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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, July 10, 2003
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MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

NEW PRODUCTS

MAJOR RELEASES

Multifactor productivity
2002

Multifactor productivity growth in the business sector, a comprehensive measure of production efficiency, rebounded sharply in 2002, in the wake of a surge in economic growth.

Multifactor productivity growth, measured as the increase in output minus the growth of combined inputs (labour and capital), was 1.9% in 2002. This was six times the pace of growth of only 0.3% in 2001.

It was the third most rapid growth since 1995, bettered only by the 2.3% gains recorded in 1999 and 2000.

This performance occurred in a context of rapid growth in economic output within the Canadian business sector. Real gross domestic product (GDP) in the business sector increased 3.4% in 2002, compared with only 1.3% in 2001. Household expenditures continued to be the engine of GDP growth for the second consecutive year. Investment had played this role in the late 1990s.

The 3.4% growth of the business sector's GDP in 2002 resulted from a 1.3% increase in the combined inputs of labour and capital and a 1.9% increase in multifactor productivity. This is in marked contrast to the economic situation in 2001, when GDP grew at a modest 1.3%, only slightly more rapid that the 1.0% growth of the combined inputs of labour and capital.

Multifactor productivity measures the extent to which inputs are efficiently used in the production process. Productivity is an important indicator, since it is one factor that determines the increase in the standard of living over the long run.

Note to readers

This release presents data for the business sector, which accounts for about 71% of the gross domestic product (GDP) of the whole economy. The business sector covers the whole economy less government, non-profit institutions and the rental value of owner-occupied dwellings.

In the framework of business sector productivity, the growth of output is measured as real GDP — deliveries in constant chained dollars of final goods and services by the business sector to the final demand categories: households, investment, government, as well as the foreign sector.

The growth of capital input in the business sector is an aggregate of the different classes of capital stocks (information technology, other machinery and equipment and structures) weighted by their respective rental prices. Similarly, the growth of labour input is an aggregate of the growth of hours worked by different classes of workers, weighted by the hourly wages of each class.

This release quantifies the sources of GDP growth — the percentage of growth arising from the growth in capital input, the growth in labour input and a residual known as multifactor productivity growth. The latter component measures the efficiency with which inputs are used in production.

These data reflect revisions of GDP for the last four years, published by the System of National Accounts on May 30, 2003. With these revisions, the average growth of the business sector GDP for the 1999 to 2001 period stands at 3.8%, compared to 3.1% as initially announced in the July 12, 2002 release on multifactor productivity.

*A description of the method for calculating growth in capital and labour inputs is available on Statistics Canada's website (*www.statcan.ca*) in two working papers:* A comprehensive revision of Statistics Canada's estimates of capital input for the productivity accounts *and* A revision of Statistics Canada's estimates of labour input for the productivity accounts. *From the* Definitions, data sources and methods*, under* Methodology*, choose* Methodology*, then* Productivity growth in Canada — Appendices.

Growth in capital slows while growth in labour and GDP post increases

In 2002, capital input contributed only 0.3 percentage points to GDP growth, down sharply from the 0.7 percentage points contribution posted 2001. The contribution of capital input to GDP growth has slowed in the last two years, compared with the 1.3 percentage point contribution posted on average during the 1990s.

The slowdown in the contribution of capital input to GDP is partly attributable to a slowdown in the growth of information technology (computer hardware, software and communications equipment), which contributed only 0.1 percentage points in 2002, down from the 0.3 percentage points contribution in 2001. Both of these represent a sharp decline in comparison to the 1990s, when information technology contributed on average 0.6 percentage points to the 3.0% increase in GDP.

Other capital assets. such as other machinery and equipment and structures, which account for the bulk of capital, have also seen their contribution to GDP growth decline in 2001 and 2002.

In 2002, hours worked grew more rapidly than in 2001, increasing from 0.1% to 1.5%. Even so, this rate is well below the remarkable growth observed in the late 1990s. (See the latest quarterly labour productivity data, released in *The Daily* on June 12.)

In 2002, labour input made the second largest contribution to GDP growth after multifactor

productivity, rising from 0.3 percentage points in 2001 to 1.1 percentage points in 2002.

