Catalogue 11-001-XIE (Français 11-001-XIF) ISSN 0827-0465

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, April 6, 2005
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Major releases

Other releases

New products

Major releases

Building permits

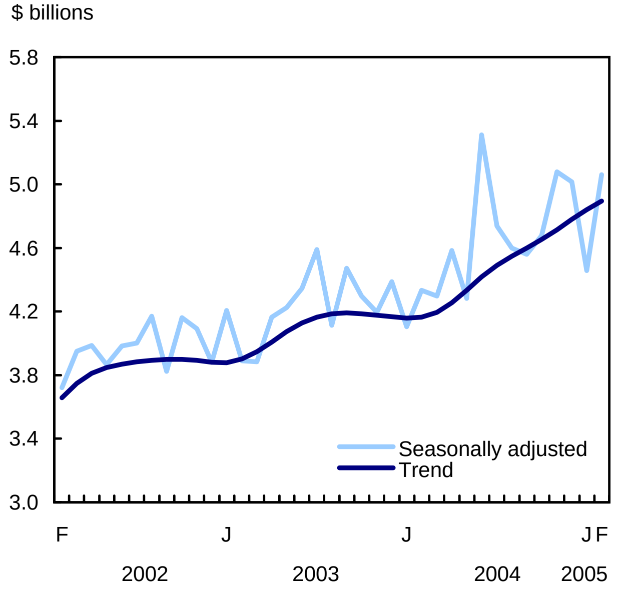
February 2005

Construction activity could intensify in the coming months as the value of building permits issued by municipalities hit its third highest level on record in February.

Across-the-board increases in every component of both residential and non-residential sectors fuelled a 13.5% surge in permits to $5.06 billion. This followed an 11.1% decline in January.

It was the third time in the last four months that permits surpassed the $5-billion mark. February's monthly total was only lower than June 2004 ($5.31 billion) and November 2004 ($5.08 billion). The value of building permits is considered an early indicator of construction activity.

Construction intentions were high in February



On the residential side, housing intentions rose 11.8% to $3.4 billion, the fourth monthly gain in the last five months. This level was just 1.4% short of the record high reached last June. Both single- and multi-family intentions recorded strong gains.

On the non-residential side, the value of permits hit $1.7 billion, a 17.1% rebound from a 17.8% drop in January. All three components (commercial, industrial and institutional) were behind the strong showing. The value of non-residential permits has been on an upward trend since March 2004.

> ***Note to readers***
>
> *Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.*
>
> *The Building Permits Survey covers 2,380 municipalities representing 95% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 5% of the population are very small, and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total.*
>
> *The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (e.g., waterworks, sewers or culverts) and land.*

On a year-to-date basis, the value of overall construction intentions hit $9.5 billion, 12.8% higher than the total for the first two months of 2004, which was a record year. Residential intentions were up 13.4% and non-residential up 11.5%.

Among metropolitan areas, Toronto and Edmonton began 2005 strongly. In Toronto, a buoyant demand for new multi-family dwellings drove the increase. In Edmonton, the gain was spread across the various categories of residential and non-residential buildings. However, the gain shown in the country-wide cumulative value of building permits came largely from non-metropolitan areas.

Housing: Hot demand for single-family dwellings

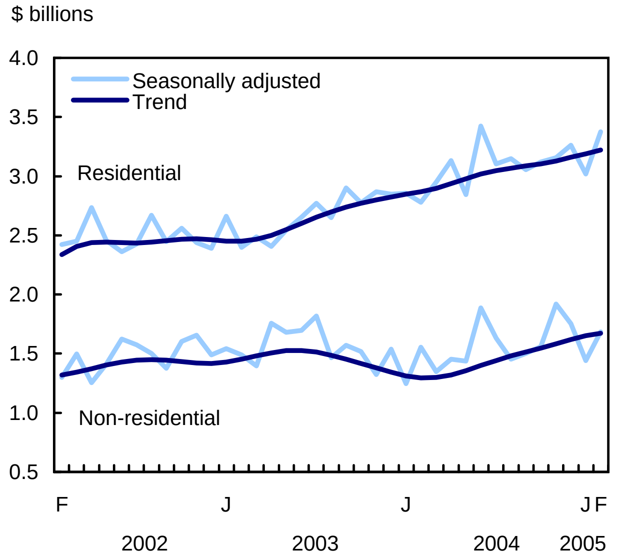
In total, municipalities approved 21,445 new units in February alone, the second highest monthly level in the last 15 years.

The value of permits for single-family dwellings, the largest contributor to the housing sector, rose 14.1% to $2.2 billion in February. For multi-family dwellings, municipalities issued permits worth $1.2 billion, up 7.9%. This followed a 28.9% gain in January.

Several factors contributed to the strength in the housing sector: low, stable mortgage rates; rising disposable income; strength in employment; and a high degree of consumer confidence.

