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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, March 14, 2003
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MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

MAJOR RELEASES

Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost

Annual and fourth quarter 2002

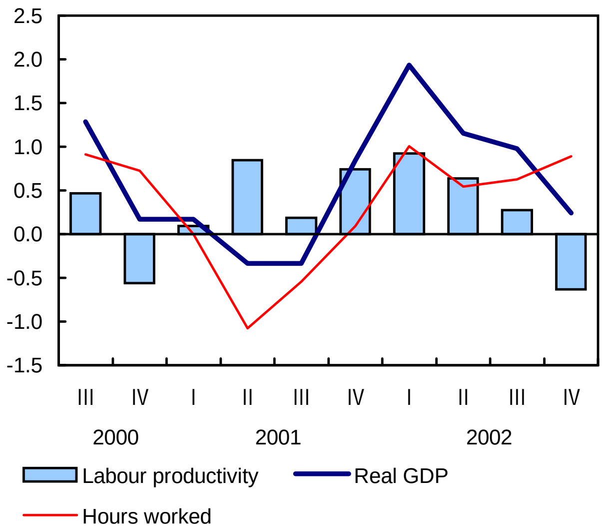
Labour productivity in Canada's business sector declined for the first time in two years in the fourth quarter, in the wake of a slowdown in economic activity.

From October to December, productivity fell 0.6% compared with the third quarter, halting a series of eight consecutive quarterly increases.

Even so, for 2002 as a whole, Canadian businesses increased their productivity by 2.2%, on the strength of productivity gains in the first three quarters. This was more than twice the rate of annual growth of 0.8% during 2001, when economic activity was weak.

Labour productivity in Canada's business sector declined for the first time in two years

Quarterly % change



South of the border, labour productivity in the American business sector rose only a marginal 0.1% in the fourth quarter. However, for the year as a whole, productivity in the United States soared at 4.8%. This was the largest annual growth rate since 1950.

Last year was the third straight year in which annual productivity growth among American businesses exceeded that of their Canadian counterparts.

However, in the past few years, initial estimates of quarterly differences in productivity growth between the two nations have been reduced after data revisions. The United States have revised their estimates downward substantially, and Canada has revised its estimates upward, although much more modestly

Slowdown in production hits business sector productivity on both sides of the border

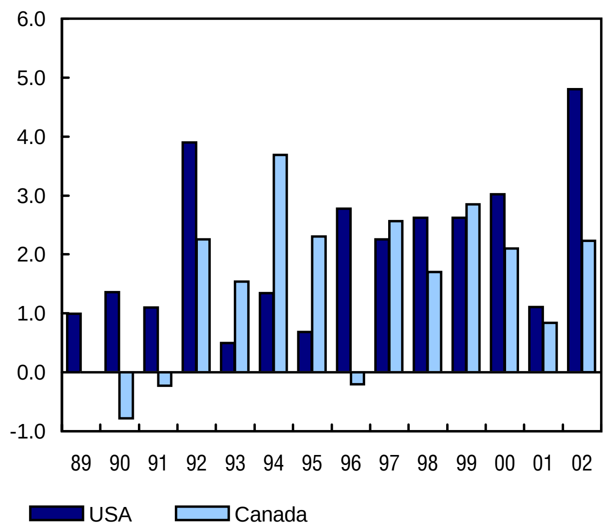
On a quarterly basis, labour productivity on both sides of the border felt the impact of a slowdown in economic activity in the fourth quarter.

In the third quarter, production (GDP) had increased 1.0% in Canada and 1.3% in the United States. In the fourth quarter, production growth slowed to 0.2% in Canada and to 0.4% in the United States.

Since the start of 2002, output in Canada has gradually slowed from one quarter to the next, whereas in the United States, output evolved in a seesaw pattern.

Productivity has been higher in the United States than in Canada since 2000

% change from the previous year



Higher productivity growth in 2002

On an annual basis, the better productivity performance south of the border stemmed mainly from differences in labour market performance in 2002.

Canada has outpaced the United States for the last four years in terms of annual employment growth. In 2002, the number of hours worked declined 2.0% in the United States, but increased 1.5% in Canada.

As for the labour market, output growth from Canadian businesses has also surpassed that of their American counterparts in the last four years. Business sector real gross domestic product (GDP) increased 3.8% in Canada in 2002, a much stronger increase than the 2.7% gain in the United States.

