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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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- **Building permits,** August 2004 — 2
  Construction intentions cooled off in August as the value of building permits retreated from exceptional levels in June and July. The total value of permits fell 4.6% to $4.5 billion as both residential and non-residential sectors posted declines.

- **September estimate of production of principal field crops** — 6
  Production estimates of most field crops fell considerably between the July and September surveys.

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MAJOR RELEASES

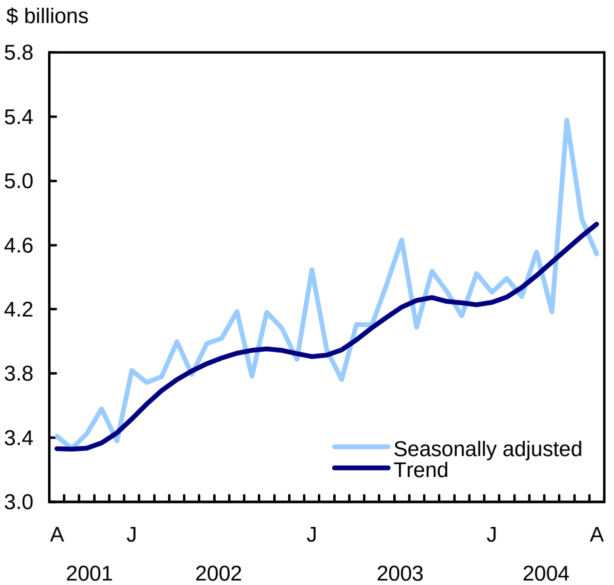
Building permits
August 2004

Construction intentions cooled off in August as the value of building permits retreated from exceptional levels in June and July.

The total value of permits fell 4.6% to $4.5 billion as both residential and non-residential sectors posted declines. Even so, this total was 7.4% higher than the average monthly level in 2003, which was an exceptional year.

In the housing sector, municipalities issued $3.1 billion worth of permits, down 1.2% from July and the third decline during the last four months. The decline was the result of a retreat in multi-family permits. On the other hand, the single-family component hit a new high.

Total value of permits down



At the same time, the value of non-residential permits fell 11.0% to $1.5 billion as the value of permits in the institutional and industrial components dropped significantly. This retreat followed a 13.6% decline in July.

The value of permits between January and August totalled $36.4 billion, up 8.9% from the same period last year. The major factor was an 18.2% increase in the residential sector. In contrast, non-residential construction intentions fell 6.0%.

> ***Note to readers***
>
> *Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.*
>
> *The Building Permits 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.*

Among metropolitan areas, Vancouver and Montreal recorded by far the largest advance (in dollars) for the first eight months of 2004. In both, the increases came from the torrid demand for new housing and, to a lesser extent, from a vigorous non-residential sector.

Housing: Record high for single-family dwellings

Contractors took out a record high $2.15 billion in permits for single-family dwellings in August, up 0.6% from the previous record of $2.14 billion in July. It was the third consecutive monthly increase.

Municipalities authorized 11,300 new single-family units in August, the highest level this year.

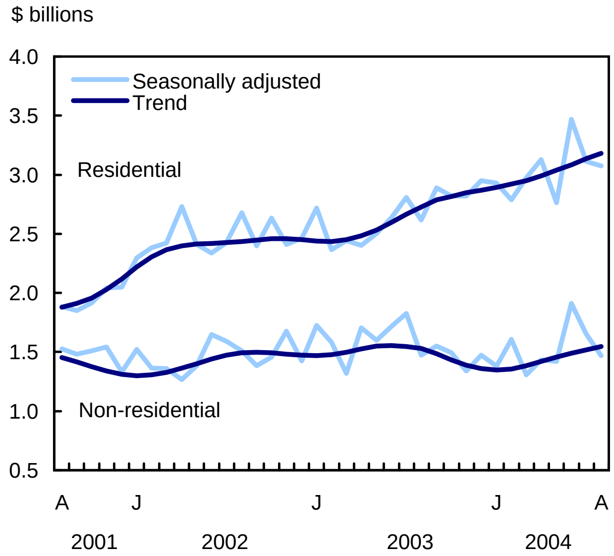
On the other hand, the value of permits for multi-family dwellings fell 5.2% to $921 million. In several centres, there was an increasing inventory of vacant new multi-family units.

