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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, March 23, 2005
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

(continued on page 2)

Perspectives on Labour and Income

Spring 2005

The Spring 2005 edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income* contains five articles.

"Using RRSPs before retirement" examines premature RRSP withdrawals between 1993 and 2001, looking at whether major life events such as marital separation, death of a spouse, or loss of a job influence withdrawals. "The rising profile of women academics" looks at the growth between 1990/91 and 2002/03 in the number of women teaching full time at Canadian universities. "Duration of non-standard employment" profiles three distinct groups of non-standard workers: the self-employed, employees with permanent part-time jobs, and temporary employees. "Earnings of temporary versus permanent employees" examines the wage gap between temporary and permanent employees between 1997 and 2003. The comparison is made according to type of temporary employment: term or contract, seasonal, casual, or placement agency. Finally, "The labour market in 2004" takes a look at trends in the labour market since 2000 with a focus on developments in 2004." All these articles have appeared previously in online editions of *Perspectives*.

Included in the print edition is a "Key labour and income facts" section featuring an historical look at taxfilers from 1972 to 2002 — the first of a thematic set of indicators on taxation to be published in *Perspectives*. Further to an article in the Winter 2004 print edition, the section also contains more comparisons of family wealth by province.

Finally, "What's New?" highlights recent studies of interest from Statistics Canada and other organizations.

The Spring 2005 issue of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 17, no. 1 (75-001-XPE, $20/$63) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, contact Henry Pold (613-951-4608; *henry.pold@statcan.ca*), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

OTHER RELEASES

NEW PRODUCTS

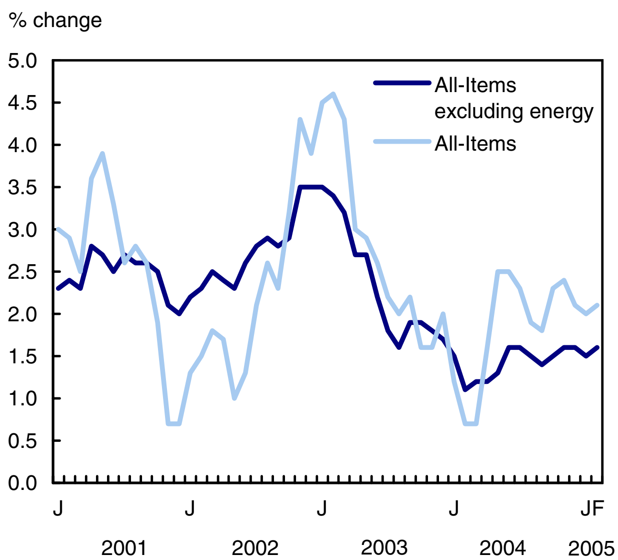
MAJOR RELEASES

Consumer Price Index

February 2005

In February 2005, Canadian consumers paid 2.1% more than in February 2004 for the goods and services included in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket. This increase follows a12-month rise of 2.0% in January.

Percentage change from the same month of the previous year



The CPI excluding energy went up by 1.6% between February 2004 and February 2005. The 12-month increase for this index has remained relatively stable since June 2004, fluctuating between 1.4% and 1.6%.

The All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada rose by 1.8% between February 2004 and February 2005, compared with 1.6% in January 2005.

Between January and February, the All-items index rose by 0.4% after slipping 0.1% in January. An important part of the shift from a decrease in January to an increase in February was caused by higher travel tours prices. Significantly higher prices are usually noted in February, when demand increases considerably compared with January.

