



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Tuesday, February 29, 2000**

For release at 8:30 a.m.

## MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

## OTHER RELEASES

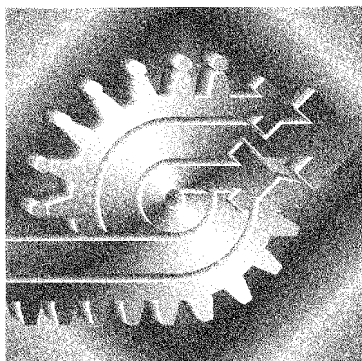
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### Labour Force Update

An Overview of the 1999 Labour Market  
Winter 2000



Statistics Canada

Canada

### Labour force update: Overview of the 1999 labour market Winter 2000

This issue of *Labour force update* provides an in-depth summary of the 1999 labour market (part of which was pre-released February 1, 2000). Using revised estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), this overview looks at employment growth: where it occurred across the country, in which industries and who benefited from the new jobs. A variety of charts and tables further demonstrate trends and recent labour market occurrences.

The Labour Force Survey has undergone extensive revisions to reflect two important changes to the way in which labour market data are produced. As a result, all LFS estimates have been revised back to January 1976. This report includes an article explaining these revisions.

Each quarter, *Labour force update* features the latest information and relevant trends relating to 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 Winter 2000 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 Statistics Canada's Web site at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca). For more information, contact Jeannine Usalcas (613- 951-4720; fax 613 951-2869; [usaljea@statcan.ca](mailto:usaljea@statcan.ca)), Labour Statistics Division.



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## **OTHER RELEASES – concluded**

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## **PUBLICATIONS RELEASED**

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## OTHER RELEASES

### Monthly Survey of Large Retailers

December 1999 (preliminary) and 1999

December sales by the group of large retailers reached \$8.9 billion, a 6.7% increase over December 1998. Despite changes over the course of the year in the composition of this group (i.e. the loss of Eaton's, Marks and Spencer, Aventure Electronique and restructuring in the food stores belonging to the group), sales for 1999 were 6.1% (+\$4.2 billion) higher than for 1998. (All data in this report are unadjusted for seasonality.)

In December, sales by food stores belonging to the group of large retailers were up 6.5% compared with December 1998. Department store sales advanced 1.8% and sales for the rest of the group rose 10.7%. The clothing, footwear, and accessories category, which was affected by the closure of Eaton's, had a small year-over-year gain (+1.0%). All other major product lines sold by the group of large retailers recorded healthy increases.

For the second consecutive month, sales of health and personal care products (+14.5%) and hardware and lawn and garden products (+12.2%) recorded the largest year-over-year percentage increases. The share of health and personal care products sold rose to 7.4% in December 1999 from 6.9% in December 1998. Robust December sales of nursery stock (+33.8%) and cut flowers (+24.4%) boosted sales in the hardware and lawn and garden category. Nursery stock includes commodities such as natural Christmas trees and cuttings.

Housewares also posted strong year-over-year sales increases (+10.4% or \$39.1 million) in December. Included within this category are sales of tableware, household cleaning supplies and other non-electric household supplies.

Household cleaning supplies (+\$24.6 million) contributed more than half the sales increase in housewares. Tableware sales for the group of large retailers were affected by the closure of Eaton's as sales fell for the second consecutive month. Sales of other non-electric household supplies such as flashlights and batteries rose significantly (+\$18.9 million), which may have resulted from shoppers preparing for Y2K.

Home furnishings and electronics posted another good month for the group of large retailers as sales rose 9.1% compared with December 1998.

Sales of sporting and leisure goods increased 8.3% in December. Within this category, sales of hunting, fishing and camping equipment jumped 47.6%. Y2K concerns may have been a contributing factor to the increased sales of such items as camping

stoves, lanterns and sleeping bags. Other notable increases were in sales of books, newspapers and other periodicals (+12.6%) as well as pre-recorded audio and video tapes (+7.2%).

Sales of clothing, footwear and accessories by the group of large retailers rose 1.0% in December; however, sales of girl's (+6.8%), boy's (+6.2%) and infant's/children's wear (+5.7%) outpaced sales of women's clothing (+1.1%). Sales of men's clothing (-0.1%), footwear (-0.6%) and jewellery (-2.9%) decreased for the same period. The closing of Eaton's, combined with mild December temperatures, may have influenced falling sales.

