



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Tuesday, October 4, 2005**

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## **Telecommunications statistics**

First quarter 2005

The number of subscribers to mobile telecommunications services surpassed the 15 million mark in the first quarter, up 10.9% from a year earlier.

The combined impact of growth in subscriptions and increased revenue per subscriber translated into booming revenues for the wireless industry. Its first-quarter operating revenues hit \$2.5 billion, a 16.0% surge from the same three months last year.

Despite its ever increasing popularity, the adoption rate of wireless telecommunications in Canada lags behind that of the United States by nearly three years. In Canada, there were 47 subscribers for every 100 population at the end of March, a rate reached in the United States in mid-2002.

On the other hand, the wireline industry continued a long-term slump as its first-quarter revenues fell 1.2% to \$5.6 billion.

As a result, operating revenues for the telecommunications services sector as a whole advanced a relatively modest 3.5% to \$8.4 billion.

While wireless telecommunications is attracting a growing number of customers, the customer base for traditional fixed telecommunications is eroding. The number of network access lines stood at 19.4 million at the end of the first quarter, down 1.2% from the same time last year.

This was the 13 consecutive quarterly year-over-year decline. The 1.4% drop in the number of residential lines was the largest since the beginning of that downward trend.

The slow, steady decline in the number of traditional telephone lines is a sign of a shift in consumption habits and of a changing market. For instance mobile communications, which used to be complementary to fixed communications for most users, is the only means of basic communications from home for a small (2.6%), but growing, number of Canadians. A growing number of Canadians are also turning to non-traditional suppliers of local telephony.

The wireless telecommunication services industry reaped the benefits of a buoyant market in the first quarter, as operating profits leaped 25.9% to \$653 million compared to the same period in 2004. The first-quarter operating profit margin was 26.3%, in line with the results achieved throughout 2004.

The wireline telecommunication services industry earned \$1.1 billion in operating profits in the first quarter, up a modest 0.7% from the first quarter last year.

Despite the challenging conditions, the wireline industry maintained a relatively robust 20.1% operating profit margin. This was made possible by a significant 6.2% reduction in its labour costs to \$1.2 billion. The industry's total operating expenses slipped 1.6% to \$4.5 billion.

### **Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2721.**

The first quarter 2005 issue of *Quarterly Telecommunications Statistics* (56-002-XIE, \$23/\$43) will be available soon.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Daniel April (613-951-3177) or Cimeron McDonald (613-951-2741), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

## **Canadian Business Patterns**

June 2005

The CD-ROM *Canadian Business Patterns*, which is released today, provides counts of active establishments by geography, industry and employment size.

*Canadian Business Patterns* is compiled from the Business Register, which is a repository of information reflecting the business population.

Nationally, there were 2,248,161 active establishments in June, down from 2,377,107 establishments in December 2004.

The drop in the number of smaller establishments in June should not be attributed to economic factors, but to a change in the methodology to identify inactive units.

Data from *Canadian Business Patterns* are now available on CD-ROM and are presented by the 2001 Standard Geographical Classification, the 2002 North American Industry Classification System, and by employment categories.

The Standard Industrial Classification is no longer available in the *Canadian Business Patterns* tables.

The CD-ROM *Canadian Business Patterns*, June 2005 (61F0040XCB) is now available. Cost of data varies between \$150 and \$2,000 depending on the number of tables or cells requested. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to find out about the concepts, methods, and data quality for this release, contact Beau Cinnamon (613-951-9021; [BRDinfoDRE@statcan.ca](mailto:BRDinfoDRE@statcan.ca)) or Joanne Proulx (613-951-9006), Business Register Division. ■

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**Annual Survey of Manufactures: Data by  
census division**

2003

The Annual Survey of Manufactures collects information on over 250 industries. Data for the manufacturing industries by census division are now available for 2003.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey  
number 2103.**

To order data, 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](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## New products

**Gross Domestic Product by Industry, July 2005,**  
Vol. 19, no. 7  
Catalogue number 15-001-XIE (\$12/\$118).

**Air Carrier Traffic at Canadian Airports, 2004**  
Catalogue number 51-203-XIB (\$33).

**Canadian Business Patterns, June 2005**  
Catalogue number 61F0040XCB  
(various prices).

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

Catalogue numbers with an -XWE, -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette and -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc.

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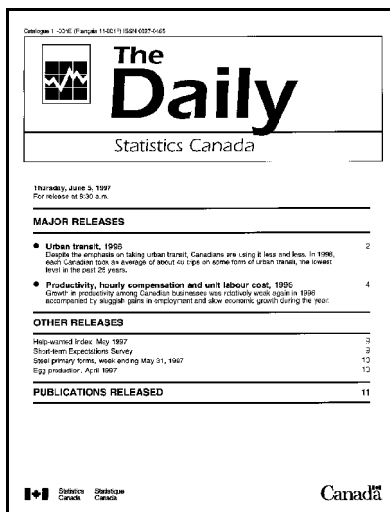
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