Productivity growth trends emerge more clearly over longer time periods. Changes from year to year often reflect the impact of unexpected random shocks. An assessment of long-term productivity trend is best done by using the average annual productivity growth rates that are calculated from the peak of one business cycle to the next. Despite the pickup in multifactor productivity growth that occurred in the late 1990s, the performance of the business sector advanced at 0.4% per year on average during the 1990s, a rate that was unchanged from the 1980s.

The US multifactor productivity performance: a sharp decline in 2001

From 1981 to 2000, multifactor productivity growth in Canada trailed the United States (0.4% compared with 0.9%, on average). In 2001, the most recent year for which US data on multifactor productivity are available, the United States posted a 1.1% decline in productivity growth compared to a modest gain of 0.3% for Canada. The decline in the US productivity performance in 2001 is the first since the 1991 recession.

Available on CANSIM: table 383-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1402.

To order data, contact Client Services (*productivity.measures@statcan.ca*). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Tarek M. Harchaoui (613-951-9856; fax: 613-951-5403; *harctar@statcan.ca*) or Faouzi Tarkhani (613-951-5314; *faoutar@statcan.ca*), Micro Economic Studies and Analysis Division.

Sources of GDP growth, Canada's business sector

	1981 to 2000	1981 to 1988	1988 to 2000[p]	2000 to 2001[p]	2001 to 2002[p]
	percentage points				
Real GDP (growth rate)	3.1	3.3	3	1.3	3.4
Contribution of capital input	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.7	0.3
Information technology	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.1
Computer hardware	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1
Software	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Communication equipment	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0
Other machinery and equipment	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0
Structures	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.1
Contribution of labour inputs	1.5	1.6	1.4	0.3	1.1
Multifactor productivity	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	1.9

[p] *Preliminary numbers may not add up because of rounding.*

Sources of GDP growth, US business sector

	1981 to 2000	1981 to 1988	1988 to 2000	2000 to 2001
	Percentage points			
Real GDP (growth rate)	3.6	3.9	1.9	-0.2
Contribution of capital input	1.3	1.3	0.8	1.3
Information technology	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.2
Computer hardware	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
Software	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.6
Communication equipment	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
Other machinery and equipment	0.7	0.8	0.1	0.9
Structures	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.4
Contribution of labour inputs	1.5	1.6	0.3	-0.4
Multifactor productivity	0.9	1	0.9	-1.1

Note: Numbers may not add up because of rounding.
Source: NEWS, Multifactor Productivity Trends, 2001 - Bureau of Labor Statistics.

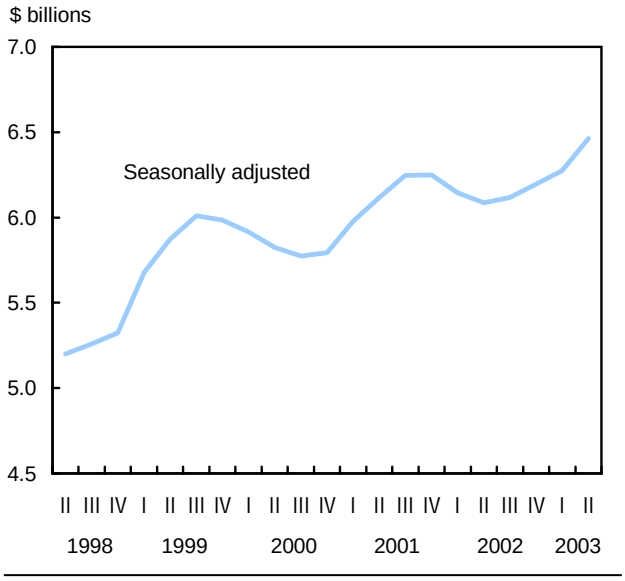
■

Investment in non-residential building construction

Second quarter 2003

Investment in non-residential building construction by governments and businesses reached a record $6.5 billion in the second quarter, mostly the result of an all-time high in institutional projects.

Spending for non-residential building set a new record



The gain of 3.0% from the first quarter was the fourth straight quarterly increase.

For the first time in two years, investment in all three components — institutional, commercial and industrial — increased simultaneously.

Governments pumped a record $2.3 billion into institutional construction, up 4.3%. Investment in commercial construction incurred its first increase in two years with a 1.9% gain to $3.0 billion. Investment in industrial construction ended the second quarter with a 3.3% increase to $1.2 billion.

Investment in non-residential building rose in 9 of the 13 provinces and territories in the second quarter.

