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Major releases

- **Building permits,** November 2004 — 3
  The value of building permits surged to their second highest level on record in November in the wake of strong gains in the non-residential sector and continuing growth in the residential sector. Municipalities issued $5.0 billion in permits, up 9.3% from October.

- **National tourism indicators,** third quarter 2004 — 7
  Tourism spending advanced 0.3% in the third quarter of 2004, the fifth consecutive quarterly increase. However, this was down from the 1.9% average gain recorded in the previous four quarters, and reflected a marked slowdown in spending by international visitors, mainly from the United States.

Other releases

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International Travel
2003

The annual publication *International Travel* summarizes the characteristics of travellers entering or leaving Canada. It provides data on international travel and travellers by country/province/state/region of residence or destination, transportation mode, trip purpose, length of stay, expenditures, age groups and sex in the form of tables, charts and analytical review.

The publication, *International Travel*, 2003 (66-201-XIE, $34) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For further information on this release, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-2909; *cult.tourstats@statcan.ca*).

New products 11

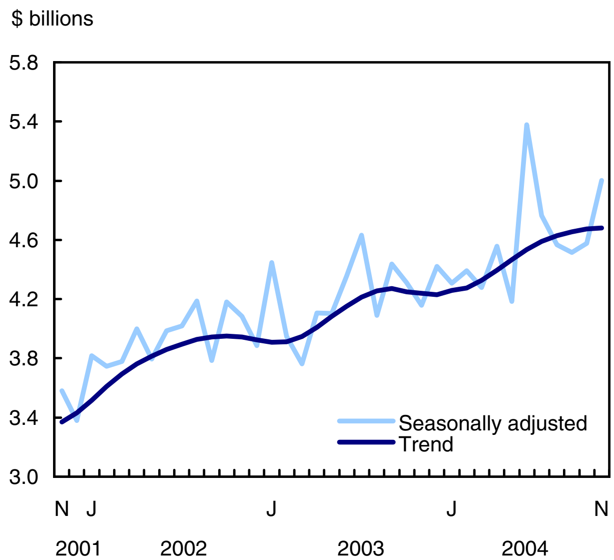
Major releases

Building permits
November 2004

The value of building permits surged to their second highest level on record in November in the wake of strong gains in the non-residential sector and continuing growth in the residential sector.

Municipalities issued $5.0 billion in permits, up 9.3% from October. This level was second only to the $5.4 billion worth of construction intentions in June.

Total value of permits surpassed the $5.0 billion mark



In the non-residential sector, contractors took out permits worth $1.85 billion, a 20.8% increase from October. This level was the second highest during the past 15 years, surpassed only by intentions worth $1.91 billion in June 2004.

November's increase was the third consecutive monthly gain for the non-residential sector. The growth was fuelled by strong construction intentions for institutional buildings, and to a lesser extent by the gains in the industrial and commercial components.

In the residential sector, the picture remained positive. The value of housing permits issued by municipalities totalled $3.1 billion, up 3.5% from October. A surge in demand for new multi-family dwelling units more than offset a decline in the single-family component.

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.

On a year-to-date basis, the total value of building permits reached $50.5 billion between January and November, up 9.0% from the same period in 2003. This advance was entirely the result of a 15.2% increase in residential construction intentions. The value of permits in the non-residential sector fell 1.3%.

The cumulative value so far for 2004 is just $252 million short of the total value of $50.8 billion for all of 2003, which was a record. Consequently, the value of building permits will reach a new annual peak in 2004.

Regionally, the metropolitan areas of Vancouver and Montréal recorded by far the largest dollar gains on a year-to-date basis. In both regions, the value of building permits was up by more than $1 billion dollars compared with the first 11 months of 2003. This was due to tremendous demand for new housing.

