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MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

MAJOR RELEASES

Study: Student reading performance in minority-language schools
2000

On average, students in French minority-language school systems performed at lower levels in reading than their counterparts in English school systems, according to a new study.

A report released today contains the results of two studies on the reading achievement of 15-year-olds. One of the studies in the report shows that the average reading performance for students in French school systems in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba was significantly lower than students in English-language school systems in those provinces. In Quebec, there was little difference in the results for French and English school systems.

Reading achievement of students in French and English school systems

	English school systems	French school systems	Provincial average
		Average	
Nova Scotia	**522**	**474**	521
New Brunswick	**512**	**478**	501
Quebec	543	535	536
Ontario	**535**	**474**	533
Manitoba	**530**	**486**	529

Note: *Items in bold indicate statistically significant differences in reading achievement of students in French and English schools.*

The study found that in each province, there was a different combination of factors that distinguished students in French and English schools. These factors included adequacy of school resources, language spoken at home, socio-economic background of students, and the nature and availability of jobs in the community.

A separate study examined the performance of students in French-immersion programs in Canada. In every province, except Manitoba, students enrolled in French-immersion programs outperformed their counterparts in non-immersion programs in reading performance. In Manitoba, the results for both immersion and non-immersion students were the same.

The study found that, while students in French-immersion programs were more likely to come from better socio-economic backgrounds in terms of parents' occupations and education levels, these differences in family background alone do not explain the difference in reading performance.

Note to readers

This study, which used data from the 2000 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), examined family background, school resources and community characteristics in order to identify how students in French and English school systems differed.

Data in these studies are from the PISA, a collaborative effort among member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). In Canada, PISA is administered through a partnership of Human Resources Development Canada, Statistics Canada and the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada.

This program is designed to regularly assess the achievement of 15-year-old boys and girls in reading, mathematical and scientific literacy using a common international test. Canada and 31 other countries participated in PISA 2000, which focussed specially on reading. In the spring of 2000, about 30,000 15-year-olds from more than 1,000 Canadian schools took part in the survey.

The PISA 2000 survey included a direct assessment of students' skills through reading, mathematics and science tests, as well as questionnaires collecting background information from students and school principals. In Canada, information from students and parents was also collected through the associated Youth in Transition Survey.

Socio-economic status was derived from student responses regarding parental occupations using the International Socio-Economic Index of Occupational Status.

The analysis on minority-language school systems is restricted to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba where these schools were sampled separately.

The language of the test was determined by the school test administrators, and, with a few exceptions, students were tested in the language of the school system. In the case of French-immersion students, 98% were tested in English.

Many factors may contribute to differences in reading performance in minority-language schools

A combination of factors may lie behind differences in reading performance between students in the French-language school systems and their counterparts in English-language school systems. In fact, minority-language school populations face a unique set of circumstances in each of the five provinces.

Students in minority-language schools were less likely to report the language of the school as their mother tongue. About 70% of students in minority-language schools in Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario reported the minority language as their mother tongue. In New Brunswick however, the vast majority of students in French minority-language school systems reported French as their own mother tongue (93%).

Distribution of students in minority-language school systems by mother tongue of student

	Language of school system	Mother tongue of student			Total
		French	English	Other	%
Nova Scotia	English	1[1]	97	2	100
	French	67	33	1[1]	100
New Brunswick	English	2	97	1[1]	100
	French	92	7	1[1]	100
Quebec	English	14	70	16	100
	French	91	3	6	100
Ontario	English	1[1]	82	17	100
	French	72	23	5	100
Manitoba	English	1	89	9	100
	French	84	16	1[1]	100

1 *Percentages below 1% are rounded to 1.*

In addition, a greater proportion of students in these schools spoke another language most often at home. In French school systems in Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Manitoba, about 40% of students did not speak French most often at home.