February's gain in housing permits was spread across all provinces, except for Newfoundland and Labrador. Significant gains were recorded in Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta. In Alberta, the value of housing permits reached a record $500 million in February.

Both residential and non-residential sectors increased



On a year-to-date basis, the total value of single-family permits issued in the first two months of 2005 was 8.0% higher than in the same period in 2004. The cumulative value of multi-family permits rose 24.6% for the same period.

Except for New Brunswick, all provinces posted stronger year-to-date results in the residential sector with the largest advances in Ontario and Alberta.

Non-residential projects rebound after two monthly drops

February's rebound in non-residential permits followed two straight monthly declines.

In the institutional component, intentions rose 31.8% to $396 million after two strong monthly decreases. Most of the projects came from educational and government buildings categories.

The value of commercial permits increased 7.3% to $1.1 billion, the result of higher intentions in the office building and warehouse categories. This increase, the third in a row, placed the commercial sector at its highest level since August 1989.

Intentions in the industrial component rose 51.8% to $228 million, following two large declines. All industrial categories recorded an increase from January, but the growth came mostly from the manufacturing building category.

Non-residential permits were up in 17 of 28 census metropolitan areas. The largest increase (in dollars) occurred in Toronto, the result of a strong gain in the three components. In contrast, Edmonton recorded the strongest decrease, mainly the result of a drop in industrial and commercial intentions.

Provincially, Ontario recorded the largest advance in the non-residential sector (+47.2% to $826 million), the result of large increases in all three components. In particular, commercial building permits in Ontario hit their highest level since January 2001. In contrast, a large decrease in the commercial component led Alberta to the strongest decline, down 21.1% to $252 million.

A level of uncertainty exists in economic indicators, particularly with respect to the manufacturing sector. Industrial capacity utilization increased only marginally during the fourth quarter of 2004 as a result of weak exports. A decline in international demand had an especially strong impact on the manufacturing sector, where capacity use stalled.

Office vacancy rates fell in all major markets during 2004, driving the national vacancy rate downward from the third quarter to the fourth quarter. At the same time, industrial vacancy rates remained nearly unchanged.

On a year-to-date basis, non-residential intentions reached $3.1 billion, up 11.5% from the first two months of 2004.

Only construction intentions for commercial projects contributed to the advance, increasing 26.6% to $2.1 billion. The year-to-date value for industrial building reached $378 million, down 5.8% from the same period of 2004. Intentions in the institutional component fell 10.8% to $697 million.

Among the provinces, Alberta had the largest year-to-date gain in the wake of strong increases in non-residential permits across the province. Quebec recorded the largest decrease due to a decline in all three components.

Available on CANSIM: tables 026-0001 to 026-0008, 026-0010 and 026-0015.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The February 2005 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001-XIE, $15/$156) will be available soon.

The March 2005 building permit estimate will be released on May 5.

To order data, contact Brad Sernoskie (613-951-4646 or 1-800-579-8533; *bdp_information@statcan.ca*). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

□

Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area[1]

	January 2005[r]	February 2005[p]	January to February 2005	January to February 2004	January to February 2005	January-February 2004 to January-February 2005
	seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
St. John's	25.2	20.0	-20.6	52.9	45.2	-14.6
Halifax	29.2	28.3	-3.2	65.0	57.5	-11.5
Saint John	7.6	12.5	63.5	15.9	20.1	26.5
Saguenay	6.6	3.7	-43.3	10.5	10.3	-2.2
Québec	48.8	115.4	136.4	216.3	164.3	-24.1
Sherbrooke	14.6	18.4	25.8	28.7	33.0	14.9
Trois-Rivières	13.4	11.7	-12.3	16.8	25.1	49.9
Montréal	476.8	541.7	13.6	1,151.3	1,018.4	-11.5
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	112.6	260.0	130.8	365.8	372.7	1.9
Ottawa–Gatineau (Que. part)	21.5	28.8	34.2	67.0	50.3	-25.0
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ont. part)	91.2	231.2	153.6	298.8	322.4	7.9
Kingston	9.5	12.0	26.5	24.0	21.4	-10.8
Oshawa	64.2	72.5	13.0	100.9	136.7	35.5
Toronto	849.8	1,141.2	34.3	1,784.3	1,991.0	11.6
Hamilton	94.2	77.8	-17.4	133.7	171.9	28.6
St. Catharines–Niagara	30.1	42.0	39.8	87.3	72.1	-17.4
Kitchener	68.2	58.8	-13.8	180.2	127.0	-29.5
London	54.3	85.1	56.7	169.9	139.5	-17.9
Windsor	40.1	31.6	-21.2	89.9	71.7	-20.2
Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury	20.1	6.0	-70.4	4.7	26.1	456.3
Thunder Bay	16.3	21.3	30.6	11.7	37.7	222.3
Winnipeg	39.5	50.0	26.7	101.1	89.5	-11.5
Regina	36.8	11.9	-67.7	33.9	48.7	43.4
Saskatoon	18.9	19.5	3.5	30.3	38.4	26.6
Calgary	197.5	303.4	53.6	404.8	500.8	23.7
Edmonton	246.6	184.4	-25.3	291.4	431.0	47.9
Abbotsford	13.2	19.2	46.1	24.0	32.4	34.8
Vancouver	323.8	340.4	5.1	775.9	664.2	-14.4
Victoria	29.8	70.4	136.3	82.9	100.2	20.9

r *Revised data.*
p *Preliminary data.*
1. *Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.*
Note: *Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.*

