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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, July 4, 2001
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MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

NEW PRODUCTS

MAJOR RELEASES

Building permits

May 2001

The value of building permits issued by municipalities declined slightly in May, despite a sharp rebound in proposed construction projects for housing. Builders took out $3.2 billion worth of building permits, down 0.6% from April.

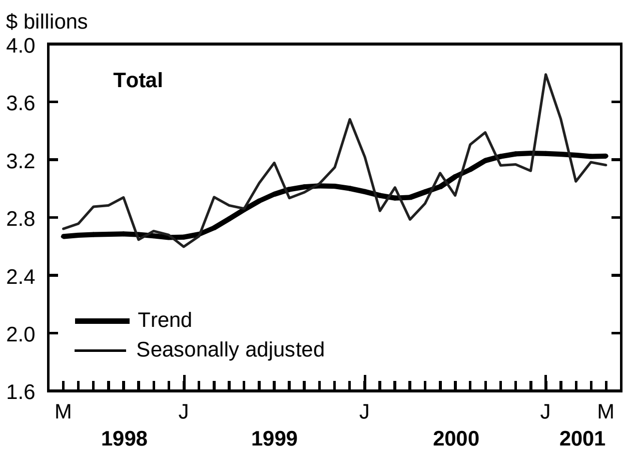
Building permits for housing rose 9.4% from April to $1.7 billion, halting three consecutive monthly declines. A substantial gain in permits for multi-family dwellings was a major contributor to this jump.

However, the gain in housing failed to offset a decline in the non-residential sector, where the value of building intentions fell 10.6% to $1.4 billion. The decline was led by a decrease in commercial permits.

For the first five months of 2001, the value of building permits totalled $16.7 billion, up 13.0% from the same period in 2000. This is the highest total for any January-to-May period in the last 12 years. Strong advances in both the residential (+7.8% to $8.9 billion) and non-residential (+19.6% to $7.7 billion) sectors were behind this result.

Among the regions, the largest year-to-date advance, in dollar terms, occurred in Montréal, where proposed construction projects in the non-residential sector almost doubled compared with the same period in 2000. The second-largest gain was in the Toronto region, where the gain was balanced between the residential and non-residential sectors.

Total value of permits declined slightly



Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

The Building and Demolitions Permits Monthly Survey covers 2,500 municipalities representing 94% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 6% of the population are very small, and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total.

The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (e.g., waterworks, sewers, culverts) and land.

Multi-family permits bounced back

Following two significant monthly declines, the value of permits for multi-family dwellings rebounded 33.3% in May to $535 million. Construction intentions for single-family dwellings were also back on the rise, up 1.3% from April to $1.2 billion.

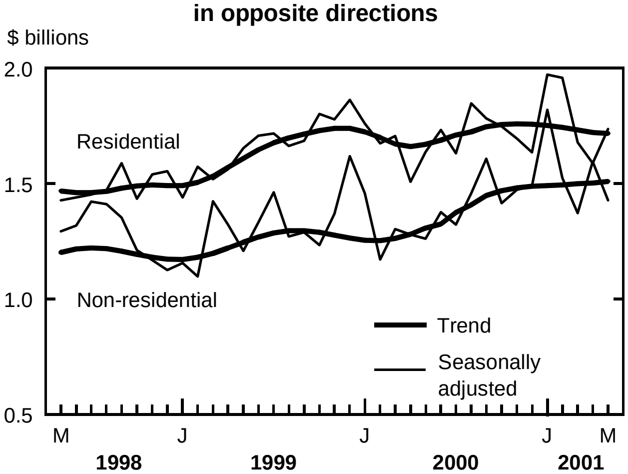
The sustained growth in per-capita disposable income, the high level of employment, advantageous mortgage rates and high occupancy rates for multi-family dwellings help explain May's good result. They also point to an encouraging housing market for the near future.