### Sales by commodity for the group of large retailers

	Nov. 1998	Nov. 1999 <sup>r</sup>	Nov. 1998 to Nov. 1999	Dec. 1998	Dec. 1999 <sup>p</sup>	Dec. 1998 to Dec. 1999
	unadjusted					
	\$ 000,000		% change	\$ 000,000		% change
<b>Commodities</b>						
Food and beverages	1,975	1,999	1.2%	2,376	2,508	5.6
Clothing, footwear and accessories	1,442	1,426	-1.1%	2,101	2,122	1.0
Home furnishings and electronics	1,005	1,092	8.6%	1,391	1,518	9.1
Health and personal care products	426	483	13.3%	575	659	14.5
Housewares	284	308	8.3%	375	414	10.4
Sporting and leisure goods	384	404	5.4%	609	659	8.3
Hardware and lawn and garden products	184	204	11.0%	222	249	12.2
All other goods and services	607	666	9.7%	704	783	11.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,306</b>	<b>6,581</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>8,354</b>	<b>8,913</b>	<b>6.7</b>

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

In 1999, sales for the group of large retailers reached \$72.1 billion, up 6.1% over 1998 even though some stores left the group.

Sales increased in all the major product lines in 1999. Within the group, food store sales were up 3.4%, department store sales rose 6.3% and sales for the remaining stores advanced 8.7%. Food stores accounted for 37.2% of the group's sales in 1999, while department store sales accounted for 24.9% and the rest of the group accounted for the remaining 37.9%.

For the second consecutive year, sales of health and beauty products outperformed other product lines sold by the group and posted the largest annual increase in sales, up 15.8% (+\$741.5 million).

In 1999, sales of hardware and lawn and garden products grew 10.0%, while sales of home furnishings

and electronics increased 9.4%. Within this latter category, sales of home furnishings and decorating products (e.g., drapes, bedding, artwork) jumped 10.8%. Sales of furniture, household appliances and home electronics (e.g., televisions, VCRs, computers, video cameras) were up 8.9% over 1998 sales.

Sales of sporting and leisure goods by the group of large retailers increased 6.8% in 1999 compared with 1998. Within this category, the largest increase was recorded for sales of sporting goods (+\$110.0 million).

Despite several months of sluggish sales at the end of 1999, sales of clothing, footwear and accessories by the group of large retailers were up 5.4% for the year. Clothing sales rose 5.8%, followed by luggage and leather goods (+4.4%), jewellery (+3.8%) and footwear (+1.9%).

Even with a restructuring of the food stores belonging to the group of large retailers, food and beverage sales were up (+2.6%) for 1999 as compared with 1998.

#### Annual sales by commodity for the group of large retailers

	1998 <sup>r</sup>	1999 <sup>p</sup>	1998 to 1999
	\$ 000,000		% change
<b>Commodities</b>			
Food and beverages	24,357	25,000	2.6
Clothing, footwear and accessories	13,944	14,695	5.4
Home furnishings and electronics	9,202	10,066	9.4
Health and personal care products	4,697	5,438	15.8
Sporting and leisure goods	3,243	3,465	6.8
Housewares	3,122	3,396	8.8
Hardware and lawn and garden products	2,579	2,837	10.0
All other goods and services	6,810	7,208	5.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>67,954</b>	<b>72,105</b>	<b>6.1</b>

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

For data or general information, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-3549 or 1 877 421-3067; [retailinfo@statcan.ca](mailto:retailinfo@statcan.ca)). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Catherine Draper (613-951-0669; [drapcat@statcan.ca](mailto:drapcat@statcan.ca)), Retail Commodity Section, Distributive Trades Division. ■

#### Domestic travel

Third quarter 1999

Canadians made 49.6 million trips within Canada in the third quarter of 1999, a 3.8% decline of 2.0 million trips from the same period in 1998. This was the first quarter for 1999 in which domestic travel slackened.

A strong Canadian economy and a better Canada-U.S. exchange rate (+1.9%) may have spurred Canadians to travel more in the United States (+12.8%) during the third quarter. Pent-up demand had probably developed among Canadians who had shown less interest in this destination during the previous few years. Domestic travel weakened in August (-3.5%) and in September (-14.2%) compared with the same period in 1998. However, in July, the number of trips made by Canadians in Canada (+4.2%) or to the United States (+8.2%) was higher than in July 1998.

Of the trips made by Canadians within Canada in the third quarter of 1999, 20.7 million were same-day trips and 28.9 million included at least one night's stay. Compared with the same period last year, the number of same-day trips within Canada declined 6.3%, although the number of overnight trips dropped only 2.0%.

