

Statistics Canada

Friday, May 7, 2004

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MAJOR RELEASES

- Labour Force Survey, April 2004
 Following slight declines in the previous two months, employment rose by an estimated 50,000 in April, all in full-time jobs. The unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage points to 7.3%, the lowest since September 2001.
- Stocks of grain, March 31, 2004 Stocks of major grains out West rebounded from the exceptionally low levels recorded in March 2003 according to a survey of farms and commercial grain elevators. In the Eastern provinces, stocks of grain corn were the highest ever recorded for March.

OTHER RELEASES

- The taxi and limousine service industry, 2000, 2001 and 2002

 Accounting services price indexes, 2001

 Steel primary forms, weekly data, week ending May 1, 2004

 Production of eggs and poultry, March 2004

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 NEW PRODUCTS
- RELEASE DATES: May 10 to May 14



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MAJOR RELEASES

Labour Force Survey

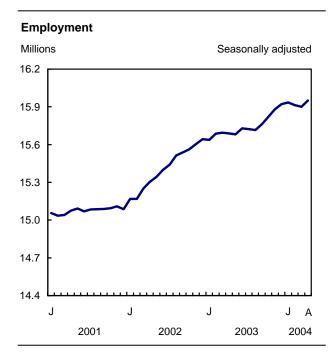
April 2004

Following slight declines in the previous two months, employment rose by an estimated 50,000 in April, all in full-time jobs. The unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage points to 7.3%, the lowest since September 2001.

April's increase in employment brings job gains since August 2003, when the recent upward trend began, to 235,000 (+1.5%).

More full-time jobs

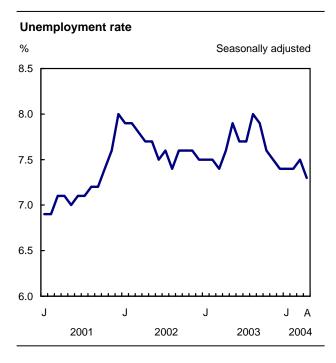
Full-time employment increased by 56,000 in April while the number of part-time jobs changed little. So far in 2004, full-time employment has grown by 117,000 (+0.9%) while part-time employment has fallen by 87,000 (-2.9%). This continues the trend observed over the last four months of 2003 when employment growth was mainly in full-time work.



Youth employment improves

Employment among youths rose by 21,000, partly offsetting declines over the previous four months. The increases in April were all in full-time jobs and pushed

the youth unemployment rate down 0.4 percentage points to 13.9%. The largest employment gains were in accommodation and food services, as well as information, culture and recreation. Despite this month's job increase, the trend in youth employment has been weak since the start of 2003.



For adult women, employment rose by 21,000, offsetting a decline in March. The upward trend that began last August among adult women has generated job gains totalling 134,000 (+2.2%). The increase over this period has been in full-time work.

Over the first four months of 2004, there has been little change in employment among adult men. This contrasts with the last four months of 2003 when employment for this group increased by 74,000. As a result, employment is up 1.2% since last August for adult men.

Upward trend continues for health care and social assistance employment

Employment rose by 19,000 in the health care and social assistance sector in April, continuing the upward trend that began two years ago. The gain this month was primarily in offices of health care practitioners.

Employment rose by 13,000 in both the construction and the finance, insurance, real estate and leasing sectors. Although employment in construction has shown little change since the start of the year, it is up 3.9% (+36,000) from a year ago. Employment in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing is up 3.5% (+33,000) over the same period. The upward trend in these sectors has coincided with strength over the same period in building permits and housing starts.

An increase of 12,000 jobs in business, building and other support services partly offset a loss in March, leaving employment in this sector down 2.6% (-16,000) since the start of the year. The recent weakness follows gains totalling 43,000 (+7.2%) in the last four months of 2003. The largest increase in April was in building services.

There was also job growth in the other services sector in April, up 18,000. This sector includes persons employed in industries such as repair and maintenance, personal and laundry services, as well as private household services.

Employment fell by 21,000 in the trade sector, mostly in retail sales. The decline in April offsets gains observed earlier in the year and leaves employment in the industry slightly below the level of December 2003. The decline this month was mainly in retail jobs in British Columbia.

