Catalogue 11-001-XIE (Français 11-001-XIF) ISSN 0827-0465

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, January 9, 2003
Released at 8:30 am Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

MAJOR RELEASES

Building permits

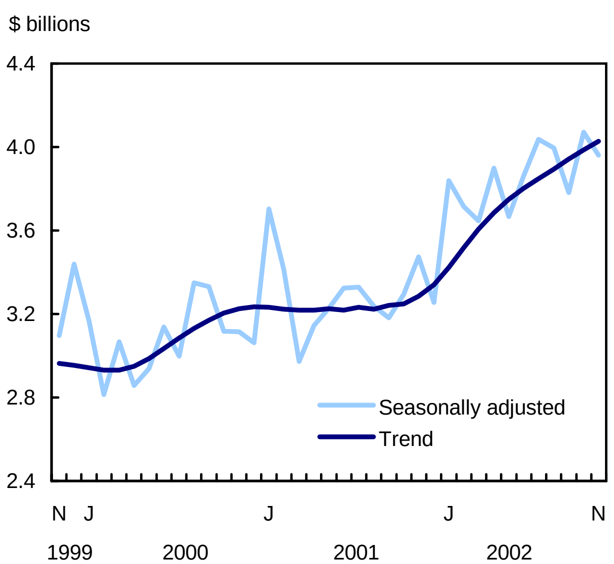
November 2002

Municipalities issued $4.0 billion worth of building permits in November, down 2.7% from the record reached in October. Despite the decline, the level remained high, as construction intentions revolved around the $4.0 billion mark for the fourth time in the last five months.

The residential component declined 7.8% to $2.4 billion in the wake of retreats in both single- and multi-family permits. However, this decline has to be put in perspective, as November's level remained 30.8% higher than the average monthly level recorded in 2001.

Propelled by a record high in the value of institutional permits and by a growth in the commercial sector, the value of planned non-residential construction increased 6.3% to $1.6 billion in November.

Total value of permits declines in November



On a year-to-date basis, the total value of permits reached $42.5 billion, which is already higher than any annual total on record. This is up 17.0% from the same period in 2001. The considerable demand for new housing is the factor behind the new record set in 2002. From January to November, municipalities authorized the construction of nearly 199,000 dwelling units. For the first time since 1989, the 200,000 units mark will be surpassed for a single year.

> ***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 (for example, waterworks, sewers or culverts) and land.*

Regionally, Toronto and Vancouver led the 28 census metropolitan areas in terms of growth (in dollars). In both areas, it was the strength in the residential sector that was the factor behind these remarkable growths. Advances in the cumulative value of building permits from 2001 occurred in 25 out of the 28 census metropolitan areas.

Single-family permits were down from October's record high

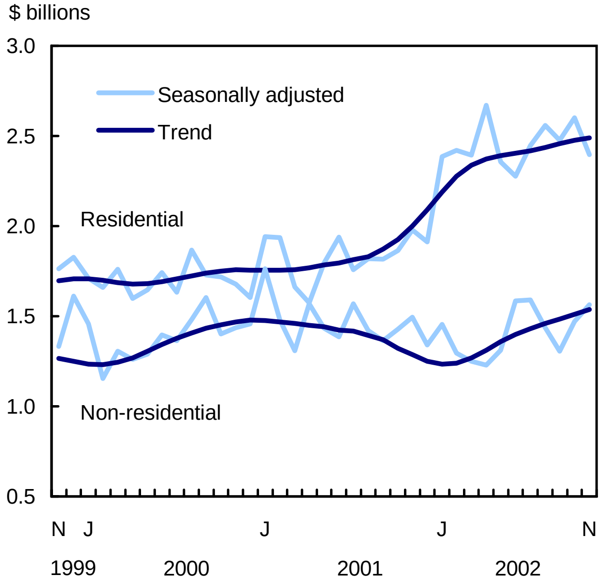
After three consecutive monthly gains that led to a record high in October, the value of single-family permits dropped 8.8% to $1.7 billion. The construction intentions for multi-family dwellings moved in the same direction and declined 5.2% to $674 million.

