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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

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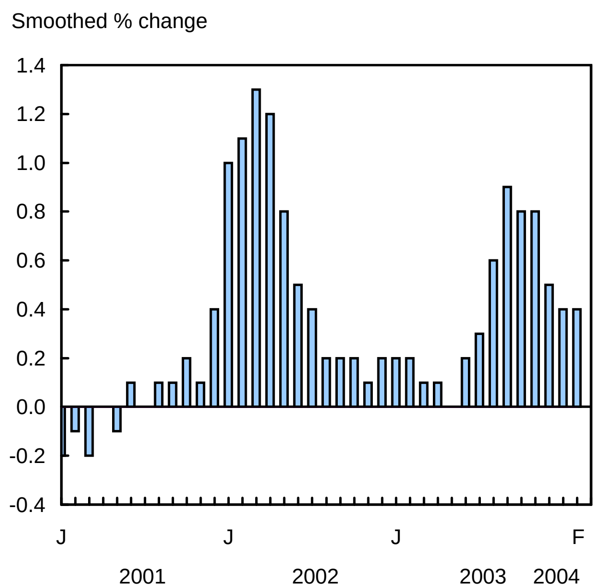
MAJOR RELEASES

Leading indicators
February 2004

The composite leading index rose by 0.4% in February, comparable with the revised increases in December and January. Six of the 10 components advanced, one more than in January, as the money supply turned up. The sources of strength and weakness have remained the same over the last three months. Manufacturing led the gains, after lagging behind most of last year. Household demand was mixed.

Composite index



After being frozen by a cold snap in January, household demand was spotty in February, as employment slowed and consumer confidence slumped. Housing and sales of durable goods both trended down for a third straight month. Demand will receive a boost from sharply lower energy bills and another drop in interest rates early in March. Some recovery was already evident in February auto sales and housing starts.

The increase in investment intentions for 2004 was one of the main reasons that new orders for manufactured goods posted one of their best gains in two years. Higher business spending was also evident in rising employment in business services, which offset a drop in the personal services.

The US leading indicator picked up slightly from 0.3% to 0.4% growth. Manufacturing was one the main reasons for this improvement, led by investment and autos. US factory output rose 1.0% in February, an encouraging trend for our exports of industrial materials.

Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1601.

A more detailed analysis of the components is available online. From the *Canadian statistics* page, choose *Economic conditions*, then click on the banner ad for *Canadian Economic Observer*. From that page, choose *Issues of CEO*, then *Composite Index*. For more information on the economy, consult the February 2004 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 17, no. 2 (11-010-XIB, $19/$182; 11-010-XPB, $25/$243), now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627; *ceo@statcan.ca*), Current Economic Analysis Group. □

Leading indicators

	September 2003	October 2003	November 2003	December 2003	January 2004	February 2004	Last month of data available
							% change
Composite leading indicator (1992=100)	**184.4**	**185.9**	**187.4**	**188.4**	**189.1**	**189.9**	**0.4**
Housing index (1992=100)[1]	138.5	143.0	143.3	141.1	137.6	135.4	-1.6
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,620	2,626	2,628	2,634	2,635	2,635	0.0
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	7,206	7,389	7,564	7,757	7,959	8,232	3.4
Money supply, M1 ($ millions, 1992)[2]	117,554	117,793	118,068	117,985	117,966	118,489	0.4
U.S. composite leading indicator (1992=100)[3]	111.3	111.9	112.3	112.8	113.1	113.5	0.4
Manufacturing							
Average workweek (hours)	38.8	38.8	38.8	38.7	38.6	38.4	-0.5
New orders, durables ($ millions, 1992)[4]	20,020	19,754	20,157	20,270	20,415	20,657	1.2
Shipments/inventories of finished goods[4]	1.67	1.67	1.68	1.70	1.72	1.74	0.02[5]
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales ($ millions, 1992)[4]	1,895	1,919	1,940	1,951	1,964	1,983	0.9
Other durable goods sales ($ millions, 1992)[4]	7,750	7,779	7,793	7,764	7,718	7,587	-1.7
Unsmoothed composite leading indicator	188.3	188.5	190.5	189.1	189.3	191.9	1.4

1 *Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).*
2 *Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.*
3 *The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.*
4 *The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the second preceding month.*
5 *Difference from previous month.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Study: Health and behaviours of youth: Rural–urban comparison
2001

Teenagers in Canada's northern regions, especially girls, are more likely to report lower self-rated health than their counterparts in major metropolitan regions, according to a new study comparing various regions in Canada.

The study, using data from the 2000/01 Canadian Community Health Survey, examined the health status and behaviours of 13,174 youths aged 12 to 17 in 2000/01. It also compared results between urban areas and rural and northern regions. Only 17% of girls in rural regions and 15% of girls in northern regions rated their health as "excellent," compared with 33% of girls in major metro regions.

The study found a similar, though less pronounced gap, between regions for boys. Only 23% of boys in northern regions rated their health as excellent, as opposed to 36% of boys in metro regions.

