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

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, June 1, 2001
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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Residential construction investment

First quarter 2001

The total value of investment in the housing sector was $8.5 billion in the first quarter, up 4.7% from the first quarter of 2000. The growth resulted from increases in all three components of residential investment: new housing, renovations and acquisition costs. Compared with the fourth quarter of 2000, investment was down 16.2%.

A healthy labour market, a sizable drop in the number of vacant multi-family dwelling units in 2000 and steadily rising prices for new housing, including attractive mortgage rates, had a positive impact on residential construction investment in the first quarter of 2001.

With a 5.5% increase from the first quarter of 2000, the new housing component contributed the most to the growth of residential construction. Investment in new housing amounted to $4.4 billion for the first quarter of 2001. The growth in this component was largely the result of increased investment spending for single-family dwellings (up 4.4% to $2.7 billion), but also for apartments (up 15.2% to $797 million). The increase for single-family dwellings was largely due to an increase in the average value of projects; for apartments, the main factor behind the gain was the increased number of units.

Investments from the renovations component rose 3.6% to $3.3 billion. Acquisition costs were also up, 4.2% to $739 million.

Among the provinces, the largest increase in dollar terms occurred in Ontario (+5.7% to $4.0 billion). Alberta also posted a sizable advance (+7.3% to $1.2 billion). Newfoundland (-28.2% to $66 million) and Nova Scotia (-12.8% to $176 million) posted the largest declines.

Note: Residential construction investment is divided into three main components. The first is new housing construction, which includes single dwellings, semi-detached dwellings, row housing and apartments, cottages, mobile homes and additional housing units created from non-residential buildings or other types of residential structures (conversions). The second component of residential construction investment, renovations, includes alterations and improvements in existing dwellings. The third component is acquisition costs, which refers to the value of services relating to the sale of new dwellings. These costs include such items as sales tax, land development and service charges, and record processing fees for mortgage insurance and the associated premiums.

With this release of first quarter 2001 data, the residential construction investment data for 1997 through 2000 have been revised.

Residential construction investment

	First quarter 2000	First quarter 2001	First quarter 2000 to first quarter 2001
	$ millions		% change
Canada	**8,118.1**	**8,497.6**	**4.7**
Newfoundland	92.6	66.5	-28.2
Prince Edward Island	25.2	22.0	-12.8
Nova Scotia	202.0	176.2	-12.8
New Brunswick	124.7	116.5	-6.5
Quebec	1,331.4	1,409.8	5.9
Ontario	3,782.0	3,997.5	5.7
Manitoba	157.6	173.5	10.1
Saskatchewan	159.6	158.4	-0.8
Alberta	1,114.0	1,195.1	7.3
British Columbia	1,102.3	1,161.7	5.4
Yukon	10.4	11.5	10.4
Northwest Territories	4.9	5.1	3.9
Nunavut	11.3	3.9	-65.9

Note: *Data may not add to totals due to rounding.*

Available on CANSIM: table 260013 and matrix 441.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; *saineti@statcan.ca*), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

Crude oil and natural gas

March 2001 (preliminary)

Crude oil production totalled 11 259 400 cubic metres in March, up 7.9% from March 2000. Alberta production of synthetic crude oil and crude bitumen were the main contributors to this gain. Due mainly to a temporary maintenance shutdown in March 2000 and greater production in March 2001, synthetic crude oil production rose 56.8% over March 2000. Alberta crude bitumen production was 18.1% higher than in March 2000. Exports, which accounted for 60.7% of total production, increased 7.0%.

Marketable natural gas production rose by 5.8% from March 2000, while domestic sales fell 1.4%. Natural gas exports, which accounted for 62.6% of total marketable production, posted a 10.4% gain.

Year-to-date production of crude oil grew 3.3% compared with the same period in 2000; year-to-date crude oil exports increased by 2.1% compared with the first three months of 2000.

Year-to-date marketable production of natural gas was up 3.6% compared with the same period in 2000. Year-to-date exports were up 11.8% and domestic sales decreased by 4.7%.