Note to readers

Data in this release are seasonally adjusted data (unless otherwise stated). Investments in non-residential building construction excludes engineering construction.

This series is based mainly on the Building Permits Survey of municipalities, which collects information on construction intentions. Additional data from the Survey of Private and Public Investment is also used to create these investment series.

Work put in place patterns are assigned to each type of structure (industrial, commercial and institutional). These work patterns are used to distribute the value of building permits according to project length. Work put in place patterns differ according to the value and the type of the construction project; a project worth several million dollars will usually take longer to complete than will a project of some hundred thousand dollars.

Investment in non-residential building data is benchmarked to Statistics Canada's System of National Accounts of non-residential building investment series. Following usual practice, revised estimates covering the period 1999 to 2002 of the National Economic and Financial Accounts were released along with those for the first quarter of 2003.

Investment in non-residential building construction estimates recorded downward revisions in 2000, 2001 and 2002, and an upward revision in 1999. For more information, see the 1999-2002 revisions of the national economic and financial accounts. The latest estimates from the Private and Public Investment Survey for 2001 (final) and 2002 (preliminary) have been incorporated into the investment estimates.

In dollar terms, Ontario led the pack with a 6.1% increase to $2.9 billion, followed by Manitoba and New Brunswick. British Columbia posted the largest decline (-2.9% to $588 million).

Non-residential building investment increased in 13 of the 28 census metropolitan areas. Toronto posted the strongest growth (+12.9% to $962 million), while Montréal experienced the largest drop (-2.5% to $791 million). Non-residential investment in the Toronto and Hamilton areas again contributed heavily to growth in Ontario.

Institutional investment up for 12th straight quarter

Government investment in institutional projects has remained the driving force in non-residential construction since 1999. Investment in this component rose in the second quarter for the 12th straight quarter.

Investment in non-residential building construction

	Second quarter 2002	First quarter 2003	Second quarter 2003	First quarter to second quarter 2003
	Seasonally adjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Total	**4,235**	**4,408**	**4,545**	**3.1**
Abbotsford	27	25	18	-27.1
Calgary	267	224	245	9.3
Edmonton	194	198	181	-8.7
Gatineau	43	74	80	8.1
Halifax	35	31	40	30.1
Hamilton	175	151	182	20.0
Kingston	18	45	46	3.7
Kitchener	160	179	165	-7.3
London	138	172	170	-0.7
Montréal	949	811	791	-2.5
Oshawa	55	86	98	14.0
Ottawa	323	280	299	6.9
Québec	145	145	143	-2.0
Regina	34	49	55	11.7
Saguenay	26	35	31	-9.8
Saint John	15	13	16	19.7
Saskatoon	66	71	69	-3.2
Sherbrooke	29	29	26	-11.0
St. Catharines–Niagara	86	121	108	-10.5
St. John's	38	38	40	4.3
Sudbury	45	53	48	-8.9
Thunder Bay	46	56	47	-16.1
Toronto	750	852	962	12.9
Trois-Rivières	23	35	29	-15.1
Vancouver	346	367	360	-2.0
Victoria	50	53	55	2.8
Windsor	78	108	106	-1.4
Winnipeg	73	106	133	25.9

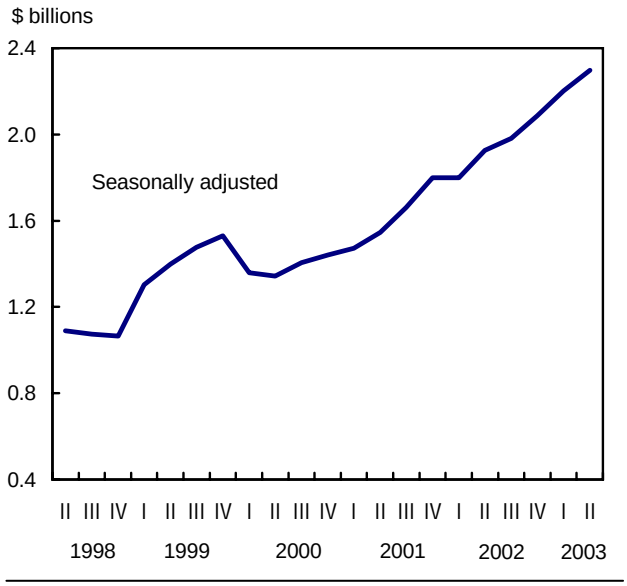
Indications are that this high level of investment will continue over the next few months. The value of building permits for institutional projects during the first five months of 2003 exceeded the level in the same period of 2002.

