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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 6, 2002
Released at 8:30 am Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

OTHER RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index
May 2002

The Help-wanted Index (1996=100) remained almost unchanged at 126.8 in May, up only 0.2% from April. This is the fourth consecutive month of small increases following fifteen months of declines.

New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island recorded the largest month-to-month increases; four provinces (Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia and Nova Scotia) remained virtually flat.

The national index was down 19.4% from May 2001.

Help-wanted Index
(1996=100)

	May 2002	April 2002	May 2001	April to May 2002	May 2001 to May 2002
	Seasonally adjusted and smoothed			% change	
Canada	**126.8**	**126.6**	**157.4**	**0.2**	**-19.4**
Newfoundland and Labrador	181.0	183.7	193.4	-1.5	-6.4
Prince Edward Island	204.0	193.9	230.0	5.2	-11.3
Nova Scotia	132.0	132.2	157.2	-0.2	-16.0
New Brunswick	168.8	159.4	166.4	5.9	1.4
Quebec	120.7	120.4	147.3	0.2	-18.1
Ontario	133.7	134.3	167.7	-0.4	-20.3
Manitoba	148.5	150.5	165.1	-1.3	-10.1
Saskatchewan	128.8	130.3	144.0	-1.2	-10.6
Alberta	134.9	136.9	180.1	-1.5	-25.1
British Columbia	94.6	94.7	124.2	-0.1	-23.8

Note: The Help-wanted Index is compiled from the number of help-wanted ads published in 22 newspapers in 20 major metropolitan areas and is considered an indicator of labour demand, measuring companies' intentions to hire new workers. These indices have been seasonally adjusted and smoothed to ease month-to-month comparisons.

Available on CANSIM: table 277-0002.

For general information or to order data, contact the Client Services Unit (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; *labour@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091) or Dominique Pérusse (613-951-4064), Labour Statistics Division. ■

Embracing e-business: Does size matter?
2001

Small firms are less likely to have access to the Internet compared with their medium-sized and large counterparts, according to the new issue of the Connectedness Series titled *Embracing e-business: Does size matter?*

This report shows that medium-sized and large businesses have been quick to adopt the Internet and to create their own Web sites. But when it comes to more sophisticated business applications, such as buying and selling online, businesses of all sizes in Canada are slow to implement.

While size does appear to matter as to whether a firm is connected, industry also plays an important role. Industries in the information and cultural sector, as well as those in educational services, were clear leaders in both Internet use and Web site ownership, regardless of firm size.

Data for this report, which came from the annual Survey of Electronic Commerce and Technology (SECT), showed that 68% of small firms had Internet access in 2001, well below the proportion of 91% among medium-sized firms, and 94% among large firms. (Firm size groupings were based on the number of full-time employees: small firms had up to 19 employees, medium firms from 20 to 99, and large firms 100 or more. For manufacturing industries, medium firms had between 20 and 499, and large firms 500 or more).

Roughly 29% of all firms had their own Web site in 2001, up slightly from 26% the year before. In 2001, these firms accounted for 81% of Canada's gross business income, indicating that large firms continue to dominate the Internet market. About 74% of large firms had a Web site in 2001, compared with 57% of medium-sized firms and only 24% of small firms.

Differences in size and industry were also apparent for selling and purchasing online. However, businesses of all sizes have been slower to adopt these more sophisticated e-business applications, compared with Internet connectivity and Web site ownership.

The proportion of firms selling online remains low, dropping from 10% in 1999 to 7% in 2001. However, the dollar amount of online sales has been steadily increasing — from $4.2 billion in 1999 to $10.4 billion in 2001. This suggests that e-commerce is growing and consolidation is occurring in the electronic marketplace. In 2001, 6% of small businesses were selling online, compared with 12% of medium-sized firms and 15% of large firms.

Smaller firms accounted for relatively more business-to-consumer transactions than did large firms. In 2001, such sales by small and medium-sized enterprises accounted for 25% of their total Internet sales, compared with 18% for large firms. This may indicate that the flexibility of small firms allows them to move more quickly to take advantage of market opportunities, and to customize their operations to satisfy market demand.

The proportion of firms that made purchases online was higher than the proportion of firms selling over the Internet. Moreover, this proportion increased from 18% in 2000 to 22% in 2001. About 20% of small firms, 33% of medium-sized firms and 52% of large firms purchased online, again emphasizing the gap between large and small.