The strength in the housing market had a positive impact on several sectors of the economy. Job gains in the construction sector totalled 48,000 from January to November, and the sales of home furnishings and electronics recorded healthy increases in the second and third quarters of this year. Furthermore, the strong demand for new housing in Canada continued to support the wood products industry, despite the reinstatement of US duties on Canadian exports of softwood lumber in May.

In October, the largest decrease in residential construction intentions came from Ontario (-10.6% to $1.0 billion). This is the province's lowest monthly level in 2002. However, this level is 15.1% higher then the average monthly level reported in 2001. In contrast, Nova Scotia posted the largest increase (+33.6% to $66 million).

Healthy results in the residential sector were recorded in all provinces, territories and metropolitan areas. Consequently, the value of residential building permits from January to November totalled $27.0 billion, a 34.4% jump from the same period of 2001. Strong gains were recorded in both the single- (+34.5%) and multi-family (+33.9%) components.

The non-residential sector increases but housing permits dropped



Record level in institutional construction intentions in November

Propelled by a record-high in the value of institutional permits and by a growth in the commercial sector, planned non-residential construction increased 6.3% to $1.6 billion in November. This follows a large 12.7% increase in October.

The institutional component led the way with a 10.8% increase from October to $593 million, the best monthly result ever and surpassing the $500 million mark for the fourth time in 2002. The record came mainly from gains in construction plans in the medical and hospital category; this category recorded its second highest value ever. Among the provinces, Quebec showed the highest growth for the institutional component, mainly because of the educational category.

The commercial component also contributed to November's monthly increase, up 7.7% to $707 million. Most of this component's rise came from the office building, recreation building and trade and services categories. Ontario recorded the largest gain in this component.

Permits in the industrial component fell 5.6% to $263 million as a result of significant reductions in the transportation and manufacturing building categories. After recording substantial increases, both Quebec and New Brunswick showed the largest losses in November; the strongest gains were in Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Mixed signals emerged from the manufacturing sector. A third consecutive quarterly increase brought the industrial capacity utilization rate within range of the last peak of 85.5%, which was reached in the third quarter of 2000. Although the capacity utilization recovery could have a positive impact on industrial construction intentions, other indicators showed a less positive view. Following two quarters of optimism, the mood among manufacturers was somewhat more guarded in October, as producers indicated some concerns over lower production prospects and unfilled order levels for the fourth quarter, according to the Business Condition Survey.

At the provincial level, Quebec recorded the largest increase (+25.7% to $318 million) as a result of an increase in educational projects in the Montréal area. In contrast, Manitoba had the most significant monthly decrease in terms of dollars (-46.9% to $22 million), as large projects in the educational project category inflated the overall figure in October.

On a year-to-date basis, municipalities issued $15.5 billion in permits for the non-residential sector, down 4.5% from the same period of 2001. Most of the decline was related to weaknesses in the commercial (-6.7%) and industrial (-13.7%) components. In contrast, the institutional component recorded a gain of 6.4% so far in 2002, with the government and administrative, religious and social home categories already surpassing their total values of 2001.

Among the provinces, the largest year-to-date decline in the non-residential sector was in Quebec (-13.5% to $3.1 billion), mainly the result of the commercial and industrial components. On the other hand, fuelled only by a surge in the institutional component, the strongest gain occurred in Ontario (+7.5% to $7.1 billion).

Of the 28 census metropolitan areas, 16 recorded year-to-date decreases in the value of non-residential permits. The largest decline occurred in the Montréal area followed closely by Toronto. Both areas were down from last year mainly because of fewer construction intentions in the commercial category.

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

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2802.

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

The December 2002 building permit estimate will be released on February 6, 2003.

