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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, March 2, 2005
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Major releases

There are no major releases today.

Other releases

Other releases

Study: The information and communications technology sector through the boom and bust years

1997 to 2003

Despite its weak performance after 2000, Canada's information and communications technology (ICT) sector still shows signs of dynamism, according to a new study that tracks its growth and decline through a boom during the late 1990s and its post-2000 bust.

With dramatic increases in stock prices, output and employment, high-tech industries were an important engine of economic growth during the latter part of the 1990s. Just as dramatic, apparently, has been ICT's post-2000 slump.

Yet, even during a period of considerable retrenchment, ICT firms continued to create new establishments at a rate that exceeded the rest of the business sector, the study shows.

The ICT sector experienced high rates of economic growth as measured by gross domestic product (GDP) during the late-1990s. Between 1997 and 1999, GDP growth in the sector averaged 19% a year.

Since 2000, GDP growth in the sector has been weak. In 2000, economic output declined 2.6%. In 2002, GDP grew only 1.0%, and in 2003 it went up 2.5%. Only in 2003 did output in ICT return to its 2000 levels.

ICT employment has followed a similar pattern to GDP. Employment growth averaged 13% a year between 1997 and 1999, with employment declining after 2001, particularly in manufacturing.

The picture that emerges is a sector that experienced a sharp reversal from which it has not fully recovered.

An additional perspective on the sector's performance can be gained by looking at the rates of entry of new business establishments, for example, manufacturing plants, built by new and incumbent ICT firms.

High rates of entry are indicative of a sector whose firms and their financial backers see opportunities to develop new products that, in the long run, may drive future growth.

Between 1998 and 2000, entry rates in the ICT sector were between 25 and 44 percentage points above the rest of the business sector. (An entry rate in a given year is defined as the proportion of employment in establishments that were new from the year before.)

However, after 2000, entry rates remained relatively high. Entry rates in 2001 were 16 percentage points above that of the rest of the business sector, and in 2002, they were 14 percentage points higher.

In 2003, entry rates rose to 40 percentage points above the business sector, a rate reminiscent of the ICT boom years.

Although these relatively high entry rates have not yet translated into strong employment growth, they do suggest firms continue to see new market opportunities.

The research paper *An Anatomy of Growth and Decline: High-tech Industries through the Boom and Bust Years, 1997 to 2003*, no. 10 (11-624-MIE2005010, free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *National accounts*.

More studies on the ICT sector are available free of charge in the analytical series *Update on Economic Analysis* on our Web site (11-623-XIE).

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mark Brown (613-951-7292) or Desmond Beckstead (613-951-6199), Micro-economic Analysis Division. ■

Domestic sales of refined petroleum products

January 2005 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products totalled 8 714 900 cubic metres in January, up 3.9% from January 2004. Sales increased in five of the seven major product groups, led by diesel fuel oil (+10.6% or 201 100 cubic metres) and heavy fuel oil (+26.2% or 161 800 cubic metres). Light fuel oil sales fell (-15.0% or 134 700 cubic metres).

Motor gasoline sales increased 2.5% from a year earlier to 3 369 000 cubic metres. Sales of regular non-leaded gasoline rose 3.4% while sales were down for mid grade (-12.8%) and premium gasoline (-2.1%) compared with January 2004.

Sales of refined petroleum products

	January 2004[r]	January 2005[p]	January 2004 to January 2005
	Thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total, all products	**8 388.2**	**8 714.9**	**3.9**
Motor gasoline	3 286.7	3 369.0	2.5
Diesel fuel oil	1 899.4	2 100.5	10.6
Light fuel oil	896.6	761.9	-15.0
Heavy fuel oil	617.3	779.1	26.2
Aviation turbo fuels	444.0	480.4	8.2
Petrochemical feedstocks[1]	373.0	389.9	4.5
All other refined products	871.2	834.2	-4.3

r *Revised.*
p *Preliminary figures.*
1. *Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce chemicals, synthetic rubber and a variety of plastics.*

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

Preliminary domestic sales of refined petroleum products data are no longer available on CANSIM.

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*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation

January 2005

Data on mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation are now available for January.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0059.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2110.

The publication *Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation* (44-004-XIB) has been discontinued.

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. ■

Coal mining

2003

Data on coal mining are now available for 2003

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2177.

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; *energy@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Primary iron and steel

December 2004

Data on primary iron and steel for December are now available.

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0048 to 303-0051.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2116 and 2184.

The December 2004 issue of *Primary Iron and Steel*, Vol. 59, no. 12 (41-001-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. ■

New products

Insights on the Canadian Economy: An Anatomy of Growth and Decline: High-tech Industries through the Boom and Bust Years, 1997 to 2003, no. 10
Catalogue number 11-624-MIE2005010
(free).

The Dairy Review, October-December 2004, Vol. 65, no. 4
Catalogue number 23-001-XIB ($29/$96).

Primary Iron and Steel, December 2004, Vol. 59, no. 12
Catalogue number 41-001-XIB ($6/$51).

Employment, Earnings and Hours, December 2004, Vol. 82, no. 12
Catalogue number 72-002-XIB ($26/$257).

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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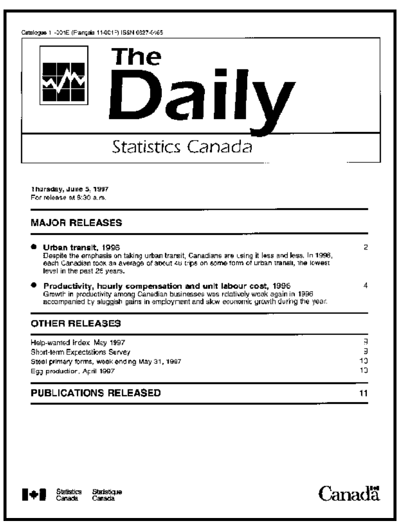
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The Daily
Statistics Canada

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 45 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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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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