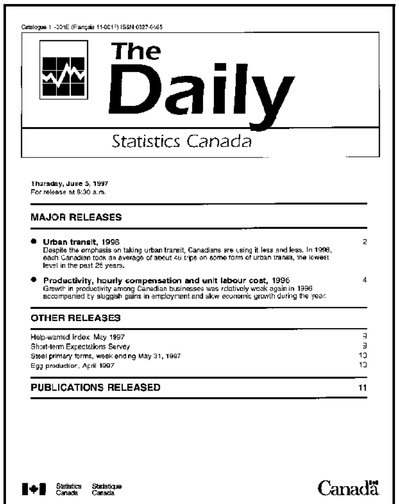
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The Daily

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

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Canada

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RELEASE DATES: JANUARY 2001

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
4	**Industrial product and raw materials price indexes**	November 2000
5	**Labour Force Survey**	December 2000
11	**Building permits**	November 2000
12	**New Housing Price Index**	November 2000
15	**New motor vehicle sales**	November 2000
18	**Consumer Price Index**	December 2000
18	**Wholesale trade**	November 2000
19	**Canadian international merchandise trade**	November 2000
19	**Travel between Canada and other countries**	November 2000
22	**Monthly Survey of Manufacturing**	November 2000
22	**Retail trade**	November 2000
24	**Composite Index**	November 2000
24	**Employment Insurance**	December 2000
24	**Canada's international transactions in securities**	November 2000
30	**Industrial product and raw materials price indexes**	December 2000
30	**Employment, earnings and hours**	November 2000
31	**Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry**	November 2000
31	**Field crop reporting series: Stocks of Canadian grain**	December 31, 2000