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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, February 24, 2000
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Consumer Price Index,** January 2000 3
  Between January 1999 and January 2000, consumers experienced a 2.3% increase in the prices of goods and services included in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket. Energy prices were once again the main contributor to the annual increase. Excluding energy, consumer prices rose 1.1% in January, the lowest increase since March 1999.

- **Farm cash receipts,** 1999 5
  Farm cash receipts reached $30.3 billion nationally, due to growth in the livestock sector and higher program payments. Despite plunging crop receipts, particularly from grains and oilseeds, receipts from agricultural commodities and program payments were up 2.2% from 1998.

(continued on following page)

Survey of Household Spending, Public-use Microdata File

1997

For the first time, data from the 1997 Survey of Household Spending are available in one comprehensive microdata file. This survey, which replaces the Family Expenditure Survey and the Household Facilities and Equipment Survey, has data about spending on a wide variety of goods and services as well as dwelling characteristics and information about household ownership of equipment. All records have been thoroughly screened to ensure the anonymity of respondents.

The Survey of Household Spending collects information about expenditures made by households and families in Canada on a wide variety of goods and services: food, shelter, communications, child care, furniture, clothing, health care, transportation, recreation, reading materials, education, tobacco and alcohol, gambling, taxes, insurance premiums, pension contributions, money gifts, and charitable contributions.

It also has data about dwelling characteristics that include dwelling type, whether repairs are needed, tenure (owned or rented), year of move, period of construction, number of rooms and bathrooms, and the age and type of heating equipment and fuel used. Household equipment includes household appliances, communications and entertainment equipment, and the number of vehicles owned.

The Public-use Microdata File for the *Survey of Household Spending in 1997* (62M0004XCB, $3,000) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information about the current survey results and related products and services, contact Client Services (613-951-7355; 1 888 297-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; *income@statcan.ca*), Income Statistics Division.

OTHER RELEASES

Production and disposition of tobacco products, January 2000 8
Steel primary forms, week ending February 19, 2000 8
Railway carloadings, seven-day period ending February 7, 2000 8
Postcensal estimates of population by selected characteristics, July 1, 1997 to 1999 8

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 9

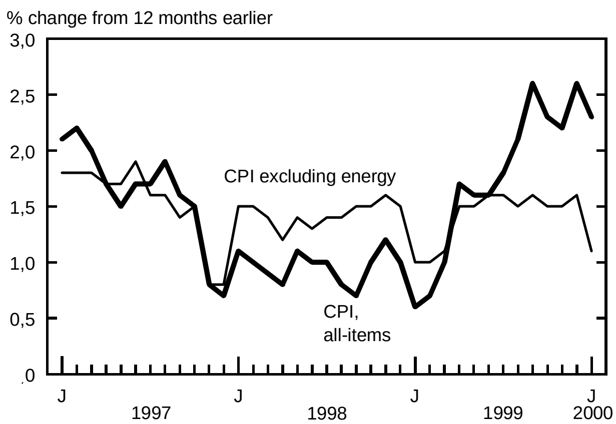
REGIONAL REFERENCE CENTRES 11

MAJOR RELEASES

Consumer Price Index
January 2000

Between January 1999 and January 2000, consumers experienced a 2.3% increase in the prices of goods and services included in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket. This increase was lower than the 2.6% seen in December, but comparable to the increases of 2.2% in November and 2.3% in October. Energy prices were once again the main contributor to the CPI's annual increase. The CPI excluding energy rose 1.1% in January, its lowest increase since March 1999.

Annual change in the CPI and in the CPI excluding energy



The annual increase in the CPI was in large part due to increases in gasoline prices and household heating costs (fuel oil and natural gas). Global prices for crude oil have been climbing due to reduced production by OPEC countries. January's 25.3% annual increase in gasoline prices was the second largest in the past 12 months.

Other important contributors to the overall price increase in January were food purchased from restaurants, tuition fees and mortgage interest costs. January's increase of 1.7% in mortgage interest costs was the largest annual increase since December 1995. These were somewhat neutralized by price decreases for computer equipment and supplies and for fresh fruit.