Employment fell by 13,000 in educational services in April, mostly in Quebec and British Columbia.

In April, employment in manufacturing was little changed for the fifth consecutive month, leaving losses since November 2002, when the downward trend started, at 72,000 (-3.1%).

More self-employed workers

Virtually all of the employment gain in April was added by the private sector (+49,000). The increase was especially evident among the self-employed with a gain of 35,000, offsetting declines of the previous two months. The largest increase in the number of self-employed was mainly in health care and social assistance, but there were also gains in the business, building and other support services sector, as well as in construction. Despite little change year-to-date, the number of self-employed is up 2.3% (+55,000) from a year ago.

Job gains in Quebec

Driven by a large gain in full-time jobs, employment in Quebec increased by 28,000 in April following little change in the previous three months. Almost all of the

increase was in Montréal. Industries with employment gains in the province include the health care and social assistance sector, finance, insurance, real estate and leasing services, as well as other services. The unemployment rate edged down 0.2 percentage points to 8.4%.

Employment in Ontario edged up 14,000, partly offsetting a loss in March. The largest increases this month were in construction and other services. Overall job gains total 80,000 (+1.3%) since last August when growth in the province regained momentum. In April, the unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage points to 6.8%.

In Saskatchewan, employment rose by an estimated 6,000 following little change over the first quarter of the year. The gains were spread across a number of industries with youths accounting for most of the increase. The unemployment rate fell 0.7 percentage points to 5.4%.

Employment fell by 4,000 in Newfoundland and Labrador, offsetting a similar gain in March. This leaves employment in the province at about the same level as at the start of the year. Job losses were spread across several industries with the largest in education, retail sales, and in other services such as private household services, as well as personal and laundry services. The unemployment rate increased by a full point in April to 16.5%.

Although provincial public sector workers were on strike from April 1 to April 28, they are considered employed according to Labour Force Survey definitions. However, given the large number of employees involved, the strike may have had an effect on other industries resulting in job losses.

Information collected from the Labour Force Survey for Newfoundland and Labrador indicate that 20,000 employees were absent from work during the entire survey reference week from Sunday, April 11 to Saturday, April 17 because of a labour dispute. During this week, the number of hours lost as a result of the conflict was 731,000 or 36.5 hours per striking employee.

Employment continued to trend down in Prince Edward Island with a decline of 900 in April. Since December 2003, employment losses in the province total 2,300 (-3.3%). Losses in April and since the end of 2003 have been spread across a number of industries. The unemployment rate in April increased by 0.6 percentage points to reach 12.6%.

There was little change in employment in the other provinces in April.

Available on CANSIM: tables 282-0001 to 282-0042 and 282-0047 to 282-0095.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.

Available at 7:00 am on our website under *Today's* news releases from *The Daily*, choose *Latest Labour* Force Survey.

A more detailed summary, Labour Force Information, is available today for the week ending

April 17 (71-001-XIE, \$9/\$84). See *How to order products*.

Data tables are also available in the *Canadian* statistics module of our website.

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on Friday, June 4.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750) or Stéphanie Langlois (613-951-3180), Labour Statistics Division.

Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

| | March 2004 | April 2004 | March to | March 2004 | April 2004 | March to |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|
| | | | April | | | April |
| | | | 2004 seasonally adj | usted | | 2004 |
| | | | | | | |
| | L | abour force | | Partic | ipation rate | |
| | '000 | | % change | % | | change |
| Canada | 17,188.1 | 17,205.0 | 0.1 | 67.4 | 67.4 | 0.0 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 264.4 78.2 | 262.4 77.6 | -0.8 -0.8 | 60.1 | 59.6 67.9 | -0.5 |
| Prince Edward Island Nova Scotia | 78.2 487.6 | 77.6 489.3 | -0.8 0.3 | 68.5 63.9 | 67.9 64.1 | -0.6 0.2 |
| New Brunswick | 487.6 388.8 | 469.3 387.5 | -0.3 | 63.6 | 63.4 | -0.2 |
| Quebec | 4,033.0 | 4,055.4 | 0.6 | 65.8 | 66.1 | 0.3 |
| Ontario | 6.763.3 | 6,760.6 | 0.0 | 68.3 | 68.2 | -0.1 |
| Manitoba | 601.4 | 606.8 | 0.9 | 68.8 | 69.3 | 0.5 |
| Saskatchewan | 518.8 | 521.6 | 0.5 | 68.5 | 68.9 | 0.4 |
| Alberta | 1,837.6 | 1,834.5 | -0.2 | 73.4 | 73.1 | -0.3 |
| British Columbia | 2,215.0 | 2,209.1 | -0.3 | 65.1 | 64.9 | -0.2 |
| | I | Employment | | Employment rate | | |
| | '000' | | % change | % | | change |
| Canada | 15,901.1 | 15,950.7 | 0.3 | 62.4 | 62.5 | 0.1 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 223.3 | 219.3 | -1.8 | 50.8 | 49.9 | -0.9 |
| Prince Edward Island | 68.8 | 67.9 | -1.3 | 60.2 | 59.4 | -0.8 |
| Nova Scotia New Brunswick | 442.7 350.2 | 445.5 348.6 | 0.6 -0.5 | 58.0 57.3 | 58.3 57.0 | 0.3 -0.3 |
| Quebec | 3,686.1 | 3,714.5 | 0.8 | 60.1 | 60.5 | 0.4 |
| Ontario | 6,283.8 | 6,298.1 | 0.8 | 63.5 | 63.5 | 0.0 |
| Manitoba | 571.7 | 574.2 | 0.4 | 65.4 | 65.6 | 0.0 |
| Saskatchewan | 487.5 | 493.5 | 1.2 | 64.4 | 65.2 | 0.8 |
| Alberta | 1,746.0 | 1,751.1 | 0.3 | 69.7 | 69.8 | 0.1 |
| British Columbia | 2,041.1 | 2,037.9 | -0.2 | 60.0 | 59.9 | -0.1 |
| | Unemployment | | | Unemployment rate | | |
| | '000 | | % change | % | | change |
| Canada | 1,287.0 | 1,254.3 | -2.5 | 7.5 | 7.3 | -0.2 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 41.1 | 43.2 | 5.1 | 15.5 | 16.5 | 1.0 |
| Prince Edward Island | 9.4 | 9.8 | 4.3 | 12.0 | 12.6 | 0.6 |
| Nova Scotia | 44.9 | 43.8 | -2.4 | 9.2 | 9.0 | -0.2 |
| New Brunswick | 38.6 | 38.9 | 0.8 | 9.9 | 10.0 | 0.1 |
| Quebec | 346.9 | 340.9 | -1.7 | 8.6 | 8.4 | -0.2 |
| Ontario | 479.5 | 462.5 | -3.5 | 7.1 | 6.8 5.4 | -0.3 |
| Manitoba | 29.8 | 32.6 | 9.4 | 5.0 | | 0.4 |
| Saskatchewan Alberta | 31.4 91.6 | 28.1 83.4 | -10.5 -9.0 | 6.1 5.0 | 5.4 4.5 | -0.7 -0.5 |
| British Columbia | 173.9 | 171.2 | -9.0 -1.6 | 5.0 7.9 | 4.5 7.7 | -0.5 -0.2 |
| DITUSTI CUIUITIDIA | 173.9 | 111.2 | -1.0 | 7.9 | 1.1 | -0.2 |