Institutional investment in Ontario rose 6.8% to a record $1.3 billion in the second quarter, as a result of new educational and health care facilities. It was the largest increase in dollar terms among the provinces.

The largest decline was in British Columbia, where institutional investment fell 9.0% to $146 million, the lowest level since 1998.

At the census metropolitan areas level, Toronto posted the strongest increase, a 9.5% gain to $415 million. In Thunder Bay, investment declined 36.8% to $26 million.

Persistent growth of investment in institutional building construction



Rebound in commercial investment

The slowdown affecting investment in commercial construction for the last seven quarters finally halted with the 1.9% gain in the second quarter.

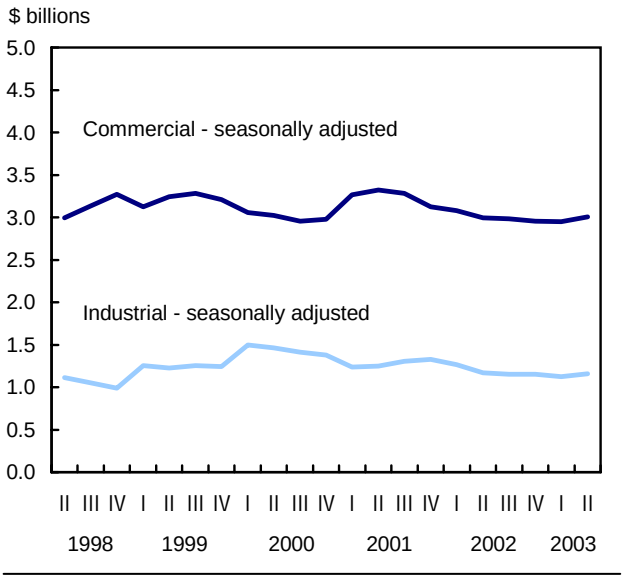
The increase was driven by investment in office buildings and research centres. These results reflect the high levels of commercial construction intentions reported in the Building Permits Survey during the last several months.

The commercial real estate sector appears to have remained an alternative to the stock market for a number of investors. The low interest rates remained a strong incentive, to some extent, making up for the increase in vacancy rates.

Commercial investment increased 3.5% in Ontario to $1.1 billion, the highest gain in dollar terms. However, in Quebec, commercial investment declined for the third straight quarter (-5.5% to $769 million).

Among the census metropolitan areas, Toronto showed the strongest increase in commercial construction spending, with a 13.6% increase to $373 million. Montreal experienced a 7.5% decline to $476 million.

Slight increase in commercial and industrial building spending



Industrial sector reconnects with investment in building construction

Investment in the construction of industrial buildings increased by 3.3%, reaching $1.2 billion in the second quarter. Activity on manufacturing plant sites prompted the growth in the industrial sector, which accounted for the lowest proportion (18%) of total non-residential investment.

This activity in manufacturing is consistent with the results of Statistics Canada's Survey of Private and Public Investment, in which companies in the manufacturing sector anticipated an increase in investment, largely attributable to investment in machinery and equipment. However, businesses appear to have done some retrofitting to accommodate their new production tools.

Investment in industrial construction increased in only three provinces: Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick. The biggest increase in dollar terms was in Ontario (+9.5% to $541 million). The biggest decline occurred in Alberta where investment in industrial buildings fell 12.9% to $97 million. On a year-over-year basis, Alberta's investment was down 46% from the second quarter of 2002.

The census metropolitan area of Toronto remained in first place in growth (+20.2% to $174 million) for a second consecutive quarter. In Edmonton, industrial investment fell 25.0% to $23 million.

Investment in non-residential building construction

	Second quarter 2002	First quarter 2003	Second quarter 2003	First quarter to second quarter 2003
	Seasonally adjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Canada	**6,087**	**6,274**	**6,462**	**3.0**
Newfoundland and Labrador	76	86	89	2.8
Prince Edward Island	50	33	24	-27.3
Nova Scotia	102	114	119	4.4
New Brunswick	120	100	112	12.8
Quebec	1,534	1,450	1,456	0.4
Ontario	2,405	2,721	2,886	6.1
Manitoba	176	226	247	9.6
Saskatchewan	175	189	180	-4.8
Alberta	785	712	714	0.3
British Columbia	612	605	588	-2.9
Yukon	9	5	15	233.0
Northwest Territories	34	18	16	-10.6
Nunavut	9	14	14	0.3

Available on CANSIM: table 026-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5014.