CPI declines slightly from December to January

In January, the CPI was 0.1% lower than in December 1999. Prices declined for air transportation, travel tours (due to seasonally lower prices) and for automotive vehicles. These monthly declines were only partly offset by price increases for fresh vegetables, non-alcoholic beverages and natural gas.

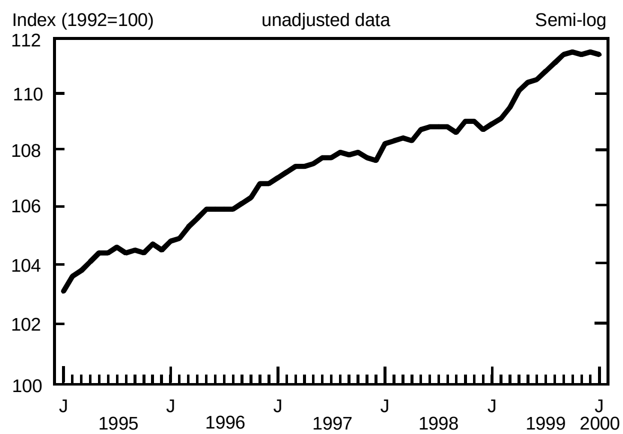
Air transportation prices fell 8.3%, due primarily to seasonal rate decreases for a number of domestic and transatlantic routes.

A 9.5% decrease in the prices of travel tours was in keeping with the patterns of previous years. January has traditionally seen low demand for holiday packages for Canadians travelling to winter destinations.

Between December 1999 and January 2000, automotive vehicle prices declined 0.9%. This was a combined result of manufacturer rebates for certain models and dealer discounts to help spur sales.

Fresh vegetable prices rose from December by 6.8%. This was in keeping with those observed in January of previous years, and it was a result of reduced supplies.

Consumer Price Index



Monthly prices increased for natural gas by 2.4%. This rise reflected increases in Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. The most cited reason for the price increase was higher costs for gas purchases by distributors. Natural gas rates remained unchanged in most other provinces.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9940-9970.

This release is available at 7 a.m. on release day on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca).

The January 2000 issue of the *The Consumer Price Index* (62-001-XPB, $11/$103) is available. See *How to order publications*.

The February 2000 Consumer Price Index will be released on March 15.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division.

Consumer Price Index and its major components

1992=100

	Jan. 2000	Dec. 1999	Jan. 1999	Dec. 1999 to Jan. 2000	Jan. 1999 to Jan. 2000
	unadjusted				
				% change	
All-items	**111.4**	**111.5**	**108.9**	**-0.1**	**2.3**
Food	110.8	110.9	111.1	-0.1	-0.3
Shelter	106.7	106.4	104.5	0.3	2.1
Household operations and furnishings	108.7	109.2	107.9	-0.5	0.7
Clothing and footwear	104.3	103.4	103.7	0.9	0.6
Transportation	127.3	128.3	120.2	-0.8	5.9
Health and personal care	111.0	110.8	109.0	0.2	1.8
Recreation, education and reading	118.5	119.4	115.5	-0.8	2.6
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	96.2	95.9	93.7	0.3	2.7
Goods	108.8	109.0	106.2	-0.2	2.4
Services	114.3	114.5	112.1	-0.2	2.0
All-items excluding food and energy	110.6	110.9	109.1	-0.3	1.4
Energy	118.6	118.4	103.1	0.2	15.0
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1992	89.8	89.7	91.8		
All-items (1986=100)	142.6				