To order 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

Census metropolitan area	October 2002[r]	November 2002[p]	October to November 2002	January to November 2001	January to November 2002	January–November 2001 to January–November 2002
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
St. John's	23.6	19.0	-19.4	164.6	229.9	39.6
Halifax	36.7	51.0	38.7	274.3	419.2	52.8
Saint John	11.3	7.2	-36.8	74.8	94.8	26.8
Saguenay	16.3	12.1	-26.0	165.6	155.7	-6.0
Québec	79.5	54.5	-31.5	661.6	727.2	9.9
Sherbrooke	13.3	11.2	-16.3	156.9	179.2	14.2
Trois-Rivières	13.3	23.1	73.9	105.9	157.3	48.5
Montréal	367.7	467.9	27.2	3,797.4	4,279.3	12.7
Gatineau	40.4	33.8	-16.2	301.7	441.9	46.5
Ottawa	153.2	98.1	-35.9	1,388.6	1,528.7	10.1
Kingston	17.9	32.9	83.9	152.5	267.2	75.2
Oshawa	78.3	98.0	25.2	559.6	710.8	27.0
Toronto	915.0	737.9	-19.3	7,621.0	8,372.8	9.9
Hamilton	71.3	82.9	16.2	778.9	1,015.5	30.4
St. Catharines–Niagara	45.5	48.0	5.4	362.0	642.2	77.4
Kitchener	76.8	61.6	-19.8	908.2	904.6	-0.4
London	45.5	85.8	88.4	643.4	648.7	0.8
Windsor	46.4	95.8	106.4	512.2	690.5	34.8
Sudbury	23.9	25.2	5.1	120.9	161.4	33.5
Thunder Bay	7.5	10.0	33.8	91.1	170.4	86.9
Winnipeg	53.5	36.7	-31.3	389.3	434.1	11.5
Regina	19.3	14.8	-23.1	175.1	146.6	-16.3
Saskatoon	25.3	18.7	-25.9	270.1	274.9	1.8
Calgary	208.8	221.4	6.0	2,092.0	2,464.1	17.8
Edmonton	157.1	191.3	21.7	1,297.7	1,661.4	28.0
Abbotsford	28.0	15.2	-45.5	180.7	184.9	2.3
Vancouver	357.1	323.7	-9.4	2,751.1	3,258.3	18.4
Victoria	36.1	39.1	8.3	326.6	432.9	32.5