Crude oil and natural gas

	March 2000	March 2001	March 2000 to March 2001
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons[1]			
Production	10 437.8	11 259.4	7.9
Exports	6 390.5	6 838.3	7.0
Imports[2]	4 284.1	5 140.3	20.0
Refinery receipts	8 149.6	9 396.7	15.3
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas[3]			
Marketable production	14 175.7	15 003.9	5.8
Exports	8 512.2	9 395.8	10.4
Canadian domestic sales[4]	7 249.4	7 150.8	-1.4
	Jan. to March 2000	Jan. to March 2001	Jan.–March 2000 to Jan.–March 2001
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons[1]			
Production	31 376.8	32 406.6	3.3
Exports	19 459.2	19 876.7	2.1
Imports[2]	12 894.5	14 817.6	14.9
Refinery receipts	24 795.5	27 243.0	9.9
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas[3]			
Marketable production	42 347.3	43 864.2	3.6
Exports	25 476.2	28 487.1	11.8
Canadian domestic sales[4]	24 493.1	23 331.1	-4.7

1 *Disposition may differ from production because of inventory change, industry own-use, etc.*
2 *Crude oil received by Canadian refineries from foreign countries for processing. Data may differ from International Trade Division estimates because of timing differences and the inclusion of crude oil landed in Canada for future re-export in the division's data.*
3 *Disposition may differ from production because of inventory change, usage as pipeline fuel, pipeline losses, line-pack fluctuations, etc.*
4 *Includes direct sales.*

Available on CANSIM: tables 1260001 and 1310001 and matrices 530 and 539.

The March 2001 issue of *Supply and disposition of crude oil and natural gas* (26-006-XPB, $19/$186) will be available in June. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gerry Desjardins (613-951-4368; *desjger@statcan.ca*) or Eleonore Harding (613-951-5708; *hardele@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending May 26, 2001 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending May 26 totalled 298 650 metric tonnes, down 4.5% from 312 775 tonnes a week earlier and down 11.4% from 337 082 tonnes produced in the same week of 2000. The year-to-date total at the end of the reference week was 5 886 491 tonnes, down 11.9 % from 6 685 025 tonnes in the same period of 2000.

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. ■

Coal and coke statistics

March 2001

The continued impact of mine closures in Alberta led to a decline in coal production for the twelfth consecutive month in March. Coal production totalled 6 414 kilotonnes, down 0.1% from March 2000. The year-to-date production was 17 842 kilotonnes, down 3.9% from March 2000.

Exports in March were 2 132 kilotonnes, down 30.3% from March 2000. Exports to Japan (the largest consumer of Canadian coal) fell 46.4% from March 2000 to 624 kilotonnes. March 2001 was the first month in which South Korea (710 kilotonnes) was the main export destination for Canadian coal. Year-to-date exports were 7 654 kilotonnes, 9.7% lower than in the same period of 2000.

Increased requirements for electric power generation by thermal coal stations led to an increase in imports for the first quarter to 3 215 kilotonnes, up 13.5% from the first quarter of 2000. Imported coal is displacing domestic coal for electric power generation in Nova Scotia and Ontario.

March coke production was 279 kilotonnes, up 3.8% from March 2000.

Available on CANSIM: tables 3030016 and 3030017 and matrix 9.

The March 2001 issue of *Coal and coke statistics* (45-002-XIB, $9/$85) will be available in June. 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, *andre.lefebvre@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Electric power statistics

March 2001

Increased domestic demand throughout Canada caused by colder temperatures led to increased electric power generation in March. Net generation of electricity rose to 51 294 gigawatt hours (GWh), up 1.7% from March 2000. Exports decreased 4.8% to 3 657 GWh, and imports advanced from 1 035 GWh to 1 865 GWh.

Lower water reservoir levels in British Columbia was the main reason for a 3.2% drop in hydroelectric production to 30 594 GWh. Thermal conventional generation was up 12.2% to 14 718 GWh, to compensate for the reduced generating capability of hydroelectric stations and to service higher demand due to colder weather than in 2000. Generation from nuclear sources was up 4.1% to 5 981 GWh.

Year-to-date net generation to the end of March totalled 157 156 GWh, down 1.7% from the same period of 2000. Year-to-date exports totalled 10 262 GWh, down 13.1% from the same period in 2000, whereas year-to-date imports rose 168.1% to 6 235 GWh.

Available on CANSIM: table 1270001 and matrices 3985-3999.

The March 2001 issue of *Electric power statistics* (57-001-XIB, $9/$85) will be available in June. 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; *andre.lefebvre@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Monthly railway carloadings

March 2001

The freight loaded by railways in March totalled 20.0 million metric tonnes (excluding intermodal traffic). This represented a decrease of 14.4% compared to March 2000. The intermodal tonnage, made up of containers on flatcars and trailers on flatcars, was 2.0 million tonnes, up 2.4% compared with the same period in 2000.

Available on CANSIM: table 4040002 and matrices 1418, 1419 and 1430.