Consumer Price Index for the provinces, Whitehorse and Yellowknife

1992=100

	Jan. 2000	Dec. 1999	Jan. 1999	Dec. 1999 to Jan. 2000	Jan. 1999 to Jan. 2000
	unadjusted				
				% change	
Newfoundland	111.6	111.1	108.0	0.5	3.3
Prince Edward Island	109.1	109.4	105.7	-0.3	3.2
Nova Scotia	112.0	112.0	108.2	0.0	3.5
New Brunswick	110.3	110.7	107.0	-0.4	3.1
Quebec	108.7	108.7	106.6	0.0	2.0
Ontario	111.9	112.1	109.3	-0.2	2.4
Manitoba	116.4	116.5	113.8	-0.1	2.3
Saskatchewan	114.6	114.5	112.9	0.1	1.5
Alberta	114.7	115.1	111.7	-0.3	2.7
British Columbia	111.3	111.6	109.9	-0.3	1.3
Whitehorse	112.3	113.0	110.4	-0.6	1.7
Yellowknife	109.6	110.3	108.2	-0.6	1.3

■

Farm cash receipts

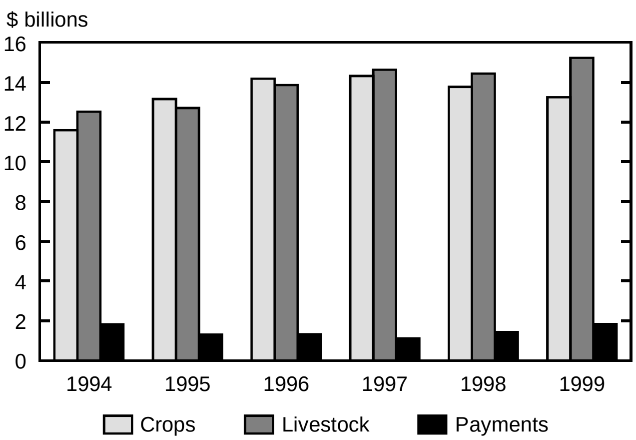
1999

Farm cash receipts reached $30.3 billion nationally in 1999, as the growth in livestock receipts and program payments more than offset plunging crop receipts, particularly from grains and oilseeds.

In total, farm cash receipts were 2.2% above the level in 1998 and 6.6% above the five-year average for the period between 1994 and 1998.

Excluding program payments, the market for crops and livestock generated $28.5 billion for farmers in 1999, compared with $28.2 billion a year earlier.

Farm cash receipts



Crop producers were hardest hit as crop receipts declined 3.9% to $13.2 billion, 1.2% below the previous five-year average. Abundant world grain supplies forced prices for most grains and oilseeds down to their lowest levels since 1994. On the other hand, producers got more from sales of specialty crops, potatoes, corn, fruits and vegetables, floriculture and nursery items.

Livestock receipts increased 5.4% to a record $15.2 billion in the wake of increased revenue from cattle and hog sales. Fuelled by higher production, cash receipts from livestock have set records almost every year since 1989.

Program payments reached a five-year high of $1.8 billion in 1999, up 28.4% from a year earlier and 31.4% above the previous five-year average of $1.4 billion. Payments under Agricultural Income Disaster Assistance (AIDA), its related provincial disaster programs and the Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA) contributed to an increase in program payments of $407 million.

Note to readers

Statistics Canada does not forecast farm cash receipts. These data are based on survey and administrative data from a wide variety of sources.

***Farm cash receipts** measure the gross revenue of farm businesses in current dollars. They include sales of crops and livestock products (except sales between farms in the same province) and program payments. They are the dollars farmers receive when selling their products, before any expenses are paid. Preliminary estimates of net farm income for 1999 will be released on May 25, 2000.*

*The **Net Income Stabilization Account** (NISA) program is comprised of two funds. The first holds producer deposits while the second contains the matching government contributions and all accumulated interest earned on both funds. Only producer withdrawals from the second fund are included as payments in farm cash receipts.*

*The **Agricultural Income Disaster Assistance** (AIDA) program is provided in the form of individual payments to eligible producers and credits to the provincial governments for the programs established to assist producers. Farm cash receipts include only the amount directly paid to producers.*

***Deferments**: Payment from the sale of some agriculture commodities can be deferred until the next year. For example, producers in Western Canada have the option of deferring grain and oilseed receipts. Because these receipts are based on physical deliveries, any deferred payments are deducted from the farm cash receipts of the current calendar year and included when they are liquidated, the following year.*

Cash receipts up in all provinces except Saskatchewan

Farm cash receipts increased in every province last year except Saskatchewan, where crops accounted for almost 70 cents of every dollar of revenue. Total receipts declined 2.2% to $5.5 billion in Saskatchewan. Receipts from crops alone fell 10.9%.

