



# The Daily

## Statistics Canada

**Tuesday, January 18, 2005**

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## Major releases

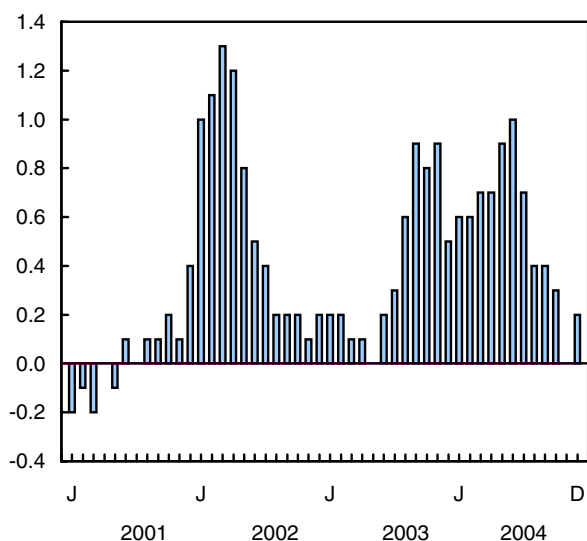
### Leading indicators

December 2004

After a slowdown every month since June culminating in no change in November, the composite index advanced 0.2% in December. Six of the ten components rose in December, two more than in November. Manufacturing and services reinforced the steady growth of household demand, while the stock market strengthened further.

#### Composite index

Smoothed % change



Household demand posted its strongest and most widespread gains in over two years, led by the booming housing market as well as steadily falling import prices and rising incomes. Furniture and appliance sales grew 0.9%, its largest monthly gain in six months,

raising annual growth to 10.0%. Sales of other durable goods advanced 1.1%, driven by autos.

The housing index continued to hover near its 30-year high set in July, with only a small decline in housing starts and existing home sales. The housing rental market in British Columbia remained the strongest in the country. Vacancy rates rose in most other regions.

Manufacturing responded to the gains in domestic demand. New orders jumped 1.0% in volume, their largest increase in six months. The ratio of shipments to stocks levelled off after a drop in November. The average workweek rose for the first time since May, while factory jobs firmed in December after four straight declines.

The stock market recorded a fourth consecutive advance, led by the consumer goods sector. Industrial stocks broke out of a year-long slump with their best increase since December 2003.

The US leading indicator posted a third straight drop, but the rate of decline moderated. Housing starts fell to their lowest level in over a year. Instead, the industrial sector moved to the forefront.

**Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1601.**

A more detailed analysis of the components is available on our Web site. 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 January 2005 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 18, no. 1 (11-010-XIB, \$19/\$182), now available.

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](mailto:ceo@statcan.ca)) Current Economic Analysis Group. □

## Leading indicators

	July 2004	August 2004	September 2004	October 2004	November 2004	December 2004	Last month of data available % change
<b>Composite leading indicator (1992=100)</b>	<b>198.4</b>	<b>199.2</b>	<b>199.9</b>	<b>200.5</b>	<b>200.4</b>	<b>200.9</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Housing index (1992=100) <sup>1</sup>	147.6	146.1	144.7	142.6	141.7	140.9	-0.6
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,608	2,610	2,611	2,614	2,614	2,617	0.1
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	8,450	8,408	8,493	8,584	8,681	8,839	1.8
Money supply, M1 (\$ millions, 1992) <sup>2</sup>	127,397	128,766	129,731	130,617	129,948	129,474	-0.4
US composite leading indicator (1992=100) <sup>3</sup>	115.2	115.4	115.4	115.3	115.0	114.8	-0.2
<b>Manufacturing</b>							
Average workweek (hours)	38.6	38.5	38.4	38.4	38.4	38.5	0.3
New orders, durables (\$ millions, 1992) <sup>4</sup>	22,918	23,022	23,218	23,223	23,243	23,469	1.0
Shipments/inventories of finished goods <sup>4</sup>	1.86	1.88	1.90	1.91	1.90	1.90	0.00
<b>Retail trade</b>							
Furniture and appliance sales (\$ millions, 1992) <sup>4</sup>	2,041	2,050	2,062	2,075	2,091	2,110	0.9
Other durable goods sales (\$ millions, 1992) <sup>4</sup>	7,560	7,644	7,635	7,646	7,672	7,757	1.1
<b>Unsmoothed composite leading indicator</b>	<b>199.5</b>	<b>200.0</b>	<b>201.0</b>	<b>201.5</b>	<b>199.9</b>	<b>202.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>

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.



