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Industries edged ever closer to a record high use of their production capacity thanks to a rebound in exports.

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Releases

Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost

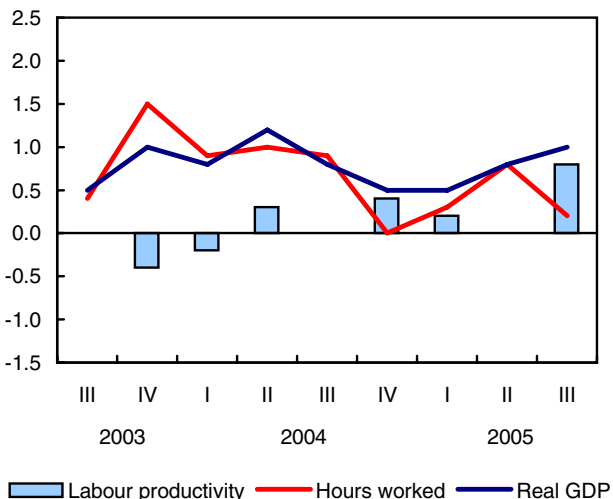
Third quarter 2005

Labour productivity in the Canadian business sector increased at its fastest pace in nearly four years during the third quarter.

Productivity among Canadian businesses increased 0.8% between July and September, following two quarters of virtually stagnant growth. It was the strongest performance since the last three months of 2001.

Productivity growth rebounds following stagnant second quarter

Quarterly % change



Labour productivity, as measured by real gross domestic product (GDP) per hour worked, is a primary determinant of improvements to the standard of living in the long run. It is also the main source of economic growth.

Generally speaking, businesses enjoy productivity gains when their GDP growth rate outpaces the rise in hours of work devoted to production.

In Canada, third-quarter productivity increased because production rose at a faster pace than the number of hours worked. During the first two quarters

Note to readers

This release contains a brief analysis of detailed data on productivity growth and other related variables. A more thorough analysis, including additional charts and tables, is available in the Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review (13-010-XIE, free).

This electronic publication presents an analysis of labour productivity for the aggregate business sector and its constituent industries (15 two-digit NAICS industries) and two sectors (goods and services). The statistical series for total economy, business sector and non-commercial sector start with the first quarter of 1981, while those at industry level are available only back to the first quarter of 1997.

The term "productivity" refers to labour productivity. Calculations of the productivity growth rate and its related variables are based on index numbers rounded to one decimal place.

For more information about the productivity program, see the Overview and description of publications page online. You can also order a copy of a technical note about the quarterly estimates of productivity by sending an email to (productivity.measures@statcan.ca).

Revisions

With this release, revisions have been made back to the first quarter of 1997 to incorporate the adjustments in annual benchmarks on hours worked and revised data of GDP by industry that were published in The Daily of November 8, 2005.

of 2005, GDP growth was on par with hours worked, resulting in flat productivity growth.

Comparable labour market performance in Canada and the United States since early 2005

While third-quarter growth rates in GDP were similar in both Canada and the United States, the decline in hours worked south of the border enabled American businesses to show a higher gain in productivity.

In the United States, labour productivity increased 1.3%, the strongest performance in two years. Nevertheless, the increase in Canadian productivity growth resulted in a gap between the two nations that remains comparable to the average of the last six quarters.

Both nations recorded nearly identical growth rates in GDP, while their labour market stagnated in the third quarter. But the slowing pace of hours worked was much more pronounced in the United States.

Between July and September, economic output among Canadian businesses increased by 1.0%, up from the 0.8% advance in the second quarter.

Despite the hurricane-disrupted economy in the United States, output among American businesses increased 1.2% in the third quarter. This maintained the pace set in the seven previous quarters, during which their economic output rose on average 1.0% each quarter.

