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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, March 18, 2005
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Major releases

Other releases

(continued on page 2)

Canadian Agriculture at a Glance: Teacher's kit

Today's release of the last nine lessons in the *Canadian Agriculture at a Glance* teacher's kit (96-328-MWE, free) completes a bumper crop of 38 free online teaching activities. Each of the 38 lessons complements an article in the new *Canadian Agriculture at a Glance*.

The March crop of lessons further illustrates the diversity of agriculture in Canada. The lesson "Tapping the Manitoba maple — a Prairie cottage industry" comes just in time for spring. Other lessons look at a variety of so-called "alternative" livestock: "Stop the car! Are those llamas in that field?," and "The little devils are everywhere!" Another takes you to British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec for a look at greenhouse production and a fifth, perhaps unexpectedly, takes students to greenhouse projects in the far North. Economics is the focus of two additional lessons, while feeding the animals that feed us is the subject of another. Finally, a ninth activity traces the origins of domestic cattle breeds in Canada.

These classroom activities give high school students the opportunity to learn about agriculture in Canada using *Canadian Agriculture at a Glance* (96-325-XPB, $49), which was released on June 9, 2004. This 340-page book contains 40 fascinating, easy-to-read analytical articles, complete with full-colour photos, graphs and other illustrations, making agriculture more accessible to everyone.

The kit is of use to teachers of a wide variety of subjects including geography, mathematics, science, history and family studies. Each activity is multi-disciplinary and recognizes the range of learning styles within the classroom.

For more information contact Gaye Ward (613-951-3172), Agriculture Division.

Major releases

Study: Recent changes in the labour market

1991 to 2004

Labour demand since 2000 has been in many ways the reverse of the 1990s, shifting from high-tech to housing and resources, according to a new assessment of changes in Canada's labour market.

This new pattern of industrial growth has profound implications for the urban-rural distribution of jobs as well as the education required of workers, their occupation and even the size distribution of employers, according to a report in *Canadian Economic Observer*.

Changes in labour demand have been met by important shifts in the supply of labour. In particular, workers aged 55 and over have contributed one-third of all labour force growth in the last decade, reversing several decades of decline.

Still, the recovery in mining and construction jobs has allowed these industries to rejuvenate their labour force. As well, job prospects for youths in rural areas are now better than for their urban counterparts.

The economy has been subjected to a number of shocks since 2000. The collapse of demand for information and communications technology goods, notably telecom equipment and fiber optics, punctured the stock market bubble in 2000.

The ensuing downward trend in interest rates accelerated after the September 11, 2001 attacks, sparking a surge in household spending, especially for housing.

Meanwhile, the restoration of government surpluses allowed a re-investment in public services, notably hospitals. Finally, the increasing integration of China into the world economy sparked a surge in commodity prices, which helped send the loonie soaring.

Employment growth in 2004 was spearheaded by mining, construction and real estate, all with gains of about 5%. So far this decade, these three industries have driven job growth. Employment rose 17% in mining, 18% in construction and 10% in real estate.

The job increases in these three industries follow a decade in which they all cut jobs. The turnaround reflects booming commodity and housing markets.

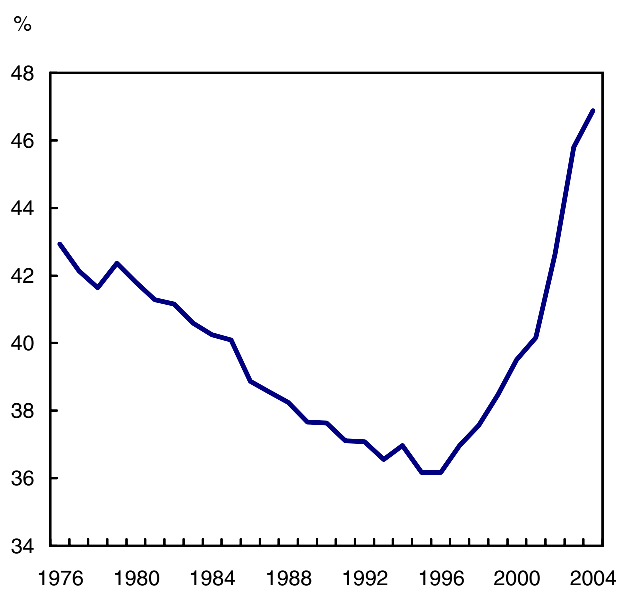
Conversely, some of the fastest-growing industries in the 1990s have lagged so far this decade. The biggest turnarounds have been in manufacturing. Computers and electronic products led this reversal, giving back all of the 45,000 jobs added in the 1990s. The auto industry (including parts) has stalled after growing by 69,000 in the previous decade. The rapid growth of computer services, the fastest growing industry in the 1990s, has slowed to a crawl.

The new patterns of employment were reflected in unemployment. Mining posted its lowest-ever unemployment rate of just 4.5%. Similarly, the boom in housing sent unemployment in construction to a 30-year low of 8.6%.