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

| | April 2003 | April 2004 | April 2003 | April 2003 | April 2004 | April 2003 |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| | | | to | | | to |
| | | | April 2004 | | | April 2004 |
| | | | unadjusted | | | |
| | | Labour force | | Pai | rticipation rate | |
| | '000 | | % change | % | | change |
| Canada | 16,819.2 | 17,030.4 | 1.3 | 66.8 | 66.7 | -0.1 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador Prince Edward Island | 254.9 | 254.9 | 0.0 | 58.0 | 57.9 | -0.1 |
| Nova Scotia | 75.9 473.0 | 76.6 483.4 | 0.9 2.2 | 67.2 62.3 | 67.0 63.3 | -0.2 1.0 |
| New Brunswick | 377.5 | 379.3 | 0.5 | 62.0 | 62.0 | 0.0 |
| Quebec | 3,983.7 | 4,032.2 | 1.2 | 65.6 | 65.7 | 0.1 |
| Ontario | 6,591.1 | 6,683.6 | 1.4 | 67.6 | 67.4 | -0.2 |
| Manitoba | 592.8 | 603.8 | 1.9 | 68.4 | 69.0 | 0.6 |
| Saskatchewan | 508.2 | 513.2 | 1.0 | 67.2 | 67.8 | 0.6 |
| Alberta British Columbia | 1,786.7 2,175.4 | 1,813.7 2,189.8 | 1.5 0.7 | 72.6 64.8 | 72.3 64.3 | -0.3 -0.5 |
| | | Employment | | Em | ployment rate | |
| | '000 | | % change | % | | change |
| Canada | 15,478.7 | 15,735.7 | 1.7 | 61.5 | 61.7 | 0.2 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 205.1 | 206.8 | 0.8 | 46.7 | 47.0 | 0.3 |
| Prince Edward Island | 63.3 | 63.2 | -0.2 | 56.0 | 55.3 | -0.7 |
| Nova Scotia | 427.2 | 435.2 | 1.9 | 56.3 | 57.0 | 0.7 |
| New Brunswick | 330.4 | 333.5 | 0.9 | 54.3 | 54.5 | 0.2 |
| Quebec Ontario | 3,595.5 6,142.9 | 3,673.0 6,230.5 | 2.2 1.4 | 59.2 63.0 | 59.9 62.8 | 0.7 -0.2 |
| Manitoba | 564.4 | 568.7 | 0.8 | 65.2 | 65.0 | -0.2 |
| Saskatchewan | 477.2 | 483.0 | 1.2 | 63.1 | 63.8 | 0.7 |
| Alberta | 1,678.9 | 1,725.0 | 2.7 | 68.2 | 68.8 | 0.6 |
| British Columbia | 1,993.9 | 2,016.8 | 1.1 | 59.4 | 59.2 | -0.2 |
| | | Unemployment | - | Une | mployment rate | |
| | '000 | | % change | % | | change |
| Canada | 1,340.5 | 1,294.7 | -3.4 | 8.0 | 7.6 | -0.4 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 49.8 | 48.1 | -3.4 | 19.5 | 18.9 | -0.6 |
| Prince Edward Island Nova Scotia | 12.7 45.8 | 13.4 48.2 | 5.5 5.2 | 16.7 9.7 | 17.5 10.0 | 0.8 0.3 |
| Nova Scotta New Brunswick | 45.8 47.1 | 45.2 45.8 | 5.2 -2.8 | 9.7 12.5 | 12.1 | -0.4 |
| Quebec | 388.2 | 359.2 | -7.5 | 9.7 | 8.9 | -0.8 |
| | | 453.1 | 1.1 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 0.0 |
| | 448.2 | 455.1 | 1.1 | | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Ontario Manitoba | 28.5 | 35.1 | 23.2 | 4.8 | 5.8 | 1.0 |
| Ontario Manitoba Saskatchewan Nberta | | | | | | |

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Employment by type of work, age and sex

| April | March | April | April | March | April | April | March | April |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2004 | to | 2003 | 2004 | to | 2003 | 2004 | to | 2003 |
| | April | to | | April | to | | April | to |
| | 2004 | April | | 2004 | April | | 2004 | April |
| | | 2004 | | | 2004 | | | 2004 |
| | | | seas | onally adjuste | ed | | | |