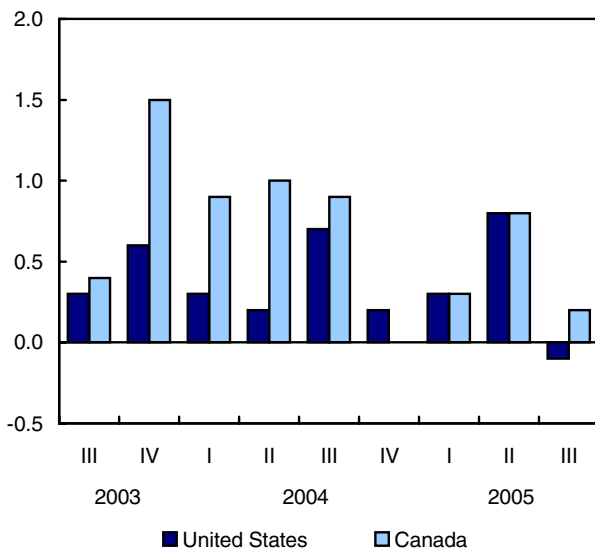
The growth of Canadian economic activity over the third quarter was mainly the result of a strong rebound in exports, particularly in the automotive, agricultural and fisheries products. Continued strong business investment, driven by the energy sector, was also a contributing factor.

In the United States, household consumer spending again prompted the gain in GDP, as did computer hardware and software purchasing, federal government spending and residential investment.

Growth in Canadian economic activity occurred while the labour market lost some of its strength. Hours of work devoted to production in Canadian businesses inched up 0.2%. This maintained their upward trend, though at a slower pace than in the second quarter.

Hours worked slows in both countries

Quarterly % change



During the same period, hours worked in the United States declined by 0.1% in the third quarter, following a 0.8% rise in the second. The decline was the first in nine quarters.

Rise in Canadian unit labour costs relative to the United States

Unit labour costs, an important indicator of trends in production costs and inflation, increased in Canada

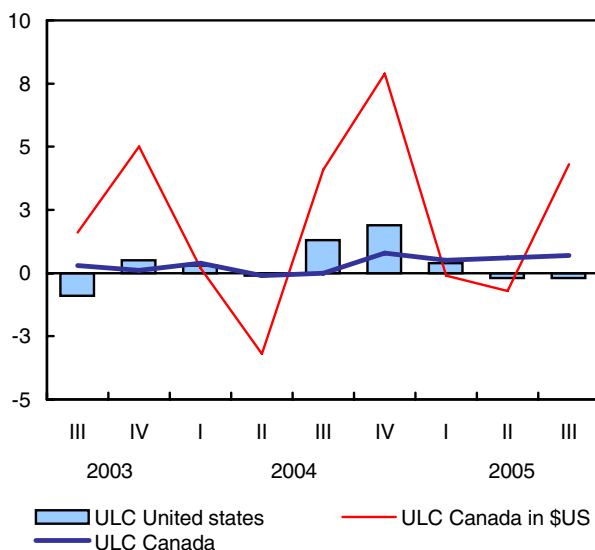
during the third quarter, and declined slightly south of the border. (Unit labour cost is the cost of worker compensation and benefits per unit of economic output.)

Exchange rates notwithstanding, labour costs of Canadian businesses per unit of GDP rose 0.7% in the third quarter, which was close to the average gain for the past three quarters.

In the United States, unit labour costs of businesses fell 0.2%, which matched the decline in the second quarter. Since the beginning of 2005, the increase in American business unit labour costs has been almost nil.

Canadian unit labour costs in US dollars rebounds

Quarterly % change



When the exchange rate is taken into account, American businesses are positioned even more favourably.

After levelling off and even decreasing slightly over the first two quarters of 2005, the Canadian dollar rose 3.3% against its American counterpart in the third quarter. This appreciation resulted in a sharp gain of 4.3% in the unit labour cost measured in American dollars.

However, Canadian businesses took advantage of the strong dollar to invest in machinery and equipment. Spending in this area was up 3.0% in the third quarter.

Available on CANSIM: tables 383-0008 and 383-0012.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5042.

A more comprehensive analysis, including additional charts and tables, is now available online in the third quarter issue of *Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review* (13-010-XIE, free). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *National accounts*.

Fourth quarter data for labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost will be released on March 10, 2006.

To order data, contact Client Services (productivity.measures@statcan.ca). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean-Pierre Maynard (613-951-3654; fax: 613-951-3292; maynard@statcan.ca), Micro-Economic Analysis Division.