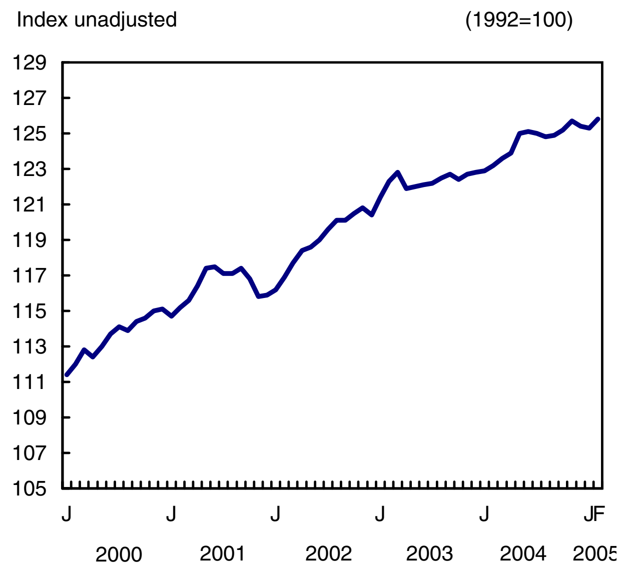
On a monthly basis, the All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada was up 0.3% compared with a 0.1% decrease in January and December.

For the 10th straight month, gasoline prices ranked first among the factors explaining the 12-month increase in the CPI

In February, the CPI registered a 2.1% increase over February 2004. Upward pressure was exerted primarily by gasoline prices, homeowners' replacement cost, and the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles.

These increases were nonetheless attenuated by lower prices for computer equipment and supplies, fresh vegetables, and women's and children's clothing.

The Consumer Price Index



On average, gasoline prices in February 2005 were 8.5% higher than in February 2004. Residents of Alberta experienced the largest increases (+15.3%), followed closely by those of Manitoba (+14.4%) and Prince Edward Island (+13.7 %). The smallest increases were noted in Quebec (+5.9%) and Ontario (+7.0%).

Homeowners' replacement cost, which represents the worn out structural portion of housing and is estimated using new housing prices (excluding land), rose 5.9% over February 2004. Since the last peak in July 2004, 12-month increases have been gradually diminishing, with February's increase being the lowest.

The index for the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles climbed 1.9% between February 2004 and February 2005, from 123.3 to 125.7 (1992=100). North American automotive vehicle manufacturers significantly reduced their financial incentives when their 2005 models were introduced.

A number of factors exerted a moderating effect on the 12-month increase in the All-items index. These include the index for computer equipment and supplies, which has dropped by 22.1% since February 2004.

Fresh vegetable prices were 5.7% lower than in February 2004, largely under the influence of prices for "other fresh vegetables" (-8.6%). Prices for tomatoes (-5.6%) and lettuce (-3.2%) were also down. The favourable weather conditions of recent months completely reversed the negative impact on prices of the hurricanes and torrential rains that hit the United States last fall. The increase in potato prices (+11.4%) offset slightly the decreases in these indexes. A concerted reduction in supply seems to have been behind this increase.

The indexes for women's clothing (-2.3%) and children's clothing (-5.9%) were down compared with February 2004.

Gasoline prices also pushed the index up from January to February

The CPI rose by 0.4% between January and February, from a level of 125.3 to 125.8 (1992=100). Higher prices for gasoline, women's and men's clothing, and travel tours accounted for most of this increase. Lower prices for the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles, fresh vegetables and fresh fruit nonetheless exerted a mitigating effect on the increase.

In February, gasoline prices were up 3.4%, representing the second consecutive monthly rise. Increases ranged from 2.0% in Ontario to 7.6% in Saskatchewan.

Between January and February 2005, prices for women's clothing rose by 4.7% and those for men's clothing by 4.2%. It is usual to note increases in these indexes in February.

The index for travel tours climbed by 8.1% in February, with every province posting an increase. The highest rise was recorded in Ontario (+9.3%) and the lowest in the Atlantic provinces (+3.3%).

One of the factors that exerted downward pressure on the All-items index between January and February 2005 was the 0.6% reduction in prices for the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles. This monthly decrease was attributable to increases in the financial incentives offered in February by some automotive vehicle manufacturers.

Prices for fresh vegetables and fresh fruit were down in February. The drop in prices for tomatoes (-18.0%), lettuce (-10.0%) and "other fresh vegetables" (-0.5%) brought down the index for fresh vegetables (-4.7%). Fresh fruit prices followed suit, with an average reduction of 3.6%, primarily caused by "other fresh fruit" (-7.4%) and apples (-2.4%). Prices for oranges (+1.7%) and bananas (+5.8%) were up.