Housing intentions advanced in May in all provinces except Prince Edward Island. The largest increase, in dollar terms, was seen in Ontario (+7.8% to $818 million), the result of a large advance in multi-family dwelling permits. Quebec (+10.3%) and Alberta (+9.4%) recorded the next largest gains.

On a year-to-date basis, the sustained pace in the residential sector from January to May has been largely the result of buoyant intentions for multi-family dwellings (+26.2% to $2.6 billion). Higher construction intentions for single-family dwellings (+1.8% to $6.3 billion) also contributed to the strong performance.

For the first five months of 2001, Ontario showed the largest increase (+8.5% to $4.5 billion), followed by British Columbia (+27.9% to $1.2 billion). The largest decline was posted in Nova Scotia (-29.0% to $160 million).

Residential and non-residential permits moved in opposite directions



Non-residential sector recorded its third monthly decrease in 2001

May's 10.6% slide in the value of building permits in the non-residential sector followed a strong 16.3% advance in April. Large declines in the commercial component were largely responsible for the overall decline. However, the cumulative value of non-residential permits for the first five months was still 19.6% higher than the same period 2000.

Mixed signals have been coming from businesses and consumers. Retail trade rose for the second consecutive month in April. However, corporate operating profits and capacity utilization rates declined in the first quarter of 2001.

The value of commercial permits fell 18.2% in May to $739 million, following a 23.3% jump in April. Proposed construction in office buildings, as well as recreational buildings, showed the most significant reductions. Following a strong month, Ontario showed the largest decrease (-36.5% to $197 million).

Industrial construction intentions dropped for a fourth consecutive month in May (-1.8%) to $292 million, solely because of a decline the manufacturing building category.

Institutional building intentions reached $396 million, their highest monthly level in the last two years. The 0.4% increase was led by gains in medical and social services categories.

At the provincial level, the most significant monthly decrease occurred in Ontario (-24.0% to $444 million) due to a large drop in the commercial component. The Toronto region contributed strongly to this decrease, with declines in all three components. In contrast, Alberta posted the largest increase (+16.2% to $222 million), led by a strong showing in educational building projects in the Calgary region.

On a year-to-date basis, non-residential building intentions reached $7.7 billion, up 19.6%, their best showing for the first five months of any year since 1989. The year-to-date value for commercial building permits in 2001 reached $4.3 billion, up 17.4% over the same period in 2000, followed by the institutional component at $1.7 billion, up 29.4%. Construction intentions for industrial projects also contributed to the advance with a 16.1% increase to $1.7 billion.

Among the provinces, Quebec had the largest increase in the non-residential sector on a year-to-date basis (+57.6% to $1.9 billion) on the strength of planned commercial and industrial projects in the Montréal region. Nova Scotia was one of the few provinces to show a decrease, pulled down by all three components.

Value of building permits

Census Metropolitan Area	April 2001[r]	May 2001[p]	April to May 2001	Jan. to May 2000	Jan. to May 2001	Jan.–May 2000 to Jan.–May 2001
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
St. John's	13.4	25.0	87.4	71.1	72.9	2.5
Halifax	24.6	53.2	116.0	273.6	139.8	-48.9
Saint John	8.3	8.1	-2.3	31.5	32.2	2.2
Chicoutimi–Jonquière	22.4	11.6	-48.0	62.9	85.3	35.6
Québec	40.0	58.5	46.3	245.2	281.9	15.0
Sherbrooke	10.7	13.3	23.9	45.7	59.0	29.0
Trois-Rivières	8.8	19.4	120.7	38.5	47.8	24.1
Montréal	375.6	361.5	-3.8	1,281.8	1,945.5	51.8
Hull	27.0	28.0	3.6	103.5	177.0	71.1
Ottawa	116.5	121.8	4.6	537.1	625.9	16.5
Oshawa	25.5	48.4	89.5	293.7	195.3	-33.5
Toronto	584.0	523.2	-10.4	3,208.3	3,690.1	15.0
Hamilton	55.8	62.0	11.1	280.7	352.2	25.5
St Catharines–Niagara	34.2	30.5	-10.9	145.3	156.5	7.8
Kitchener	104.7	84.5	-19.2	309.9	353.3	14.0
London	82.2	56.5	-31.3	198.1	286.2	44.4
Windsor	43.2	29.1	-32.7	196.8	200.6	1.9
Sudbury	7.8	0.7	-90.5	23.0	21.3	-7.4
Thunder Bay	4.4	9.6	118.5	31.4	39.5	25.9
Winnipeg	32.6	39.1	20.0	226.6	179.2	-20.9
Regina	39.5	14.6	-63.0	75.7	106.3	40.4
Saskatoon	20.9	32.7	56.5	140.6	127.8	-9.1
Calgary	181.6	208.9	15.1	1,015.7	917.3	-9.7
Edmonton	119.7	111.7	-6.7	506.4	546.6	7.9
Vancouver	389.4	286.6	-26.4	1,111.2	1,414.4	27.3
Victoria	24.3	20.4	-16.1	130.4	140.2	7.6

