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

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, June 4, 2002
Released at 8:30 am Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

NEW PRODUCTS

MAJOR RELEASES

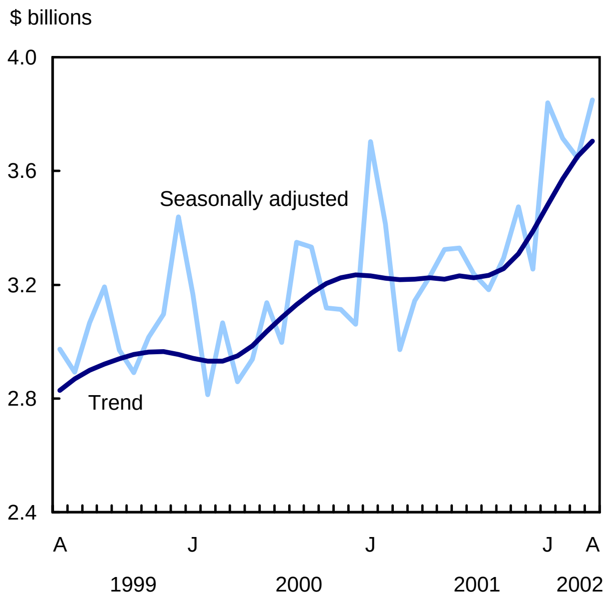
Building permits
April 2002

Contractors took out a record value of residential building permits for the second time this year in April, as the new-home market continued its feverish pace.

Municipalities issued $2.6 billion in housing permits, up 10.1% from March, and 8.9% higher than the previous record reached in February. Strong activity will be maintained on the residential building sites as construction of 19,800 dwelling units was authorized in April alone.

The picture was less positive in the non-residential sector, which suffered a third straight monthly decline in the wake of sharp drops in both institutional and commercial components. Builders took out $1.2 billion in non-residential permits, down 3.0% from March and the lowest level since February 2000.

Total value of permits rose in April



Pushed by the outstanding results in the residential sector, the total value of building permits reached $3.9 billion in April, up 5.6% from March. This was the highest level since August 1989.

Consumers have been attracted to the new-home market by a scarcity of existing vacant dwellings, and by low mortgage rates and strong consumer confidence.

> ***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 2,350 municipalities representing 95% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 5% 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 or culverts) and land.*

Furthermore, the actual strength in the employment level is also related to the new record for construction intentions in the residential sector.

On a year-to-date basis, the value of building permits totalled $15.1 billion, up 13.7% from the first four months of 2001. This advance was entirely the result of a 38.3% increase in residential construction intentions. The non-residential sector was 14.8% behind the level recorded between January and April last year.

Residential permits: Record high for multi-family dwellings

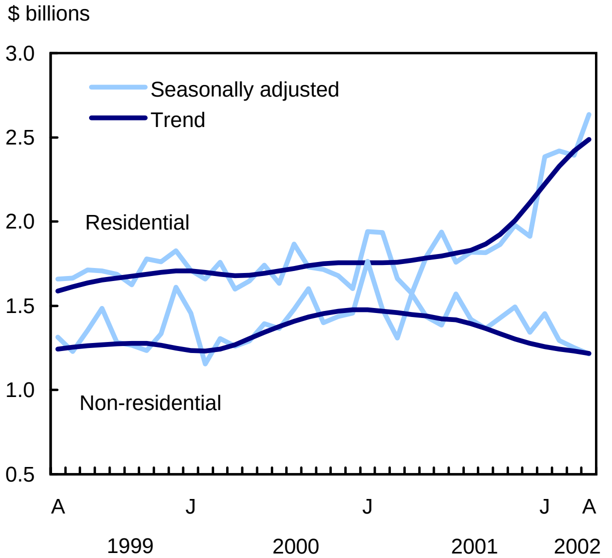
Building permits for multi-family dwellings rose 40.3% in April to a record $867 million, as proposed projects for apartment units soared. The value of permits for single-family dwellings remained virtually unchanged from March at $1.8 billion.