Business sector: Labour productivity and related variables for Canada and the United States

	2003 Q3	2003 Q4	2004 Q1	2004 Q2	2004 Q3	2004 Q4	2005 Q1	2005 Q2	2005 Q3
% change from previous quarter, seasonally adjusted									
Canada									
Labour productivity	0.0	-0.4	-0.2	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.8
Real GDP	0.5	1.0	0.8	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.8	1.0
Hours worked	0.4	1.5	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.0	0.3	0.8	0.2
Hourly compensation	0.3	-0.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	1.3	0.6	0.6	1.6
Unit labour cost	0.3	0.1	0.4	-0.1	0.0	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.7
Exchange rate ¹	-1.3	-4.7	0.2	3.2	-3.9	-6.6	0.5	1.4	-3.3
Unit labour cost in US\$	1.6	5.0	0.2	-3.2	4.1	7.9	-0.1	-0.7	4.3
United States²									
Labour productivity	2.0	0.1	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.1	1.3
Real GDP	2.3	0.7	1.2	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.2
Hours worked	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.8	-0.1
Hourly compensation	1.1	0.5	1.0	0.8	1.6	2.7	1.2	-0.1	1.0
Unit labour cost	-0.9	0.5	0.3	-0.1	1.3	1.9	0.4	-0.2	-0.2
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Q4	2005 Q1	2005 Q2	2005 Q3
% change from previous year									
Canada									
Labour productivity	3.3	1.1	1.6	0.0	-0.4	0.4	0.8	0.5	1.3
Real GDP	6.0	1.6	3.2	1.6	3.1	3.4	3.0	2.5	2.7
Hours worked	2.5	0.6	1.6	1.6	3.4	2.8	2.3	2.0	1.3
Hourly compensation	5.2	3.1	1.4	1.9	0.6	1.6	1.9	2.4	4.1
Unit labour cost	1.7	2.1	-0.3	1.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.9	2.6
Exchange rate	0.0	4.3	1.3	-10.8	-7.1	-7.2	-6.9	-8.6	-8.1
Unit labour cost in US\$	1.8	-2.2	-1.6	14.5	8.4	8.9	8.6	11.4	11.7
United States²									
Labour productivity	2.8	2.5	4.0	3.9	3.4	2.8	2.7	2.1	3.1
Real GDP	3.9	0.3	1.5	3.4	4.8	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.2
Hours worked	1.1	-2.2	-2.4	-0.5	1.3	1.4	1.3	2.0	1.1
Hourly compensation	7.0	4.2	3.4	3.9	4.6	6.3	6.4	5.5	5.0
Unit labour cost	4.0	1.6	-0.5	0.0	1.2	3.4	3.6	3.4	1.9
% change from same quarter of previous year, seasonally adjusted									

1. The exchange rate corresponds to the US dollar value expressed in Canadian dollars.

2. US data are from Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Productivity and costs: Third quarter 2005* published in *NEWS*, December 6.

Industrial capacity utilization rates

Third quarter 2005

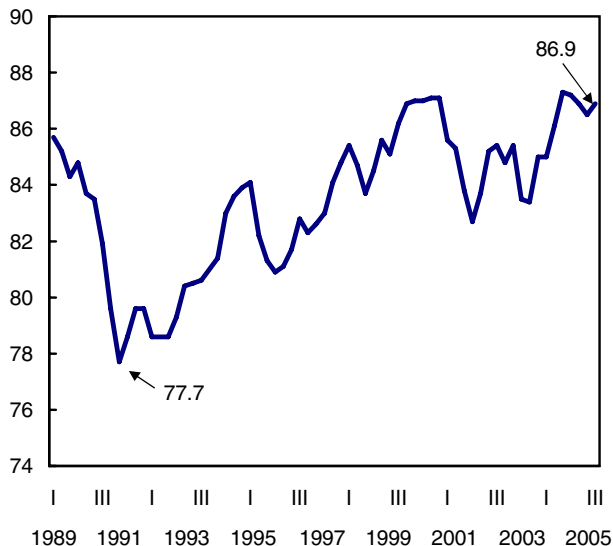
Industries edged ever closer to a record high use of their production capacity thanks to a rebound in exports.

Industries operated at 86.9% of capacity during the third quarter, up from 86.5% in the second. The gain placed the third-quarter rate only 0.7 percentage points below the record peak of 87.6% in the first quarter of 1988.

An industry's capacity utilization rate is the ratio of its actual output to its estimated potential output. Rates have been revised back to the first quarter of 1999 to incorporate original data that have been revised.

Capacity use remains high

% (rate of capacity use)



The rebound in exports, and especially the strong gain in exports of automobile products, fuelled a gain in capacity use in the manufacturing sector. Incentive-induced automotive sales south of the border had a substantial impact on Canadian exports. A 7% jump in automotive exports helped push up total exports by 2.5%.