[r] *Revised data.*
[p] *Preliminary data.*
Note: *Data may not add to totals due to rounding.*

Available on CANSIM: tables 260001-260008, 260010 and 260011 and matrices 80 (levels 3-7 and 33-48), 129, 137, 443, 989-995 and 4073.

The May 2001 issue of *Building permits* (64-001-XIE, $14/$145) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

The June 2001 building permit estimate will be released on August 7.

To obtain data, contact Vere Clarke (613-951-6556; *clarver@statcan.ca*). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Valérie Gaudreault (613-951-1165; *gaudval@statcan.ca*), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

Value of building permits

	April 2001[r]	May 2001[p]	April to May 2001	January to May 2000	January to May 2001	January–May 2000 to January–May 2001
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
Canada	**3,182.6**	**3,163.3**	**-0.6**	**14,751.0**	**16,665.7**	**13.0**
Residential	1,587.2	1,736.2	9.4	8,281.2	8,928.6	7.8
Non-residential	1,595.4	1,427.1	-10.6	6,469.8	7,737.1	19.6
Newfoundland	21.8	36.9	69.3	103.6	113.6	9.6
Residential	10.5	17.3	65.8	74.8	65.6	-12.2
Non-residential	11.4	19.6	72.6	28.9	48.0	66.2
Prince Edward Island	8.1	4.6	-42.9	40.9	35.3	-13.6
Residential	4.7	2.9	-38.0	23.9	20.9	-12.4
Non-residential	3.4	1.7	-49.8	17.0	14.4	-15.2
Nova Scotia	56.9	79.1	39.0	429.0	280.1	-34.7
Residential	30.2	39.7	31.6	225.4	160.1	-29.0
Non-residential	26.8	39.5	47.3	203.6	120.1	-41.0
New Brunswick	35.5	54.8	54.3	184.4	209.9	13.8
Residential	17.2	20.5	19.1	115.3	101.4	-12.1
Non-residential	18.3	34.3	87.2	69.0	108.5	57.1
Quebec	617.3	633.7	2.6	2,504.8	3,347.5	33.6
Residential	241.3	266.2	10.3	1,293.9	1,439.6	11.3
Non-residential	376.0	367.4	-2.3	1,210.9	1,907.9	57.6
Ontario	1,343.0	1,262.1	-6.0	6,684.6	7,501.4	12.2
Residential	759.2	818.2	7.8	4,105.4	4,452.5	8.5
Non-residential	583.8	443.9	-24.0	2,579.2	3,048.9	18.2
Manitoba	65.1	69.0	6.0	374.4	307.1	-18.0
Residential	19.9	25.6	29.0	152.7	128.6	-15.8
Non-residential	45.2	43.3	-4.1	221.7	178.4	-19.5
Saskatchewan	78.3	65.9	-15.9	316.2	335.7	6.2
Residential	17.8	24.2	36.0	111.6	96.0	-14.0
Non-residential	60.5	41.7	-31.1	204.6	239.7	17.1
Alberta	442.0	496.5	12.3	2,237.7	2,285.9	2.2
Residential	250.7	274.2	9.4	1,245.4	1,284.6	3.2
Non-residential	191.4	222.3	16.2	992.4	1,001.3	0.9
British Columbia	504.6	450.2	-10.8	1,842.2	2,213.3	20.1
Residential	233.3	241.0	3.3	908.1	1,161.0	27.9
Non-residential	271.3	209.2	-22.9	934.2	1,052.3	12.7
Yukon	5.9	3.7	-38.0	10.5	19.8	88.3
Residential	1.1	1.8	62.2	7.1	9.9	38.9
Non-residential	4.8	1.9	-60.5	3.4	10.0	190.5
Northwest Territories	3.2	1.4	-57.0	6.0	8.4	41.1
Residential	1.0	1.4	38.6	3.0	3.3	7.3
Non-residential	2.3	0.0	-98.2	2.9	5.2	76.2
Nunavut	0.8	5.4	576.7	16.7	7.7	-54.0
Residential	0.5	3.2	483.5	14.6	5.1	-64.9
Non-residential	0.3	2.3	770.4	2.0	2.5	24.2