With more than 5,200 units authorized in April, the census metropolitan area of Toronto accounted for over 25% of the value of residential permits in Canada and more than 80% of the growth. This led Ontario (+25.6% to $1.3 billion) to an unprecedented level of residential construction intentions and to the largest growth (in dollars) among the provinces. Far behind, British Columbia posted the second largest growth in April (+12.3% to $381 million).

For the January-to-April period, the value of residential permits totalled just over $9.8 billion, up 38.3% from the same four months in 2001. It took six months to reach this cumulative level in both 2000 and 2001. Substantial gains in the single-family (+40.4%) and multi-family (+33.0%) components explained this marked advance.

All 10 provinces recorded substantial advances in residential permits on a year-to-date basis. Ontario led the pack (+25.5% to $4.5 billion), followed by Alberta (+56.7%) and Quebec (+46.1%). The gains in all three were largely due to the soaring demand for single-family dwellings.

Value of residential permits reached a record level in April



Non-residential sector: Downward trend continues

The 3.0% decline in non-residential permits in April extended a downward trend in the sector which started at the beginning of last year.

Permits for industrial projects, the only component to increase, showed a spectacular gain of 62.8% to $317 million, with increases in all categories. This gain was largely the result of proposed projects in the Vancouver and London areas.

Encouraging signs continued to emerge from the manufacturing sector that could have a positive influence on industrial projects. According to the April Business Conditions Survey, producers indicated that inventories were under control, orders were picking up and it was time to crank up production. A rebound in production could have a positive impact on the investment in non-residential industrial building.

Meanwhile, commercial intentions fell 9.8% to $629 million, mostly due to fewer projects in the hotels and restaurants, laboratories and office building categories. Ontario recorded the largest decline.

After recording stunning levels in 2001, permits in the institutional component declined for the fourth straight month this year. The value of institutional permits fell 25.4% to $267 million due to a large decrease in the medical and hospital category. Again, Ontario recorded the largest decline.

At the provincial level, Ontario had the most significant monthly decrease in terms of dollars (-15.4% to $498 million) due to a strong decline in the commercial component in the census metropolitan areas of Hamilton and St. Catharines-Niagara. In contrast, New Brunswick recorded the largest increase (+302.3% to $41 million) because of a recreational project.

On a year-to-date basis, the total value of non-residential building permits to the end of April was $5.2 billion, down 14.8% from the same period last year. Most of the decline was related to weakness in both the commercial component (-20.7% to $2.7 billion) and industrial component (-20.0% to $1.1 billion). Only the institutional component showed a gain (+5.1% to $1.4 billion).

The strongest year-to-date decline was in Quebec (-22.6% to $1.2 billion). The largest gains occurred in Manitoba (+30.4% to $162 million).

Regions reflect split between housing and non-residential sectors

The dichotomy between the performance in residential and non-residential sectors so far this year has been reflected at the census metropolitan area level across Canada.

On a year-to-date basis, all 28 census metropolitan areas have shown gains in the residential sector. On the other hand, 16 have posted declines in the non-residential sector.

Overall, Calgary and Edmonton have recorded the largest advances in the cumulative value of permits in dollars because of buoyant activity in the residential sector. In four months this year, Calgary has issued $897 million in residential and non-residential permits (accounting for 6.0% of the national total) while Edmonton has issued $555 million (accounting for 3.7%).

Permits totalling just over $2.9 billion were issued in Toronto between January and April, or 19.3% of the national total. Montreal has issued $1.5 billion in permits and Vancouver just under $1.2 billion, accounting for 10.1% and 7.9% of the national total respectively.

Available on CANSIM: tables 026-0001 to 026-0008, 026-0010 and 026-0015.

The April 2002 issue of *Building permits* (64-001-XIE, $14/$145) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

The May 2002 building permit estimate will be released on July 4.

To obtain data, contact Vere Clarke (613-951-6556 or 1-800-579-8533; *clarver@statcan.ca*). 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.