The students in some provinces also differed in terms of their family background. In New Brunswick and Quebec, students in English schools were socio-economically better off than students in French schools. However, students in French schools in Manitoba came from families with significantly higher socio-economic status than the students in English schools.

The nature of the communities where students go to school has been shown to be an important factor in student performance. In Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec, students in English schools tended to go to school in communities where the socio-economic conditions were generally more favourable. In Ontario and Manitoba, there were fewer differences at the community level.

In terms of school characteristics, there were significant differences related to school resources and staffing in all five provinces. Students in minority-language schools tended to be at a disadvantage.

The average student in a minority-language system was enrolled in a school where principals were more likely to report that inadequate material resources and teacher shortages hindered student learning. With the exception of Manitoba, they were also more likely to be hindered by inadequate instructional resources.

In Nova Scotia and Manitoba, students in French minority-language school systems reported significantly lower levels of teacher support and a less favourable disciplinary climate than students in English schools.

French immersion: Higher socio-economic background alone does not account for higher reading performance

French-immersion programs were introduced into Canadian schools during the 1970s to encourage bilingualism across the country. Three decades later, they exist to varying degrees in every province.

Data from PISA showed that in every province, except Manitoba, students enrolled in French-immersion programs outperformed their counterparts in non-immersion programs in reading performance. In Manitoba, the results for immersion and non-immersion students were the same.

Reading achievement of students in French-immersion programs

	Reading achievement	
	Immersion	Non-immersion
Newfoundland and Labrador	**608**	**510**
Prince Edward Island	**558**	**509**
Nova Scotia	**567**	**517**
New Brunswick	**550**	**495**
Quebec	**566**	**537**
Ontario	**570**	**533**
Manitoba	533	533
Saskatchewan	**570**	**529**
Alberta	**601**	**548**
British Columbia	**610**	**537**

Note: *Items in bold indicate statistically significant differences in reading achievement of students in French and English schools.*

The study examined whether the high performance of students in French-immersion programs was strongly related to differences in family background.

Students in French immersion are generally from higher socio-economic backgrounds. In most provinces, the average family socio-economic status of French-immersion students was significantly higher than that of their counterparts in non-immersion programs.

Except in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia, French-immersion students were also significantly more likely to have a parent with a postsecondary education.

However, these differences in family background alone do not explain the difference in reading performance. In fact, no one factor alone explained the high performance of these students. When gender, socio-economic background and parents' education were each taken into account, French-immersion students still outperformed their counterparts in non-immersion programs.

For example, even among students who had a parent with a postsecondary education, French-immersion students had significantly higher reading results than non-immersion students in all provinces except Quebec and Manitoba.

The study pointed out that there are a number of other factors which may contribute to the high reading performance of French-immersion students. For example, schools and parents tend to screen students to ensure their readiness for immersion programs.

Moreover, there may be a tendency for less-skilled students not to enter French-immersion programs, or to transfer out of immersion programs if there is a concern about their ability to learn in the second language. It is also possible these programs provide an enriched environment for learning. More research is required to fully understand the French-immersion results.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4435.

The March 2004 issue of *Education Quarterly Review*, Vol. 9, no. 4 (81-003-XIE, $18/$55) 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 Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; *educationstats@statcan.ca*), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Monthly Survey of Large Retailers

January 2004

Every major commodity group posted increases for the group of large retailers in January compared with January 2003. Strong sales growth was seen in hardware, lawn and garden products and food and beverages. Clothing, footwear and accessories, as well as houseware sales were weak in January.

A total of $6.8 billion worth of goods were sold by the group of large retailers in January, an increase of 6.9% from January 2003. This monthly increase was a moderate improvement over the 4.5% annual growth rate in 2003.