| | | Seasonally adjusted | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|---------------------|-------|---------|------|------|---------|-------|-------|
| | В | Both sexes | | | Men | | | Women | |
| | | | | | '000 | | | | |
| Employment | 15,950.7 | 49.6 | 261.6 | 8,487.1 | 36.7 | 82.1 | 7,463.5 | 12.8 | 179.4 |
| Full time | 13,033.9 | 55.6 | 281.0 | 7,561.8 | 39.5 | 64.2 | 5,472.1 | 16.2 | 216.8 |
| Part time | 2,916.7 | -6.2 | -19.6 | 925.3 | -2.8 | 17.9 | 1,991.4 | -3.4 | -37.4 |
| 15- to 24-year-olds | 2,403.6 | 20.6 | -1.1 | 1,225.4 | 28.5 | 2.3 | 1,178.1 | -8.0 | -3.5 |
| 25 years old and over | 13,547.1 | 29.0 | 262.7 | 7,261.7 | 8.2 | 79.8 | 6,285.4 | 20.8 | 182.9 |
| 25- to 54-year-olds | 11,503.1 | 10.6 | 161.6 | 6,073.5 | 8.6 | 36.6 | 5,429.6 | 2.0 | 125.0 |
| 55 years old and over | 2,044.0 | 18.4 | 101.1 | 1,188.2 | -0.4 | 43.2 | 855.8 | 18.8 | 57.9 |

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Employment by industry (based on NAICS) and class of worker for both sexes, aged 15 and over

| March | April | March | April | March | April |
|-----------|-------|--------------|---------|-------|-------|
| 2004 | 2004 | to | 2003 | to | 2003 |
| | | April | to | April | to |
| | | 2004 | April | 2004 | April |
| | | | 2004 | | 2004 |
| | | seasonally a | djusted | | |
| | '000 | | | % | |

| • | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|-------|-------|------|------|
| | | '000 | | % | | |
| All industries | 15,901.1 | 15,950.7 | 49.6 | 261.6 | 0.3 | 1.7 |
| Goods-producing sector | 3,990.4 | 4,012.4 | 22.0 | 35.8 | 0.6 | 0.9 |
| Agriculture | 343.1 | 343.7 | 0.6 | 6.2 | 0.2 | 1.8 |
| Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas | 293.3 | 298.3 | 5.0 | 10.6 | 1.7 | 3.7 |
| Utilities | 130.3 | 130.0 | -0.3 | -2.4 | -0.2 | -1.8 |
| Construction | 938.9 | 952.0 | 13.1 | 35.8 | 1.4 | 3.9 |
| Manufacturing | 2,284.8 | 2,288.4 | 3.6 | -14.3 | 0.2 | -0.6 |
| Services-producing sector | 11,910.7 | 11,938.3 | 27.6 | 225.7 | 0.2 | 1.9 |
| Trade | 2,491.9 | 2,470.9 | -21.0 | 15.6 | -0.8 | 0.6 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 810.5 | 809.3 | -1.2 | 47.2 | -0.1 | 6.2 |
| Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing | 963.5 | 976.9 | 13.4 | 33.1 | 1.4 | 3.5 |
| Professional, scientific and technical services | 1,014.6 | 1,009.6 | -5.0 | 11.0 | -0.5 | 1.1 |
| Business, building and other support services | 609.5 | 621.3 | 11.8 | 12.5 | 1.9 | 2.1 |
| Educational services | 1,058.3 | 1,044.9 | -13.4 | -6.9 | -1.3 | -0.7 |
| Health care and social assistance | 1,737.2 | 1,755.9 | 18.7 | 101.0 | 1.1 | 6.1 |
| Information, culture and recreation | 717.5 | 722.2 | 4.7 | 36.5 | 0.7 | 5.3 |
| Accommodation and food services | 1,011.9 | 1,017.6 | 5.7 | -7.5 | 0.6 | -0.7 |
| Other services | 678.9 | 696.4 | 17.5 | -23.6 | 2.6 | -3.3 |
| Public administration | 816.8 | 813.3 | -3.5 | 6.7 | -0.4 | 0.8 |
| Class of worker | | | | | | |
| Public sector employees | 3,087.9 | 3,088.4 | 0.5 | 105.6 | 0.0 | 3.5 |
| Private sector employees | 12,813.3 | 12,862.3 | 49.0 | 155.9 | 0.4 | 1.2 |
| Private employees | 10,401.7 | 10,416.0 | 14.3 | 100.6 | 0.1 | 1.0 |
| Self-employed | 2,411.6 | 2,446.3 | 34.7 | 55.3 | 1.4 | 2.3 |
| • • | * | * | | | | |

Note: Related to CANSIM tables 282-0088 and 282-0089.