## University degrees, diplomas and certificates awarded 2001

University students received a record number of bachelor's and master's degrees in 2001 as the overall level of degrees, certificates and diplomas granted by universities rose for the third straight year.

A record 129,000 students obtained a bachelor's degree in 2001, the fifth consecutive annual increase. However, this was only 0.3% higher than it was in 2000.

In addition, a record 24,900 students obtained a master's degree, up 2.6% from 2000, the fourth straight annual increase. Undergraduate certificates and diplomas were up 3.1%, the first increase in seven years for that type of qualification.

Universities awarded only 3,700 doctorates in 2001, down 3.7% from 2000 and the lowest level in six years.

Overall, universities granted 178,000 degrees, diplomas and certificates in 2001, up 0.8% from 2000. This total was just short of the record high of 178,100 set 1996, which marked a recovery from declines at the end of the 1990s.

A record number of women received degrees, diplomas and certificates in 2001.

### Level of qualifications granted increasing

The restructuring of Canada's economy over the past 25 years has had a clear impact on demand for a university education and the expectation of students on labour market requirements.

Many more entry level jobs in today's economy require higher postsecondary qualifications than in the past. This factor might explain some shifts in university qualifications granted.

In 2001, the number of graduate level qualifications awarded reached a record high of almost 31,100, an 11.7% increase since 1996.

The 15.3% jump in the number of master's degrees was mostly responsible for the increase during the entire six-year period between 1996 and 2001. The number of graduate diplomas and certificates increased by 7.2% while the number of doctorates awarded fell 5.4%.

Undergraduate degrees, certificates and diplomas accounted for the vast majority (82%) of the overall total in 2001. However, between 1996 and 2001, the number of undergrad qualifications declined 2.3% to 146,300.

This decline was due entirely to a 20.5% decrease in certificates and diplomas granted during this six-year period. However, in 2001 alone, there was a 3.1% annual increase.

The number of bachelor's degrees advanced only 0.8% during the six-year period.

### Note to readers

Since 2000, data on degrees granted have been obtained using information from the Enhanced Student Information System (ESIS) and the University Student Information System (USIS).

Data on the fields of study are coded according to the new Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP). Before ESIS was implemented, the Postsecondary Education and Adult Learning Section of the Centre for Education Statistics used the USIS classification for the coding of university level fields of study. USIS-to-CIP and CIP-to-USIS conversion tables are available upon request.

Data on program levels, citizenship and immigration status were coded using the new ESIS classifications. Conversion tables are also available for these variables.

Historical data on graduates for 1992 to 2001 were converted using ESIS variable definitions and code sets, so as to maintain the historical continuity of the statistical series.

For Quebec institutions, the CIP codes assigned to programs are under review.

Data on immigration status, country of citizenship and age has to be used with caution due to a high level of non-reporting.

### Record number of qualifications granted to women

A record high 105,100 women received a degree, diploma or certificate in 2001, accounting for 59% of the total. In comparison, 72,900 men received a qualification.

Between 1996 and 2001, the number of women receiving a university level qualification increased 2.0%, while the number of their male counterparts fell 2.9%.

A total of 77,600 women received a bachelor's degree, while 13,000 received a master's degree, both record highs.

Men outnumbered women only in the area of earned doctorates. Men accounted for 57% of all doctoral degrees granted in 2001. However, during the six-year period, the number of men receiving a doctorate declined 17.7%, while the number of women rose 18.6%.

Proportionally, more men received graduate level qualifications than women. Over 20% of men who received a qualification at a university in 2001 were granted graduate level qualifications, compared with 15.2% for women.

Some 16.3% of men received a master's degree, and 2.9% a doctorate. Among women, 12.4% received a master's, and 1.5% a doctorate.

### Fields of study: Business, math, engineering leading the increase

The number of degrees, diplomas and certificates increased in four key fields in 2001. These were visual and performing arts, and communications technologies;

business, management and public administration; mathematics, computer and information sciences; and architecture, engineering and related technologies.