Real GDP growth was stronger in Canada than in the United States in 2002. However, the decline in the number of hours worked in the United States led to growth in labour productivity south of the border representing more than double that of Canada.

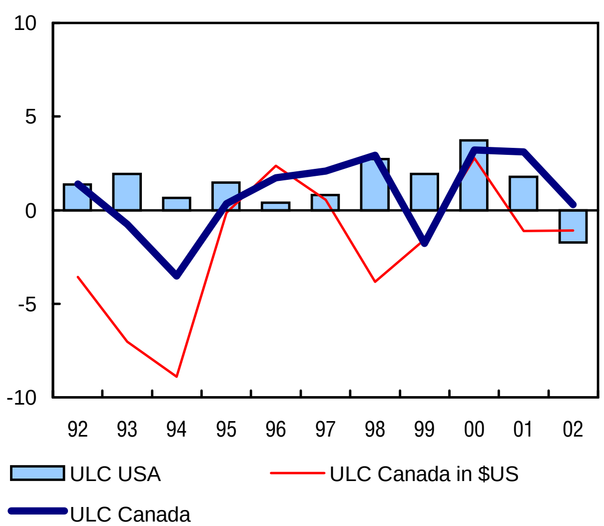
Slight advantage for American businesses in labour costs

American businesses also developed a slight advantage over Canadian businesses in the evolution of labour costs.

On an annual basis, unit labour costs increased 0.3% from 2001 in Canada, compared with a decline of 1.7% in the United States, as measured in their respective national currencies.

In 2002, American businesses had a slight advantage in terms of labour costs

% change from the previous year



The unit labour cost gap between the two nations in 2002 was the result of a slower gain in labour productivity in Canada, since increases in hourly wages were virtually identical in both. Hourly wages rose 2.9% in the United States in 2002, compared with 2.6% in Canada.

Measured in US dollars, the advantage of American businesses with respect to unit labour costs was less pronounced in 2002 but remained important. The unit labour cost of Canadian businesses fell 1.1% from 2001, compared with the record decline of 1.7% in the United States.

Available on CANSIM: table 383-0008.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 1402.

A more detailed analysis, including additional graphs and tables, as well as a technical note on quarterly estimates of labour productivity, are available on request. To order copies, send an e-mail message to *productivity.measures@statcan.ca*. The detailed analysis will soon also be available on Statistics Canada's website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean-Pierre Maynard (613-951-3654; fax: 613-951-5403; *maynard@statcan.ca*), Micro-Economic Analysis Division.

□

Business sector: Labour productivity and related variables for Canada and the United States

	Fourth quarter 2000	First quarter 2001	Second quarter 2001	Third quarter 2001	Fourth quarter 2001	First quarter 2002	Second quarter 2002	Third quarter 2002	Fouth quarter 2002
	% change from previous quarter, seasonally adjusted								
Canada									
Labour productivity	-0.6	0.1	0.8	0.2	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.3	-0.6
Real GDP	0.2	0.2	-0.3	-0.3	0.8	1.9	1.2	1.0	0.2
Hours worked	0.7	0.0	-1.1	-0.5	0.1	1.0	0.5	0.6	0.9
Hourly compensation	0.8	1.4	1.4	0.3	0.4	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.6
Unit labour cost	1.4	1.2	0.7	0.1	-0.3	0.0	-0.1	0.1	1.3
Unit labour cost in US$	-1.5	1.1	-0.2	-0.2	-2.4	-0.9	2.5	-0.5	0.9
United States									
Labour productivity	0.5	-0.3	-0.1	0.4	1.9	2.0	0.5	1.4	0.1
Real GDP	0.2	-0.2	-0.7	-0.2	0.9	1.4	0.1	1.3	0.4
Hours worked	-0.3	0.1	-0.7	-0.7	-0.9	-0.6	-0.3	-0.2	0.4
Hourly compensation	1.0	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.7	1.1	1.3	1.1
Unit labour cost	0.4	1.1	0.2	-0.3	-1.5	-1.2	0.6	-0.1	1.0