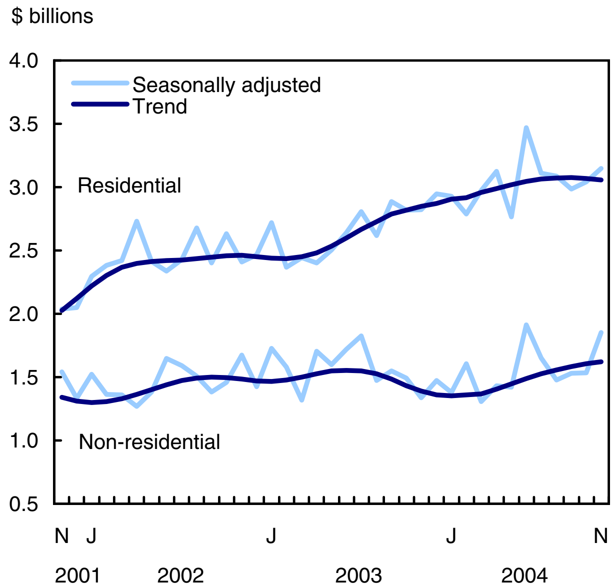
Surge in value of multi-family permits

Building permits for multi-family dwellings rose 22.0% in November to $1.1 billion, as proposed projects for apartment-condominiums units soared. At the same time, the value of permits for single-family units declined 4.7% to $2.0 billion.

Among the factors that contributed to the strength in the housing sector were: advantageous mortgage rates; creation of full-time jobs in 2004; and tight vacancy rates for apartments in large metropolitan areas such as Vancouver and Montréal.

At the provincial level, all provinces except Ontario and Saskatchewan showed gains in November in housing intentions. The largest gain (in dollars) occurred in Quebec, where the value of residential permits increased 23.3% to a record high of $844 million.

Both residential and non-residential sectors gaining



Between January and November, the total value of permits for single-family dwellings reached $22.3 billion, up 12.0% from the same period in 2003. Construction intentions for multi-family dwellings increased 22.0% to $11.1 billion. The high level of construction for multi-family dwellings helped increase vacancy rates for apartment buildings at the national level.

Municipalities authorized 222,215 new dwellings units in the first 11 months of 2004, the highest year-to-date total since 1987 when 230,940 new units were approved. Just under half (47%) of the units approved so far in 2004 were multi-family dwellings, the highest proportion since 1982.

Non-residential sector: Several projects in the pipe

Following three monthly declines, construction intentions for buildings in the institutional category totalled $561 million in November, up a solid 86.3% from October. Simultaneous large increases in the value of permits related to education buildings, medical buildings and social service buildings led this component to its highest value since July 2003.

Construction intentions in the industrial sector recorded their third double-digit increase in a row, advancing 13.8% in November to $396 million. The gain was due to projects related to the utility and transportation category.

The value of permits in the commercial component increased 1.3% to $896 million on the strength of construction intentions for warehouses. Declines in permits for laboratories and hotels and restaurants partly offset the increase.

These results were in line with recent positive indicators, such as record high retail sales in October. Overall, consumer spending in retail stores advanced steadily since the start of 2004, except for a decline in April. In addition, third quarter operating profits rose for a ninth consecutive year-over-year advance. However, signs suggest momentum has slowed for manufacturers because of the rising value of the Canadian dollar and high input prices.

Provincially, the largest gains (in dollars) occurred in British Columbia and Ontario. The 150.2% gain in British Columbia came from projects for manufacturing buildings and social service buildings. In Ontario, an 18.2% increase was related to projects in the medical and educational categories.

On a year-to-date basis, municipalities issued $17.1 billion worth of building permits from January to November, down 1.3% from the same period in 2003.

The cumulative value of permits in the commercial sector was up 10.0% from 2003. Construction intentions for industrial permits were down 4.2%, while intentions in the institutional sector were down 16.8%.

Non-residential permits are down in five provinces so far in 2004, with the largest decline in Ontario (-5.5%). Quebec posted the largest gain (+6.7%).

Among the metropolitan areas, strong construction intentions in the commercial sector led Vancouver and Toronto to the strongest dollar advances in the cumulative value of non-residential permits. Increases on a year-to-date basis occurred in 15 of 28 metropolitan areas.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The November 2004 issue of *Building Permits*, Vol. 48, no. 11 (64-001-XIE, $15/$156) is now available. See *How to order products*.

The December 2004 building permit estimate will be released on February 7.

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]