Boys in small town areas were most likely to be overweight or obese. Based on the internationally recognized Body Mass Index, the study found 30% of boys in small town areas were overweight, compared with 25% nationally. About 9% were obese, compared with just 6% nationally.

Girls in northern regions were the most likely to smoke, at 21% compared with 15% of girls nationally. There were no significant differences found between regions for boys.

The study also examined patterns for heavy drinking, defined as having five or more alcoholic drinks per occasion once or more per month. Boys in small metro regions had the highest rate of heavy drinking, at 30% compared with 20% nationally. On the other hand, only 13% of boys in major metro areas reported heavy drinking, well below the national average.

Girls in major metro regions were the most physically inactive. In fact, girls were more likely than boys to be physically inactive in each of the major metro, mid-sized metro, small city and small town regions.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3226.

The full report, "Health status and behaviours of Canada's youth: A rural–urban comparison" is available now in the March 2004 issue of *Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin*, Vol. 5, no. 3 (21-006-XIE, free). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Verna Mitura (613-951-5206; *verna.mitura@statcan.ca*) or Ray D. Bollman (613-951-3747; *ray.bollman@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Domestic travel
Third quarter 2003

Travel in Canada by Canadian residents decreased 14.8% to 55.8 million trips in the third quarter of 2003 compared with the third quarter of 2002, which was the strongest third quarter of the last five years. The magnitude of the decrease in domestic travel was relatively similar to the one recorded in international travel to Canada (-13.3%), during the same period.

Domestic trips accounted for 79.7% of all trips made in Canada in the third quarter of 2003, a share that is similar to the one obtained in the third quarter of 2002. Of those 55.8 million trips in the third quarter of 2003, 24.5 million were same-day trips and 31.3 million were overnight trips. Both types of trips registered decreases from the same quarter a year earlier, 15.3% for same day and 14.5% for overnight.

Pleasure trips, which represented more than 50% of all domestic trips taken in the third quarter 2003, decreased 16.4% from a year earlier, to 28.5 million. Trips related to business and convention declined 18.4% to 4.0 million during the same period. Decreases in these two types of trips affected the number of nights spent in commercial accommodation during the summer.

Overnight stays in commercial accommodation totalled 56.1 million nights in the third quarter of 2003, down 11.2% from a year earlier. Similarly, nights spent in private accommodation such as the home of friends or relatives and cottages, decreased (-11.6%) to 68.5 million.

September is the month of the third quarter that recorded the smallest year-over-year decrease in domestic travel, 9.6% compared with 16.3% in July and 16.8% in August.

Spending on domestic travel, which reached $9.6 billion in the third quarter, fell 11.4% compared with the third quarter of 2002. When taking inflation into account, spending actually decreased by 11.7% to $8.6 billion (in constant 1997 dollars).

The drop in trip volumes, together with lower prices for travel goods and services, contributed to the decline of domestic travel spending in the third quarter of 2003. The travel price index for third quarter suffered a year-over-year decrease of 1%, mostly the result of a drop in prices for accommodation.

Expenditures on recreation, entertainment and other goods and services (-14.7%) decreased the most in the third quarter. Expenditures on other categories, such as transportation, accommodation and food and beverage, were all down over 10%.

Average spending per overnight trip was $259 overall, compared with $748 when travelling for business reasons or to attend a convention. Travel related to business or convention accounted for 16% of all overnight travel expenditures and 7% of all overnight trips.

Canadian travel within Canada

	Third quarter 2002	Third quarter 2003	Third quarter 2002 to third quarter 2003
	trips (millions)		% change
Total trips	**65.5**	**55.8**	**-14.8**
Intraprovincial trips	57.0	48.4	-15.2
Interprovincial trips	8.5	7.4	-12.5
Same-day trips	28.9	24.5	-15.3
Overnight trips	36.6	31.3	-14.5
Visiting friends or relatives	19.9	17.2	-13.1
Pleasure	34.0	28.5	-16.4
Personal[1]	6.7	6.1	-9.1
Business and convention	4.9	4.0	-18.4
	nights (millions)		% change
Total nights	**140.7**	**124.6**	**-11.4**
Non-commercial nights	77.5	68.5	-11.6
Commercial nights	63.2	56.1	-11.2
	expenditures ($ millions)		% change
Total expenditures	**10,821**	**9,590**	**-11.4**
Transportation	3,769	3,369	-10.6
Accommodation	1,944	1,740	-10.5
Food and beverage	2,755	2,473	-10.2
Recreation and entertainment	902	773	-14.3
Other[2]	1,451	1,235	-14.9
	expenditures ($ millions, 1997)		% change
Total expenditures	**9,690**	**8,555**	**-11.7**
Transportation	3,350	2,847	-15.0
Accommodation	1,801	1,796	-0.3
Food and beverage	2,432	2,134	-12.3
Recreation and entertainment	808	684	-15.3
Other[2]	1,299	1,094	-15.8

1 *Including not stated trips.*
2 *Clothing and other purchases.*

Note: Domestic travel is defined as any trip of 80 kilometres or more one way, taken by a Canadian resident to a Canadian destination. Data for trips by Canadian residents abroad and by foreigners to Canada come from the International Travel Survey.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3810.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-2909; *cult.tourstats@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lizette Gervais-Simard (613-951-1672; fax: 613-951-2909; *gervliz@statcan.ca*), Culture, Tourism, and the Centre for Education Statistics.