Sales by commodity for the group of large retailers

	December 2003[r]	January 2003	January 2004[p]	January 2003 to January 2004
	unadjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Commodity				
Food and beverages	2,706	2,303	2,499	8.5
Health and personal care products	916	651	700	7.6
Clothing, footwear and accessories	2,294	938	959	2.2
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics	1,993	947	1,016	7.3
Housewares	460	327	333	1.9
Hardware, lawn and garden products	294	149	168	13.2
Sporting and leisure goods	924	281	302	7.3
All other goods and services	1,033	748	806	7.8
Total	**10,621**	**6,344**	**6,784**	**6.9**

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

Hardware, lawn and garden products posted the largest increase in January. Sales were spurred by a 17.6% jump in hand and power tool sales, accounting for almost half of the growth within this major commodity group.

Sales of food and beverages increased by 8.5% in January for the group of large retailers. This was the strongest year-over-year increase since April 2003. Sales of dairy products, candy, deli foods, and frozen foods all increased by 10% or more from January 2003. Food sales in January were buoyed by having an extra Saturday this year, which is traditionally a big day for grocery shopping.

Sales of clothing, footwear and accessories continued to fare poorly into 2004. After a minimal 1.0% annual growth rate in 2003, sales started on much the same note in 2004, increasing 2.2% compared with January 2003. Women's clothing sales remained completely flat in January. Men's clothing sales fared somewhat better, with a 3.6% increase on a year-over-year basis.

Sporting good and leisure good sales turned in mixed performances in January. Sporting good sales rose a slight 1.3% in comparison with January 2003. Ski equipment and accessories were hardest hit, with sales dropping over 20%. On the other hand, leisure good sales were strong, up about 10% in January. Sales of pre-recorded CDs, DVDs, video and audio tapes were especially strong with an increase of 15.6%. Prices were down 5.9% for video and audio discs compared with January 2003, perhaps stimulating an increase in sales volumes.

Note: The survey includes large retailers mainly in the food, clothing, home furnishings, electronics, sporting goods, and general merchandise sectors. These retailers represent approximately 28% of total annual retail sales, or 38% excluding recreational and motor vehicle dealers.

All data in this release are unadjusted for seasonality and all percentages are year-over-year changes.

Available on CANSIM: table 080-0009.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5027.

A data table is also available online in the *Canadian Statistics* module.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; *retailinfo@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Elton Cryderman (613-951-0669), Distributive Trades Division. ■

Profile of Canadian exporters

1993 to 2002

The number of establishments that export merchandise declined for the first time in 2002, according to the newest version of the Exporter Registry. A total of 42,489 establishments were exporters in 2002, down 2% from 2001 but up 38% from 1993. Exporters in the smallest size classes accounted for most of the overall decline in the number of exporters.

The value of merchandise exports from all exporters totalled $359 billion in 2002, down from $367 billion in 2001. This represents the second annual decline in the value of merchandise exports since 2000. Despite this, total merchandise exports in 2002 were more than double the level in 1993. Lower activity among exporters in the largest size class (over $25 million in annual exports) accounted for the decline in the value of exports in 2002.

Despite the overall decline in the number of exporters, more than 2,700 establishments began exporting in 2002. The value of their exports exceeded $2.5 billion.

Establishments exporting more than $25 million annually continued to account for the majority of merchandise exports. In 2002, 4% of exporting establishments accounted for 82% of the total value of merchandise exports.

The 50 largest exporting enterprises accounted for almost 46% of all merchandise exports in 2002, compared with a high of 50% in 2000.

Establishments exporting less than $1 million annually represented 71% of all exporting establishments, yet they accounted for less than 1% of the value of merchandise exports.

Almost three-quarters of exporting establishments had fewer than 50 employees in 2002, yet they accounted for only 24% of the total value of merchandise exports. Conversely, only 6% of all exporters employed more than 200 people; these accounted for more than half of all merchandise exports.

On an industry basis, over three-quarters of the decline in the number of exporters was concentrated outside the manufacturing sector. The wholesale trade industry accounted for the largest drop in the number of exporters. The value of exports from the wholesale trade industry fell by $4.3 billion, or almost 10%, between 2001 and 2002.