r Revised data.
p Preliminary data.
Note: *Data may not add to totals due to rounding.*

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Trends in the use of private education

1987/88 to 1998/99

Children from both ends of the income distribution attend private schools; 29% of children who attend private schools are from families with incomes below $50,000, while 26% are from families with at least twice as much income.

In contrast, about 43% of children (15 years of age or younger) attending public schools had family incomes of less than $50,000, and only 12% had family incomes over $100,000. The proportion of children who come from households with an annual income of $50,000 to $100,000 was about the same in the case of both private and public schools, 45%. (In 1998, one-half of all children were from families with incomes less than $55,000.)

In Ontario, about 37% of all children attending private schools come from households with incomes of $100,000 or more, the highest proportion of any province. This is more than twice the percentage of children (16%) who attend public schools from this income group. Twenty-one percent of private school students come from families with less than $50,000 in income, while 37% of public school students are from this group.

In 1998/99, 1 out of every 18 children in Canada, or 5.6%, attended a private school for elementary or secondary education. In total, 298,000 were enrolled in private schools; just under 5 million went to public schools.

Private schools spent nearly $2 billion on education in the 1997/98 academic year, the most recent data available. This represented 5.5% of total elementary and secondary spending on education, public and private included.

Proportion of students enrolled in private schools on the rise

In 1998/99, 5.6% of all children in elementary and secondary schools in Canada were enrolled in private schools, up from 4.6% in 1987/88.

Among the provinces, the proportions were highest in Quebec, where more than 9.2% of children were enrolled in a private elementary or secondary school in 1998/99. In British Columbia, 8.8% of all students were in private schools.

The lowest proportions of children in private schools were in the Atlantic provinces and Saskatchewan. Only 0.4% of all children in Newfoundland, 0.6% in New Brunswick, 1.0% in Prince Edward Island, 1.6% in Nova Scotia and 1.3% in Saskatchewan were enrolled in private schools.

Note to readers

This release incorporates data from various Statistics Canada surveys to put into perspective the use of private schools in Canada.

Data on the income levels of families who send their children to private schools come from the third cycle of the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, conducted in late 1998 and early 1999. This survey collected information on about 32,000 children ranging in age from newborns to 15 on aspects of their lives including the income background of their parents. Calculations in this release based on this information are for those aged 4 to 15, and do not include the majority of children in high school, those 16 and older.

Data on enrolment come from the Survey on School Enrolment and Graduates. Data on expenditures for private and public elementary and secondary schools come from the Survey of Financial Statistics of Private Schools and the Survey of School Boards. For more information consult the Statistics Canada publication Education in Canada *(81-229-XPB).*

Public schools are defined to include all elementary and secondary schools operated by public, separate, and linguistic school boards. They do not include schools directly administered by the federal government (overseas schools operated by the Department of Defence, and schools operated by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada) or provincially operated schools for the disabled (schools for visually and hearing impaired students).