The seasonally adjusted CPI rose from January to February

Seasonally adjusted, the CPI was up 0.2% from January to February 2005.

The indexes for transportation (+0.5%), shelter (+0.2%), clothing and footwear (+0.7%), as well as that for health and personal care (+0.3%) pushed the All-items index up.

Downward pressure was exerted by the seasonally adjusted indexes for recreation, education and reading (-0.2%), and food (-0.1%).

The index for alcoholic beverages and tobacco products, as well as that for household operations and furnishings remained stable in February.

All-items index excluding the eight most volatile components

The All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada increased by 1.8% between February 2004 and February 2005. The main contributors to this increase were homeowners' replacement cost (+5.9%), the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles (+1.9%), restaurant meals (+2.7%) and property taxes (+4.3%). The increase was attenuated by lower prices for computer equipment and supplies (-22.1%), and for women's clothing (-2.3%) and children's clothing (-5.9%).

From January to February 2005, the All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada increased by 0.3%, largely under the influence of higher prices for women's clothing (+4.7%), travel tours (+8.1%) and men's clothing (+4.2%). The decrease in prices for the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles (-0.6%) accounted for most of the moderating effect on this increase.

Energy

The energy index climbed 7.3% between February 2004 and February 2005, mainly as a result of higher gasoline prices (+8.5%). Higher prices for fuel oil (+21.1%), electricity (+3.4%) and natural gas (+6.2%), as well as for fuel, parts and supplies for recreational vehicles (+6.7%), also contributed to pushing up the energy index.

On a monthly basis, the energy index rose 2.1%, mainly owing to higher gasoline prices (+3.4%). Prices for fuel oil (+4.4%), natural gas (+1.7%), as well as for fuel, parts and supplies for recreational vehicles (+1.8%) also served to push the index up. Electricity prices remained stable.

Available on CANSIM: tables 326-0001, 326-0002, 326-0009, 326-0012 and 326-0016 to 326-0018.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2301.

More information about the concepts and use of the CPI are also available online in *Your Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (62-557-XIB, free).

Available at 7 a.m. online under *Today's news releases from The Daily*, then *Latest Consumer Price Index.*

The February 2005 issue of the *Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 84, no. 2 (62-001-XIB, $9/$83, 62-001-XPB, $12/$111) is now available. See *How to order pro*ducts.

The March 2005 Consumer Price Index will be released on April 22.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, call Rebecca McDougall (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax 613-951-1539; *infounit@statcan.ca*), Prices Division.

□

Consumer Price Index and major components
(1992=100)

	Relative importance[1]	February 2005	January 2005	February 2004	January to February 2005	February 2004 to February 2005
		unadjusted				
					% change	
All-items[2]	**100.00**	**125.8**	**125.3**	**123.2**	**0.4**	**2.1**
Food	16.89	126.6	126.8	123.4	-0.2	2.6
Shelter	26.75	122.6	122.4	119.0	0.2	3.0
Household operations and furnishings	10.58	115.5	115.3	115.2	0.2	0.3
Clothing and footwear	5.37	103.0	100.0	104.0	3.0	-1.0
Transportation	19.79	147.0	146.3	141.9	0.5	3.6
Health and personal care	4.52	119.7	119.0	117.7	0.6	1.7
Recreation, education and reading	11.96	126.3	125.5	126.6	0.6	-0.2
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	4.13	145.2	145.1	141.1	0.1	2.9
All-items (1986=100)		161.1				
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1992		79.5	79.8	81.2		
Special aggregates						
Goods	48.84	120.5	119.8	118.2	0.6	1.9
Services	51.16	131.7	131.4	128.8	0.2	2.3
All-items excluding food and energy	74.27	123.0	122.6	121.2	0.3	1.5
Energy	8.84	152.3	149.1	141.9	2.1	7.3
All-items excluding the 8 most volatile components[3]	82.75	125.9	125.5	123.7	0.3	1.8