Residential construction, a vigorous sector of the economy since the start of the year, has been mainly affected by three factors: advantageous mortgage rates, strong job growth and rising personal incomes.

The strong activity in the residential sector has had a positive impact on other areas of the economy. During the last 12 months, the construction sector alone created 66,300 new jobs. Shipments of wood products have risen sharply this year, while sales in building and outdoor home supplies stores jumped 8.4% between July 2003 and July 2004.

Provincially, the largest monthly decline (in dollars) occurred in British Columbia, where housing permits fell 14.0% to $403 million, their lowest level this year. Quebec also posted a sizeable drop. These declines more than offset a 6.6% gain in Ontario, in dollar terms the largest among the provinces. A strong demand for new single-family dwellings largely explained the rise in Ontario.

Both residential and non-residential sectors declined



On a year-to-date basis, both multi- and single-family components have contributed to the healthy state of the residential sector. Between January and August, the value of proposed projects for multi-family dwellings rose 26.3% to $8.0 billion, while permits for single-family dwellings rose 14.6% to $16.2 billion.

Municipalities have approved 162,000 new dwellings since the beginning of the year.

All provinces and territories recorded substantial growth in the cumulative value of housing permits. Gains were recorded in 22 out of the 28 metropolitan areas.

Non-residential: Declines in institutional and industrial intentions

The value of non residential permits fell for the second month in a row in August, the result of retreats in the industrial and institutional sectors.

Institutional permits fell 39.8% to $335 million, their lowest level in seven months, largely because of a decline in projects for educational buildings in Ontario. Institutional permits in Ontario plunged 47.7% to $158 million, the largest drop among the provinces.

Intentions for industrial construction tumbled 15.1% to $249 million, with the biggest drop in manufacturing buildings. Ontario posted the largest decline in industrial intentions (down 20.1% to $128 million).

In contrast, commercial intentions rose 10.4% to $885 million, the second largest level since January 2003. This rise was mainly the result of increases in office buildings and trade and services buildings. British Columbia recorded the strongest gain in this component.

Despite recent slowdowns in industrial building permits, Canadian factories are turning out goods at a brisk pace, according to Statistics Canada's Monthly Survey of Manufacturing. In July, shipments rose for the eighth consecutive month, the longest string of gains since the late 1990s.

Momentum in the manufacturing sector pushed capacity utilization to 86.6% in the second quarter of 2004, its highest level in four years.

Among the 28 census metropolitan areas, 15 recorded monthly decreases in the value of non-residential permits. The largest decrease occurred in Toronto, mainly as a result of lower activity in the educational building category. In contrast, Windsor recorded the strongest increase.

Provincially, the largest decrease (in dollars) among the provinces occurred in Ontario, where the value of non-residential permits fell 17.0% to $666 million, the result of declines in industrial and institutional permits. British Columbia recorded the strongest gain, mainly due to higher construction intentions in the trade and services category.

On a year-to-date basis, municipalities issued $12.2 billion in permits for the non-residential sector between January and August, down 6.0% from the same period last year.

The biggest decline occurred in the institutional sector, where the year-to-date level fell 18.5% to $3.4 billion. It was followed by the industrial sector, where intentions dropped 18.0% to $2.1 billion. Only the commercial sector recorded a year-to-date gain, rising 7.6% to $6.6 billion.

The largest decrease was in Ontario, the result mainly of large declines in industrial and institutional permits in Toronto.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The August 2004 issue of *Building Permits*, Vol. 48, no. 8 (64-001-XIE, $15/$156) is now available. See *How to order products*.

The September 2004 building permit estimate will be released on November 4.