Stocks of grain

March 31, 2004

Stocks of major grains out West rebounded from the exceptionally low levels recorded in March 2003 according to a survey of farms and commercial grain elevators. In the eastern provinces, stocks of grain corn were the highest ever recorded for March.

A drought in the Prairies during the growing season of 2002 spawned the very low grain stock levels of March 2003. Following a better growing season, production in the fall of 2003 contributed to much higher levels of stocks that are still below or are approaching the most recent five-year averages.

Total stocks of grain at March 31

| Crop | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 |
|-----------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | | to |
| | | | 2004 |
| | '000 ton | nes | % change |
| All wheat | 11,246 | 13,671 | 22 |
| Wheat excluding durum | 8,283 | 10,494 | 27 |
| Barley | 3,384 | 5,816 | 72 |
| Grain corn | 4,580 | 4,948 | 8 |
| Durum wheat | 2,963 | 3,177 | 7 |
| Canola | 2,284 | 2,524 | 11 |
| Oats | 1,046 | 1,514 | 45 |
| Soybeans | 900 | 815 | -9 |
| Dry peas | 770 | 945 | 23 |
| Flax | 367 | 335 | -9 |

Wheat stocks return to more normal levels

Total stocks of wheat excluding durum rose to 10.5 million tonnes from the abnormally low level of 8.3 million tonnes in 2003. The recent five-year average is 10.9 million tonnes. Stock levels were affected by exports that rose above 2003 levels, but remained below-average while use for domestic milling declined marginally.

Durum stocks remain well below average

Total durum wheat stocks were at 3.2 million tonnes, up about 200 000 tonnes on a year-over-year basis. The five-year average is 3.6 million tonnes. Farm stocks rose by 400 000 tonnes while commercial stocks fell by 180 000 tonnes. Larger supplies and small declines in domestic use for milling and for feed pushed up the stocks, despite strong exports.

Oats stocks approach the average

Total oat stocks at the end of March were the highest in three years at 1.5 million tonnes, just short of

the five-year average of 1.6 million tonnes. There were substantial supplies available this crop year as a result of the highest production since 1998. Although exports were only average, feeding of oats in the January to March 2004 quarter was strong.

Stocks of barley return to average levels

Total barley stocks were 5.8 million tonnes, up from 3.4 million last year as production returned to average levels. Stock levels were reduced by a 102% increase in exports and a return to higher domestic barley feeding.

New record for corn stocks

Stocks of corn attained 4.9 million tones, up from 4.6 million tonnes last year. The previous record was set in 2000 at 4.8 million tonnes. Although imports of corn and feeding have declined this year, larger production and a decline in exports buoyed up the stock levels.

Canola stocks remain below average

Stocks of 2.5 million tonnes are up 11% from March 2003, but short of the five-year average of 2.9 million tonnes. Despite supplies that were the largest since the 2000/01 crop year, the highest exports in three years and strong crushing fuelled by robust product demand have combined to keep stocks in check.

Available on CANSIM: table 001-0040.

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

The publication *Field Crop Reporting Series:* Stocks of Canadian Grain at March 31, 2004, Vol. 83, no. 3 (22-002-XIB, \$12/\$71; 22-002-XPB, \$17/\$95) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For further information, contact David Burroughs (613-951-5138; david.burroughs@statcan.ca), Dave Roeske (613-951-0572; dave.roeske@statcan.ca), Heather Smith (613-951-0730; heather.smith@statcan.ca) or Nicole Strang (613-951-2511; nicole.strang@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.

OTHER RELEASES

The taxi and limousine service industry

2000 (revised), 2001(revised) and 2002 (preliminary)

The taxi and limousine service industry generated \$1.2 billion in operating revenue in 2002, an increase of 14% from 2001. The increase in operating expenses was slightly lower (+12%) and resulted in a 23% increase in profit margins.

The industry is divided into two major segments: taxi and limousine associations and companies, and self-employed taxi and limousine drivers. In Canada, there were 1,800 taxi and limousine associations and companies in operation in 2002. Although they represented only 6% of the number of businesses in the industry, they generated 45% of the total operating revenue. The average operating income of taxi associations and companies was \$288,000, an increase of 2% from 2001. Average operating expenses decreased slightly to \$266,000 leaving these businesses with an average operating margin of \$22,000—approximately 8% of their operating income.