1. *2001 CPI basket weights at June 2004 prices, effective July 2004.*
2. *Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.*
3. *Excluded from the All-items CPI are the following eight volatile components, as defined by the Bank of Canada: fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuel; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies. The Bank of Canada further adjusts this series to obtain their measure of core inflation, which also excludes the effect of changes in indirect taxes. For data and information on core inflation, please consult the Bank of Canada Web site (www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm).*

Consumer Price Index by province, and for Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit
(1992=100)

	February 2005	January 2005	February 2004	January to February 2005	February 2004 to February 2005
	Unadjusted				
				% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador	124.5	123.9	120.8	0.5	3.1
Prince Edward Island	125.6	125.3	122.4	0.2	2.6
Nova Scotia	127.4	127.0	124.2	0.3	2.6
New Brunswick	125.6	125.2	123.1	0.3	2.0
Quebec	122.0	121.6	119.7	0.3	1.9
Ontario	127.1	126.2	124.4	0.7	2.2
Manitoba	129.5	129.2	125.4	0.2	3.3
Saskatchewan	130.9	130.6	127.2	0.2	2.9
Alberta	131.9	131.7	129.9	0.2	1.5
British Columbia	123.8	123.6	121.3	0.2	2.1
Whitehorse	121.5	121.3	119.3	0.2	1.8
Yellowknife	122.0	121.8	117.7	0.2	3.7
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	101.7	102.0	99.9	-0.3	1.8

1. *View the geographical details for the city of Whitehorse, the city of Yellowknife and the town of Iqaluit.*

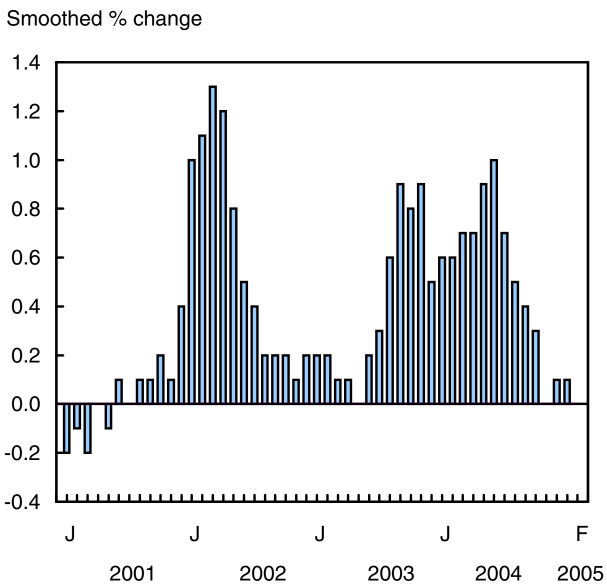
■

Leading indicators

February 2005

The composite index was unchanged in February, after advances of 0.1% in December and January. A slowdown in the auto sector led to a fourth component turning down, one more than in January. Another component (the US leading indicator) was unchanged, as it was the previous month. The stock market remained by far the strongest source of growth, and investment spending plans improved.

Composite index



Durable goods sales turned down due to autos. By January, autos sales in Canada were nearly 20% below their peak level of December 2002. Soaring gasoline prices helped depress demand, especially for North American-built trucks, vans and SUVs.

Two manufacturing-related components posted the largest drops, also triggered by weakness in autos. The average workweek shrank. Transportation equipment was the only durable good industry where the average workweek was shorter than a year ago (falling from 40.0 to 37.7 hours). The ratio of shipments to stocks posted a second straight decline, as inventories piled up. The auto sector again was the weakest, notably motor vehicle parts.

Conversely, new factory orders accelerated, reflecting strength in investment, construction and metals. Investment intentions for 2005 rose 8.8%, after outlays accelerated in 2004. The stock market trend reflected the improved business outlook, with its largest increase since February 2004.

With housing starting the new year on a good note, furniture and appliance sales continued to trend upwards. Helped by warmer weather, housing starts on the Prairies matched growth in British Columbia. However, they did not fully recover all of their January losses in Ontario and Quebec. Overall, the housing index was unchanged.