	October 2004[r]	November 2004[p]	October to November 2004	January to November 2003	January to November 2004	January-November 2003 to January-November 2004
	seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
St. John's	46.9	28.5	-39.2	262.9	349.8	33.0
Halifax	51.7	62.3	20.6	533.2	570.1	6.9
Saint John	11.0	10.4	-5.4	112.7	110.2	-2.2
Saguenay	10.5	6.9	-34.6	128.6	112.0	-12.9
Québec	80.3	96.5	20.2	942.4	1,103.2	17.1
Sherbrooke	29.5	18.0	-39.0	207.8	229.4	10.4
Trois–Rivières	18.7	12.4	-33.9	191.0	178.3	-6.6
Montréal	533.4	703.8	32.0	4,727.9	5,824.3	23.2
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	155.5	198.3	27.5	2,044.6	2,082.3	1.8
Ottawa–Gatineau (Que. part)	35.5	46.4	30.8	463.9	508.7	9.7
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ont. part)	120.0	151.9	26.6	1,580.7	1,573.6	-0.4
Kingston	15.1	24.1	59.1	197.1	209.6	6.4
Oshawa	59.4	51.1	-14.0	1,051.9	684.3	-34.9
Toronto	1,023.3	961.8	-6.0	10,552.3	10,552.2	0.0
Hamilton	50.2	60.7	20.9	1,020.4	885.4	-13.2
St. Catharines–Niagara	34.2	36.6	6.9	458.1	476.3	4.0
Kitchener	79.8	80.7	1.1	851.1	864.6	1.6
London	74.8	72.0	-3.7	669.3	765.5	14.4
Windsor	64.1	28.4	-55.6	559.4	510.2	-8.8
Greater Sudbury	10.3	13.4	30.6	94.1	115.3	22.6
Thunder Bay	9.4	6.1	-35.3	108.0	102.4	-5.1
Winnipeg	53.3	55.9	5.0	633.5	673.3	6.3
Regina	18.4	26.2	42.5	245.3	227.2	-7.4
Saskatoon	32.8	20.4	-37.9	234.6	248.2	5.8
Calgary	222.1	257.4	15.9	2,596.1	2,626.0	1.2
Edmonton	183.7	242.8	32.2	1,599.9	1,878.1	17.4
Abbotsford	12.5	25.0	100.2	159.7	179.9	12.6
Vancouver	316.9	412.0	30.0	3,292.4	4,474.0	35.9
Victoria	43.8	47.7	9.1	516.1	482.8	-6.5

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

	October 2004[r]	November 2004[p]	October to November 2004	January to November 2003	January to November 2004	January-November 2003 to January-November 2004
	seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
Canada	**4,576.3**	**5,002.4**	**9.3**	**46,350.6**	**50,520.5**	**9.0**
Residential	3,042.4	3,149.5	3.5	29,023.1	33,420.7	15.2
Non-residential	1,533.9	1,853.0	20.8	17,327.4	17,099.7	-1.3
Newfoundland and Labrador	59.4	42.1	-29.1	376.7	471.9	25.3
Residential	33.9	34.5	1.5	265.2	341.9	28.9
Non-residential	25.5	7.7	-70.0	111.5	130.0	16.6
Prince Edward Island	30.5	19.7	-35.5	158.7	191.6	20.7
Residential	10.0	12.4	24.5	80.6	114.3	41.8
Non-residential	20.5	7.2	-64.7	78.0	77.2	-1.0
Nova Scotia	90.9	102.7	13.1	938.4	1,045.4	11.4
Residential	55.9	62.0	10.9	614.7	683.6	11.2
Non-residential	35.0	40.8	16.5	323.7	361.7	11.8
New Brunswick	102.2	62.3	-39.0	648.3	754.3	16.4
Residential	40.6	42.8	5.5	372.4	460.2	23.6
Non-residential	61.5	19.4	-68.4	275.9	294.1	6.6
Quebec	958.9	1,177.1	22.8	9,184.6	10,891.4	18.6
Residential	684.3	843.9	23.3	5,844.1	7,328.4	25.4
Non-residential	274.6	333.2	21.3	3,340.6	3,562.9	6.7
Ontario	1,978.2	1,913.2	-3.3	21,256.9	21,280.1	0.1
Residential	1,257.5	1,061.3	-15.6	13,064.4	13,539.7	3.6
Non-residential	720.6	851.9	18.2	8,192.5	7,740.4	-5.5
Manitoba	85.5	92.1	7.8	983.7	1,056.2	7.4
Residential	51.9	58.3	12.2	475.5	621.5	30.7
Non-residential	33.6	33.9	0.9	508.2	434.7	-14.5
Saskatchewan	69.5	70.2	1.0	694.3	717.1	3.3
Residential	40.2	37.7	-6.2	323.5	385.0	19.0
Non-residential	29.4	32.6	10.9	370.8	332.1	-10.4
Alberta	631.9	764.9	21.0	6,094.1	6,550.8	7.5
Residential	400.0	469.8	17.4	3,851.6	4,359.4	13.2
Non-residential	231.9	295.1	27.3	2,242.5	2,191.4	-2.3
British Columbia	547.6	752.8	37.5	5,791.2	7,369.3	27.2
Residential	456.0	523.8	14.9	4,045.3	5,496.8	35.9
Non-residential	91.5	229.0	150.2	1,745.9	1,872.5	7.3
Yukon	9.7	1.8	-81.8	48.6	69.8	43.8
Residential	4.5	1.0	-76.8	26.0	32.1	23.5
Non-residential	5.2	0.7	-86.1	22.6	37.7	67.0
Northwest Territories	11.8	2.9	-75.2	76.6	96.5	26.0
Residential	7.2	1.5	-79.8	45.9	45.9	0.2
Non-residential	4.6	1.5	-68.0	30.7	50.5	64.7
Nunavut	0.3	0.6	126.1	98.6	26.1	-73.5
Residential	0.3	0.6	100.0	14.0	11.8	-15.5
Non-residential	0.0	0.1	...	84.6	14.3	-83.1