Each of those fields of study registered a record high number of qualifications in 2001.

Compare with 1996, the rate of increase for women outpaced the rate among men in each of those fields. The sole exception was mathematics, computer and information sciences, where the number of men receiving a degree rose 30.9%, compared with a 20.8% gain for women.

The number of graduates fell in four fields: agriculture, natural resources and conservation; health, parks, recreation and fitness; social and behavioral sciences, and law; and education. In each of those fields except education, the decrease was due to men. In education, the number of qualifications awarded for both men and women decreased.

The number of graduates in two fields remained stable: humanities and physical and life sciences and technologies.

Over the long term, the number of graduates in various fields seems to reflect changes in the labour force. Since 1996, the number of qualifications has declined in education, social and behavioural sciences and law; health, parks, recreation and fitness; and humanities.

However, the proportion of qualifications awarded increased 2.9% in business, management and

public administration, and 1.1% in mathematics, computer and information sciences. Close to 7 out of every 10 qualifications in 2001 were awarded in those fields of study.

In the other fields of study, the proportion of qualifications awarded remained stable for the six-year period.

More detailed data are now available from the University Student Information System and the Enhanced Student Information System. Tables and other statistical products are available on request.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 477-0011 and 477-0012.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5017.**

To obtain statistical products, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; [educationstats@statcan.ca](mailto:educationstats@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Manon Declos: 613-951-9298; fax: 613-951-6765; [manon.declos@statcan.ca](mailto:manon.declos@statcan.ca) or Sylvie Bonhomme: 613-951-5366; fax: 613-951-6765; [sylvie.bonhomme@statcan.ca](mailto:sylvie.bonhomme@statcan.ca)), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

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## University qualifications awarded by program level and gender

	1996	1999	2000 <sup>r</sup>	2001	1996 to 2001 % change <sup>1</sup>	2000 to 2001
<b>Total qualifications<sup>2, 3</sup></b>	<b>178,100</b>	<b>173,600</b>	<b>176,600</b>	<b>178,000</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Female	103,000	101,400	103,300	105,100	2.0	1.7
Male	75,100	72,200	73,200	72,900	-2.9	-0.4
<b>Undergraduate level</b>						
<b>Total degree, certificate and diploma<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>149,700</b>	<b>143,500</b>	<b>145,300</b>	<b>146,300</b>	<b>-2.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Female	89,100	86,200	87,200	88,800	-0.3	1.9
Male	60,600	57,300	58,200	57,400	-5.3	-1.3
Bachelor's, 1st professional and applied degree <sup>2</sup>	128,000	126,400	128,600	129,000	0.8	0.3
Female	74,900	75,100	76,500	77,600	3.5	1.4
Male	53,000	51,400	52,100	51,400	-3.1	-1.3
Undergraduate certificate and diploma <sup>2</sup>	21,800	17,100	16,800	17,300	-20.5	3.1
Female	14,200	11,100	10,700	11,200	-20.6	5.5
Male	7,600	5,900	6,100	6,100	-20.2	-1.1
<b>Graduate level</b>						
<b>Total degree, certificate and diploma<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>27,800</b>	<b>29,500</b>	<b>30,700</b>	<b>31,100</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Female	13,600	14,900	15,900	16,000	17.1	0.3
Male	14,200	14,600	14,800	15,100	6.6	2.1
Master's degree <sup>2</sup>	21,600	23,300	24,200	24,900	15.3	2.6
Female	11,000	12,100	12,800	13,000	18.3	1.2
Male	10,600	11,200	11,400	11,900	12.2	4.2
Earned doctorate	3,900	4,000	3,900	3,700	-5.4	-3.7
Female	1,300	1,600	1,600	1,600	18.6	-0.1
Male	2,600	2,400	2,300	2,100	-17.7	-6.2
Graduate certificate and diploma	2,300	2,200	2,700	2,500	7.2	-5.2
Female	1,300	1,200	1,500	1,400	5.2	-7.3
Male	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,100	9.9	-2.4
<b>Non-university level</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>30.7</b>
Female	300	300	200	300	5.2	16.6
Male	300	300	200	300	20.3	45.6

1. Percentage are based on actual, non-rounded figures.

2. Total includes sex unknown.

3. Figures for totals may not add-up because of rounding.

<sup>r</sup> Revised data.