The US leading indicator was flat for a second consecutive month after three straight declines. Stock market prices rose, while business investment increasingly took the lead from consumer-related spending. All our exports to the United States rose in January, except for a rare drop for energy, with resource exports showing double-digit growth across the board over the past year.

Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1601.

For more information on the economy, consult the March 2005 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer* (11-010-XIB, \$19/\$182).

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*) Current Economic Analysis Group. □

Leading indicators

	September 2004	October 2004	November 2004	December 2004	January 2005	February 2005	Last month of data available
							% change
Composite leading indicator (1992=100)	**200.0**	**200.6**	**200.6**	**200.9**	**201.2**	**201.3**	**0.0**
Housing index (1992=100)[1]	144.4	142.7	142.2	141.8	139.0	138.7	-0.2
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,611	2,613	2,613	2,617	2,618	2,621	0.1
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	8,493	8,584	8,681	8,839	9,004	9,204	2.2
Money supply, M1 ($ millions, 1992)[2]	129,843	130,707	130,497	130,899	131,877	133,014	0.9
US composite leading indicator (1992=100)[3]	115.5	115.4	115.2	115.0	115.0	115.0	0.0
Manufacturing							
Average workweek (hours)	38.4	38.4	38.4	38.2	38.1	37.9	-0.5
New orders, durables ($ millions, 1992)[4]	23,248	23,254	23,296	23,566	23,613	23,772	0.7
Shipments/inventories of finished goods[4]	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.89	1.88	-0.01
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales ($ millions, 1992)[4]	2,062	2,074	2,090	2,107	2,118	2,121	0.1
Other durable goods sales ($ millions, 1992)[4]	7,635	7,643	7,667	7,744	7,781	7,773	-0.1
Unsmoothed composite leading indicator	**201.3**	**201.6**	**200.3**	**201.4**	**201.2**	**201.8**	**0.3**

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.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Study: A regional perspective on energy consumption in Canada
1990 to 2003

Canada ranked almost equal to the United States for top place among the G-8 nations in terms of per capita energy consumption in 2002, according to a new study.

The study, which examines energy consumption in the different regions between 1990 and 2003, showed that Canadians consume nearly three times as much energy as Italians, who ranked last among the G-8 nations, the eight most industrialized in the world.

That's because of our long travel distances, our long winters, and an economy based partly on high energy consuming industries, such as mining, forestry, petrochemical, pulp and paper, aluminium smelters, refining and steel manufacturing.

Between 1990 and 2003, Canada's total energy consumption rose 23% from 8,549 petajoules to 10,477 petajoules, fuelled by a growing population and especially by economic growth.

One petajoule equals roughly the amount of energy required to operate the Montréal subway system for one year.

Canada has made a commitment under the Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gas emission by 6%. However, nearly all of the energy consumed in Canada comes from fossil fuels of non-renewable resources, namely refined petroleum products, natural gas and coal, which releases the most greenhouse gases when combusted. These three accounted for 87% of consumption in 2003, up from 85% in 1990.

Energy consumption rose in all regions between 1990 and 2003, with the biggest gain in Alberta (+38%). In 2003, its energy consumption per capita was 2.5 times the national average.

This increase was attributable to two factors: a 24% surge in Alberta's population and economic expansion based on energy-consuming industries, especially development of petroleum oil sands.

Saskatchewan recorded the second-highest increase in energy consumption (+34%), and Quebec the third highest with an increase of 20%, half of which was attributable to primary electricity, essentially hydroelectricity. In 2003, primary electricity represented 39% of Quebec's total consumption.

Total energy consumption increased in Ontario (+17%), British Columbia (+16%) and the Atlantic provinces (+16%) between 1990 and 2003. In Ontario and British Columbia, growing populations played a major role, while in the Atlantic provinces the demands of industry were the main factors.

The Northern Region and Manitoba had the lowest increase in energy consumption, rising only 3% during the 13-year period.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2147, 2167, 2168, 2194, 2196 and 5047.