Despite a decline in the number of exporters in manufacturing, the value of exports from these establishments increased by more than $2 billion.

Between 1993 and 2002, manufacturing accounted for an average of 68% of merchandise exports. These exports were led by transportation equipment manufacturing, followed by primary metal manufacturing and paper manufacturing.

Outside manufacturing, the wholesale trade industry was also prominent, with 22% of all exporters accounting for 11% of merchandise exports in 2002.

Note: The Canadian Exporter Registry incorporates the same main aggregates as the previous version. These main aggregates consist of the number of establishments whose merchandise exports exceeded $30,000 in at least one year between 1993 and 2002 classified by industry grouping, exporter size, province or territory of residence of the exporter, destination of export and employment size (for 2002 only). The Exporter Registry is a joint initiative of Statistics Canada and Team Canada Inc., a network of federal departments and agencies that delivers international business development services to Canadians. This follow-up set of tables includes data for 2002, as well as revisions for the years 1993 to 2001.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Phil Armstrong (613-951-6755), International Trade Division. □

Number of exporters by industry grouping

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
	Number of exporters (establishments)									
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,863	1,946	1,988	2,029	2,127	2,160	2,136	2,344	2,372	2,363
Mining, Oil and Gas Extraction	359	355	391	406	428	405	421	454	494	436
Utilities	44	49	43	52	56	50	55	63	58	58
Construction	466	562	670	820	880	878	993	1,061	1,091	1,053
Manufacturing (total)	15,613	16,660	17,936	18,027	18,765	19,179	19,630	20,136	20,197	20,021
Wholesale Trade	7,045	7,667	8,494	9,609	9,891	9,793	9,879	9,908	9,860	9,596
Retail Trade	1,059	1,344	1,447	1,663	1,627	1,754	2,026	2,079	2,171	2,267
Transportation and Warehousing	886	938	1,121	1,174	1,221	1,415	1,359	1,467	1,379	1,303
Information and Cultural Industries	401	486	498	541	541	544	538	548	535	465
Finance and Insurance	624	681	725	821	862	877	874	915	907	794
Business Service	1,694	1,983	2,285	2,553	2,787	2,854	2,900	3,056	3,121	3,004
Other[1]	749	867	999	985	1,047	1,019	1,113	1,170	1,227	1,129
Exporter Registry total	**30,803**	**33,538**	**36,597**	**38,680**	**40,232**	**40,928**	**41,924**	**43,201**	**43,412**	**42,489**

1 *Includes service industries such as government and education.*

Number of exporters by value of exports

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
	Number of exporters (establishments)									
Less than $30,000	6,658	7,088	7,550	8,344	8,118	7,424	7,299	6,869	6,690	5,928
$30,000 to $99,999	7,064	7,444	8,064	8,106	8,493	8,303	8,647	9,537	9,480	9,241
$100,000 to $999,999	10,157	11,296	12,282	12,814	13,433	14,293	14,542	14,745	14,949	15,007
$1,000,000 to $4,999,999	4,067	4,409	5,064	5,352	5,825	6,231	6,505	6,759	6,862	6,861
$5,000,000 to $24,999,999	1,935	2,257	2,466	2,783	2,987	3,161	3,355	3,620	3,726	3,710
$25,000,000 and over	922	1,044	1,171	1,281	1,376	1,516	1,576	1,671	1,705	1,742
Exporter Registry total	**30,803**	**33,538**	**36,597**	**38,680**	**40,232**	**40,928**	**41,924**	**43,201**	**43,412**	**42,489**
	Value of domestic exports ($ millions)									
Less than $30,000	75	81	87	100	102	98	99	93	90	79
$30,000 to $99,999	413	434	472	475	499	490	511	557	557	542
$100,000 to $999,999	3,517	3,999	4,359	4,623	4,860	5,136	5,321	5,378	5,460	5,565
$1,000,000 to $4,999,999	9,424	10,300	11,929	12,506	13,685	14,772	15,491	16,056	16,390	16,512
$5,000,000 to $24,999,999	21,577	25,499	28,301	31,448	33,815	35,491	37,928	41,090	42,388	42,739
$25,000,000 and over	141,421	170,833	199,161	208,015	226,005	237,901	266,430	315,201	302,376	293,724
Exporter Registry total	**176,427**	**211,147**	**244,308**	**257,166**	**278,965**	**293,890**	**325,781**	**378,375**	**367,260**	**359,160**