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

■

National tourism indicators

Third quarter 2004

Tourism spending advanced 0.3% in the third quarter of 2004, the fifth consecutive quarterly increase. However, this was down from the 1.9% average gain recorded in the previous four quarters, and reflected a marked slowdown in spending by international visitors, mainly from the United States. The Canadian dollar appreciated 4.0% against the US dollar for the quarter.

Tourism spending continued to recover from the difficulties of the past few years. Spending was 6.1% higher than 2003, but remained 1.9% below its peak set in the first quarter of 2001.

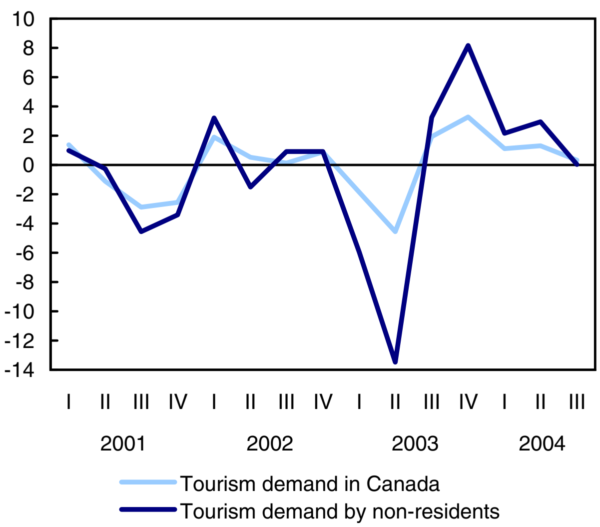
International visitor spending flat

International spending was flat in the third quarter, after four quarters of robust growth averaging 4.2%. The number of international visitors was down 1.7%, with those staying overnight down 0.7%.

Non-resident spending slows

% change - preceding quarter

Adjusted for seasonal variation and inflation



Canadians' travel spending abroad was down 4.5% and the international travel deficit fell to $0.9 billion from $1.2 billion in the second quarter (measured in current dollars). The deficit indicates that Canadian travellers spend more abroad than international visitors spend in Canada.

> ***Note to readers***
>
> *Levels and shares of tourism spending are expressed in current dollars, adjusted for seasonal variations. Growth rates of tourism spending are expressed in real terms (i.e., adjusted for price changes) as well as adjusted for seasonal variations, unless otherwise indicated. Employment data are also seasonally adjusted. Associated percentage changes are presented at quarterly rates.*

Canadians' spending at home continues to advance

Domestic tourism spending was up 0.5% in the third quarter, the fifth consecutive quarterly gain. The sustained growth in domestic tourism spending reflected in part continued growth (+0.8%) in overall final domestic demand.

Increases in spending were widespread across tourism commodities, with some notable exceptions. Canadians' spending on accommodation fell 0.5%, its third consecutive decline, while spending on interurban bus transportation fell 1.4%, its fifth straight decline.

Spending on air transportation inches up

Air transportation (+0.4%) posted its weakest gain in five quarters. Still, one-fifth of tourism dollars went to airfares, the most of any tourism commodity.

Spending on food and beverages edged up 0.2% and accounted for one-sixth of a tourist's budget. Accommodation, which comprised 14% of total tourism spending, contracted 0.6% for the quarter.

Recreation and entertainment, which includes casino spending, advanced a solid 0.9%. This commodity has taken up a steadily growing share of tourism spending over the past few years.

Despite high gas prices, vehicle fuel consumption advanced 0.3%.