The analytical article *Canada, A Big Energy Consumer: A Regional Perspective*, no. 23 (11-621-MIE2005023, free) is now available online in the *Analysis in Brief* series (11-621-MIE). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Business enterprises*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gary Smalldridge (613-951-3567), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Travel arrangement services
2003

The travel arrangement services industry, which is composed primarily of two groups (tour operators and travel agencies), faced a series of adverse conditions in 2003 including SARS and the war in Iraq.

Despite operating revenues increasing 4.7% to $7.6 billion, the travel arrangement services industry recorded zero profits in 2003 — down from a before-tax operating profit margin of 2.2% in 2002. Most of the revenue growth can be attributed to firms in the tour operating industry.

Firms in the tour operating industry, which earned over three-quarters (78%) of industry revenues, experienced a 6.5% increase in operating revenues over 2002 to $6.1 billion. Operating expenses have increased at a slightly higher rate at 7.9% to also reach $6.1 billion.

Operating revenues for travel agencies fell to $1.5 billion; a 1.9% drop from the previous year. In 2003, the profit margin for the travel agencies industry fell to 1.7% from 6.9% in 2002.

Travel agencies drew almost two-thirds (61%) of revenue from selling travel services and products to individuals or households for leisure purposes. Sales to business travellers accounted for 36% of revenue. In comparison, 82% of revenue for tour operators came from sales to leisure travellers.

About 6,900 establishments provided travel arrangement services in 2003. Nearly 8 in 10 were travel agencies (78%), while 18% were tour operators.

Available on CANSIM: table 351-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2423.

Data for the 2003 travel arrangement services industry are now available. These data provide information such as revenue, salaries and wages, profit margin and expenditures for North American Industry Classification System codes 561510, 561520 and 561590.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Janine Stafford (613-951-3288; *janine.stafford@statcan.ca*) or Daphne Bennett (613-951-3429; fax: 613-951-6696; *daphne.bennett@statcan.ca*), Services Industries Division. ■

Industrial research and development characteristics

1994 to 2004

Data for industrial research and development characteristics for Canada from 1994 to 2004 are now available.

These data are in a table which includes the following variables for industrial characteristics: intramural research and development; current and capital expenditures; wages and salaries; and person years under the 2002 North American Industry Classification System.

Available on CANSIM: table 358-0024.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4201.

For further information, contact Robert Schellings, (613-951-6675; fax: 613-951-9920; *robert.schellings@statcan.ca*), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

Crude oil and natural gas production

January 2005 (preliminary)

Provincial crude oil and marketable natural gas production data are now available for January.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2198.

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. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Analysis in Brief: Canada, A Big Energy Consumer: A Regional Perspective, 1990 to 2003, no. 23
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(free).

The Consumer Price Index, February 2005, Vol. 84, no. 2
Catalogue number 62-001-XIB ($9/$83).

The Consumer Price Index, February 2005, Vol. 84, no. 2
Catalogue number 62-001-XPB ($12/$111).

Retail Trade, January 2005, Vol. 77, no. 1
Catalogue number 63-005-XIE ($18/$166).

Perspectives on Labour and Income, Spring 2005, Vol. 17, no. 1
Catalogue number 75-001-XPE ($20/$63).

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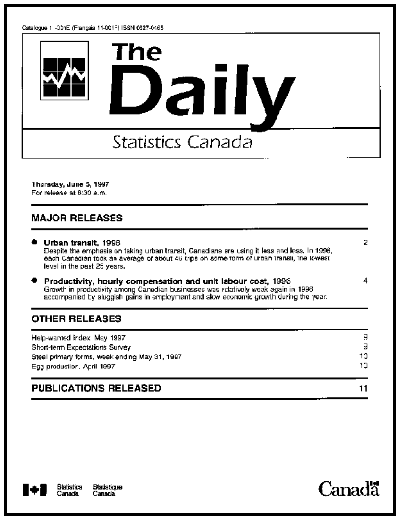

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The Daily

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

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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Canada

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