To order data, contact Brad Sernoskie (613-951-4646 or 1-800-579-8533; *bdp_information@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), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area[1]

	July 2004[r]	August 2004[p]	July to August 2004	January to August 2003	January to August 2004	January-August 2003 to January-August 2004
	seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
St. John's	28.7	36.6	27.7	171.3	243.5	42.2
Halifax	63.7	46.0	-27.8	394.9	416.1	5.4
Saint John	14.5	10.9	-24.3	71.6	81.1	13.3
Saguenay	8.5	13.8	63.1	97.5	83.1	-14.7
Québec	99.8	79.0	-20.8	717.4	839.3	17.0
Sherbrooke	18.5	28.3	52.8	151.9	158.3	4.2
Trois-Rivières	22.0	16.4	-25.5	139.0	122.3	-12.0
Montréal	485.2	464.8	-4.2	3,366.6	4,093.1	21.6
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	273.5	198.3	-27.5	1,476.8	1,544.3	4.6
Ottawa–Gatineau (Que. part)	75.2	49.5	-34.2	327.4	386.8	18.1
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ont. part)	198.3	148.8	-25.0	1,149.4	1,157.5	0.7
Kingston	33.2	16.6	-49.9	136.9	152.7	11.6
Oshawa	46.2	29.9	-35.3	716.2	526.7	-26.5
Toronto	1,085.4	1,076.8	-0.8	7,654.9	7,612.9	-0.5
Hamilton	83.5	125.1	49.7	737.7	693.1	-6.0
St. Catharines–Niagara	49.2	39.2	-20.2	309.4	368.4	19.1
Kitchener	83.2	61.1	-26.5	633.8	602.0	-5.0
London	74.5	65.6	-11.9	499.4	563.8	12.9
Windsor	39.1	65.4	67.2	408.1	367.4	-10.0
Greater Sudbury	13.9	10.3	-26.2	67.9	69.3	2.0
Thunder Bay	13.4	12.9	-3.7	73.4	73.6	0.3
Winnipeg	66.0	49.6	-24.9	490.0	483.6	-1.3
Regina	27.9	20.4	-26.7	198.8	155.4	-21.8
Saskatoon	16.0	31.4	95.9	174.8	168.2	-3.8
Calgary	282.3	227.3	-19.5	1,940.6	1,922.1	-1.0
Edmonton	180.6	153.6	-14.9	1,149.7	1,303.7	13.4
Abbotsford	9.2	17.6	92.4	118.8	123.8	4.2
Vancouver	382.3	334.4	-12.5	2,307.6	3,357.4	45.5
Victoria	40.5	35.6	-12.2	352.0	345.6	-1.8

[r] *Revised data.*
[p] *Preliminary data.*
1. Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.
Note: Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.

Value of building permits, by province and territory

	July 2004[r]	August 2004[p]	July to August 2004	January to August 2003	January to August 2004	January-August 2003 to January-August 2004
	seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
Canada	**4,763.5**	**4,543.8**	**-4.6**	**33,444.0**	**36,405.4**	**8.9**
Residential	3,111.7	3,074.4	-1.2	20,496.5	24,231.6	18.2
Non-residential	1,651.8	1,469.3	-11.0	12,947.5	12,173.8	-6.0
Newfoundland and Labrador	40.0	47.2	18.0	248.0	330.1	33.1
Residential	26.5	28.4	6.9	171.7	242.5	41.2
Non-residential	13.4	18.8	39.8	76.2	87.7	15.0
Prince Edward Island	23.5	15.7	-33.3	132.8	127.3	-4.1
Residential	10.5	8.3	-20.7	60.9	78.9	29.5
Non-residential	13.1	7.4	-43.4	71.9	48.4	-32.6
Nova Scotia	106.1	105.4	-0.7	687.9	771.6	12.2
Residential	81.0	69.5	-14.2	440.3	513.8	16.7
Non-residential	25.1	35.9	43.1	247.5	257.9	4.2
New Brunswick	69.5	65.3	-6.0	448.6	504.9	12.5
Residential	37.0	43.9	18.4	269.5	337.6	25.2
Non-residential	32.5	21.5	-33.9	179.0	167.3	-6.6
Quebec	950.4	906.1	-4.7	6,648.4	7,819.7	17.6
Residential	650.0	623.2	-4.1	4,052.2	5,142.8	26.9
Non-residential	300.4	282.9	-5.8	2,596.2	2,676.9	3.1
Ontario	2,126.4	2,077.9	-2.3	15,329.8	15,469.5	0.9
Residential	1,323.6	1,411.5	6.6	9,293.4	10,018.8	7.8
Non-residential	802.8	666.4	-17.0	6,036.4	5,450.7	-9.7
Manitoba	104.9	89.9	-14.3	760.3	756.8	-0.5
Residential	71.0	52.8	-25.7	342.2	451.1	31.8
Non-residential	33.9	37.1	9.5	418.0	305.7	-26.9
Saskatchewan	62.1	68.3	10.1	533.1	493.4	-7.4
Residential	28.7	40.4	40.8	235.3	266.3	13.2
Non-residential	33.4	28.0	-16.3	297.8	227.1	-23.8
Alberta	631.1	552.9	-12.4	4,440.8	4,595.5	3.5
Residential	404.6	385.4	-4.8	2,756.5	3,082.5	11.8
Non-residential	226.5	167.5	-26.0	1,684.3	1,513.0	-10.2
British Columbia	634.2	599.9	-5.4	4,053.4	5,406.7	33.4
Residential	468.6	402.9	-14.0	2,832.2	4,037.9	42.6
Non-residential	165.6	197.0	19.0	1,221.1	1,368.8	12.1
Yukon	4.8	4.7	-1.1	36.6	55.2	50.9
Residential	2.9	3.4	19.4	16.9	24.0	41.3
Non-residential	1.9	1.3	-31.7	19.7	31.3	59.1
Northwest Territories	8.6	7.4	-13.6	47.5	53.7	13.0
Residential	5.9	2.8	-51.8	20.7	27.9	35.1
Non-residential	2.7	4.6	68.7	26.9	25.8	-4.0
Nunavut	2.0	3.1	54.8	77.0	21.0	-72.7
Residential	1.5	2.1	37.2	4.6	7.6	66.7
Non-residential	0.5	1.0	111.6	72.4	13.4	-81.5