Tourism employment edges up

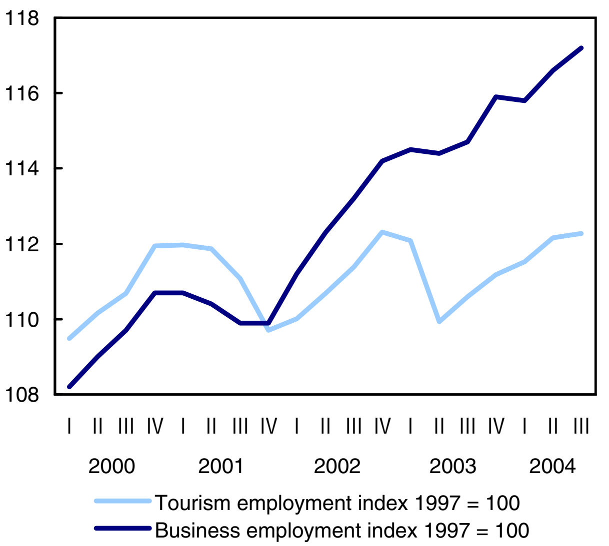
The number of tourism jobs edged up 0.1% in the third quarter, the fifth straight increase. This followed a 0.6% gain in the second quarter.

A 0.5% decline in accommodation jobs was more than offset by increases in air transportation (+0.2%), food and beverage services (+0.2%) and other tourism (+0.7%).

Tourism jobs grew at a slower pace than in the overall business sector, which registered a 0.5% increase in jobs.

Tourism employment edges up

Adjusted for seasonal variation



Tourism GDP advances

Tourism gross domestic product (GDP) advanced 0.2% in the third quarter. All industries, except accommodation and interurban bus transportation, registered gains. The share of tourism in economy-wide GDP remained at 2.0%.

Looking ahead

Early indicators are providing mixed signals for the fourth quarter of 2004. International trips to Canada declined 1.3% in October, however overnight trips increased 0.8%.

The air transportation industry increased jobs and output in October, while the accommodation, food and beverage services, and recreation and entertainment industries registered lower jobs and output.

The Canadian dollar appreciated 3.3% against the US dollar in October, and 4.3% in November.

Available on CANSIM: tables 387-0001 to 387-0010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1910.

The third quarter 2004 issue of *National Tourism Indicators* (13-009-XIB, free) is now available on our Web site. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *National accounts*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the information officer (613-951-3640; *iead-info-dcrd@statcan.ca*), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

□

National tourism indicators
Third quarter 2004

	2002	2003	2002 to 2003	First quarter 2004	Second quarter 2004	Third quarter 2004	Second quarter 2004 to third quarter 2004
	$ millions, 1997 prices		% change	$ millions, 1997 prices (seasonally adjusted)			% change
Total tourism expenditures							
Tourism demand in Canada	48,713	47,392	-2.7	12,244	12,404	12,446	0.3
Tourism demand by non-residents	15,984	14,099	-11.8	3,737	3,847	3,848	0.0
Tourism domestic demand	32,729	33,293	1.7	8,507	8,557	8,598	0.5
Transportation							
Tourism demand in Canada	18,026	17,144	-4.9	4,494	4,581	4,598	0.4
Tourism demand by non-residents	4,174	3,495	-16.3	942	976	978	0.2
Tourism domestic demand	13,852	13,649	-1.5	3,552	3,605	3,620	0.4
Accommodation							
Tourism demand in Canada	7,176	6,831	-4.8	1,765	1,783	1,772	-0.6
Tourism demand by non-residents	3,736	3,422	-8.4	912	931	924	-0.7
Tourism domestic demand	3,440	3,409	-0.9	854	852	848	-0.5
Food and beverage services							
Tourism demand in Canada	7,594	7,534	-0.8	1,921	1,938	1,942	0.2
Tourism demand by non-residents	2,626	2,301	-12.4	604	623	623	0.0
Tourism domestic demand	4,969	5,233	5.3	1,316	1,315	1,319	0.3
Other tourism commodities							
Tourism demand in Canada	8,339	8,432	1.1	2,154	2,169	2,192	1.1
Tourism demand by non-residents	2,133	1,968	-7.7	513	527	532	0.9
Tourism domestic demand	6,206	6,463	4.1	1,641	1,642	1,661	1.1
Other commodities							
Tourism demand in Canada	7,578	7,451	-1.7	1,910	1,935	1,942	0.4
Tourism demand by non-residents	3,315	2,913	-12.1	766	791	791	0.0
Tourism domestic demand	4,262	4,538	6.5	1,144	1,144	1,151	0.6