The aging of the post-war boomers continued to be the dominant demographic force in the labour market. The fastest-growing group was those aged 55 to 59, whose numbers rose 4.7% last year.

Since 1998, the number of people aged 55 and over has increased 19%, driven by a huge gain in the group aged 55 to 64 resulting from the leading edge of the baby boomer generation.

Participation rate for people aged 55 to 69



Conversely, the number of people in the prime working group aged 25 to 44 edged down in absolute terms for a seventh straight year.

The increased participation rates for aging boomers is part of a marked trend toward older people aged 55 to 69 remaining in the labour force.

Declining industries like resources and construction used to push older men out of the labour force, but the return of growth in these industries encouraged a higher participation rate since 2000.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.

The article "Recent changes in the labour market" is now available free online. It is also available in the March 2005 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 18, no. 3 (11-010-XIB, $19/$182). The monthly paper version of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Volume 18, no. 3 (11-010-XPB, $25/$243) will soon be available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Philip Cross (613-951-9162; *ceo@statcan.ca*), Current Economic Analysis. ■

Other releases

Monthly Survey of Large Retailers
January 2005

After slowing down at the end of 2004, sales at large retailers started the year off with a bang, climbing 2.5% above December. In January, sales jumped to $8.1 billion, after posting a moderate decline in the previous month.

Sales at large retailers had generally been increasing throughout 2004, after rebounding from a weak December in 2003. Growth in sales was steady between April and November 2003, after having more volatility in late 2002 and into early 2003.

In January, six of eight major commodity groups posted strong sales increases of 2.0% or greater compared to December. Only hardware, lawn and garden products posted a decline in January, while sales of other goods and services remained flat.

Food and beverages, which account for almost one-third of sales at large retailers, have been volatile in recent months. Sales jumped 3.5% in January, reversing a similar sized decrease in December. Clothing, footwear and accessory sales also surged 3.5% in January. Sales of clothing, footwear and accessories had posted two consecutive months of small declines prior to the current increase. The gain was broadly based, seeing strong increases in men's, women's and children's clothing, as well as jewellery and watch sales.

Sporting and leisure goods posted a vigorous 3.0% increase at large retailers in January. Sporting good sales in particular were strong (+7.4%), perhaps as more consumers than usual tried to turn over a new fitness leaf at the start of the year. Leisure good sales were also up 0.8%, buoyed by strong toy sales, which include products such as electronic gaming systems and video games. The only leisure good sales to decrease in January were pre-recorded CD's, DVD's, video and audio tapes (-1.0%).

The only decline in January was a slip in the sales of hardware, lawn and garden products at large retailers. Sales of lawn and garden related products, such as snowblowers and cut flowers, provided all of the downward pull, decreasing by 5.4%, and giving up over half of the gains posted in December. Hardware and home renovation product sales moderated the decline, increasing by 2.3% in January. Hardware, lawn and garden product sales at large retailers had surged in the latter half of 2004, after a period of flat sales between March and August. Prior to that, sales had been moving strongly upwards since the beginning of 2003.

Sales by commodity for the group of large retailers

	Jan. 2004[r]	Dec. 2004[r]	Jan. 2005[p]	Dec. to Jan. 2005	Jan. 2004 to Jan. 2005
	seasonally adjusted				
	$ millions			% change	
Commodity					
Food and beverages	2,465	2,561	2,649	3.5	7.5
Health and personal care products	740	763	785	2.9	6.1
Clothing, footwear and accessories	1,346	1,332	1,379	3.5	2.4
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics	1,106	1,179	1,203	2.0	8.8
Housewares	337	344	354	2.8	5.0
Hardware, lawn and garden products	308	336	330	-1.8	7.3
Sporting and leisure goods	409	415	427	3.0	4.4
All other goods and services	899	922	923	0.0	2.6
Total	**7,611**	**7,853**	**8,050**	**2.5**	**5.8**

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

Sales by commodity for the group of large retailers

	Dec. 2004[r]	Jan. 2004[r]	Jan. 2005[p]	Jan. 2004 to Jan. 2005
	unadjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Commodity				
Food and beverages	3,004	2,490	2,541	2.0
Health and personal care products	987	716	733	2.3
Clothing, footwear and accessories	2,325	927	954	2.9
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics	2,094	977	1,045	7.0
Housewares	470	329	336	2.4
Hardware, lawn and garden products	319	165	174	5.6
Sporting and leisure goods	932	296	315	6.3
All other goods and services	1,130	784	789	0.7
Total	**11,261**	**6,685**	**6,888**	**3.0**

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

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.

Annual revisions for adjusted and unadjusted data for 2003 and 2004 are now available on CANSIM.

Available on CANSIM: table 080-0009.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5027.

A data table is also available in the *Canadian Statistics* module online.

Data for the group of large retailers for February 2005 will be released on April 18.

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

Personal services industry

2003

Business is growing steadily in the personal services industry, according to the latest survey of establishments that provide services ranging from haircuts and facials to laundry and funeral services.