r Revised data.
p Preliminary data.
Note: Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.

■

September estimate of production of principal field crops

Production estimates of most field crops fell considerably between the July and September surveys.

What a difference six weeks makes! Expectations for a good harvest in the West, as reported in the July preliminary production estimates, have been dashed by adverse climatic conditions. At the time of the September survey, crop production that was in most cases still above the 2003 estimates, has been tempered by frost, excessive moisture and prolonged cool weather. Conditions varied considerably across the West, but deteriorated to some extent in almost all regions. Not all crops were affected to the same extent, but all were delayed, and quality will be an issue.

September production estimates

Crop	2003	2004	2003 to 2004
	'000 tonnes		% change
Total wheat	23,552	24,462	3.9
Spring wheat	16,440	17,337	5.5
Barley	12,328	13,040	5.8
Canola	6,771	7,001	3.4
Durum wheat	4,280	4,671	9.1
Oats	3,691	3,488	-5.5
Field peas	2,124	3,308	55.7
Flaxseed	754	672	-10.9
Rye	327	403	23.2
Soybeans[1]	2,263	2,920	29.0
Grain corn[2]	9,063	8,064	-11.0

1. *Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba.*
2. *Quebec and Ontario only.*

Comments from producers showed that the overwhelming cause of low yields was too much rain or frost. Others reported a good yield but expected that the quality would be reduced because of late development. Still others reported that their canola was still flowering in early September. Yields were reported by many western farmers as "hopeful guesses" since they were unable to get on the land to harvest because of standing water.

Crop conditions in Ontario and Quebec are suffering a similar fate, but the longer growing season could allow for some improvement should conditions improve.

Production of total wheat could rise marginally

Total wheat production is expected to reach 22.5 million tonnes in the Prairies, an increase of 7% or 1.5 million tonnes from 2003. The recent 10-year average production is 22.4 million tonnes. Reported average yield was 35 bushels per acre, up from 32 bushels per acre in 2003.

Note to readers

The September Crops survey was conducted by telephone interviews and over the Internet between September 1 to 14. Farmers were asked to report their seeded areas, harvested areas, and yields of major grains, oilseeds and special crops.

Spring wheat production should rise this year (+5% to 16.9 million tonnes) due to an increase in yield to an above average 35 bushels per acre. Spring wheat production in the Prairies remains below the 10-year average of 17.5 million tonnes. Farmers in Saskatchewan and Alberta reported increases in yield, pushing up production 10% and 15% respectively. Manitoba on the other hand reported a production loss of 18% compared with 2003 as a result of decreased yield and harvested area.