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

Value of building permits

Provinces and territories	October 2002[r]	November 2002[p]	October to November 2002	January to November 2001	January to November 2002	January–November 2001 to January–November 2002
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
Canada	**4,070.7**	**3,959.9**	**-2.7**	**36,301.1**	**42,471.7**	**17.0**
Residential	2,600.6	2,396.8	-7.8	20,083.1	26,981.8	34.4
Non-residential	1,470.2	1,563.1	6.3	16,218.0	15,489.9	-4.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	34.0	28.9	-14.8	275.7	350.8	27.3
Residential	20.8	17.6	-15.6	165.5	216.0	30.5
Non-residential	13.2	11.4	-13.6	110.2	134.8	22.3
Prince Edward Island	12.6	11.1	-11.8	202.7	132.3	-34.7
Residential	6.0	8.1	35.2	60.2	87.9	46.1
Non-residential	6.6	3.0	-54.2	142.6	44.4	-68.9
Nova Scotia	70.8	80.5	13.7	617.6	801.6	29.8
Residential	49.2	65.7	33.6	405.2	563.7	39.1
Non-residential	21.6	14.8	-31.6	212.4	237.8	12.0
New Brunswick	71.9	52.3	-27.2	493.9	643.0	30.2
Residential	32.1	31.5	-2.0	258.8	366.8	41.7
Non-residential	39.8	20.8	-47.6	235.1	276.2	17.5
Quebec	721.6	790.1	9.5	6,867.2	8,042.7	17.1
Residential	468.3	471.8	0.7	3,273.9	4,935.0	50.7
Non-residential	253.3	318.3	25.7	3,593.3	3,107.7	-13.5
Ontario	1,886.9	1,818.8	-3.6	16,373.2	19,312.6	18.0
Residential	1,131.0	1,011.5	-10.6	9,749.4	12,194.8	25.1
Non-residential	755.8	807.3	6.8	6,623.8	7,117.9	7.5
Manitoba	86.2	56.5	-34.5	680.5	821.7	20.8
Residential	44.5	34.3	-22.9	311.4	414.8	33.2
Non-residential	41.8	22.2	-46.9	369.1	406.9	10.2
Saskatchewan	56.8	48.7	-14.2	666.4	624.0	-6.4
Residential	28.1	18.4	-34.5	204.1	243.3	19.2
Non-residential	28.7	30.3	5.6	462.3	380.8	-17.6
Alberta	565.7	569.4	0.6	5,374.3	6,343.2	18.0
Residential	423.0	388.5	-8.2	3,033.1	4,247.5	40.0
Non-residential	142.7	180.9	26.7	2,341.2	2,095.7	-10.5
British Columbia	552.9	497.2	-10.1	4,596.7	5,254.3	14.3
Residential	392.1	345.0	-12.0	2,563.6	3,616.4	41.1
Non-residential	160.9	152.2	-5.4	2,033.1	1,637.9	-19.4
Yukon	3.8	2.0	-46.7	48.1	27.7	-42.4
Residential	1.8	1.5	-18.7	15.0	19.1	27.7
Non-residential	2.0	0.6	-71.9	33.1	8.6	-74.1
Northwest Territories	6.0	3.2	-47.2	74.4	76.0	2.3
Residential	3.3	2.7	-17.8	27.3	53.2	94.6
Non-residential	2.7	0.5	-82.6	47.0	22.8	-51.4
Nunavut	1.5	1.1	-21.8	30.4	41.6	36.6
Residential	0.4	0.3	-32.8	15.5	23.1	48.9
Non-residential	1.1	0.9	-17.6	14.9	18.4	23.8

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

■

OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index

December 2002

The Help-wanted Index (1996=100) fell for the fifth consecutive month to 113.5, down 4.0% from November.

The largest declines were in Newfoundland and Labrador (-4.1%) and Quebec (-3.3%). The decrease in Ontario (-3.1%) was near the national level and was the sixth consecutive monthly drop for that province. Only New Brunswick (+3.7%) recorded an increase, the first since July.

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

Available on CANSIM: tables 277-0001 and 277-0002.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2606.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (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 Jamie Brunet (613-951-6684), Labour Statistics Division.

Help-wanted Index

(1996=100)

	Dec. 2002	Nov. 2002	Dec. 2001	Nov. to Dec. 2002	Dec. 2001 to Dec. 2002
	Seasonally adjusted and smoothed			% change	
Canada	**113.5**	**118.2**	**126.8**	**-4.0**	**-10.5**
Newfoundland and Labrador	147.2	153.5	184.1	-4.1	-20.0
Prince Edward Island	173.9	178.0	196.8	-2.3	-11.6
Nova Scotia	125.3	126.2	135.0	-0.7	-7.2
New Brunswick	155.2	149.7	157.2	3.7	-1.3
Quebec	110.8	114.6	121.7	-3.3	-9.0
Ontario	121.8	125.7	133.3	-3.1	-8.6
Manitoba	139.3	140.3	154.0	-0.7	-9.5
Saskatchewan	121.2	122.6	135.3	-1.1	-10.4
Alberta	123.3	125.1	142.6	-1.4	-13.5
British Columbia	86.3	87.1	97.9	-0.9	-11.8

■

Domestic sales of refined petroleum products

November 2002 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products totalled 7 857 100 cubic metres in November, up 1.4% from November 2001. Sales increased in five of the seven major product groups, with light fuel oil up 62 400 cubic metres or 14.2%. Motor gasoline rose 60 000 cubic metres or 1.9%, and aviation turbo fuels, 31 000 cubic metres or 7.9%

Sales of regular non-leaded (+2.2%) and premium (+0.5%) gasoline advanced from November 2001, but sales of mid-grade fell (-3.9%).