Value of building permits

	March 2002[r]	April 2002[p]	March to April 2002	Jan. to April 2001	Jan. to April 2002	Jan.-April 2001 to Jan.-April 2002
Census metropolitan area	seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
St. John's	20.5	25.2	22.5	45.8	77.2	68.6
Halifax	30.1	35.1	16.6	81.3	145.4	78.8
Saint John	6.4	8.5	33.1	23.9	29.0	21.5
Chicoutimi–Jonquière	16.7	12.0	-27.9	72.5	40.2	-44.6
Québec	69.4	48.4	-30.2	266.5	205.0	-23.1
Sherbrooke	17.5	16.7	-4.1	44.5	78.7	77.0
Trois-Rivières	15.9	18.6	17.2	28.7	51.3	79.0
Montréal	362.0	330.7	-8.6	1,470.0	1,520.8	3.5
Hull	28.8	20.2	-29.9	133.0	133.6	0.4
Ottawa	105.9	182.0	71.8	578.7	496.1	-14.3
Kingston	7.9	44.7	466.1	62.6	76.9	22.9
Oshawa	52.1	36.4	-30.1	148.1	193.2	30.4
Toronto	655.5	840.4	28.2	3,048.1	2,910.1	-4.5
Hamilton	130.6	70.0	-46.4	282.9	391.2	38.3
St. Catharines–Niagara	102.2	53.2	-48.0	121.9	222.1	82.2
Kitchener	76.6	82.2	7.4	263.0	335.3	27.5
London	46.3	61.9	33.9	225.5	215.7	-4.3
Windsor	60.8	61.0	0.3	168.9	250.4	48.3
Sudbury	5.2	14.8	181.9	20.6	25.8	25.1
Thunder Bay	26.6	3.9	-85.2	28.8	83.2	188.7
Winnipeg	34.6	34.1	-1.4	137.9	151.0	9.5
Regina	7.9	11.9	49.8	76.0	45.8	-39.7
Saskatoon	19.4	23.2	19.9	86.1	114.5	33.0
Calgary	225.6	266.5	18.1	686.6	896.7	30.6
Edmonton	137.7	118.3	-14.1	415.3	554.6	33.5
Abbotsford	14.9	11.3	-24.0	62.0	55.6	-10.3
Vancouver	310.6	395.0	27.2	1,116.2	1,186.3	6.3
Victoria	46.4	27.9	-39.9	116.1	153.4	32.1