**Note:** Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

## University qualifications awarded by field of study

	1996	1999	2000 <sup>r</sup>	2001	1996 to 2001 % change <sup>1</sup>	2000 to 2001
<b>Total qualifications<sup>2, 3</sup></b>	<b>178,100</b>	<b>173,600</b>	<b>176,600</b>	<b>178,000</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Female	103,000	101,400	103,300	105,100	2.0	1.7
Male	75,100	72,200	73,200	72,900	-2.9	-0.4
Education <sup>2</sup>	25,700	22,300	22,500	22,100	-13.9	-1.8
Female	19,000	16,500	16,700	16,600	-12.4	-0.4
Male	6,800	5,800	5,900	5,500	-18.1	-5.6
Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	5,200	5,200	5,400	5,900	13.1	9.5
Female	3,400	3,500	3,700	4,000	15.9	8.6
Male	1,800	1,700	1,700	1,900	7.7	11.3
Humanities <sup>2</sup>	22,400	19,600	20,100	20,200	-9.8	0.6
Female	14,100	12,500	12,900	13,000	-8.1	0.9
Male	8,300	7,100	7,200	7,200	-12.8	0.0
Social and behavioural sciences, and law <sup>2</sup>	39,000	36,700	36,300	35,700	-8.5	-1.8
Female	24,400	23,400	23,300	23,200	-4.6	0.0
Male	14,600	13,300	13,100	12,400	-15.0	-4.9
Business, management and public administration	30,100	31,600	33,200	35,100	16.8	5.7
Female	15,800	16,800	17,900	19,200	21.7	7.3
Male	14,300	14,900	15,300	15,900	11.4	3.8
Physical and life sciences, and technologies	14,600	14,600	14,700	14,700	0.8	0.1
Female	7,500	7,800	8,000	8,300	11.4	4.2
Male	7,100	6,800	6,700	6,400	-10.3	-4.7
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	7,000	7,700	8,400	8,900	27.5	5.6
Female	2,300	2,400	2,700	2,800	20.8	5.3
Male	4,700	5,300	5,800	6,100	30.9	5.7
Architecture, engineering and related technologies	13,300	12,800	13,300	13,900	3.9	4.2
Female	2,900	2,900	3,300	3,300	14.1	-0.3
Male	10,500	9,900	10,000	10,600	1.1	5.7
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	3,000	3,800	4,000	3,800	26.2	-4.4
Female	1,300	1,900	1,900	2,000	46.0	1.2
Male	1,700	1,900	2,100	1,900	10.4	-9.7
Health, parks, recreation and fitness	16,700	16,900	16,500	16,200	-3.4	-2.2
Female	11,600	12,000	11,600	11,700	0.7	0.7
Male	5,100	4,900	4,900	4,500	-12.8	-9.1
Personal, protective and transportation services	100	100	100	200	210.8	180.5
Female	0	0	0	0	210.0	210.0
Male	100	100	100	200	210.9	176.4
Other	1,000	2,200	2,000	1,200	28.4	-36.7
Female	700	1,700	1,400	900	34.9	-37.3
Male	300	600	500	300	14.0	-35.2

1. Percentage are based on actual, non-rounded figures.

2. Total includes sex unknown.

3. Figures for totals may not add-up because of rounding.

<sup>r</sup> Revised data.

**Note:** Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

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## Other releases

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### Study: Impact of family background on access to postsecondary education

Participation in postsecondary education, particularly university, is strongly influenced by the education level of parents and other family background characteristics, according to a new study.

The study, which used data from Statistics Canada's 1991 and 1995 School Leavers Surveys, found that family background, particularly levels of parent education, has both a direct and indirect influence on whether young people go on to college or university.

Parental education is strongly related to postsecondary participation, even after controlling for other factors, such as high school academic performance and behaviour.

More specifically, each additional year of parental education increases the likelihood of university attendance by as much as five percentage points. Roughly 40% of this effect is indirect, the rest direct.