Year-to-date sales of refined petroleum products at the end of November were relatively unchanged from the same period of 2001. Sales rose in four of the seven major product groups, with the largest increase in motor gasoline (760 500 cubic metres or +2.1%). Year-to-date sales of heavy fuel oil dropped 1 361 400 cubic metres, or 18.2%, from the same period of 2001.

Sales of refined petroleum products

	Nov. 2001[r]	Nov. 2002[p]	Nov. 2001 to Nov. 2002
	Thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total, all products	**7 746.3**	**7 857.1**	**1.4**
Motor gasoline	3 176.6	3 236.6	1.9
Diesel fuel oil	1 882.7	1 900.7	1.0
Light fuel oil	438.9	501.3	14.2
Heavy fuel oil	668.6	693.6	3.7
Aviation turbo fuels	392.7	423.7	7.9
Petrochemical feedstocks[1]	388.7	371.0	-4.6
All other refined products	798.2	730.3	-8.5

	Jan. to Nov. 2001[r]	Jan. to Nov. 2002[p]	Jan.–Nov. 2001 to Jan.–Nov. 2002
	Thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total, All Products	**86 308.7**	**86 318.8**	**0.0**
Motor gasoline	35 576.3	36 336.8	2.1
Diesel fuel oil	21 023.3	20 932.1	-0.4
Light fuel oil	4 329.3	4 303.3	-0.6
Heavy fuel oil	7 487.2	6 125.8	-18.2
Aviation turbo fuels	5 378.3	5 437.4	1.1
Petrochemical feedstocks[1]	3 856.6	4 221.1	9.5
All other refined products	8 657.7	8 962.3	3.5

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

Available on CANSIM: table 134-0004.

For more 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; *energ@statcan.ca)*, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Farm Product Price Index

October 2002

Prices received by farmers for their agricultural commodities rose 0.5% in October from October 2001, according to data from the Farm Product Price Index (FPPI). The index has been above year-earlier levels since January 2000, except in August and September 2002.

Crop prices climbed 4.4% from October 2001, but prices received by farmers for all livestock and animal products fell 3.4%. The crop index has seen increases in the 12-month change since September 2000, but the livestock index has fallen year-over-year since March.

The FPPI (1997=100) stood at 103.4 in October, down 0.1% from September. This was the fifth time in 2002 that the index fell on a month-to-month basis.

The crop index was down 0.8% from September. The index has decreased in 6 of the last 12 months. Although there were increases in the potato, specialty crop and grain indexes, these were offset by decreases in the oilseed, vegetable and fruit indexes.

The oilseed index declined 3.6% from September, down for the first time since April. However, on a year-over-year basis, the oilseed index rose 28.5%, continuing the upward trend that started in February 2001, pressured by tight world oilseed supplies.

October's potato index rose 4.0% from September, increasing on a monthly basis in 9 of the last 12 months. On a year-over-year basis, the potato index increased 26.3%, remaining above year-earlier levels for the fifteenth consecutive month. Potato prices increased rapidly to record levels this summer as the large decline in potato production in 2001 reduced available stocks.

The specialty crop index was at 126.1 in October, up 3.1% from September. This increase was influenced mainly by higher prices for lentils, mustard seed, canary seed and dry peas. On a year-over-year basis, specialty crop prices were up 7.2% from October 2001. This index has been above year-earlier levels since June 2001.

The livestock index rose 1.5% in October. Monthly increases in prices for hogs more than offset decreases in those for cattle and calves.

The hog index was up 14.6% from September to 73.1 after two consecutive monthly decreases. However, on a year-to-year basis, the hog index was down 17.8%, the eighth consecutive decrease. Canadian hog prices are being pressured by slower disposition of North American pork supplies and higher slaughter volumes.

The cattle and calves index fell 2.2% in October to 119.0. On a year-over-year basis, the cattle and calves index was up 1.5%, increasing for the first time after 12 consecutive decreases. Abundant supplies of red meat on the North American market had pressured prices. Before October 2001, the index had been above year-earlier levels every month since January 1997.