The number of overnight stays for these trips differed little from the same period of 1998, dropping 0.7% to 113.7 million person-nights. Those spent in commercial lodgings rose 2.1%, while the number spent with family or friends went down 4.9%. For all domestic trips in the third quarter of 1999, 6 out of 10 overnight stays were spent in commercial establishments.

Domestic automobile trips in the third quarter of 1999 dropped 4.0% to 46.2 million, representing 93% of the 49.6 million trips made across the country. However, the number of trips by air totalled 1.7 million, a 3.1% rise from the same quarter of 1998. The number of bus trips rose 16.6% to 1.0 million. Trips by other modes of transportation (train, boat, etc.) fell 26.4%, barely reaching 0.7 million of the total number of domestic trips.

Domestic travel expenditures totalled \$6.9 billion in the third quarter of 1999, a 6.4% hike over the \$6.5 billion recorded a year ago. Factors that may have contributed to this increase included a rise in trip costs (+5%, according to the Travel Price Index), a larger proportion of nights spent in commercial accommodations, an increase in the average spending per trip, greater distances travelled, as well as the balmy temperatures in the eastern part of the country during the summer of 1999.

Transportation-related costs represented 35% (\$2.4 billion) of total travel expenditures for the third quarter of 1999, a 4.0% increase over the same period of 1998. This hike may have been due to the rise in

prices of gasoline and local transportation, along with a greater number of trips by airplane and bus.

Food and beverage expenditures were second in importance and accounted for 25% (\$1.7 billion) of travel expenditures, a 5.7% rise over the third quarter of 1999. This increase was greater than the price hikes recorded for this category of expenditures, which would suggest travellers were not stingy when it came to buying food and drink on their trips.

Expenditures for accommodation made up 20% (\$1.4 billion) of total travel costs, up 11% in the third quarter of 1999. This advance was due to the marked increase in accommodation prices (+6.2%, according to the Travel Price Index), combined with a greater proportion of nights in commercial accommodation. The last category of expenditures, which increased 7.2% and covers recreation, entertainment and miscellaneous, represented the remaining 20% (\$1.4 billion) of total travel costs.

In the third quarter of 1999, domestic overnight visitors travelled a one-way distance of 445 km per trip, and spent \$205 per person per trip and \$52 per person per night. For the same period last year, the distance travelled stood at 433 km per trip while expenditures per person averaged \$188 per trip and \$48 per night.

**Note:** Domestic travel is defined as any trip of 80 kilometers or more one way, taken by Canadian residents and having a Canadian destination. Data for trips by Canadians going to the United States come from the International Travel Survey.

Various statistical profiles and microdata files are available on request. For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Lizette Gervais-Simard (613-951-1672; fax: 613-951-2909; [gervliz@statcan.ca](mailto:gervliz@statcan.ca)), Tourism Statistics Program.

For additional context and perspective on the tourism industry, contact Ed Thompson (613-946-2145 fax: 613-954-3826; [thompson.ed@ic.gc.ca](mailto:thompson.ed@ic.gc.ca)) Canadian Tourism Commission. ■

## Crude oil and natural gas 1999 and December 1999 (preliminary)

For 1999, production of crude oil declined 4.9% from 1998. This reflects decisions by Canadian producers to curtail production due to weak prices in 1998 and the first half of 1999, rather than lower demand by U.S. refineries. Despite a 6.1% decline in crude oil exports, Canada remains one of the major suppliers of crude oil to the United States along with Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

Marketable natural gas production increased a modest 1.1% over 1998. Exports advanced 6.4%, while

domestic sales rose 1.1%. Sales to the residential and commercial sectors increased largely due to the unseasonably cold weather in the first half of 1999. The increased sales in the industrial sector were primarily due to higher demand for natural gas by electric utilities and the chemical industry.

### Crude oil and natural gas

	Dec. 1998	Dec. 1999	Dec. 1998 to 1999 % change
	thousands of cubic metres		
<b>Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons<sup>1</sup></b>			
Production	10 710.3	10 851.1	1.3
Exports	6 190.9	6 965.6	12.5
Imports <sup>2</sup>	3 658.2	3 957.1	8.2
Refinery receipts	7 933.4	8 004.3	0.9
	millions of cubic metres		% change
<b>Natural gas<sup>3</sup></b>			
Marketable production	14 352.8	14 457.9	0.7
Exports	7 677.7	8 318.3	8.3
Canadian domestic sales <sup>4</sup>	7 226.6	6 967.9	-3.6
	Jan. to Dec. 1998	Jan. to Dec. 1999	Jan.-Dec. 1998 to Jan.-Dec. 1999
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
<b>Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons<sup>1</sup></b>			
Production	128 400.2	122 151.0	-4.9
Exports	77 429.4	72 712.3	-6.1
Imports <sup>2</sup>	44 687.9	47 408.2	6.1
Refinery receipts	95 434.8	96 757.1	1.4
	millions of cubic metres		% change
<b>Natural gas<sup>3</sup></b>			
Marketable production	160 514.4	162 346.5	1.1
Exports	89 163.5	94 867.1	6.4
Canadian domestic sales <sup>4</sup>	64 112.1	64 823.8	1.1