The March 2001 issue of *Railway carloadings (monthly)*, Vol. 78, no. 3 (52-001-XIE, $8/$77) 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 J.R. Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; *laroque@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Population of businesses with employees

First quarter 2001

There were 1,004,646 businesses with employees in the first quarter, 1.0% more than in the fourth quarter of 2000, when the number of employer businesses was 994 485.

This rise is mainly explained by Ontario’s 1.0% advance from the previous quarter to 329,715 and Quebec’s 0.8% rise to 238,657. Positive growth was observed in all the other provinces.

At the regional level, after Ontario, the highest growth in the number of employer businesses was in the Prairies (+1.0% to 194,511). This performance is primarily attributed to the 1.0% rise in Alberta to 123,512.

Information on Nunavut and the Northwest Territories will not be available until sufficient quarterly observations are collected.

Available on CANSIM: table 1780001 and matrix 1420.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact James Datey (613-951-0013; fax: 613-0104; *james.datey@statcan.ca*), Business Register Division. ■

Housing stock

2000

There were 11.9 million dwelling units in Canada at the end of 2000, 6.9 million single-family residences and 5.0 million units in multiple-dwelling structures.

Slightly less than 544,000 dwellings were vacant, 4.6% of all housing stock, which is the lowest recorded vacancy rate since 1988. The vacancy rate for single-family dwellings was 6.2%; it was only 2.3% for multiple-dwelling structures. Of the vacant dwellings, 56.3% were for sale, the rest were available for rent.

Of the 11.4 million occupied dwellings, 63.2% were occupied by the owner, the rest by tenants.

Housing stock grew by 141,000 units in 2000 compared with 1999, the largest increase in the last five years, because of a larger number of single- and multi-family dwellings. Among the provinces, the greatest growth in Ontario (+64,100 units) and Alberta (+25,300 units).

However, this advance was less than the increase in occupied housing stock (+172,600), which thus reduced the number of vacant dwellings, particularly in multiple-dwelling structures. There were 27,100 fewer multiple-dwelling units vacant at the end of 2000 than at the end of 1999. Among the provinces, only Saskatchewan had more multiple-dwelling units vacant at the end of 2000 than at the end of 1999.

Available on CANSIM: table 300001 and matrices 4079-4090.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Michel Labonté (613-951-9690; *labomic@statcan.ca*), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

For-hire trucking, commodity origin and destination

First and second quarter 2000 (preliminary)

Canada-based long-distance for-hire carriers carried 133.3 million metric tonnes of freight in the first half of 2000, a marginal decrease from the 133.6 million tonnes reported in the same period of 1999. The trans-border freight tonnage grew significantly during the reference period, and was up 7.4% over the same period in 1999. This offsets the effect of the 3.0% decrease in domestic tonnage seen in the same period.

Although domestic activities accounted for 72% of total tonnage and 77% of total shipments, trans-border movements generated 48% of total revenues earned and 50% of total tonne-kilometres for these carriers.

Available on CANSIM: table 4030001 and matrix 143.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Yves Gauthier (613-951-0188; fax: 613-951-0579; *gautyve@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

For-hire motor carriers of freight, all carriers

Fourth quarter 2000

There were an estimated 2,706 for-hire trucking companies based in Canada with annual revenues of $1 million or more in the fourth quarter of 2000, compared with 2,504 carriers in the fourth quarter of 1999. Fourth quarter 2000 operating revenues totalled $5.0 billion, an increase of 11.5% from the fourth quarter of 1999. Operating expenses posted by for-hire carriers reached $4.6 billion, up 9.0%. Total fuel expenses rose 32.0%. The operating ratio (operating expenses divided by operating revenues) was 0.93, unchanged from the fourth quarter of 1999.

On a year-over-year basis, average operating revenues rose 3.2% to $1.84 million, while expenses climbed 0.9% to $1.71 million.

Available on CANSIM: table 4030002 and matrix 144.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Yves Gauthier (613-951-0188; fax: 613-951-0579; *gautyve@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Annual Survey of Manufacturers

1999

The Annual Survey of Manufacturers provides information on over 250 different industries. Data for the industries listed in the following tables are now available for Canada.

Available on CANSIM: table 3010003 and matrices 11813, 11937, 11959, 11960, 11962, 11963, 11966, 11967, 11970, 11973-11976, 11979, 11981, 11982, 11985, 11990, 11991, 11996, 11997, 11999, 12012, 12013, 12022, 12027, 12030, 12031, 12033-12036, 12048, 12049, 12051, 12052, 12065, 12066, 12070, 12071, 12073, 12074, 12081 and 12082.