According to the Annual Survey of Personal Services, firms providing personal services in Canada in 2003 experienced rising revenues in the main components of the industry. Together, those firms earned an estimated $8.1 billion in that year, up from $7.6 billion in 2002 and $7.1 billion in 2001.

Personal care providers, which include hair and esthetic salons, spas and the like, accounted for about 43% of the industry's total earnings. These establishments earned about $3.5 billion in 2003, up from $3.2 billion in 2002 and $2.9 billion in 2001.

Laundry and dry cleaning services accounted for the next largest share of revenues, earning $2.0 billion, and funeral service providers earned the third largest share at $1.4 billion. Revenues in both those sectors have been increasing since 1997.

Operating expenses for all personal service establishments increased in 2003, but so did profits. Companies spent an estimated $7.3 billion in their daily operations, while their profit margins rose to 10.6%, up from 10.0% in 2002.

Salaries, wages and benefits still account for the largest expense for these companies, amounting to almost 39% of their operating expenses.

Industry data for 2003 are now available for Canada and the provinces, including revenues, expenses, salaries and wages and profit margins.

Available on CANSIM: table 359-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2424.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Frank Menezes (613-951-6192; fax: 613-951-6696, *frank.menezes@statcan.ca*), or Bob Allan (613-951-2648; *bob.allan@statcan.ca*), Services Industries Division. ■

Real estate rental and leasing and property management industries

2003

Total combined operating revenues of the real estate rental and leasing and property management industries increased by 4.4% to $46.1 billion in 2003, compared to $44.1 billion in 2002. The non-residential sector grew by 6.9% and now accounts for $24.7 billion of the total operating revenue. The residential sector expanded at a much slower pace (+1.1%) to reach $18.9 billion. Meanwhile, the property management sector grew by 8.0% to $2.5 billion in 2003.

Total operating expenses for the combined industries grew by 3.5% in 2003 to $36.8 billion. Mortgage interest and property taxes accounted for 19.6% and 18.5% respectively, of the total operating expenses.

The real estate rental and leasing and property management industries remained generally profitable. The profit margin before tax increased slightly in 2003 to 20.0%, up from 19.0% in 2002.

Data on the real estate rental and leasing and property management service industries are now available for 2003. These data provide information such as operating revenue, operating expenses, salaries and wages, profit before income tax and the number of establishments at the provincial and territorial level. The industries comprise lessors of residential buildings (excluding social housing), lessors of non-residential buildings and property managers.

Available on CANSIM: table 352-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4705.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Adib Farhat (613-951-6306; *adib.farhat@statcan.ca*, fax: 613-951-6696), Service Industries Division. ■

Steel primary forms, weekly data

Week ending March 12, 2005 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending March 12 totalled 328 989 metric tonnes, up 11.1% from 296 213 tonnes a week earlier and up 4.6% from 314 587 tonnes in the same week of 2004.

The year-to-date total as of March 12 was 3 160 769 tonnes, down 0.4% from 3 172 442 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. ■

New products

National Income and Expenditure Accounts, Quarterly Estimates, Fourth quarter 2004, Vol. 52, no. 4
Catalogue number 13-001-XIB ($36/$117).

Canadian Civil Aviation, 2000 Revised
Catalogue number 51-206-XIB ($31).

Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division Working Papers: Summary: Joint Statistics Canada: University of Windsor Workshop on Intellectual Property Commercialization Indicators, Windsor, November 2004, no. 6
Catalogue number 88F0006XIE2005006
(free).

Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division Working Papers: Summary: Meeting on Commercialization Measurement, Indicators, Gaps and Frameworks, Ottawa, December 2004, no. 7
Catalogue number 88F0006XIE2005007
(free).

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

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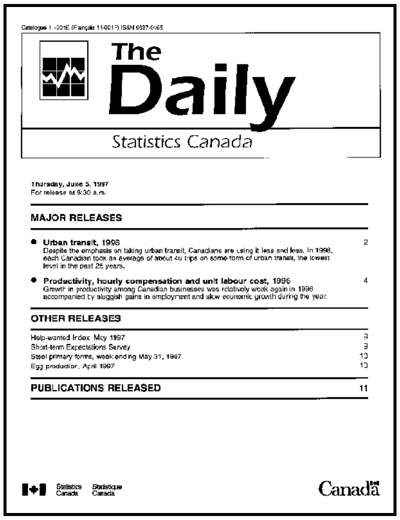
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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index, May 1997	9
Short-term Expectations Survey	9
Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997	10
Egg production, April 1997	10

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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Release dates: March 21 to March 24

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
21	**Wholesale trade**	January 2005
21	**Study: Textile and clothing industries**	1992 to 2004
22	**Retail trade**	January 2005
22	**Study: Canada's visible minority population in 2017**	2001-2017
22	**Employment Insurance**	January 2005
23	**Consumer Price Index**	February 2005
23	**Leading Indicators**	February 2005
24	**Annual Wholesale Trade Survey**	2003
24	**Study: Changes in product diversification in response to trade liberalization**	