In Manitoba, total receipts increased 2.8% as growth in program payments and livestock receipts more than offset a 7.2% decline in crop revenue. Total receipts in Alberta also increased 2.8%, as cattle revenue more than offset shortfalls in crop revenue.

Receipts in Ontario were up 1.8%. Higher program payments, and receipts from floriculture and nursery items and corn more than offset a substantial decrease in soybean receipts. In Quebec, receipts were 3.5% higher, due in part to gains in slaughter hogs and dairy products.

Potato receipts were the driving force behind a 10.5% increase in farm cash receipts in Prince Edward Island and an 8.9% rise in New Brunswick. The upswing in potato prices contributed directly to this increase.

Grain, oilseeds prices all below decade average

In 1999, grain and oilseed prices were all below their averages for the decade from 1989-1998, dragging down crop revenues.

Cash receipts were down significantly for the two main oilseed crops, canola (-32.5%) and soybeans (-23.3%), as marketings and prices both declined significantly. High world oilseed supplies continued to put downward pressure on prices.

Durum wheat receipts declined 19.7% to $726 million, their lowest level since 1994 as prices fell.

Barley receipts declined 9.3% to $529 million as prices fell 15.6%. Ample world supplies of feed grains (mainly corn) put downward pressure on prices over the last three years.

The decrease in total crop receipts was tempered by producers deferring fewer grain and oilseeds receipts into the year 2000 for crops sold in 1999. Deferments in 1999 were $551 million, the smallest since 1993.

Other crops rallied to counter the impact of grains and oilseeds on farm cash receipts. Corn receipts stood at $707 million, up 10.3% from the previous year. A record corn harvest boosted deliveries, which more than offset a 9.6% drop in prices.

Potato receipts reached a record $715 million as both prices and marketings strengthened. Potato receipts, which have grown steadily over recent years, were 31.9% above their five-year average in 1999.

Receipts for specialty crops (mustard seed, sunflower seed, lentils, canary seed, dry beans and dry peas) reached $780 million, up 24.6% over 1998 and 33.2% over the previous five-year average. Growing export markets are one of the main factors that have pushed production to record levels. Canada is the world’s largest exporter of lentils, dry peas, mustard seed and canary seed.

Floriculture and nursery receipts increased 9.1% to $1.3 billion. This sector has grown significantly in recent years, averaging an 8.4% annual increase between 1994 and 1999. Ontario generates almost half of total floriculture and nursery farm receipts, followed by British Columbia (24.9%) and Quebec (13.0%).

Record livestock receipts

Livestock receipts reached a record high last year due to stronger prices for cattle and calves and to a substantial increase in hog receipts.

Higher cattle and calf prices and marketings pushed receipts to a record $6.3 billion, up 9.5% from a year earlier. Driven by the demand for beef in North America and abroad, prices reached their highest level since 1995. As processing grew in Canada, the number of cattle slaughtered increased 6.3%, while exports of live animals fell 20.9%.

Hog receipts grew 7.5% to $2.4 billion on the strength of record marketings. Despite this increase, hog receipts remained 3.2% below the average of the previous five years. The industry continued to recover from dismal prices at the end of 1998. The average hog prices for 1999 were up 0.5% from 1998 but remained below (-21.8%) the previous five-year average.

The Canadian hog industry has grown along with domestic processing capacity; a record number of hogs were slaughtered in 1999.

Dairy receipts reached a record $3.9 billion as both prices and quantity increased. Quebec reported the largest increase in dairy receipts, they rose from 1998 to reach $1.5 billion.

Program payments at highest level in five years

Weak commodity prices and poor growing conditions contributed to the substantial rise in payments, which hit their highest level in five years.

Program payments reached $1.8 billion in 1999, up 28.4% from a year earlier and 31.4% above the previous five-year average of $1.4 billion.