Data for the industries listed in the table will appear in *Manufacturing industries of Canada: National and provincial areas* (31-203-XPB, $68). See *How to order products*. Research papers on manufacturing are available on Statistics Canada Web site (*www.statcan.ca*). From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Research papers (free)*, then *Manufacturing*.

To order data, for general information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *manufact@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Value of shipments

	North American Industry Classification System	1998	1999	1998 to 1999	Matrix
		$ millions		% change	
Industry					
Digital printing	323115	45.3	50.8	12.1	11813
Steel wire drawing	331222	705.5	726.2	2.9	11937
Forging	332113	778.0	731.5	-6.0	11959
Stamping	332118	881.9	885.4	0.4	11960
Cutlery and hand tool manufacturing	332210	383.9	423.7	10.4	11963
Prefabricated metal building and component manufacturing	332311	578.8	508.9	-12.1	11966
Concrete reinforcing bar manufacturing	332314	284.8	321.2	12.8	11967
Metal window and door manufacturing	332321	1,399.1	1,383.6	-1.1	11970
Power boiler and heat exchanger manufacturing	332410	747.1	643.2	-13.9	11974
Metal tank (heavy gauge) manufacturing	332420	685.2	556.1	-18.8	11976
Other metal container manufacturing	332439	522.2	544.7	4.3	11979
Hardware manufacturing	332510	1,488.1	1,523.0	2.3	11982
Spring (heavy gauge) manufacturing	332611	499.0	572.8	14.8	11985
Turned product and screw, nut and bolt manufacturing	332720	836.9	885.1	5.8	11991
Metal valve manufacturing	332910	913.8	892.9	-2.3	11997
Ball and roller bearing manufacturing	332991	456.6	507.2	11.1	11999
Rubber and plastics industry machinery manufacturing	333220	1,222.4	1,037.7	-15.1	12013
Industrial and commercial fan and blower and air purification equipment manufacturing	333413	377.8	388.4	2.8	12022
Other metalworking machinery manufacturing	333519	2,187.3	2,155.6	-1.5	12027
Turbine and turbine generator set unit manufacturing	333611	1,405.6	1,369.8	-2.5	12030
Other engine and power transmission equipment manufacturing	333619	532.2	536.6	0.8	12031
Pump and compressor manufacturing	333910	1,403.8	1,088.8	-22.4	12034
Material handling equipment manufacturing	333920	2,375.5	2,319.5	-2.4	12036
Other communications equipment manufacturing	334290	504.7	507.7	0.6	12049
Audio and video equipment manufacturing	334310	243.1	171.6	-29.4	12052
Electric lamp bulb and parts manufacturing	335110	283.4	404.1	42.6	12066
Small electrical appliance manufacturing	335210	319.3	390.1	22.2	12071
Major kitchen appliance manufacturing	335223	797.9	966.0	21.1	12073
Other major appliance manufacturing	335229	402.5	491.2	22.1	12074
Battery manufacturing	335910	240.1	223.7	-6.9	12082

■

NEW PRODUCTS

Infomat — A weekly review, June 1, 2001
Catalogue number 11-002-XIE ($3/$109).

Infomat — A weekly review, June 1, 2001
Catalogue number 11-002-XPE ($4/$145).

Monthly railway carloadings, Vol. 78, no. 3, March 2001
Catalogue number 52-001-XIE ($8/$77).

Retail trade, March 2001
Catalogue number 63-005-XPB ($21/$206).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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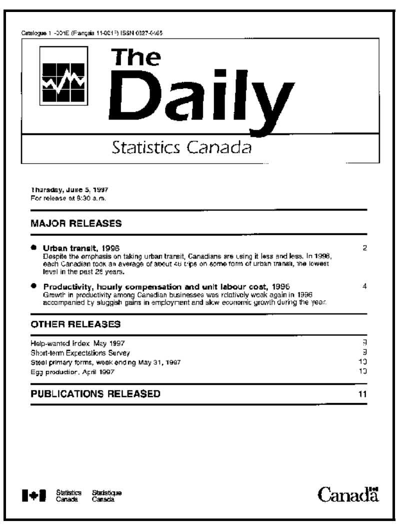
Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

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.

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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.

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RELEASE DATES: JUNE 4 TO 8

(Release dates are subject to change.)

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6	**Building permits**	April 2001
7	**Help-wanted Index**	May 2001
7	**Quarterly financial statistics for enterprises**	First quarter 2001
8	**Labour Force Survey**	May 2001

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