The leading sectors for both selling and purchasing online were again information and cultural industries, and educational services. However, while both sectors recorded a relatively high proportion of small firms engaging in online sales and purchases, the gap between small and large firms was significant for online purchasing, but negligible for online selling.

Canadian businesses, regardless of their size or sector, identified two major barriers to e-business implementation. The most common, cited by 52% of respondents, was that the firm's goods or services do not lend themselves to Internet transactions. The second major barrier, resistance to alter the current structure of the firm and the preference to maintain the current business model, was cited by 36% of firms.

Note: The Survey of Electronic Commerce and Technology is based on a sample of about 21,000 enterprises, covering all industries in the economy except agriculture. The survey excluded businesses with low revenues. The exclusion threshold typically ranges from $150,000 to $250,000, depending on the industry. Firm size is based on the number of full-time employees.

The new issue of the Connectedness Series, *Embracing e-business: Does size matter?*, no. 6 (56F0004MIE, free), is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site (*www.statcan.ca*). From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Research papers (free)*, then *Communications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact George Sciadas (613-951-6389, *george.sciadas@statcan.ca*) or Heidi Ertl (613-951-1891, *heidi.ertl@statcan.ca*), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

Steel primary forms

Week-ending June 1, 2002 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending June 1 totalled 331 621 metric tonnes, up 5.6% from 314 003 tonnes a week earlier and up 10.3% from 300 647 tonnes in the same week of 2001. The year-to-date total at the end of the reference week was 6 880 507 tonnes, up 11.2% from 6 187 138 in the same period of 2001.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *manufact@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Dragos Ifrim (613-951-3527; *dragos.ifrim@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

For-hire motor carriers of freight, top carriers

First quarter 2002

The top 85 for-hire motor carriers of freight (Canada-based trucking companies earning $25 million or more annually) generated operating revenues of $1.81 billion and expenses of $1.73 billion in the first quarter. Average per-carrier revenue slipped 0.5% to $21.3 million compared with the first quarter 2001, and average expenses were up 0.2% to $20.3 million. This financial situation of the top for-hire carriers is similar to that in the first quarter 2001.

The top for-hire carriers' operating ratio (operating expenses divided by operating revenues) was 0.95, similar to the first quarter of 2001. A ratio of greater than 1.00 represents an operating loss.

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

Steel pipe and tubing

April 2002

Steel pipe and tubing production totalled 194 696 metric tonnes in April, up 3.6% from 187 859 tonnes (revised) in April 2001.

Year-to-date production to the end of April totalled 759 084 tonnes, down 9.3% from 837 186 tonnes (revised) in the same period of 2001.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0003.

The April 2002 issue of *Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing*, Vol. 26, no. 4 (41-011-XIB, $5/$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *manufact@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Dragos Ifrim (613-951-3527; *dragos.ifrim@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Production of poultry and eggs, 2001
Catalogue number 23-202-XIB ($29).

Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing, April 2002, Vol. 26, no. 4
Catalogue number 41-011-XIB ($5/$47).

Refined petroleum products, January 2002, Vol. 57, no. 1
Catalogue number 45-004-XIB ($16/$155).

Refined petroleum products, January 2002, Vol. 57, no. 1
Catalogue number 45-004-XPB ($21/$206).

Embracing e-business: Does size matter?, No. 6
Catalogue number 56F0004MIE2002006
(free).

Labour Force information, week ending May 25, 2002
Catalogue number 71-001-PIB ($8/$78).
Available at 7 am Friday, June 7

Labour Force information, week ending May 25, 2002
Catalogue number 71-001-PPB ($11/$103).
Available at 7 am Friday, June 7

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.

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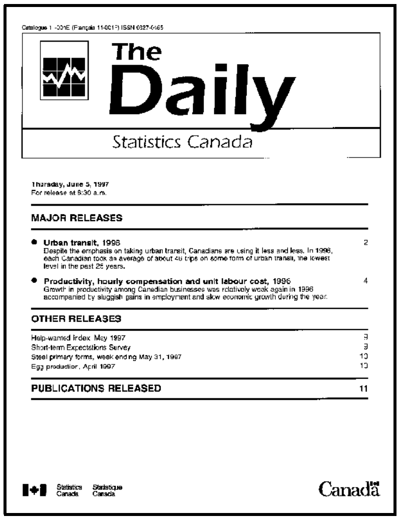
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **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

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

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