More detailed data on investment in non-residential building construction are also available in free tables on Statistics Canada's Web site (*www.statcan.ca*). From the *Canadian statistics* page, choose *Latest indicators*, then *Construction*.

To obtain data, contact Patrick Lemire (613-951-6321; *patrick.lemire@statcan.ca*). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Michel Labonté (613-951-9690; *labomic@statcan.ca*), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

New Housing Price Index

May 2003

New house prices continued their climb in May, as the New Housing Price Index (1997=100) rose 0.6%, up from 0.4% in April. On a 12-month basis, this index of contractors' selling prices advanced 4.4%. This is down slightly from last month when the published annual increase was 4.5%.

A favourable housing market and higher prices for inputs, such as labour and land, continued to push prices up nationally. Land increases were observed in 7 of the 21 urban centres surveyed.

New Housing Price Indexes
1997=100

	May 2003	May 2002 to May 2003	April to May 2003
		% change	
Canada total	**116.0**	**4.4**	**0.6**
House only	122.1	5.7	0.7
Land only	104.8	1.4	0.4
St.John's	111.7	4.1	0.2
Halifax	119.7	4.6	0.3
Charlottetown	105.1	0.7	0.0
Saint John–Moncton–Fredericton	103.0	2.4	1.1
Québec	120.8	9.2	0.2
Montréal	125.3	6.5	0.3
Ottawa–Gatineau	137.0	2.6	0.1
Toronto	118.9	4.4	1.1
Hamilton	120.3	7.0	0.6
St. Catharines–Niagara	119.6	4.3	1.3
Kitchener–Waterloo	119.1	2.8	0.0
London	115.1	5.5	0.2
Windsor	102.1	0.1	0.0
Sudbury–Thunder Bay	96.3	0.4	0.0
Winnipeg	113.5	3.8	0.0
Regina	123.1	6.7	0.1
Saskatoon	112.6	1.9	0.0
Calgary	129.9	4.8	0.3
Edmonton	123.0	5.3	0.2
Vancouver	96.4	3.4	0.8
Victoria	94.2	5.1	0.3

Fifteen of the 21 urban centres registered monthly increases. Of the centres with the strongest growth, St. Catharines–Niagara led the way with an increase of 1.3% followed by increases of 1.1% in Toronto and Saint John–Moncton–Fredericton. Significant increases were observed in Vancouver (+0.8%) and Hamilton (+0.6%). Home builders in all these areas cited favourable market conditions along with higher prices for building materials and labour; home builders in Saint John–Moncton–Fredericton, Vancouver and Hamilton also noted higher land values.

Halifax, Montréal, Calgary and Victoria recorded increases of 0.3% while St. John's, Québec, London and Edmonton rose 0.2%. Ottawa–Gatineau and Regina posted increases of 0.1%.

Six urban centres registered no change and there were no monthly decreases in May.

Once again, Québec registered the largest 12-month increase (+9.2%) for new homes. Hamilton was next with an increase of 7.0% followed by Regina (+6.7%). There were no annual decreases.

Note: With this release of New Housing Price Index (NPHI), Statistics Canada has converted the time base of the indexes from 1992=100 to 1997=100.

The new 1997=100 series will be available retroactively from January 1981 in CANSIM but will have different databank numbers. The 1992=100 based NHPI will continue to appear in CANSIM, but the 1992=100 based index will not be updated after April 2003.

For more information, please contact Client Services (613-951-9606).

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.

The second quarter 2003 issue of *Capital expenditure price statistics* (62-007-XPB, $24/$79) will be available in October. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Perry Kirkpatrick (613-951-9606, fax: 613-951-1539; *infounit@statcan.ca*) or Susan Morris (613-951-2035; *morrsus@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. ■

Smoking patterns in the 20th century

The current issue of *...au courant*, an electronic newsletter published by the Health Analysis and Measurement Group, contains an article examining smoking patterns over the last several decades.