For additional context and perspective on the tourism industry, contact Scott Meis (613-954-3909; fax: 613-954-3826; *meis.scott@ctc-cct.ca*), Canadian Tourism Commission. ■

Natural gas sales

January 2004 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales totalled 9 772 million cubic metres in January, up 5.6% from January 2003. Colder-than-normal weather conditions in most regions of the country contributed to the 11.0% increase in sales in the residential sector. The industrial (including direct sales) sector showed an increase in sales of 4.1% while the commercial sector had a slight increase of 1.4% in sales.

Natural gas sales

	January 2004[p]	January 2003	January 2003 to January 2004
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas sales	**9 772 267**	**9 255 554**	**5.6**
Residential	3 169 510	2 856 340	11.0
Commercial	2 255 404	2 224 363	1.4
Industrial	1 990 251	2 024 504	
			4.1
Direct	2 357 102	2 150 347	

p *Preliminary figures.*

Available on CANSIM: tables 129-0001 to 129-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *energ@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Pierre Després (613-951-3579; *pierre.després@statcan.ca*) or Lloyd Cundell (613-951-7346; *lloyd.cundell@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Refined petroleum products

November 2003

Data on the supply and disposition and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for November 2003.

Available on CANSIM: tables 134-0001 to 134-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

The November 2003 issue of *Refined Petroleum Products*, Vol. 58, no. 11 (45-004-XIB, $18/$166) 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; *energ@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Restaurants, caterers and taverns

January 2004

Total receipts of restaurants, caterers and taverns in January were an estimated $2.74 billion, up 10.1% over the January 2003 estimate.

Available on CANSIM: table 355-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2419.

The January 2004 issue of *Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics* (63-011-XIE, $7/$59) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Alain Mbassegue (613-951-2011), Services Industries Division. ■

Monthly railway carloadings

January 2004

In January 2004, Canadian railways loaded a total of 20.5 million metric tonnes, down 2.5 million tonnes, or 10.9% from December 2003.

The non-intermodal portion of freight loaded by Canadian railways totalled 235,000 carloads and 18.4 million tonnes, an 11.8% drop from December 2003. Grain and coal had the greatest impact on the decline, with grain freights down 0.7 million tonnes and coal down 0.5 million tonnes.

The intermodal portion, that is containers and trailers hauled on flat cars, totalled 2.1 million tonnes in January, a 2.8% drop from December. January's intermodal loadings make up just over 10% of the total tonnage.

Freight coming from the United States either destined for or passing through Canada also dropped in January, reaching 2.6 million tonnes, a 4.6% decline over December of 2003.

Lower demand for commodities, severe weather conditions and the seasonal closure of the St. Lawrence Seaway explain most of the variation from December 2003 to January 2004.

Despite monthly declines, year-over-year figures increased in January. Compared with the same month last year, January 2004 figures show a 1.4% increase of non-intermodal tonnage, a 2.8% increase for intermodal traffic and a 3.1% increase for traffic received from the United States.

Available on CANSIM: table 404-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2732.

The January 2004 issue of *Monthly Railway Carloadings*, Vol. 81, no. 1 (52-001-XIE, $9/$83) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean-Robert Larocque (1-866-500-8400; fax: 1-613-951-0009; *transportationstatistics@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Infomat: A Weekly Review, March 23, 2004
Catalogue number 11-002-XIE ($100).

Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin: Health Status and Behaviours of Canada's Youth: A Rural–Urban Comparison, 2000–2001, Vol. 5, no. 3
Catalogue number 21-006-XIE
(free).

Refined Petroleum Products, November 2003, Vol. 58, no. 11
Catalogue number 45-004-XIB ($18/$166).

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

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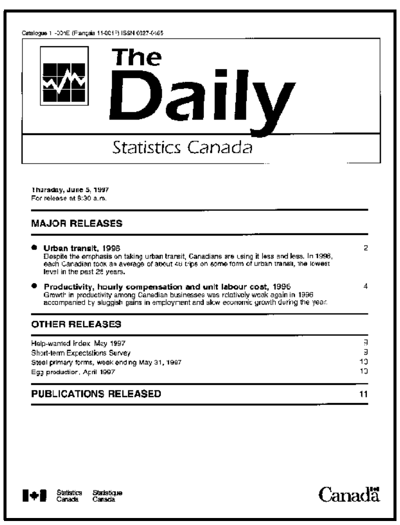
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Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 45 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

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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