Available on CANSIM: table 002-0021.

The October 2002 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 2, no. 10 (21-007-XIB, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website (*www.statcan.ca*). From the *Products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications,* choose *Free*, 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.

Farm Product Price Pndex
(1997=100)

	Oct. 2001	Sept. 2002	Oct. 2002p	Oct. 2001 to Oct. 2002	Sept. to Oct. 2002
				%	
Farm Product Price Index	**102.9**	**103.5**	**103.4**	**0.5**	**-0.1**
Crops	97.7	102.8	102.0	4.4	-0.8
Grains	100.6	92.5	94.0	-6.6	1.6
Oilseeds	75.7	100.9	97.3	28.5	-3.6
Specialty crops	117.6	122.3	126.1	7.2	3.1
Fruit	98.8	97.0	96.4	-2.4	-0.6
Vegetables	106.8	108.5	107.7	0.8	-0.7
Potatoes	135.7	164.8	171.4	26.3	4.0
Livestock and animal products	106.6	101.5	103.0	-3.4	1.5
Cattle and calves	117.2	121.7	119.0	1.5	-2.2
Hogs	88.9	63.8	73.1	-17.8	14.6
Poultry	97.0	92.4	92.4	-4.7	0.0
Eggs	100.6	103.5	103.5	2.9	0.0
Dairy	113.4	111.2	111.4	-1.8	0.2

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

■

Steel primary forms — weekly data

Weeks ending December 14, 2002 to January 4, 2003 (preliminary)

Data on are now available.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2131.

For more 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. ■

Production and disposition of tobacco products

November 2002

In November, manufacturers of tobacco products produced more cigarettes than they sold; consequently, cigarette inventories increased.

Total cigarette sales for November decreased 3.0% from October to 2.8 billion cigarettes, and were down 25.0% from November 2001. Year-to-date sales at the end of November totalled 37.1 billion cigarettes, down 8.0% from the same period of 2001.

Cigarette production in November stood at 3.7 billion cigarettes, down 1.0% from October and down 15.0% from the 4.4 billion cigarettes produced in November 2001. Year-to-date production was 39.1 billion cigarettes, down 7.0% from the same period of 2001.

In November, the closing level of inventories increased to 5.6 billion cigarettes, up 9.0% from October. The closing level of cigarette inventories represents a 6.0% increase from November 2001.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0007.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2142.

The November 2002 issue of *Production and disposition of tobacco products*, Vol. 31, no. 11 (32-022-XIB, $5/$47) 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 the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *manufact@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Farm product price index, October 2002, Vol. 2, no. 10
Catalogue number 21-007-XIB
(free).

Production and disposition of tobacco products, November 2002, Vol. 31, no. 11
Catalogue number 32-022-XIB ($5/$47).

Driving characteristics of the young and aging population,
Catalogue number 53F0007XIE2002001
(free).

Labour force information, week ending December 14, 2002
Catalogue number 71-001-XIE ($8/$78).
Available at 7 am Friday, January 10.

Employment, earnings and hours, October 2002, Vol. 80, no. 10
Catalogue number 72-002-XIB ($24/$240).

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

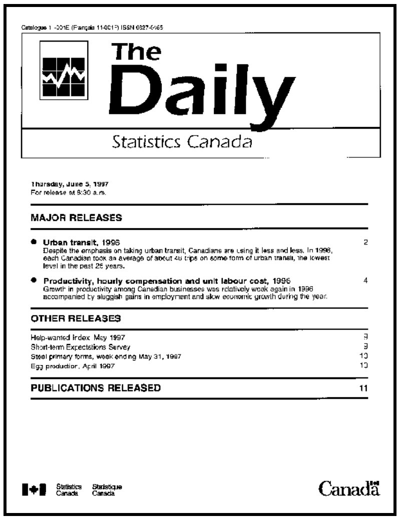
Order products by phone:
Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.

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 *Our products and services* and *Publications for sale ($).*

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 11-001-XIE.

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".