



# The Daily

## Statistics Canada

**Friday, November 12, 2004**

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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### MAJOR RELEASES

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There are no major releases today.

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### OTHER RELEASES

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### NEW PRODUCTS

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#### **Census at school**

2004

For Canadian students, moving to high school means more electronic gadgets — cellphone use, for example, almost triples. How do we know this? Last year some 8,000 Canadian students in Grades 4 to 12 participated in Census at School, an online census of their own.

This innovative international project aims to develop statistical literacy skills in students, while showing them how census data are gathered and applied. It also helps teachers put information and communications technology to effective use in the classroom.

Statistics Canada's Education Outreach program manages the Canadian component of the Census at School project. It originally began in the United Kingdom in 2000, and now also includes Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

Participating students complete an online questionnaire about their life and school activities, such as what they eat for breakfast and their favourite subject. The teacher then accesses the class results to use in math and social sciences activities. Students and teachers can also obtain random samples of results from the international database on the United Kingdom project site.

The questionnaire, Canadian and international results, classroom resources and lesson ideas are available on the project site at [www.censusatschool.ca](http://www.censusatschool.ca). From the Statistics Canada home page, click on *Learning resources* in the left menu bar, then on *Census at school*.

For more information, contact Elise Mennie (613-951-0553, [elise.mennie@statcan.ca](mailto:elise.mennie@statcan.ca)), Education Outreach program, Statistics Canada.



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*The Daily*, November 12, 2004

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**RELEASE DATES:** November 15 to 19

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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Study: Impact of organizational change and information technology on firm performance 1999

Canadian firms improve their performance by investing in information technology. But these firms are even more productive when they combine investing in information technology with high levels of organizational change.

A new study has found that businesses that combine the two have high rates of improved productivity, as well as high rates of innovation.

The finding suggests that to be successful, firms typically need to adopt information technologies as part of a "system" or "cluster" of mutually-reinforcing, organizational approaches.

Using data from the 1999 Workplace and Employee Survey, the study examined the impact of organizational innovation and information technology use on the performance of companies in two sectors: manufacturing and services.

The study linked the use of information technology to better firm performance in the manufacturing sector. In the service sector, the study found that information technology and human capital go hand-in-hand and that combined, information technology and high levels of worker skills improved firm performance.

For example, the higher the proportion of workers using computers in the service sector, the better a firm's productivity performance. In addition, higher information technology use resulted in higher innovation in the service sector.

Factories with higher information technology investment were more likely to report improved productivity performance. They were also more likely to introduce innovative products and processes.

Previous research at the firm and plant level found a strong association between information technology and the performance of Canadian manufacturing plants. Plants that used advanced technologies had faster productivity growth, which was then reflected in market-share gains. Among advanced technologies examined, communications technology led to the best performance.

The study found that the interaction between information technology and organizational innovation varied from industrial sector to industrial sector.

Practices with respect to production and efficiency, as well as human resource management, were linked to better firm performance for both manufacturing and service sectors. However, the role of quality-related strategies for products and services differed between the two sectors.

The paper concluded that quality-related strategies led to better performance only among firms in the dynamic service sector. These include communication service; finance, insurance and real estate; business services; education and health; and information and cultural industries.

In contrast, production and efficiency practices and human-resource management practices resulted in better performance for firms in both the manufacturing and service sectors.

#### Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2615.

The seventh research paper from the *Canadian Economy in Transition* series "The Effect of Organizational Innovation and Information Technology on Firm Performance" (11-622-MIE2004007, free) is now available online. From the *Studies* link on the main page, under *Browse periodicals and studies*, choose *Free and for sale*, then under *Studies*, select *Canadian economy in transition*.

For more information on other papers related to the growth and development of the new economy, see the *Economic transitions* page of our Web site.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts or methods used in this release, contact Wulong Gu (613-951-0754), Micro-economic Analysis Division. ■

### Non-residential Building Construction Price Index

Third quarter 2004

The composite price index (1997=100) for non-residential building construction in the third quarter was 128.4, up 2.6% from the second quarter and 7.7% higher compared with the third quarter of 2003. This year-to-year percentage increase was mainly due to higher prices for construction materials and a high level of investment in non-residential building construction. It was also the largest advance since the 8.1% increase posted in the fourth quarter of 1988.

Vancouver's index rose 2.9% from the second quarter, followed by Montréal (+2.8%), Calgary (+2.6%), Edmonton and Toronto (both +2.4%), Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario part (+2.1%) and Halifax (+1.7%).

Vancouver also had the highest change (+10.4%) from the third quarter of 2003, followed by Edmonton and Calgary (both +8.1%), Toronto (+7.8%), Halifax (+6.7%) and Montréal and Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario part (both +6.3%).

# Non-residential building construction price indexes<sup>1</sup> (1997=100)

	Third quarter 2004	Third quarter 2003 to third quarter 2004 % change	Second quarter 2004 to third quarter 2004 % change
<b>Composite</b>	<b>128.4</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Halifax	117.6	6.7	1.7
Montréal	124.7	6.3	2.8
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario part	129.0	6.3	2.1
Toronto	133.9	7.8	2.4
Calgary	129.4	8.1	2.6
Edmonton	127.2	8.1	2.4
Vancouver	120.2	10.4	2.9

1. Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.

**Note:** Non-residential building construction price indexes provide an indication of changes in construction costs in six census metropolitan areas or CMAs (Halifax, Montréal, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver) and the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA. Three construction categories (industrial, commercial and institutional buildings) are represented by selected models (a light factory building, an office building, a warehouse, a shopping centre and a school). Besides the CMAs and composite indexes, a further breakdown of the changes in costs is available by trade group (structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical) within the building types. These price indexes are derived from surveys of general and special trade group contractors. They report data on various categories of costs (material, labour, equipment, taxes, overhead and profit) relevant to the detailed construction specifications included in the surveys.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0039 and 327-0040.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2317 and 2330.**

The third quarter 2004 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$26/\$85) will be available in January 2005.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Rebecca McDougall (613 951-9606; fax: 613 951-1539; [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)), Prices Division. ■

## Annual Survey of Manufactures: Energy purchased by Canadian manufacturers 2002

The Annual Survey of Manufactures collects information on over 250 industries. Data on energy purchased by manufacturers are now available for Canada, the provinces and the territories for 2002.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2103.**

To order data, 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](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## NEW PRODUCTS

**The Canadian Economy in Transition: The Effect of Organizational Innovation and Information Technology on Firm Performance**, no. 7  
Catalogue number 11-622-MIE2004007 (free).

**Industry price indexes**, September 2004, Vol. 30, no. 9  
Catalogue number 62-011-XIE (\$19/\$175).

**Industry price indexes**, September 2004, Vol. 30, no. 9  
Catalogue number 62-011-XPE (\$24/\$233).

**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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**Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.**

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997  
For release at 9:30 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 the average of about 15 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**

- **Harbour Index: May 1997** 3
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- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
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**PUBLICATIONS RELEASED** 11

### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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**RELEASE DATES: NOVEMBER 15 TO 19**

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(Release dates are subject to change.)

<b>Release date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference period</b>
15	<b>New motor vehicle sales</b>	September 2004
15	<b>Monthly Survey of Manufacturing</b>	September 2004
17	<b>Social assistance by province</b>	1993 to 2003
18	<b>Canada's international transactions in securities</b>	September 2004
18	<b>Post-secondary experiences among young Canadian aged 18 to 22</b>	1999 to 2001
18	<b>Travel between Canada and other countries</b>	September 2004
19	<b>Wholesale trade</b>	September 2004