<sup>1</sup> Disposition may differ from production due to inventory change, industry own-use, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Crude oil received by Canadian refineries from foreign countries for processing. Data may differ from International Trade Division (ITD) estimates due to timing differences and the inclusion of crude oil landed in Canada for future re-export.

<sup>3</sup> Disposition may differ from production due to inventory change, usage as pipeline fuel, pipeline losses, line-pack fluctuations, etc.

<sup>4</sup> Includes direct sales.

In December, crude oil production was 1.3% higher than in December 1998, the second consecutive increase following 12 consecutive monthly year-over-year decreases. Production in Alberta continued to decrease in December 1999 but at a much lower rate than earlier in the year. The drop in Alberta was more than offset by increased production in Newfoundland (Hibernia) and Saskatchewan. The exceptionally strong 12.5% gain in exports was due in part to the increased production at Hibernia, and to unusually low exports in December 1998.

Marketable production of natural gas was up 0.7% from December 1998. Domestic sales fell 3.6% due to unusually warm weather in December 1999 and lower demand for natural gas by the industrial sector. Exports, which accounted for 57.5% of the total marketable production, continued to increase, gaining 8.3% from December 1998.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 530 and 539.**

The December 1999 issue of *Supply and disposition of crude oil and natural gas* (26-006-XPB, \$19/\$186) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Gérard Desjardins (613-951-4368; [desjger@statcan.ca](mailto:desjger@statcan.ca)) or Michael Westland (613-951-3060; [westmic@statcan.ca](mailto:westmic@statcan.ca)), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## Coal and coke statistics

1999 and December 1999

Reduced mining operations in Nova Scotia and lower demand for electric power generation led to lower coal production in December. Coal production totalled 5 880 kilotonnes, down 1.8% from December 1998.

Exports in December increased 7.3% from December 1998 to 2 592 kilotonnes. Japan (the largest consumer of Canadian coal) was the driving force behind the increase in exports with a 30.4% rise to 1 244 kilotonnes. Lower demand to operate electric power generating stations in Ontario reduced imports of coal by 5.4% to 5 360 kilotonnes.

Coke production in December increased to 278 kilotonnes, up 12.1% from December 1998.

In 1999, coal production declined 3.8% to 72 472 kilotonnes. It is the second consecutive annual decline in coal production. Lower electric power generation by coal-fired steam plants and reduced production capacity in Nova Scotia are the main reasons for the decrease. British Columbia, where coal mining is export-oriented, was the only province to register an increase in production (up 0.2% to 24 840 kilotonnes).

Despite this increase, the continued weakness of demand in Asian markets caused coal exports to decline 1.3% to 33 743 kilotonnes. Nova Scotia's substitution of imported coal in place of domestic coal is the main cause of the 2.0% rise in imports to 19 057 kilotonnes.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 9.**

The December 1999 issue of *Coal and coke statistics* (45-002-XIB, \$9/\$85) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

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

## Electric power statistics

1999 and December 1999

Colder temperatures in central Canada and increased capability by hydro stations led to higher electric power generation in December. Net generation of electricity increased to 52 829 GWh (GWh), up 4.6% from December 1998. Exports increased 61.5% to 4 294 GWh, and imports decreased from 1 403 GWh to 1 326 GWh.

Reservoir levels improved in Quebec for the eighth consecutive month. This enabled an increase in generation of hydro electricity by 11.3% to 33 593 GWh. The improvement in reservoir levels and warmer temperatures in western Canada drove down thermal conventional generation by 5.3% to 12 963 GWh. Generation from nuclear sources was down 5.8% to 6 273 GWh.

For 1999, net generation totalled 557 285 GWh, up 2.4% from 1998. This increase is mostly attributable to a 4.1% rise in generation by hydro stations to 340 464 GWh, reversing a decline in 1998 caused by low reservoir levels in Quebec and Manitoba. Generation from nuclear sources rose 2.8% to 69 331 GWh due to higher generating capability in New Brunswick and Ontario. As a consequence of higher generation from hydro and nuclear sources, generation from thermal conventional generating stations declined 1.3% to 147 490 GWh.