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

Value of building permits

	Mar. 2002[r]	April 2002[p]	Mar. to April 2002	Jan. to April 2001	Jan. to April 2002	Jan.-April 2001 to Jan.-April 2002
	seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
Canada	**3,645.3**	**3,850.2**	**5.6**	**13,233.3**	**15,050.6**	**13.7**
Residential	2,394.2	2,636.6	10.1	7,112.7	9,837.4	38.3
Non-residential	1,251.0	1,213.6	-3.0	6,120.5	5,213.2	-14.8
Newfoundland and Labrador	28.3	32.7	15.6	76.1	105.8	39.1
Residential	20.9	25.8	23.5	50.0	78.8	57.6
Non-residential	7.4	6.9	-6.9	26.1	27.0	3.6
Prince Edward Island	12.6	8.0	-36.8	30.9	34.8	12.6
Residential	10.5	5.8	-44.5	18.2	27.4	50.1
Non-residential	2.1	2.2	0.7	12.7	7.4	-41.3
Nova Scotia	62.4	72.8	16.7	195.9	280.1	42.9
Residential	48.3	49.8	3.1	122.9	209.1	70.1
Non-residential	14.1	23.0	63.2	73.0	71.0	-2.8
New Brunswick	58.1	73.3	26.0	140.4	232.0	65.3
Residential	48.0	32.4	-32.4	81.3	158.9	95.5
Non-residential	10.1	40.8	302.3	59.1	73.1	23.7
Quebec	698.3	634.7	-9.1	2,657.5	2,847.8	7.2
Residential	442.7	364.1	-17.8	1,150.1	1,680.6	46.1
Non-Residential	255.6	270.6	5.9	1,507.4	1,167.2	-22.6
Ontario	1,633.2	1,810.2	10.8	6,151.6	6,813.2	10.8
Residential	1,045.4	1,312.6	25.6	3,591.6	4,508.6	25.5
Non-residential	587.8	497.6	-15.4	2,560.0	2,304.6	-10.0
Manitoba	64.8	68.7	6.1	223.8	305.8	36.6
Residential	34.5	37.3	8.1	99.3	143.4	44.4
Non-residential	30.2	31.4	3.8	124.5	162.3	30.4
Saskatchewan	41.8	63.1	51.0	237.8	240.8	1.3
Residential	18.8	17.2	-8.9	67.1	78.3	16.7
Non-residential	22.9	45.9	100.1	170.7	162.5	-4.8
Alberta	573.1	533.4	-6.9	1,753.7	2,253.2	28.5
Residential	383.8	392.4	2.2	1,005.4	1,575.2	56.7
Non-residential	189.3	141.0	-25.5	748.4	678.0	-9.4
British Columbia	470.2	533.7	13.5	1,741.9	1,900.8	9.1
Residential	339.1	380.9	12.3	916.4	1,352.9	47.6
Non-residential	131.1	152.8	16.6	825.6	547.9	-33.6
Yukon	1.6	2.0	23.3	14.8	7.1	-51.7
Residential	1.5	1.9	26.5	6.7	6.4	-5.0
Non-residential	0.1	0.1	-20.7	8.0	0.7	-90.7
Northwest Territories	0.3	17.2	5,054.5	7.0	28.4	303.3
Residential	0.2	16.0	7,426.4	1.9	16.8	778.2
Non-residential	0.1	1.3	932.8	5.1	11.6	126.2
Nunavut	0.5	0.4	-18.3	1.8	0.9	-47.9
Residential	0.5	0.4	-18.3	1.8	0.9	-47.9
Non-residential	0.0	0.0	...	0.0	0.0	...

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

■

OTHER RELEASES

Domestic sales of refined petroleum products

April 2002 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products totalled 7 210 100 cubic metres in April, down 1.6% from April 2001. Sales fell in three of the seven major product groups, with the largest declines recorded for heavy fuel oil (-161 100 cubic metres or -19.5%) and aviation turbo fuels (-77 900 cubic metres or -18.4%). However, when comparing April's heavy fuel oil sales with the previous three months, sales were up 0.3% from January, 65.9% from February and 12.3% from March.

Aviation turbo fuels sales continued to decline, reaching a three year low of 345 354 cubic metres.

Sales of refined petroleum products

	April 2001[r]	April 2002[p]	April 2001 to April 2002
	Thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total, all products	**7 330.8**	**7 210.1**	**-1.6**
Motor gasoline	3 046.4	3 147.9	3.3
Diesel fuel oil	1 662.8	1 699.5	2.2
Light fuel oil	417.3	439.2	5.3
Heavy fuel oil	824.6	663.5	-19.5
Aviation turbo fuels	423.3	345.4	-18.4
Petrochemical feedstocks[1]	383.2	319.4	-16.7
All other refined products	573.2	595.2	3.9
	Jan. to April 2001[r]	Jan. to April 2002[p]	Jan.-Apr. 2001 to Jan.-Apr. 2002
Total, all products	**30 811.1**	**29 785.2**	**-3.3**
Motor gasoline	12 074.6	12 326.7	2.1
Diesel fuel oil	7 117.1	7 012.3	-1.5
Light fuel oil	2 573.2	2 382.4	-7.4
Heavy fuel oil	3 015.5	2 330.9	-22.7
Aviation turbo fuels	1 806.2	1 664.4	-7.9
Petrochemical feedstocks[1]	1 509.9	1 491.4	-1.2
All other refined products	2 714.6	2 577.1	-5.1

r *Revised.*
p *Preliminary.*
1 *Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce chemicals, synthetic rubber and a variety of plastics.*

Total sales of motor gasoline were up 3.3% (+101 500 cubic metres) from April 2001. Sales in April were higher compared with the previous three months — up 5.2% from January, 2.0% from February and 1.4% from March. Sales of regular non-leaded (+3.0%) and premium gasoline (+9.2%) advanced, while sales of mid-grade gasoline fell 3.2% compared with April 2001.