Overall, a large proportion of the impact of family background occurs through indirect channels such as student's grades in primary school and high school, student's attitudes towards school and parents' opinion of the importance of high school. This suggests that the period of life before postsecondary financing and relating issues become important is crucial for postsecondary access.

Even before high school graduation, parental education affects postsecondary opportunities because there is a strong relationship between parent education and high school outcomes, such as grades.

However, students whose parents have higher levels of education are more likely to go on than others, even after these outcomes are taken into account, controlling, for example, for the grades of students.

In terms of family type, children from two-parent families are about 25% more likely to go on to higher schooling than those from single-mother families.

Living in a rural area during high school decreases the likelihood of postsecondary attendance, but the effects are statistically significant only in terms of university participation, not in terms of post-secondary access.

Academic performance in high school, as measured by an individual's grade average, has a strong positive influence in participating in both university education and other forms of postsecondary education.

The study also found that failing a grade even in elementary school is an additional predictor of participation in postsecondary education.

**Definitions, data sources and methods:** survey number 3156.

The research paper *Who Goes? The Direct and Indirect Effects of Family Background on Access to Postsecondary Education* (11F0019MIE2005237, free) is now available online. From our home page select *Studies*, then under *Browse periodical and series* choose *Free and for sale*. Under *Series* select *Analytical Studies Branch*.

For further information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ross Finnie (613-951-3962), Business and Labour Market Analysis Division. ■

### Monthly Survey of Large Retailers

November 2004

Sales advanced 0.4% in November to \$7.8 billion, regaining much of October's decline. Sales for the group of large retailers have generally been increasing throughout 2004, after strongly rebounding from a weak December in 2003. In 2003, growth in sales was steady between April and November, after having been more volatile in late 2002 and early 2003.

Among the eight major commodity groups, the strongest increase was seen in food and beverage sales, accounting for the lion's share of the growth at large retailers during the month. Pulling in the other direction was health and personal care products, and furniture, home furnishings and electronic sales, which slid the furthest in the month.

Food and beverage sales leapt ahead 3.3% in November, rebounding from a 1.4% drop in October. This was the most sizeable increase within this commodity group in five years. Sales of food and non-alcoholic beverages both increased by about 3% during the month, while alcoholic beverage sales jumped by over 13% compared with October. The strike at the Société des alcools du Québec, which began in mid-November and saw most liquor stores in the province close their doors, may have resulted in shoppers purchasing more of their alcohol at large retailers such as supermarkets.

Sales of health and personal care products posted the largest decline in November, dropping 2.3%. This was the third decrease in the past four months, causing sales of these goods to level off at large retailers, interrupting seven years of almost continuous growth. November's declines were widespread, with sales



down in all of the categories, as personal care products, eyewear, and drug sales all decreased by between 2.0% and 2.5% compared with October.

### Sales by commodity for the group of large retailers

	November 2003	October 2004 <sup>r</sup>	November 2004 <sup>p</sup>	October to November 2004	November 2003 to November 2004
seasonally adjusted					
	\$ millions			% change	
<b>Commodity</b>					
Food and beverages	2,384	2,498	2,580	3.3	8.2
Health and personal care products	728	768	750	-2.3	3.0
Clothing, footwear and accessories	1,317	1,372	1,354	-1.3	2.8
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics	1,079	1,183	1,158	-2.1	7.3
Housewares	338	344	346	0.7	2.4
Hardware, lawn and garden products	289	312	314	0.7	8.6
Sporting and leisure goods	403	418	415	-0.7	2.9
All other goods and services	869	890	894	0.4	2.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,409</b>	<b>7,784</b>	<b>7,811</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>5.4</b>

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

### Sales by commodity for the group of large retailers

	October 2004 <sup>r</sup>	November 2003	November 2004 <sup>p</sup>	November 2003 to November 2004
	unadjusted			
	\$ millions			% change
<b>Commodity</b>				
Food and beverages	2,601	2,375	2,472	4.1
Health and personal care products	780	759	770	1.5
Clothing, footwear and accessories	1,468	1,576	1,568	-0.5
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics	1,212	1,310	1,390	6.1
Housewares	364	354	359	1.5
Hardware, lawn and garden products	235	222	240	7.7
Sporting and leisure goods	375	526	536	1.8
All other goods and services	920	938	947	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,955</b>	<b>8,060</b>	<b>8,281</b>	<b>2.7</b>

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

Furniture, home furnishing and electronic sales slid 2.1% in November, following an even sharper drop in October. Sales of indoor furniture led the decline with a 5.0% decrease, which erased gains from the previous four months. Household appliances as well as home electronics also pulled sales down, both posting a

second month of shrinking sales. Home furnishing sales (such as artwork, bedding and floor coverings) was the only growth area, with five months of consecutive gains.