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	First quarter 2002	Second quarter 2002	Third quarter 2002	Fouth quarter 2002
	% change from the previous year					% change from same quarter of previous year, seasonally adjusted			
Canada									
Labour productivity	1.7	2.9	2.1	0.8	2.2	2.7	2.5	2.6	1.2
Real GDP	4.5	6.7	5.4	0.9	3.8	2.1	3.6	5.0	4.4
Hours worked	2.8	3.8	3.1	0.1	1.5	-0.5	1.1	2.3	3.1
Hourly compensation	4.7	0.4	6.0	3.9	2.6	3.1	2.3	2.3	2.5
Unit labour cost	2.9	-2.3	3.8	3.2	0.3	0.5	-0.3	-0.3	1.3
Unit labour cost in US$	-3.8	-1.6	2.8	-1.1	-1.1	-3.7	-1.1	-1.4	2.0
United States									
Labour productivity	2.6	2.6	3.0	1.1	4.8	4.3	4.8	5.9	4.0
Real GDP	4.9	4.7	4.1	-0.1	2.7	1.4	2.3	3.8	3.4
Hours worked	2.2	2.0	1.1	-1.3	-2.0	-2.8	-2.5	-1.9	-0.6
Hourly compensation	5.5	4.6	6.8	3.0	2.9	1.4	2.4	3.6	4.3
Unit labour cost	2.7	1.9	3.7	1.8	-1.7	-2.8	-2.3	-2.1	0.3

Source: *US data are from Bureau of Labor Statistics, Productivity and costs, Fourth quarter 2002, published in NEWS, March 6, 2003.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Employment in computer and telecommunications industries: A profile

1990 to 2002

The typical worker in computer and telecommunications (CT) industries is most likely to be a highly-educated man in his mid-30s, holding a full-time job and working longer hours than many other workers, according to a new study.

Although the proportion of women working in the group of all other industries rose slowly but steadily over the 1990–2002 reference period, the proportion of women in the group of CT industries decreased during this time. By 2002, women accounted for one-third of the roughly 596,000 workers in CT industries, compared with 37% in 1990.

The study, titled *A profile of employment in computer and telecommunications industries*, uses data from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey to analyse the composition and growth of employment in the CT group and contrast them with the rest of the economy.

In 2002, just over four out of every 10 men in CT industries (43%) were in professional occupations. Women made some substantial gains during the 1990s. By 2002, 25% of women in CT industries worked in professional occupations, just above the 24% who worked in clerical.

Average earnings in the CT industries were higher than in the other industries group. Moreover, from 1997 to 2002, the gap in average earnings between workers in CT industries and the rest of the economy continued to widen. In 2002, men working in the CT industries earned an average of over $1,000 every week (before taxes and other deductions), compared with the average of approximately $750 for men working in the all other industries group.

Although women had lower earnings than men did in both the CT industries and the all other industries group, women's earnings in the CT industries were higher than in the rest of the economy. In fact, women's earnings in the CT industries were comparable to those of men in all other industries.

CT workers tend to be younger than those in the rest of the economy. In 2002, the average age of a CT worker was 37.1 years old, nearly a year younger than workers in all other industries.

The number of people with a university degree working in CT industries increased three times as fast as the number of university graduates working in the rest of the economy during the 1990s.

University graduates accounted for nearly 38% of the CT industry workforce in 2002, up substantially from 23% in 1990. In comparison, university graduates accounted for only 20% of workers in all other industries in 2002 — still less than the CT share more than a decade earlier. About 42% of men in CT industries had university degrees in 2002, compared with 30% of women.

There were proportionately more women in part-time jobs in both the CT industries and the all other industries group. However, part-time work in the CT industries was less prevalent than in the rest of the economy. The proportion of self-employment in CT industries is lower than in the rest of the economy, but the gap has been closing in recent years.

CT industries, which include telecommunications services and computer systems design services, are a subset of the information and communications technology sector, which contributed $58.7 billion to Canada's economic output in 2002, as measured by gross domestic product (GDP). This represented 7% of business sector GDP. In 2002, CT employment accounted for just under 4% of total employment.

The new issue of the Connectedness series, *A profile of employment in computer and telecommunications industries*, no. 9 (56F0004MIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website (*www.statcan.ca*). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Communications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Chantal Vaillancourt (613-951-2733), Centre for Education Statistics. ■

Annual Survey of Accounting and Bookkeeping Services

2001

The accounting and bookkeeping industry generated $8.2 billion in total operating revenues in 2001, up 2.7% from 2000. Despite weaker economic conditions, the accounting industry maintained its upward trend as it continued to evolve from simply accounting work to various complimentary activities such as tax and consulting work. Many of the larger firms are drawing on their international associates for worldwide assistance in a variety of specialties.