Year-to-date sales of refined petroleum products to the end of April were down 3.3% (-1 025 900 cubic metres) compared with the same period in 2001. Sales fell for six of the seven major product groups with the largest drop (-22.7% or -684 600 cubic metres) recorded for heavy fuel oil. Year-to-date sales of motor gasoline recorded advanced 252 100 cubic metres or 2.1% higher compared with the same period in 2001.

Available on CANSIM: table 134-0004 (revised to January 2002).

To order data, or for general information, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *energ@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Eleonore Harding (613-951-5708; *hardele@statcan.ca*), or Gerry Desjardins (613-951-4368, *desjger@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Farm Product Price Index

March 2002

Prices farmers received for their agricultural commodities rose 2.6% in March compared with March 2001, according to data from the Farm Product Price Index (FPPI). This follows a year-over-year increase of 5.4% in February and continues the year-over-year increases that began in February 2000.

Crop prices climbed 12.4% from March 2001, more than offsetting a 3.2% drop in prices farmers received for all livestock and animal products. The crop index has seen increases in the 12-month change starting in September 2000. Except for three during months, the livestock index has posted year-over-year increases since September 1999.

The FPPI (1997=100) stood at 105.6 in March, up 0.6% from February. This was the third consecutive month-over-month increase after three consecutive drops.

The livestock index was up 1.2% from February, the third consecutive monthly increase — reversing the downward trend that started in September 2001. The increases in the cattle and calves and poultry indexes more than offset declines in those for hogs, dairy and eggs.

Farm Product Price Index
(1997=100)

	March 2001[r]	Feb. 2002[r]	March 2002[p]	March 2001 to March 2002	Feb. to March 2002
				%	
Total Crops	**87.3**	**98.6**	**98.1**	**12.4**	**-0.5**
Grains	87.9	92.1	91.7	4.3	-0.4
Oilseeds	69.8	85.3	85.4	22.3	0.1
Specialty Crops	84.7	136.1	124.6	47.1	-8.4
Fruit	97.0	96.4	96.6	-0.4	0.2
Vegetables	101.7	112.6	112.4	10.5	-0.2
Potatoes	103.6	156.8	161.7	56.1	3.1
Total livestock and animal products	**117.0**	**112.0**	**113.3**	**-3.2**	**1.2**
Cattle and Calves	141.5	131.0	139.1	-1.7	6.2
Hogs	98.7	92.2	87.3	-11.6	-5.3
Poultry	93.5	91.3	91.4	-2.2	0.1
Eggs	102.6	104.6	104.3	1.7	-0.3
Dairy	108.7	111.3	109.1	0.4	-2.0
Total Product Price Index	**102.9**	**105.0**	**105.6**	**2.6**	**0.6**

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

The cattle and calves index climbed 6.2% in March to 139.1 — its highest level since April 2001. This was the fourth consecutive monthly increase after the index began to fall in April 2001. However, the index was 1.7% lower than a year ago, only the sixth month to show year-over-year declines since December 1996.

The hog index stood at 87.3 in March, down 5.3% from February. After month-to-month decreases between July and December 2001, the index rose in January and February 2002 before its drop in March. On a year-to-year basis, the hog index was down 11.6%. This was only the third time hog prices were lower than year-earlier levels since hog prices began to rise in August 1999, as a result of strong demand for pork both in Canada and abroad.

On a month-to-month basis, the crop index decreased 0.5% in March, the first decline after six consecutive monthly increases. The drop in the indexes for specialty crops, grains and vegetables more than offset the rises in those for potatoes, fruits and oilseeds.