Durum production should rise 9% this year to 4.7 million tonnes, the result of an increase in overall yield from 26 to 33 bushels per acre. Total production is slightly above the 10-year average of 4.6 million tonnes. Production varied considerably by province. Saskatchewan, which produces the most durum, could see production rise by 626,000 tonnes to 3.8 million tonnes because of an increase in yield from 24 to 32 bushels per acre. On the other hand, durum production is expected to decline 217,700 tonnes to 816,500 tonnes in Alberta because of a comparable drop in harvested area.

Barley production increases

Farmers in all three Prairie provinces reported increased barley production (+7% to 12.1 million tonnes), with Saskatchewan posting the largest gain followed by Alberta and Manitoba. Barley production remains well above the 10-year average of 11.3 million tonnes. In Saskatchewan, production rose to 4.8 million tonnes, Alberta to 5.8 million tonnes and Manitoba 1.4 million tonnes.

Canola production edges up

Prairie farmers reported that canola production could rise slightly to 6.9 million tonnes, a value well above the 10-year average of 6.4 million tonnes.

Provincial estimates varied, with Alberta farmers reporting the only increase. Canola production in Alberta could jump 23% to 2.7 million tonnes because of an increase in acreage to 3.9 million acres and a higher yield of 31 bushels per acre. The 10-year average is 2.1 million tonnes.

Manitoba was hit by early frost and could produce 10% less canola this year (down 170,100 tonnes to 1.6 million tonnes). The 10-year average is 1.5 million tonnes.

Saskatchewan reported similar results, with production down 5% to 2.5 million tonnes—because of decreases in yield and harvested area. Canola seeded area increased by 300,000 acres to 6.0 million acres this year. However, only 5.6 million acres will be harvested as a result of the frosts and flooding which took a heavy toll on immature plants, some of which were still in flower in September.

Field pea production set to soar to a record

Field pea production could increase 56% to 3.3 million tonnes in the Prairies, where conditions vary considerably with pockets of strength being reported. An overall jump in yield from 25 to 36 bushels per acre is the major reason for the dramatic increase in production. Farmers commented on the fact that frost did not affect their peas to the same extent as other crops.

Increases were reported in all three Prairie provinces led by Saskatchewan (+66% or 971,600 tonnes to a record 2.4 million tonnes). The previous record was 2.1 million tonnes set in 2000. Manitoba production could rise 35% to 185,100 tonnes, and Alberta could be up 33% to a record 677,700 tonnes—well past the previous record of 620,500 tonnes set in 2000.

Flax production could be lowest in 11 years

Production of flaxseed will diminish to 671,900 tonnes, an 11% drop from the 754,400 tonnes last year. Although the seeded acreage and yields remain at the same levels as last year, over 230,000 acres have been lost because of frost (with most of that in Saskatchewan).

Corn production suffers from a wet and cool season in Ontario and Quebec

Corn production decreased in Ontario and Quebec, where generally poor growing conditions and a late switch to soybeans combined to reduce production.

Quebec farmers reported that production should drop 9% to 3.2 million tonnes, but still above the 10-year average of 2.6 million tonnes.

In Ontario, production is set to decline 13% to 4.9 million tonnes, the result of a combination of lower yield and harvested area.

Soybean production to rise in Ontario and Quebec

Soybean production in Ontario and Quebec is set to improve, primarily the result of above average yields and an increase in projected harvested area. Ontario soybean production should rise 31% to 2.3 million tonnes, well above the 10-year average of 2.0 million tonnes.

Quebec production should rise 45% to a record 560,000 tonnes, easily passing the previous record of 435,000 tonnes set in 1999. Seeded area increased as farmers switched from corn, a decision brought on by late spring planting conditions. Harvested area was also in record territory at 491,700 acres, well above the previous record of 380,500 acres harvested in 2000.

Available on CANSIM: tables 001-0004, 001-0010, 001-0017, 001-0019 and 001-0040.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3401, 3403, 3443, 3464 and 3476.