Farmers received $341 million in payments under AIDA (Agricultural Income Disaster Assistance) and its related provincial disaster programs in 1999. Launched at the end of 1998, AIDA was designed to provide income support to producers facing dramatic income declines due to factors beyond their control.

Higher NISA (Net Income Stabilization Account) withdrawals from the government portion of the account also contributed to the increase. Farmers withdrew $445 million in 1999 compared with $269 million the previous year, as farm income fell in 1998. An increase in the minimum income threshold may also explain the higher level of withdrawals.

Despite excessive moisture in some parts of the country and drought conditions in others, payments under the Crop Insurance Program, private hail insurance and related ad hoc programs fell 3.5% in 1999 to $383 million. This level was 13.2% below the five-year average of $441 million.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3582-3592.

The January-December 1999 issue of *Farm cash receipts* (21-001-XIB, $15/$48) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-3445; *gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca*), Winnipeg Office, or Estelle Perrault (613-951-2448; *estelle.perrault@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division.

□

Farm cash receipts

	1998	1999p	1998 to 1999	Oct. to Dec. 1998	Oct. to Dec. 1999p	Oct.-Dec. 1998 to Oct.-Dec. 1999
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
Total, all receipts	**29,648**	**30,311**	**2.2**	**7,829**	**8,160**	**4.2**
All wheat [1]	3,332	3,128	-6.1	602	679	12.8
Wheat excluding durum[1]	2,428	2,402	-1.1	479	556	16.1
Durum wheat [1]	904	726	-19.7	123	123	-
Barley [1]	583	529	-9.3	109	130	19.3
Deferments	-924	-551	-40.4	-410	-274	-33.2
Liquidations of deferments	971	924	-4.8	-	-	-
Canola	2,703	1,825	-32.5	891	552	-38.0
Soybeans	798	612	-23.3	290	205	-29.3
Corn	641	707	10.3	232	198	-14.7
Other cereals and oilseeds	526	366	-30.4	182	110	-39.6
Special crops	626	780	24.6	278	354	27.3
Other crops	4,519	4,921	8.9	1,306	1,398	7.0
Total crops	**13,774**	**13,243**	**-3.9**	**3,480**	**3,354**	**-3.6**
Cattle and calves	5,721	6,264	9.5	1,626	1,848	13.7
Hogs	2,230	2,398	7.5	415	660	59.0
Dairy products	3,845	3,923	2.0	993	998	0.5
Poultry	2,104	2,088	-0.8	531	526	-0.9
Other livestock	543	558	2.8	148	167	12.8
Total livestock	**14,443**	**15,230**	**5.4**	**3,713**	**4,199**	**13.1**
Net Income Stabilisation Account	269	445	65.4	106	108	1.9
Crop Insurance	397	307	-22.7	216	144	-33.3
Provincial stabilization	508	434	-14.6	232	107	-53.9
Dairy subsidy	132	104	-21.2	30	23	-23.3
Other programs	126	549	335.7	52	226	334.6
Total payments	**1,432**	**1,839**	**28.4**	**636**	**608**	**-4.4**

p *Preliminary data*
1 *Includes Canadian Wheat Board payments.*
\- *Nil or zero.*
Note: *Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.*

Provincial farm cash receipts

	1998	1999p	1998 to 1999	Oct. to Dec. 1998	Oct. to Dec. 1999p	Oct.-Dec. 1998 to Oct.-Dec. 1999
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
Canada	**29,648**	**30,311**	**2.2**	**7,829**	**8,160**	**4.2**
Newfoundland	74	78	5.4	21	20	-4.8
Prince Edward Island	313	346	10.5	80	82	2.5
Nova Scotia	376	396	5.3	113	121	7.1
New Brunswick	337	367	8.9	93	98	5.4
Quebec	4,876	5,047	3.5	1,391	1,343	-3.5
Ontario	6,902	7,029	1.8	1,923	1,971	2.5
Manitoba	2,946	3,029	2.8	785	776	-1.1
Saskatchewan	5,619	5,498	-2.2	1,346	1,469	9.1
Alberta	6,393	6,573	2.8	1,598	1,731	8.3
British Columbia	1,813	1,948	7.4	481	550	14.3

p *Preliminary data.*
Note: *Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.*

OTHER RELEASES

Production and disposition of tobacco products

January 2000

Tobacco product manufacturers started the year with a decrease in cigarette shipments after strong seasonal sales in December. Production was also down but not as much as shipments. As a result, more cigarettes were produced than sold, which increased inventories.