The specialty crop index was down 8.4% in March, influenced mainly by lower prices for peas, mustard and canary seed. Specialty crop prices, despite the recent decreases, were nevertheless 47.1% higher than a year ago. This was the tenth consecutive month in which the specialty crop index was above year-earlier levels.

The potato index increased 3.1% on a month-to-month basis in March and was up 56.1% from the same month a year ago. Tightened supplies resulted in year-over-year price rises for the eighth consecutive month.

Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0021 (monthly) and 002-0022 (annual).

The March 2002 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 2, no. 3 (21-007-XIB, free) is available on Statistics Canada's Web site (*www.statcan.ca*). On the *Our products and services* page, choose *Free publications*, then *Agriculture*.

For general information or to order data, call 1-800-465-1991. To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Paul Murray (613-951-0065; fax: 613-951-3868; *paul.murray@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Home invasion
1995 to 2000

The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics Bulletin on *Home invasion*, no. 002 (85F0027XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site (*www. statcan.ca*). From the *Products and services* page, choose *Free publications*, then *Justice*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Information and Client Services at (613-951-9023 or 1-800-387-2231), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. ■

Highlights of the conditional sentencing special study
1997/98 to 2000/01

The Bulletin *Highlights of the conditional sentencing special study*, no. 001 (85F0027XIE, free) of the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site (*www.statcan.ca*). From the *Products and services* page, choose *Free publications*, then *Justice*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Information and Client Services at (613-951-9023 or 1-800-387-2231, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Farm Product Price Index, March 2002, Vol. 2, no. 3
Catalogue number 21-007-XIB
(free).

Cereals and oilseeds review, March 2002, Vol. 25, no. 3
Catalogue number 22-007-XIB ($11/$112).

Cereals and oilseeds review, March 2002, Vol. 25, no. 3
Catalogue number 22-007-XPB ($15/$149).

Imports by country, January-March 2002, Vol. 59, no. 1
Catalogue number 65-006-XMB ($62/$206).

Imports by country, January-March 2002, Vol. 59, no. 1
Catalogue number 65-006-XPB ($124/$412).

Highlights of the conditional sentencing special study, 1997/98 to 2000/01
Catalogue number 85F0027XIE02001
(free).

Home invasion, 1995 to 2000
Catalogue number 85F0027XIE02002
(free).

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

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB are electronic versions on diskette and -XCB are electronic versions on compact disc.

How to order products

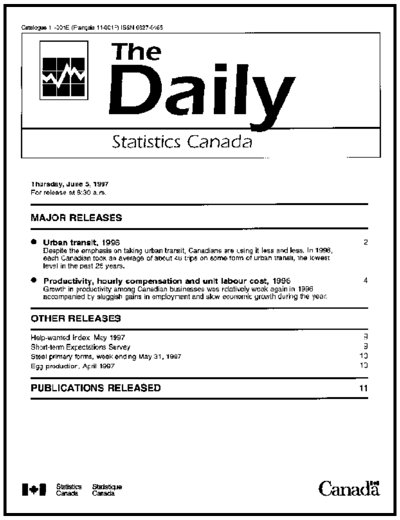
Order products by phone:
Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.

In Canada and the United States call:	**1-800-267-6677**
From other countries call:	**1-613-951-7277**
To fax your order:	**1-877-287-4369**
Address changes or account inquiries:	**1-800-700-1033**

To order a product by mail write: Statistics Canada, Circulation Management, Dissemination Division, Ottawa, K1A 0T6. Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

To order by Internet: write to *order@statcan.ca* or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's Web site *(www.statcan.ca)* under the headings *Products and services and Fee publications ($).*

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.



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.

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

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.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at *http://www.statcan.ca*. To receive *The Daily* each morning by E-mail, send an E-mail message to listproc@statcan.ca. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Editor: Tom Vradenburg (613-951-1103, tom.vradenburg@statcan.ca)
Head of Official Release: Madeleine Simard (613-951-1088), madeleine.simard@statcan.ca