There were 31,400 self-employed taxi and limousine drivers in 2002 and they accounted for 55% of the total operating revenue for the industry. The average operating income of self-employed drivers was \$21,000, down 5% from 2001. Average operating expenses fell 6% to \$15,000 resulting in an average operating margin of \$6,000 (or 29% of operating income). This high proportion can be attributed to the fact that self-employed drivers use their operating margin as personal income.

The predominant expenses reported by taxi associations and companies included salaries, wages and benefits (which represents 37% of the total operating expenses), other purchased services such as telecommunications (22%), and the cost of energy and supplies (12%). The predominant expenses reported by self-employed drivers were other operating expenses (19% share of the total operating expenses), energy and supplies (17%), repairs and maintenance costs and other purchased services (equally placed at 15%).

About 39% of all the businesses in the taxi and limousine service industry in Canada were located in Ontario and they generated 44% of the national operating revenue in 2002. Quebec followed with 27% of all businesses in this sector and 20% of the total operating revenue.

Available on CANSIM: table 407-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4707.

To order data, contact Ronald Chrétien (613-951-8774; ron.chretien@statcan.ca). For more information about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Vincent Dubé (613-951-7031; vincent.dube@statcan.ca), Transportation Division.

Accounting services price indexes

2001 (preliminary)

The Accounting Services Price Index (ASPI) measures annual changes in the prices for accounting services such as auditing, tax preparation and bookkeeping services. The ASPI compares, in percentage terms, prices in a given year to prices in the official base period (2000=100).

The total ASPI for Canada for 2001 was up 4.2% from 2000. The largest increase was for the subcomponent tax preparation services for corporate clients (+9.6%), followed by bookkeeping, compilation and general accounting services (+4.1%), tax preparation services for individuals and unincorporated businesses (+3.6%) and tax preparation for audits, reviews, related services and other assurance services (+2.5%).

These indexes are available at national and regional levels.

Available on CANSIM: table 326-0014.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2334.

For more information, contact the Client Services Unit (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; *infounit@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Beaudry (613-951-5646; *gilles.beaudry@statcan.ca*), Prices Division.

Steel primary forms, weekly data

Week ending May 1, 2004 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending May 1 totalled 309 151 metric tonnes, down 4.4% from 323 333 tonnes a week earlier, but up 2.3% from 302 180 tonnes in the same week of 2003.

The year-to-date total as of May 1 was 5 383 055 tonnes, up 1.6% from 5 299 388 tonnes in the same period of 2003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2131.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts. methods data quality or this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Production of eggs and poultry

March 2004 (preliminary)

Egg production, was estimated at 48.8 million dozen in March, down 1.1% from the same month last year.

Poultry meat production reached 94.6 million kilograms in March, up 3.5% from March 2003.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0022, 003-0038 and 003-0039.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3424, 3425 and 5039.

The March 2004 issue of *Production of Eggs* (23-003-XIB, free) will soon be available online.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandy Gielfeldt (613-951-2505; sandy.gielfeldt@statcan.ca) or Barbara Bowen (613-951-3716; barbara.bowen@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.

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Energy Statistics Handbook, Fourth quarter 2003 Catalogue number 57-601-XCB (\$54/\$161).

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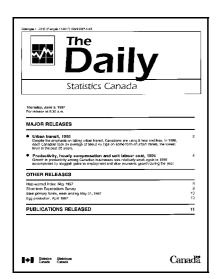
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The Daily, May 7, 2004

RELEASE DATES: MAY 10 TO MAY 14

(Release dates are subject to change.)

| Release date | Title | Reference period |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 11 | New Housing Price Index | March 2004 |
| 12 | Canadian International Merchandise Trade | March 2004 |
| 13 | New Motor Vehicle Sales | March 2004 |
| 14 | Monthly Survey of Manufacturing | March 2004 |
| 14 | Film, Video and Audio-Visual Distribution | 2002/03 |