Manufacturers also benefited from a decline in raw materials prices in the third quarter, according to the Raw Materials Price Index excluding mineral fuels.

In addition, the October 2005 Business Conditions Survey showed that the number of manufacturers planning to increase production in the fourth quarter was slightly higher than those planning cutbacks. However, lack of capacity remains a problem for some manufacturers. Data on fixed assets released in *The*

Daily on November 23, 2005 touched on the issue of capital depletion in the manufacturing sector. It suggested that to enter an investment expansion phase, and thus increase their production capacity, manufacturers would require capital spending of about \$50 billion over the next two years.

Forestry and logging and mining sectors, with substantial increases in their rates, have also contributed to the advance in capacity utilization in the third quarter.

Capacity utilization rates have remained high for some time. It has been two years since they have dropped below 85.0%. Despite these high rates, inflation has remained relatively stable. The Consumer Price Index, excluding the eight volatile components as identified by the Bank of Canada, remained unchanged in October from the previous month. Compared with October 2004, the year-over year gain was 1.7%.

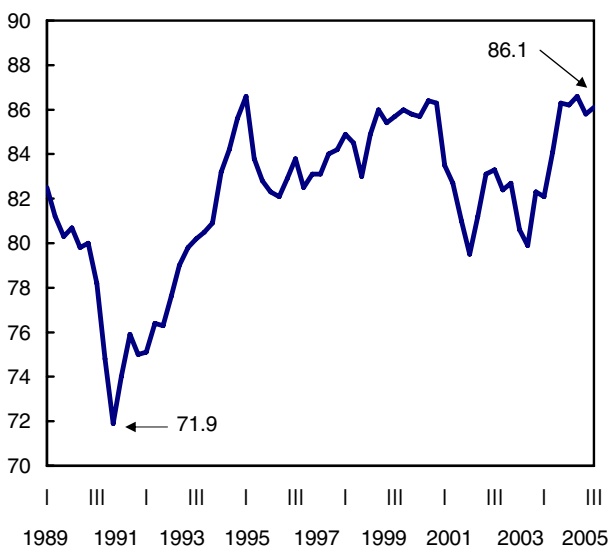
Exports drive manufacturing

Use of production capacity among manufacturers edged up from 85.8% in the second quarter to 86.1% in the third. Only 9 of 21 major manufacturing groups increased capacity utilization, although these nine accounted for more than half the sector's total production.

The sector's strong results are attributable to manufacturers of transportation equipment, chemical products, primary metal products, and plastic and rubber products. The rise in the rate was moderated somewhat by reductions in the capacity use of manufacturers of wood products, fabricated metal products and food.

Automobile sector boosts manufacturing

% (rate of capacity use)



Among transportation equipment manufacturers, the rate rose to 89.7% from 87.4% in the second quarter. International demand for automobiles strengthened, encouraged by financial incentives. As a result, production of transportation equipment climbed 2.4% between July and September.

After three straight quarters of declining capacity utilization, chemical product manufacturers increased their industrial capacity use from 81.0% to 83.0%. Higher production among most of the main components of this group accounted for the 2.5% gain in output in this industry.

In the primary metals manufacturing industry, the rate increased from 90.3% to 92.5%. This was the highest rate posted by this industry since the fourth quarter of 2003 when it reached 93.3%. Much of the 2.1% increase in production in this industry can be attributed to manufacturers of aluminium and steel.

The capacity utilization rate among manufacturers of plastic and rubber products was up 2.2 percentage points to 91.1%. Mixed results among the main components of this group resulted in a 2.5% increase in production in the third quarter.

Conversely, manufacturers of wood products reduced their use of capacity, as the rate fell from 92.7% to 89.7%. The wood export market has slowed in 2005 and prices for lumber are down sharply. It is expected that US demand will strengthen when rebuilding begins along the hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast.

In the fabricated metal products manufacturing industry, the rate was 82.1%, down 1.7 percentage points from the previous quarter. Production fell in this industry by 1.2%. Much of the decline was attributable to architectural and structural metals manufacturing, where production fell 3.1%.

Among food manufacturers, the rate was 81.8%, down from 83.1%. This was the largest reduction since

the second quarter of 2003, when concerns over mad cow disease resulted in a 1.6-percentage-point decline in the rate to 79.1%.