Exports for 1999 rose 0.8% to 42 949 GWh due to increased exports from Quebec, British Columbia and New Brunswick. Meanwhile, imports fell 5.3% to 14 682 GWh. Ontario, which was the principal importer of electricity in 1998, reduced its reliance on imports through a combination of additional generation and higher receipts from other provinces. All other provinces with transmission lines connected to the United States registered increases in imports.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 3985-3999.**

The December 1999 issue of *Electric power statistics* (57-001-XIB, \$9/\$85) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

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

## For-hire motor carriers of freight, all carriers

First and second quarter 1999

In the first half of 1999, there were approximately 2,500 for-hire motor carriers of freight domiciled in Canada (with annual revenues of \$1 million or more) compared with an estimated 2,200 carriers during the same period in 1998.

First half 1999 operating revenues for these carriers climbed to \$7.9 billion (\$3.9 billion in the first quarter and \$4.0 billion in the second quarter). Operating expenses posted by for-hire carriers reached \$7.4 billion (\$3.6 billion in the first quarter and \$3.8 billion in the second quarter).

The combined first and second quarter 1999 per carrier average operating revenues totalled \$3.18 million, slightly higher than the \$2.96 million in expenses. The operating ratio (operating expenses divided by operating revenues) was 0.93, unchanged from the same period one year earlier. Any ratio under 1.00 represents an operating profit.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 144.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Gilles Paré (613-951-2517; fax: 613-951-0579; [paregil@statcan.ca](mailto:paregil@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

## Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending February 14, 2000

Non-intermodal traffic loaded during the seven-day period ending February 14, 2000, increased 5.1% to 4.8 million tonnes compared with the same period of 1999. The number of cars loaded increased 4.5%.

Intermodal traffic tonnage totalled 401 000 tonnes, a 6.2% increase from the same period last year. The year-to-date figures increased 14.4%.

Total traffic increased 5.2% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 31.6 million tonnes, an increase of 10.0% 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](mailto:laroque@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

## Cereals and oilseeds review

December 1999

Data from the December issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* are now available. The information includes data on production, stocks, cash and futures prices, domestic processing, exports, farmers' deliveries and supply-disposition analyses.

The January situation report, an overview of current market conditions, both domestic and international, is also included in the December issue of *Cereal and oilseeds review* (22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149), which will be available in early March. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Les Macartney (613-951-8714; [les.macartney@statcan.ca](mailto:les.macartney@statcan.ca)), Grain Marketing Unit, Agriculture Division. ■

## Stocks of frozen meat

February 2000

Total frozen meat in cold storage at the opening of the first business day of February amounted to 60,971 tonnes, down from 62,084 tonnes last month and up from 54,538 tonnes a year ago.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 87 and 9518-9525.**

Data for stocks of frozen meat (23-009-XIE) are available free on Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)) under *Products and services* then *Downloadable publications (free)*.

For more information call 1 800 216-2299. To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jamie Duffy (613-951-6356; [duffjam@statcan.ca](mailto:duffjam@statcan.ca)) or Robert Plourde at (613-951-8716), Agriculture Division. ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Natural gas transportation and distribution,**  
November 1999  
**Catalogue number 55-002-XIB**  
(Canada: \$13/\$125).

**Telecommunications in Canada, 1997**  
**Catalogue number 56-203-XIB**  
(Canada: \$32).

**Imports by country, January-December 1999**  
**Catalogue number 65-006-XMB**  
(Canada: \$62/\$206; outside Canada: US\$62/US\$206).

**Imports by country, January-December 1999**  
**Catalogue number 65-006-XPB**  
(Canada: \$124/\$412; outside Canada: US\$124/US\$412).

**Labour force update, winter 2000**  
**Catalogue number 71-005-XPB**  
(Canada: \$29/\$96; outside Canada: US\$29/US\$96).

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 **The Daily**

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Statistics Canada

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Thursday, June 5, 1997  
For release at 9:30 a.m.

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**MAJOR RELEASES**

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● **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are taking it less and less. In 1995, about 1.5 billion trips were made 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 relatively weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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**OTHER RELEASES**



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Hepatitis Index May 1997 3  
Short-term Expectations Survey 8  
Steel primary forms, steel and May 31, 1997 12  
Egg production, April 1997 12

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**PUBLICATIONS RELEASED** 11

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## Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E.

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