Ontario continued to lead all other provinces in 2001, as half of the industry's operating revenues were earned in that province. Quebec followed at 17%, and British

Columbia increased its share by two percentage points to 14%.

In terms of the services offered within the industry in 2001, traditional accounting and auditing services remain the backbone of the profession. Although services in this area declined two percentage points overall from 2000, they continued to be the major services provided, with 54.7% of total operating revenues. Tax services represented 23.4%, followed by consulting services at 15.0%.

The accounting industry relies heavily on a high concentration of human capital. This industry employed approximately 68,500 paid employees in 2001, up 4.6% from 2000. As a knowledge-based industry, salaries and wages continue to be the primary operating expenditure, accounting for 56% of the total. These figures do not include the contribution of the 14,600 partners and proprietors working in the industry.

The industry's before-tax operating profit margin was 28.9% in 2001, a slight decrease from 30.7% in 2000.

Available on CANSIM: table 360-0007.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 4716.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Nissa Kenney (613-951-5250; fax: 613-951-6696; *nissa.kenney@statcan.ca*), Service Industries Division. ■

Annual Survey of Surveying and Mapping Services

2001

The surveying and mapping industry generated $1.7 billion in operating revenues in 2001, up 8.0% from 2000. Rising commodity prices for oil and natural gas led to increased exploration for new reserves. This directly benefited the geophysical surveying and mapping sector, whose services are essential to any exploration efforts.

Alberta led all provinces in surveying and mapping services, accounting for 68% of operating revenues earned in 2001 — up from its 63% share in 2000. As well, Alberta operating revenues jumped by $162 million, whereas the other provinces experienced little or negative growth in 2001.

Most of the growth was in the area of geophysical surveying activities, which represented 55.3% of the industry's total operating revenues in 2001, followed by land surveying activities at 39.0%.

Geophysical surveying activities are highly concentrated in Alberta-based firms, which generated 94% of total sales of geophysical surveying services in 2001. This not only included work performed in Alberta proper, but also work conducted by Alberta-based companies in other provinces and territories, offshore, and in other countries.

The industry's before-tax operating profit margin was 9.8% in 2001, a significant increase from 2000, when it was 7.2%.

The largest 20 firms generated 49% of total operating revenue for the surveying and mapping services industry in 2001, a significant increase in share since 2000, when they accounted for just under 40%. These firms also accounted for 31% of salaries and 55% of all operating profits, both up from 2000.

Data for 2001 are now available for the surveying and mapping services industry, which includes geophysical as well as land surveying and mapping services.

Available on CANSIM: table 360-0006.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 4715.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Michel Savard (613-951-3175; fax: 613-951-6696; *michel.savard@statcan.ca*), Service Industries Division. ■

Waste management industry

2000

About one-quarter of the waste generated by Canadian businesses and households and handled by the waste management industry in 2000 was diverted away from disposal, according to the biennial report on the Canadian waste management industry, available today.

The report *Waste Management Industry Survey: Business and Government Sectors*, 2000, presents the full report of previously released data (*The Daily*, July 31 2002) on the quantities of waste disposed in landfills and incinerators managed by governments and businesses and the amount of waste generated and diverted from disposal.

It also includes statistics on the preparation of materials for recycling or re-use, the operation of disposal facilities such as landfills and incinerators, as well as financial and employment characteristics of local governments and businesses that provided waste management services.

An estimated 31 million metric tonnes of waste were generated by Canadian businesses and households and handled by the waste management industry in 2000. About 24% of it was diverted from disposal. The remainder was either disposed of in landfills and incinerators or exported out of the country.

Operating expenditures of surveyed municipalities and other government bodies providing waste management services totalled $1.4 billion in 2000. Of this amount, about 60% represented payments to contracted waste management firms.

Operating revenues of businesses in the waste management industry reached $3.4 billion in 2000, up 19% from 1998. Operating expenditures reached almost $3 billion. In addition, these firms invested over $427 million in capital expenditures.

Employment for the entire waste management industry, including both private and government sectors, totalled 30 980 persons in 2000, a 12% increase from 1998. More than three-quarters (78%) of these workers were employed by private waste management firms.

The report *The Waste Management Industry Survey: Business and government sectors*, 2000 (*16F0023XIE*, free), is now available on Statistics Canada's website (*www.statcan.ca*). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Environment*. The paper version of this publication is also available for a fee.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the information officer (613-951-0297; fax: 613-951-0634), Environment Accounts and Statistics Division. ■

Steel wire and specified wire products

January 2003

Data on steel wire and specified wire products production for January are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0010.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2116 and 2184.