Note: *Totals may not add due to rounding.*

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National Population Health Survey, North Component

Data are now available for the third cycle (1998 – 1999) of the National Population Health Survey, North Component. The total sample size is about 2,000 respondents, with some 890 respondents in Yukon and 980 respondents in Northwest Territories.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5004.

To order custom tabulations, contact Client Services (613-951-1746; fax: 613-951-0792; *hd-ds@statcan.ca*), Health Statistics Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Ingrid Ledrou (613-951-6567; *ingrid.ledrou@statcan.ca*), Health Statistics Division. ■

Demographic statistics

January 1, 2004 (preliminary estimates)

Post-censal population estimates as of January 1, 2004 are now available for Canada, the provinces and the territories.

Available on CANSIM: tables 051-0005, 051-0006, 051-0008, 051-0009, 051-0017, 051-0020 and 053-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3233, 3601 and 3605.

The publication *Quarterly Demographic Statistics* (91-002-XIB, $9/$27 and 91-002-XPB, $11/$36) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

To obtain these data, contact Colette O'Meara (613-951-2320; fax 613-951-2307;

demography@statcan.ca), Demography Division or the nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre. For information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Denis Morissette (613-951-0694; fax 613-951-2307; *denis.morissette@statcan.ca*), Demography Division.

Canada's population[1]

	October 1, 2002[pr]	January 1, 2003[pr]	October 1, 2003[pp]	January 1, 2004[pp]	October to December 2002	October to December 2003
					% change	
Canada	**31,448,767**	**31,475,999**	**31,714,637**	**31,752,842**	**0.1**	**0.1**
Newfoundland and Labrador	519,731	519,560	520,170	519,897	0.0	-0.1
Prince Edward Island	137,256	137,334	137,941	138,102	0.1	0.1
Nova Scotia	935,408	935,180	936,878	936,892	0.0	0.0
New Brunswick	750,649	750,439	750,460	750,096	0.0	0.0
Quebec	7,457,736	7,462,432	7,503,502	7,509,928	0.1	0.1
Ontario	12,145,439	12,156,595	12,280,731	12,293,669	0.1	0.1
Manitoba	1,157,356	1,158,360	1,164,135	1,165,944	0.1	0.2
Saskatchewan	995,115	994,905	995,003	994,845	0.0	0.0
Alberta	3,125,527	3,132,484	3,164,400	3,172,121	0.2	0.2
British Columbia	4,123,659	4,127,454	4,158,649	4,168,123	0.1	0.2
Yukon Territory	30,423	30,569	31,371	31,408	0.5	0.1
Northwest Territories	41,549	41,630	42,040	42,321	0.2	0.7
Nunavut	28,919	29,057	29,357	29,496	0.5	0.5

pr *Updated post-censal estimates.*
pp *Preliminary post-censal estimates.*
1 *These estimates are based on the 2001 census counts adjusted for net undercoverage.*

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Farm Product Price Index

January 2004

Prices received by farmers for their agricultural commodities decreased 14.1% in January compared with January 2003, according to data from the Farm Product Price Index (FPPI).

The crop index was down 21.0% from its recent peak of 113.7 in January 2003, continuing the monthly year-over-year decreases which began last July. The livestock and animal products index was 8.1% below year-earlier levels, marking the eighth consecutive year-over-year decrease. The only indexes which recorded increases compared with January 2003, were the supply-managed sectors: dairy, poultry and eggs.