The analysis, based on data from 13 Canadian population-based health surveys, finds that while many patterns in smoking behaviour have changed over the years, one pattern has remained constant: smokers tend to smoke the most during their middle years.

In 1998, fewer than one in three smokers aged 15 to 39 smoked more than 20 cigarettes a day. By ages 45 to 49, that proportion increased to almost half, then dropped back to one in three by age 70.

A similar trend can be seen in other years dating back to 1977.

Recent surveys also suggest smokers are using fewer cigarettes a day. Between 1977 and 2000, the proportion of smokers using 15 cigarettes or less a day grew from 43% to 62%. The proportion smoking more than 25 a day dropped from 11% to 5%.

The article "How times have changed! Canadian smoking patterns in the 20th century," is available now in the June 2003 edition of *...au courant*, (82-005-XIE, free).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean-Marie Berthelot (951-3760; *jean-marie.berthelot@statcan.ca*), Health Analysis and Measurement Group. ■

Update on economic analysis

The publication *Update on economic analysis* provides a concise summary of ongoing research programs in micro-economics and national accounts. It includes data on such topics as business dynamics (entry, exit, merger activity); productivity; innovation; competition; investment; small producers; technology and technological change; Canada/United States price differences; economic geography and trade; international trade; the importance of multinationals; problems in small-firm financing; firm strategies that are associated with superior economic performance; and eco-efficiency, the environment, and the knowledge economy.

For each theme, the purpose and scope of the research program are described, along with the major analytical issues that are addressed in supporting studies. It also presents a summary of major findings. The publication will be updated periodically, as new research studies become available. Electronic links to supporting documents are included when possible.

The *Update on economic analysis* (11-623-XIE, 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 *National accounts*.

For more information, contact John Baldwin (613-951-8588; *john.baldwin@statcan.ca*), Micro Economic Studies and Analysis Division. ■

Steel primary forms — weekly data

Week ending July 5, 2003 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending July 5 totalled 286 478 metric tonnes, down 0.8% from 288 815 tonnes a week earlier and 4.5% from 299 922 tonnes in the same week of 2002.

The year-to-date total as of July 5 was 8 147 779 tonnes, down 3.4% from 8 429 888 tonnes in the same period of 2002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: 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. ■

Cement

May 2003

Data on cement are now available for May.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2140.

The May 2003 issue of *Cement*, Vol. 55, no. 5 (44-001-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

May 2003

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

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0014.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2183.

The May 2003 issue of *Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins*, Vol. 46, no. 5 (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. ■

Aircraft movement statistics: Major airports

January 2003

There were 383,463 take-offs and landings recorded in January at the 99 airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers or flight service stations, down 3.9% from the 98 airports reported in January 2002.

The January 2003 monthly report, Vol. 1 (TP141, free) is now 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 (those with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers or flight service stations). Volume 2 presents statistics for the smaller airports (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 at (613-993-9822; *rajanis@tc.gc.ca*), Transport Canada.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2715.

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

NEW PRODUCTS

Update on economic analysis,
Catalogue number 11-623-XIE
(free).

Cement May 2003, Vol. 55, no. 5
Catalogue number 44-001-XIB ($5/$47).

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

Labour force information, week ending August 17, 2003
Catalogue number 71-001-XIE ($8/$78).
Available at 7 a.m. Friday, July 11

Employment, earnings and hours, April 2003, Vol. 81, no. 4
Catalogue number 72-002-XIB ($24/$240).

. . .au courant, June 2003
Catalogue number 82-005-XIE
(free).

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

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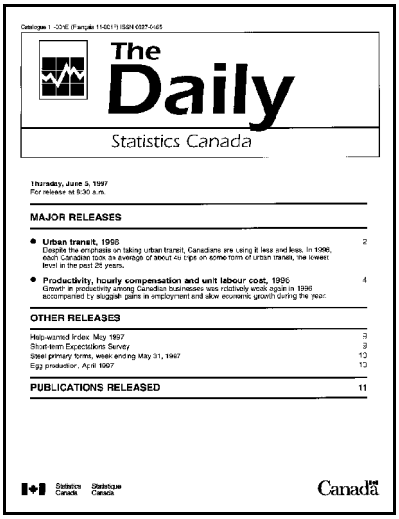

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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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 40 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
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Egg production, April 1997 10

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Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

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