National tourism indicators
Third quarter 2004

	Third quarter 2003	Fourth quarter 2003	First quarter 2004	Second quarter 2004	Third quarter 2004	Second quarter 2004 to third quarter 2004
	$ millions current, seasonally adjusted					% change
Total tourism expenditures						
Tourism demand in Canada	12,889	13,232	13,473	13,815	13,845	0.2
Tourism demand by non-residents	3,816	4,140	4,223	4,436	4,499	1.4
Tourism domestic demand	9,073	9,092	9,250	9,379	9,345	-0.4
Transportation						
Tourism demand in Canada	4,568	4,661	4,857	5,066	5,024	-0.8
Tourism demand by non-residents	996	1,090	1,121	1,226	1,269	3.5
Tourism domestic demand	3,572	3,572	3,736	3,839	3,754	-2.2
Accommodation						
Tourism demand in Canada	1,849	1,950	1,938	1,982	1,994	0.6
Tourism demand by non-residents	901	1,004	1,001	1,035	1,040	0.5
Tourism domestic demand	948	946	937	947	954	0.7
Food and beverage services						
Tourism demand in Canada	2,188	2,237	2,259	2,294	2,311	0.7
Tourism demand by non-residents	640	696	711	737	741	0.5
Tourism domestic demand	1,548	1,541	1,548	1,556	1,570	0.9
Other tourism commodities						
Tourism demand in Canada	2,346	2,392	2,417	2,444	2,476	1.3
Tourism demand by non-residents	551	577	592	613	623	1.7
Tourism domestic demand	1,795	1,815	1,825	1,831	1,853	1.2
Other commodities						
Tourism demand in Canada	1,938	1,992	2,003	2,030	2,040	0.5
Tourism demand by non-residents	728	774	798	824	825	0.1
Tourism domestic demand	1,210	1,218	1,204	1,205	1,215	0.8

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Other releases

Farm product prices
November 2004

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

The Saskatchewan canola price in November was $270.53, down 9% from October 2004 and down 21% from November 2003 when it reached $340.58.

The November feeder calves price in Ontario was $90.46 per hundredweight, up 10% from October 2004 but down 19% from the November 2003 price of $112.11.

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 Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-3445; fax: 204-983-7543; *gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Construction type plywood
October 2004

Firms produced 203 747 cubic metres of construction-type plywood in October, up 3.3% from 197 301 cubic metres produced the previous month and down 2.5% from 208 997 cubic metres produced in October 2003.

Year-to-date production at the end of October totalled 1 963 864 cubic metres, up 11.6% from 1 760 117 cubic metres the previous month and up 5.7% from 1 857 124 cubic metres in the same period of 2003.

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0056 and 303-0057.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2138.

The October 2004 issue of *Construction Type Plywood*, Vol. 52, no. 10 (35-001-XIB, $6/$51) 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; *manufact@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Sawmills and planing mills
October 2004

Data on sawmills and planing mills are now available for October 2004.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0009.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2134 and 2135.

The October 2004 issue of *Sawmills and Planing Mills*, Vol. 58, no. 10 (35-003-XIB, $10/$93) 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; *manufact@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard
October 2004

Data on particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard are now available for October 2004.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0058.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2141.

Note: CANSIM table 303-0058 replaces CANSIM table 303-0002 beginning with January 2004 reference month.

The October 2004 issue of *Particleboard, Oriented Strandboard and Fibreboard*, Vol. 40, no. 10 (36-003-XIB, $6/$51) 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; *manufact@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

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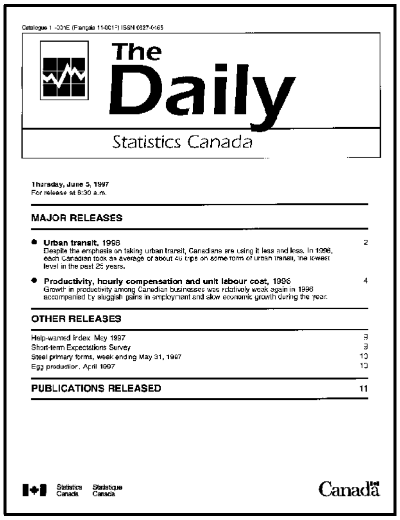

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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