The FPPI (1997=100) stood at 94.2 in January, up 1.8% from December. The total index had peaked in February 2003 at 111.3, and then slid to the recent low of 92.4 in September.

The livestock and animal products index rose to 97.8 in January 2004, a 1.8% increase from December. Monthly increases were recorded in all of the livestock categories, ranging from 0.1% for eggs to 3.5% for cattle and calves.

The January 2004 cattle and calves index increased to 100.9. Cattle and calf prices have been struggling since the discovery of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or mad cow disease) in a cow in Alberta last May. The index was 127.8 in January 2003, tumbling to 63.9 in July, and has been generally climbing since.

The second largest monthly increase in the livestock and animal products indexes was the hog index, up 3.3% to 66.6 from last year's low of 64.5 in December. Hog prices have been affected by the BSE situation, weaker consumer demand and a strong Canadian dollar.

The dairy index stood at 121.3 up slightly (+0.5%) from December. On a year-over-year basis, it has been increasing since May 2002. The dairy index reached new heights in 2003, peaking at 122.1 in February, as the Canadian Dairy Commission implemented a price increase.

On a month-to-month basis, the crop index was up 1.1% in January. The increase in the indexes for grains, oilseeds, fruits and potatoes more than offset the decreases for specialty crops and vegetables.

The grain index was 72.4 in January, up 3.7% from December, while the oilseed index was 94.2, climbing 1.3%. Prices for these commodities had increased since 2001 when many parts of Western Canada were plagued by two consecutive droughts, drastically reducing production. Last year however, production returned to more normal levels, pulling prices down to recent lows by last fall. Prices have started to increase as concerns over tight world supplies and continued growth in world demand begin to surface.

Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0021 and 002-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5040.

The January 2004 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 4, no. 1 (21-007-XIB, free) will be available online in late March. From the *Our 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 Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-3445; fax: 204-983-7543; *gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division.

Farm Product Price Index
(1997=100)

	January 2003[r]	December 2003[r]	January 2004[p]	January 2003 to January 2004	December 2003 to January 2004
				% change	
Farm Product Price Index	**109.7**	**92.5**	**94.2**	**-14.1**	**1.8**
Crops	**113.7**	**88.8**	**89.8**	**-21.0**	**1.1**
Grains	116.6	69.8	72.4	-37.9	3.7
Oilseeds	101.2	93.0	94.2	-6.9	1.3
Specialty crops	145.9	111.2	104.1	-28.6	-6.4
Fruit	113.5	101.4	105.8	-6.8	4.3
Vegetables	115.3	111.0	108.8	-5.6	-2.0
Potatoes	145.1	112.7	114.9	-20.8	2.0
Livestock and animal products	**106.4**	**96.1**	**97.8**	**-8.1**	**1.8**
Cattle and calves	127.8	97.5	100.9	-21.0	3.5
Hogs	72.4	64.5	66.6	-8.0	3.3
Poultry	91.7	96.3	96.6	5.3	0.3
Eggs	100.8	101.9	102.0	1.2	0.1
Dairy	113.1	120.7	121.3	7.3	0.5

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

■

NEW PRODUCTS

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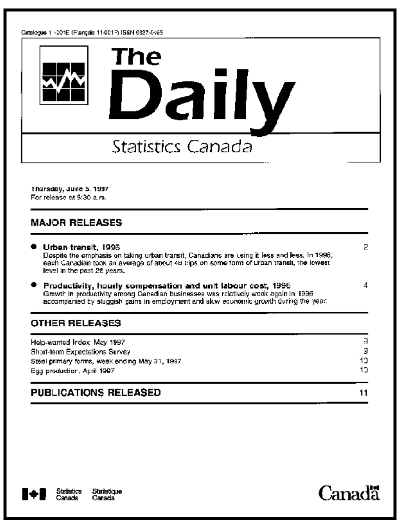
The Daily
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997

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 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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