Sporting and leisure good sales sagged in November, posting a desultory decline of 0.7% at large retailers. Sporting good sales decreased sharply (-4.8%), while most leisure good sales were flat. The sole bright spot in this commodity group was the sale of toys, games and hobby supplies, which were up 3.4% for the month. This may have been partly due to the release of a blockbuster video game in November, which broke sales records during its first week of availability in North America.

**Note:** This survey includes large retailers mainly in the food, clothing, home furnishings, electronics, sporting goods, and general merchandise sectors. These retailers represent approximately 26% of total annual retail sales, or 35% excluding recreational and motor vehicle dealers.

All data in this release are adjusted for seasonality and all percentages are month-to-month changes unless otherwise indicated. Results from the Monthly Survey of Large Retailers are classified according to the 2002 North American Industrial Classification System.

Available on CANSIM: table 080-0009.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5027.**

A data table is also available on the *Canadian statistics* module online.

Data for the group of large retailers for December 2004 will be released on February 18.

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

### Passenger bus and urban transit November 2004 (preliminary)

Effective immediately, Transportation Division is releasing monthly data on the number of urban transit passenger trips and revenue for 10 large Canadian cities. The urban transit ridership in this group of cities accounts for about 80% of total urban transit traffic in Canada.

There were 114.5 million passenger trips taken on the 10 urban transit systems in Canada in

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November 2004, generating revenue of \$165.7 million (excluding subsidies).

For the first 11 months of 2004, about 1.19 billion passenger trips were made, a 1.8% increase in ridership from the same period in 2003.

Revenue for the first 11 months of 2004 increased 5.4% to \$1.78 billion (excluding subsidies) compared with \$1.69 billion for the same period in 2003.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2745.**

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

## **Trucking industry 2003**

In 2003, the roughly 2,200 long distance for-hire trucking companies based in Canada that had annual operating revenues of \$1 million or more generated \$16.8 billion in revenues, an increase of 7.5% from 2002. These long distance carriers hauled 305 million metric tonnes of freight in 2003, up 4.0%.

Domestic shipments accounted for 72% of this total tonnage and 53% of revenues. Carriers hauled 32 million shipments within Canada, weighing 219.8 million tonnes. Domestic shipments generated \$8.8 billion in revenues.

Trade between Canada and the United States continued to be dominated by road transportation. In terms of revenue, over 53% of Canadian exports and 79% of imports were moved by truck in 2003.

Transborder movements accounted for 22% of total shipments and 47% of revenues. Carriers hauled 8.7 million shipments across the Canada-US border in 2003, with freight totalling more than 85 million tonnes. These transborder shipments generated \$8.0 billion in revenues.

The most frequent commodities moved to or from the United States, other than miscellaneous transported products, were vehicles including parts and accessories.

In total, the transportation and warehousing sector employed over 610,000 people in 2003. The trucking industry was by far the largest employer accounting for almost 27% or 165,000 of the people working in the sector.

Data showed that carriers were generally profitable in 2003. For-hire trucking companies generated \$20.5 billion in total revenues and had \$19.6 billion in total expenses. The overall operating profit margin was lower in 2003 at 4.4%, compared with 5.1% in 2002. However, operating profit margins for carriers with annual revenues between \$1 million and \$2 million and those with annual revenues greater than \$25 million increased between 2002 and 2003.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2741, 2742 and 2748.**

The 2003 edition of *Trucking in Canada* (53-222-XIB, \$42) 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 Ron Chrétien (613-951-8774; fax: 613-951-0009; [ron.chretien@statcan.ca](mailto:ron.chretien@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

## **Refined petroleum products**

November 2004 (preliminary)

Data on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for November 2004. Other selected data about these products are also available.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.**

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](mailto:energ@statcan.ca)), Energy, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

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