Private schools are schools operated and administered by private individuals or groups. They may be affiliated with a religious or linguistic group, or may provide specialized education to the learning disabled or gifted. Home schooling and schools in institutions are not included in this definition, and are not part of any of the calculations in this release. Less than 0.5% of all children in the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth attend home or institutional schools.

Most provinces saw steady growth in the proportion of students enrolled in private schools between 1987/88 and 1998/99. However, the proportion declined slightly in New Brunswick and Saskatchewan during this 12-year period.

Spending per student

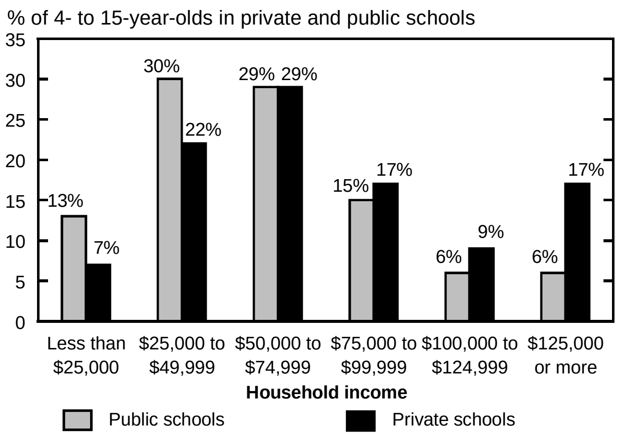
Spending for each student has varied widely from province to province for both private elementary and secondary schools and public schools.

For every $100 spent on each student by public school boards in 1987/88, private schools spent $88 per student for elementary and secondary education.

By 1997/98, spending per student by private schools was about the same as in public schools. For every $100 spent on each student by public school boards, private schools spent $101.

During most of this 11-year period, private elementary and secondary schools in Saskatchewan and Ontario spent more per student than did their public counterparts. In Saskatchewan in 1997/98, private schools were spending almost twice as much per student as public school boards.

Families in top income brackets are more likely to choose private school than public



For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Garth Lipps (613-941-6381) or Miles Corak (613-951-9047), Family and Labour Studies Division.

Percentage of students enrolled in private elementary and secondary schools

Academic year	**Canada**	Nfld.	PEI	NS	NB	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	BC	Yukon	NWT
1987/88	**4.6**	0.2	0.3	1.2	0.7	8.6	3.3	4.8	1.5	3.1	7.0	0.0	0.0
1988/89	**4.6**	0.2	0.3	1.1	0.7	8.7	3.3	4.8	1.5	3.0	7.0	0.0	0.0
1989/90	**4.7**	0.2	0.3	1.1	0.8	8.8	3.3	4.9	1.5	3.1	7.0	0.0	0.0
1990/91	**4.7**	0.2	0.4	1.1	0.8	8.8	3.3	5.1	1.6	3.2	7.3	0.0	0.0
1991/92	**4.8**	0.2	0.5	1.1	0.7	8.8	3.3	5.2	1.6	3.3	7.6	0.5	0.0
1992/93	**4.9**	0.2	0.7	1.2	0.7	8.9	3.6	5.5	1.7	3.5	7.6	0.4	0.0
1993/94	**5.0**	0.2	0.8	1.3	0.6	9.1	3.6	5.7	1.6	3.6	7.9	0.3	0.0
1994/95	**5.1**	0.3	0.9	1.3	0.6	9.2	3.6	6.1	1.7	4.1	8.0	0.7	0.0
1995/96	**5.2**	0.3	1.0	1.3	0.6	9.2	3.6	6.2	1.6	4.1	8.4	0.2	0.0
1996/97	**5.2**	0.2	0.9	1.3	0.6	9.2	3.7	6.4	1.6	4.1	8.4	0.1	0.0
1997/98	**5.4**	0.4	1.0	1.5	0.6	9.2	4.0	6.6	1.4	4.2	8.7	0.0	0.0
1998/99	**5.6**	0.4	1.0	1.6	0.6	9.2	4.3	6.8	1.3	4.5	8.8	0.0	0.0