Mixed results in other sectors

In the forestry and logging industry, the capacity utilization rate rebounded 7.2 percentage points to 96.0%, driven by a 10.5% increase in production.

Capacity utilization rose from 94.3% to a record high of 98.5% in the mining sector in the third quarter. Mining production increased 7.4% as a result of a 22% rise in support activities for extraction and the volume of iron ore production.

Industrial capacity utilization in the electrical power sector remained virtually unchanged, edging up from 88.3% to 88.4%. Production in the sector rose 0.8%.

In contrast, the oil and gas extraction and construction sectors experienced declines in their rates, as the increase in production capacity exceeded growth in production.

In the oil and gas extraction, the rate fell from 80.9% to 80.2%, while in the construction sector it was 87.0%, down from 87.6%.

Available on CANSIM: table 028-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2821.

Data on industrial capacity utilization rates for the fourth quarter of 2005 will be released on March 13, 2006.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality, contact Mychèle Gagnon (613-951-0994) or Richard Landry (613-951-2579), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

□

Industrial capacity utilization rates

	Third quarter 2004 ^r	Second quarter 2005 ^r	Third quarter 2005	Third quarter 2004 to third quarter 2005	Second to third quarter 2005
	percentage point change				
Total industrial	87.3	86.5	86.9	-0.4	0.4
Forestry and logging	98.5	88.8	96.0	-2.5	7.2
Mining and oil and gas extraction	88.8	86.2	87.5	-1.3	1.3
Oil and gas extraction	85.2	80.9	80.2	-5.0	-0.7
Mining	94.5	94.3	98.5	4.0	4.2
Electric power generation, transmission and distribution	85.4	88.3	88.4	3.0	0.1
Construction	88.9	87.6	87.0	-1.9	-0.6
Manufacturing	86.3	85.8	86.1	-0.2	0.3
Food	83.7	83.1	81.8	-1.9	-1.3
Beverage and tobacco products	74.5	77.5	79.3	4.8	1.8
Beverage	77.6	80.8	83.0	5.4	2.2
Tobacco	65.3	67.3	68.1	2.8	0.8
Textile mills	79.3	80.6	77.9	-1.4	-2.7
Textile product mills	84.8	77.2	76.0	-8.8	-1.2
Clothing	76.4	65.5	72.5	-3.9	7.0
Leather and allied products	70.6	66.9	63.9	-6.7	-3.0
Wood products	94.3	92.7	89.7	-4.6	-3.0
Paper	92.6	91.9	91.9	-0.7	0.0
Printing and related support activities	77.4	74.5	76.0	-1.4	1.5
Petroleum and coal products	93.8	83.2	81.0	-12.8	-2.2
Chemical	86.2	81.0	83.0	-3.2	2.0
Plastics and rubber products	91.6	88.9	91.1	-0.5	2.2
Plastic products	92.5	87.1	89.4	-3.1	2.3
Rubber products	88.2	95.8	97.8	9.6	2.0
Non-metallic mineral products	85.4	88.1	85.3	-0.1	-2.8
Primary metal	91.4	90.3	92.5	1.1	2.2
Fabricated metal products	83.1	83.8	82.1	-1.0	-1.7
Machinery	86.9	90.2	89.1	2.2	-1.1
Computer and electronic products	83.7	96.0	96.5	12.8	0.5
Electrical equipment, appliance and component	78.9	76.6	74.9	-4.0	-1.7
Transportation equipment	88.9	87.4	89.7	0.8	2.3
Furniture and related products	82.1	84.9	84.1	2.0	-0.8
Miscellaneous manufacturing	83.3	80.5	81.7	-1.6	1.2

^r Revised.

Architectural services

2004

The architectural services industry recorded a year of modest growth in 2004 as revenue increases slowed, continuing a pattern that started in 2003 following double-digit growth in 2002. Operating revenues of architectural firms amounted to \$1.9 billion, up only 2.5% from the previous year.

Firms in British Columbia recorded healthy revenue growth of 14%, placing their province second only to Ontario and thus regaining the rank lost to Quebec in 2002. Firms in Alberta posted growth of 11%, reflecting the more favourable economic conditions in Western Canada. Ontario was the only province where revenues fell, with a decline of nearly 4%. This corresponds with the 3% drop in the value of non-residential building permits, coupled with a slowdown in the residential sector for the province.