The publication *Field Crop Reporting Series: September Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops*, Vol. 83, no. 7 (22-002-XIB, $12/$71; 22-002-XPB, $17/$95) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact David Burroughs (613-951-5138; *dave.burroughs@statcan.ca*), Dave Roeske (613-951-0572; *dave.roeske@statcan.ca*) or Heather Smith (613-951-0730; *heather.smith@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Farm product prices

August 2004

Prices received by farmers in August for grains, oilseeds, specialty crops, fruits, vegetables, cattle, hogs, poultry, eggs and dairy products are now available.

The Ontario slaughter steer price in August was $68.23 per hundredweight, down 6% from July 2004 and up 47% from August 2003 when it stood at $46.28.

The August canola price in Saskatchewan was $354.56 per metric tonne, down 5% from July 2004 and up 12% from the August 2003 price of $316.50.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3436.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sophie Leduc (613-951-0486; fax: 613-951-3868; *sophie.leduc@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Social Policy Simulation Database and Model, Version 10.1

The *Social Policy Simulation Database and Model, Version 10.1* (SPSD/M) based on 1998 microdata is now available. The most recent SPSD/M can be used to study the impacts of changes to federal and provincial tax and benefit programs on families and governments from 1988 through 2009.

The SPSD/M is a static microsimulation model. It is comprised of a database, a series of tax/transfer algorithms and models, analytical software and user documentation. The SPSD/M has been produced as an occasional product starting in 1985. It has been in wide use by policy analysts in Canada studying virtually every change to the tax and transfer system since that time.

The SPSD/M is a tool designed to analyze the financial interactions of governments and individuals/families in Canada. It allows estimation of the income redistributive effects or cost implications of changes in the personal taxation and cash transfer system. The SPSD/M assists researchers examining the potential impacts of changes in taxes, earnings, demographic trends, and a wide range of other factors.

The SPSD/M allows us to answer "what-if" types of questions. What if there were changes to the taxes Canadians paid or transfers they received—who would gain and who would lose? Would single parent households in a particular province be better off? By how much? How much extra money would federal or provincial governments collect or pay out?

The *Social Policy Simulation Database and Model* (SPSD/M) version 10.1 is now available on CD-ROM (89F0002XCB, $5,000/$12,500). To order a copy, contact Dominique Paré-Champoux (613-951-1782; *dominique.pare-champoux@statcan.ca*), Socio-economic Analysis and Modeling Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Brian Murphy (613-951-3769; *spsdm@statcan.ca*), Socio-economic Analysis and Modeling Division. ■

Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products

June 2004

Data on the net receipts of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons, liquefied petroleum gases and refined petroleum products, pipeline exports of crude oil and deliveries of crude oil by pipeline to Canadian refineries are now available for June 2004.

Available on CANSIM: tables 133-0001 to 133-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2148 and 2191.

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. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Field Crop Reporting Series: September Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops, Vol. 83, no. 7
Catalogue number 22-002-XIB ($12/$71).

Field Crop Reporting Series: September Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops, Vol. 83, no. 7
Catalogue number 22-002-XPB ($17/$95).

Building Permits, August 2004, Vol. 48, no. 8
Catalogue number 64-001-XIE ($15/$156).

Employment, Earnings and Hours, July 2004, Vol. 82, no. 7
Catalogue number 72-002-XIB ($26/$257).

Social Policy Simulation Database and Model
Catalogue number 89F0002XCB
(various prices).

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

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

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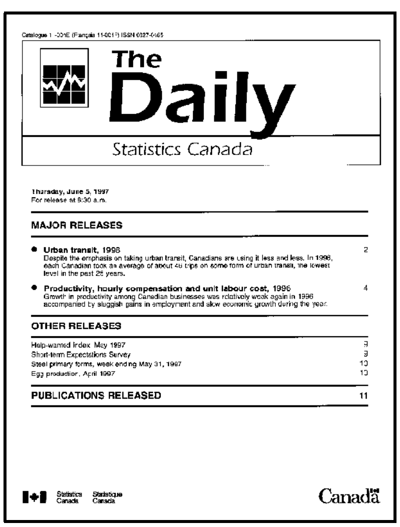
Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

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.

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