Enrolment in private and public elementary and secondary schools
1998/99

Type of school	**Canada**	Nfld.	PEI	NS	NB	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	BC	Yukon	NWT
	Number of students												
Public schools	**4,999,348**	97,649	24,146	158,967	129,129	1,014,971	2,022,437	192,478	193,562	530,135	611,634	6,199	18,041
Private schools	**297,798**	384	247	2,516	772	102,613	90,600	14,099	2,565	24,715	59,287	0	0

■

OTHER RELEASES

Private television broadcasters
2000

Total revenues of private television broadcasters reached $1,887.9 million in 2000, up 0.7% from 1999. This was the smallest annual increase in revenues since 1993. Revenues of private broadcasters grew at a rate above the national average in Quebec (+3.4%), Alberta (+0.9%) and British Columbia (+1.5%), and at a rate below the national average in all other regions.

At the national level, profits before income tax slipped from $182.6 million in 1999 to $180.0 million in 2000. Despite the small decrease, these results are among the best of the last decade. Profitability varied considerably by region. Broadcasters in British Columbia and Quebec achieved the best results, with profit margins of 17.2% and 10.7%, respectively. In contrast, broadcasters in the Atlantic Provinces declared losses representing 8.3% of their revenues.

Employment decreased 1.0% in 2000 compared with 1999, the sixth consecutive year of decline. Over that period, the average weekly number of employees fell 8.0% from 8,273 to 7,624. The 2000 decline occurred in every region except Ontario, where employment increased by 2.8%.

Note: The statistics in this release are for the year ended August 31, 2000 and cover traditional private broadcasters only. Pay and specialty television operators are excluded.

Available on CANSIM: table 3570001 and matrices 1803-1810.

More detailed information are available in the *Broadcasting and telecommunications bulletin,* Vol. 31, no. 1, (56-001-XIE, $10/$32). See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Daniel April (613-951-3177; *daniel.april@statcan.ca* or Joanne Lambert (613-951-6673; *joanne.lambert@statcan.ca*), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Rural and small town Canada analysis bulletin, 1981–1998, Vol. 3, no. 1
Catalogue number 21-006-XIE
(Free).

Farm Product Price Index, Vol. 1, no. 4, April 2001
Catalogue number 21-007-XIB
(Free).

Cereals and oilseeds review, Vol. 24, no. 4, April 2001
Catalogue number 22-007-XIB ($11/$112).

Cereals and oilseeds review, Vol. 24, no. 4, April 2001
Catalogue number 22-007-XPB ($15/$149).

Supply and disposition of crude oil and natural gas, March 2001
Catalogue number 26-006-XPB ($19/$186).

Food consumption in Canada, Part I, 2000
Catalogue number 32-229-XIB ($26).

Food consumption in Canada, Part I, 2000
Catalogue number 32-229-XPB ($35).

Coal and coke statistics, April 2001
Catalogue number 45-002-XIB ($9/$85).

Broadcasting and telecommunications, Vol. 31, no. 1, June 2001
Catalogue number 56-001-XIE ($10/$32).

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

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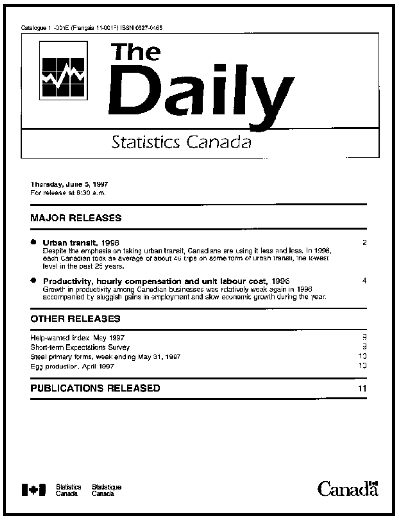

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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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

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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