January shipments dropped to 3.0 billion cigarettes, down from 4.1 billion in December. This was 27% less than the previous month and 25% below shipments of January 1998.

January production of 3.7 billion cigarettes was 1% below December's level and 14% lower than in January 1999.

Holiday sales in December drew down inventories from 4.2 billion to 3.5 billion cigarettes. By the end of January, inventories had rebounded 22%, back to 4.2 billion cigarettes. This was 8% more than the closing inventories in January 1999.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 46.

The January 2000 issue of *Production and disposition of tobacco products* (32-022-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 Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511; *zylspet@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending February 19, 2000 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending February 19, 2000 totalled 322 526 tonnes, up 3.4% from the week-earlier 311 996 tonnes and up 8.5% from the year-earlier 297 381 tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 2 264 218 tonnes, an 8.7% increase compared with 2 083 455 tonnes for the same period in 1999.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-7093; *milsomg@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending February 7, 2000

Non-intermodal traffic loaded during the seven-day period ending February 7, 2000, increased 11.0% to 5.1 million tonnes compared with the same period of 1999. The number of cars loaded increased 9.9%.

Intermodal traffic tonnage totalled 400 000 tonnes, an 11.5% increase compared with the same period in 1999. The year-to-date figures increased 16.1%.

Total traffic increased 11.0% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 26.4 million tonnes, an increase of 11.0% from the previous year.

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 Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; *laroque@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Postcensal estimates of population by selected characteristics

July 1, 1997 to 1999

Released today are preliminary postcensal estimates by age, sex and marital status at July 1, 1999 as well as at July 1 in 1998 and 1997 (updated postcensal) for Canada, the provinces and territories.

These estimates take into account the 1996 Census results, adjusted for net census undercoverage.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 6213-6227.

These estimates will appear in *Annual demographic statistics, 1999* (91-213-XPB, $125 and 91-213-XIB, $56), which will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For more information or to obtain data, contact Lise Champagne (613-951-2320; fax: 613-951-2952; *chamlis@statcan.ca*), Demography Division or the nearest Regional Reference Centre. To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Daniel Larrivée (613-951-0694; fax: 613-951-2952; *lardani@statcan.ca*), Demography Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Production and disposition of tobacco products, January 2000
Catalogue number 32-022-XIB
(Canada: $5/$47).

The Consumer Price Index, January 2000
Catalogue number 62-001-XPB
(Canada: $11/$103; outside Canada: US$11/US$103).

Canadian international merchandise trade, December 1999
Catalogue number 65-001-XIB
(Canada: $14/$141).

Canadian international merchandise trade, December 1999
Catalogue number 65-001-XPB
(Canada: $19/$188; outside Canada: US$19/US$188).

Imports by commodity, December 1999
Catalogue number 65-007-XPB
(Canada: $78/$773; outside Canada: US$78/US$773).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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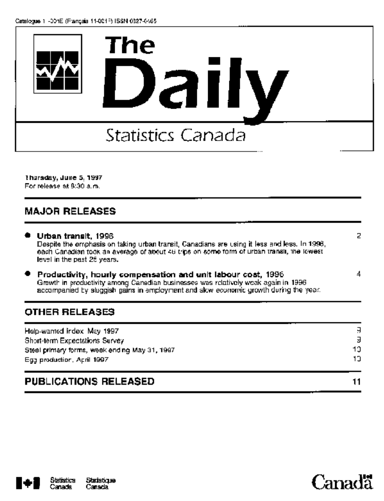

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The Daily

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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