The January 2002 issue of *Steel wire and specified wire products*, Vol. 58, no. 1 (41-006-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 ■

Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins

January 2003

Data on industrial chemicals and synthetic resins for January are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0014.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2183.

The January 2003 issue of *Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins*, Vol. 46, no. 1 (46-002-XIE, $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 ■

Inter-corporate ownership

First quarter 2003

The first quarter 2003 issue of the *Inter-corporate ownership* CD-ROM, originally planned to be released in March, has been cancelled. The next release of the *Inter-corporate ownership* CD-ROM will be for the second quarter of 2003.

For general information or to order data, contact Jeannine D'Angelo (613-951-2604; *jeannine.dangelo@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact David Sabourin (613-951-3735; *sabodav@statcan.ca*), Industrial Organization and Finance Division. ■

Aircraft movement statistics: Major Airports

December 2002

There were 371,508 take-offs and landings recorded in December at the 99 airports with Nav Canada air traffic control towers or flight service stations, down 4.4% from the 98 airports reported in December 2001.

The December 2002 monthly report, Vol. 1 (TP141, free) is available on Transport Canada's website (*http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/Report/tp141e/tp141.htm*).

Note: The TP141 monthly report is issued in two volumes. Volume 1 presents statistics for the major Canadian airports (that is, those with Nav Canada air traffic control towers or flight service stations). Volume 2 presents statistics for the smaller airports (that is, those without air traffic control towers). Both volumes are available free upon release at Transport Canada's website.

For more information about this website, contact Michel Villeneuve (613-990-3825; *villenm@tc.gc.ca*) or Sheila Rajani (613-993-9822; *rajanis@tc.gc.ca*), Transport Canada.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2715.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathie Davidson at (613-951-0141; fax: 613-951-0010; *aviationstatistics@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Infomat — a weekly review, March 14, 2003
Catalogue number 11-002-XIE ($3/$109).

Infomat — a weekly review, March 14, 2003
Catalogue number 11-002-XPE ($4/$145).

Waste Management Industry Survey: Business and Government Sectors, 2000
Catalogue number 16F0023XIE
(free).

Steel wire and specified wire products, January 2003, Vol. 58, no. 01
Catalogue number 41-006-XIB ($5/$47).

Refined petroleum products, October 2002, Vol. 57, no. 10
Catalogue number 45-004-XIB ($16/$155).

Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins, January 2003, Vol. 46, no. 1
Catalogue number 46-002-XIE ($5/$47).

Natural gas transportation and distribution, June 2002, Vol. 44, no. 6
Catalogue number 55-002-XIB ($13/$125).

New motor vehicle sales, January 2003, Vol. 75, no. 1
Catalogue number 63-007-XIB ($13/$124).

Consumer demand for entertainment services, no. 42
Catalogue number 63F0002XIB
(free).

Consumer demand for entertainment services, no. 42
Catalogue number 63F0002XPB ($10/$35).

Science statistics, Vol. 27, no. 3
Catalogue number 88-001-XIB ($6/$59).

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

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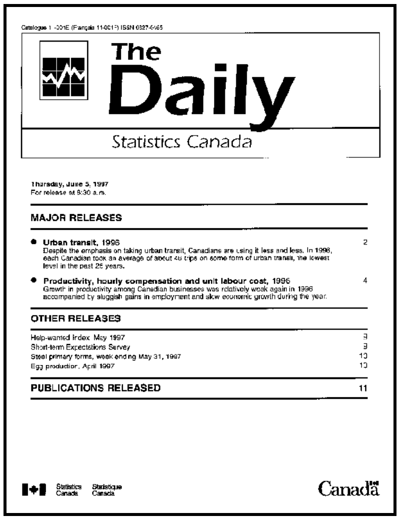

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The Daily

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.

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Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

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RELEASE DATES: MARCH 17 TO 21

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
17	**Leading indicators**	February 2003
17	**Workplace and Employee Survey: Do innovative work practices reduce labour turnover?**	1999–2000
18	**Canada's international transactions in securities**	January 2003
18	**Monthly Survey of Manufacturing**	January 2003
19	**Travel between Canada and other countries**	January 2003
21	**Consumer Price Index**	February 2003