Despite shrinking revenues, firms in Ontario accounted for almost half of industry revenues; British Columbia and Quebec jointly amounted to just over one-third; and Alberta with all other provinces/territories accounted for one-fifth of the industry revenues.

Firms in the industry earned 94% of their operating revenues from architectural services with the remainder mostly generated in related fields such as engineering and interior design.

Revenue gains from commercial building projects were mostly offset by declines from institutional and governmental building projects. Revenues from the residential sector, which accounted for only one-fifth of the industry revenues, were stagnant.

Clients in the business sector accounted for 47% of revenues, followed by 43% from clients in the government and public institutions sector. Revenues from households and individual clients stood at 7% while exports accounted for the remaining 3%. These percentages were similar to those posted in 2003.

The value of work sub-contracted to other firms amounted to 12% of operating revenues. Only one out of every six dollars of sub-contracts pertained to architectural services and were passed on to other firms within the industry, whereas the remainder went to non-architectural businesses.

The industry's operating profit margin edged down to 15.6% from 16.0% in 2003.

The revenue share of the 20 largest firms increased to 18%, up from 15% the previous year.

Of those employed in the industry, two out of five were architects, and one out of three were technologists and technicians. The number of architectural establishments grew by less than 2% to 4,700.

Available on CANSIM: table 360-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2420.

Results from the 2004 Annual Survey of Architectural Services are now available.

Detailed tables at the provincial level for a range of industry characteristics are included in the data release package which is available upon request. To order a copy contact Denyse Brazeau (613-951-5634; fax: 613-951-6696; denyse.brazeau@statcan.ca), Service Industries Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kyoomars Haghandish (613-951-6304; fax: 613-951-6696; kyoomars.haghandish@statcan.ca), Service Industries Division. ■

Steel primary forms, weekly data

Week ending December 3, 2005 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending December 3 totalled 275 401 metric tonnes, down 10.9% from 309 135 tonnes a week earlier and down 16.9% from 331 254 tonnes in the same week of 2004.

The year-to-date total as of December 3 was 14 125 126 tonnes, down 5.7% from 14 986 572 tonnes in the same period of 2004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2131.

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. ■

Farm Financial Survey

2005

The Farm Financial Survey, an initiative by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Statistics Canada, provides data on farm assets, liabilities, capital investments and capital sales for 2004. Custom data requests are available by region, farm type and revenue class, on a cost recovery basis.

The publication *Farm Financial Survey* (21F0008XIB, free) will be available on our Web site in January 2006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3450.

To order data, contact Client Services (1-800-465-1991; agriculture@statcan.ca). For more

information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Erik Magnusson (613-951-0218; Erik.Magnusson@a.statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

New products

Quarterly Financial Statistics for Enterprises, Third quarter 2005, Vol. 16, no. 3
Catalogue number 61-008-XIE (\$28/\$93).

Industry Price Indexes, October 2005, Vol. 31, no. 10
Catalogue number 62-011-XIE (\$19/\$175).

Industry Price Indexes, October 2005, Vol. 31, no. 10
Catalogue number 62-011-XPE (\$24/\$233).

A Profile of Canadian Exporters, 1993 to 2003
Catalogue number 65-506-XIE (\$27).

Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division Working Papers: Estimates of Canadian Research and Development Expenditures (GERD), Canada, 1994 to 2005, and by Province 1994 to 2003, no. 20
Catalogue number 88F0006XIE2005020 (free).

Science Statistics, Vol. 29, no. 8
Catalogue number 88-001-XIE (free).

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

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How to order products




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Statistics Canada	
Thursday, June 3, 1997 For release at 9:30 a.m.	
MAJOR RELEASES	
• Urban transit, 1996 Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 21 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.	2
• Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996 Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was modestly weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.	4
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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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Release dates: December 12 to 16, 2005

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
12	Household spending	2004
12	Satellite account of non-profit institutions and volunteering	1997 to 2001
13	New motor vehicle sales	October 2005
13	Leading indicators	November 2005
14	Canadian international merchandise trade	October 2005
14	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	October 2005
15	Canada's international investment position	Third quarter 2005
15	Current economic conditions	December 2005
16	National balance sheet accounts	Third quarter 2005
16	Adult correctional services	2003/04