Value of building permits, by province and territory

	January 2005[r]	February 2005[p]	January to February 2005	January to February 2004	January to February 2005	January-February 2004 to January-February 2005
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
Canada	**4,457.7**	**5,060.7**	**13.5**	**8,437.4**	**9,518.4**	**12.8**
Residential	3,018.1	3,375.0	11.8	5,635.6	6,393.1	13.4
Non-residential	1,439.6	1,685.7	17.1	2,801.8	3,125.3	11.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	37.9	33.2	-12.4	68.0	71.0	4.5
Residential	30.6	24.9	-18.5	54.3	55.5	2.3
Non-residential	7.3	8.2	13.3	13.7	15.5	13.1
Prince Edward Island	12.9	24.9	93.4	23.1	37.7	63.0
Residential	11.6	12.2	5.1	17.1	23.8	39.3
Non-residential	1.3	12.7	898.0	6.1	14.0	129.3
Nova Scotia	62.3	62.2	-0.2	125.7	124.5	-0.9
Residential	45.5	47.9	5.3	87.2	93.3	7.0
Non-residential	16.9	14.3	-15.0	38.5	31.2	-18.9
New Brunswick	44.2	53.7	21.5	90.4	97.9	8.3
Residential	32.1	41.2	28.3	76.7	73.3	-4.5
Non-residential	12.1	12.6	3.6	13.7	24.7	80.1
Quebec	891.0	980.1	10.0	1,975.3	1,871.0	-5.3
Residential	620.4	718.8	15.9	1,291.3	1,339.3	3.7
Non-residential	270.5	261.2	-3.4	684.0	531.7	-22.3
Ontario	1,869.7	2,224.4	19.0	3,610.1	4,094.1	13.4
Residential	1,308.5	1,398.3	6.9	2,281.5	2,706.8	18.6
Non-residential	561.2	826.1	47.2	1,328.6	1,387.4	4.4
Manitoba	71.8	81.9	14.2	157.0	153.7	-2.1
Residential	45.7	51.7	13.1	94.8	97.3	2.6
Non-residential	26.1	30.3	16.0	62.2	56.4	-9.3
Saskatchewan	69.2	49.6	-28.3	91.9	118.8	29.3
Residential	30.3	30.8	1.6	54.2	61.2	12.8
Non-residential	38.8	18.8	-51.5	37.7	57.7	53.1
Alberta	742.4	751.7	1.2	1,002.7	1,494.1	49.0
Residential	422.9	499.6	18.1	706.0	922.4	30.7
Non-residential	319.6	252.1	-21.1	296.7	571.6	92.7
British Columbia	652.4	794.1	21.7	1,266.1	1,446.6	14.3
Residential	467.5	546.4	16.9	966.0	1,013.9	5.0
Non-residential	184.9	247.7	34.0	300.0	432.6	44.2
Yukon	3.3	2.1	-38.7	3.9	5.4	39.5
Residential	2.7	1.9	-29.6	2.9	4.7	62.3
Non-residential	0.6	0.1	-79.7	1.0	0.7	-26.2
Northwest Territories	0.6	2.4	333.7	13.7	3.0	-78.1
Residential	0.3	1.3	424.5	2.6	1.6	-39.7
Non-residential	0.3	1.1	259.8	11.1	1.4	-87.1
Nunavut	0.0	0.4	13,300.0	9.5	0.4	-95.7
Residential	0.0	0.0	-100.0	0.9	0.0	-99.7
Non-residential	0.0	0.4	...	8.6	0.4	-95.3

[r] *Revised data.*
[p] *Preliminary data.*
... *Data not applicable.*
Note: *Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.*

■

Other releases

Farm operating revenues and expenses

2003 (final estimates)

Operating expenses for each Canadian farm increased at more than twice the rate of growth of operating revenues on average in 2003, according to tax records.

Revenues per farm were up 2.5% on average from 2002 to $207,689. At the same time, average operating expenses jumped 5.6% to $182,122.

As a result, operating margins fell from 14.9 cents per dollar of revenue in 2002 to 12.3 cents in 2003, the lowest level since at least 1990.

The gain in average operating revenues was largely due to a 6.1% increase in average crop revenues. Average sales of fruit rose by 14.0% and greenhouse, nursery and floriculture products increased by 12.1%. Sales of vegetables also contributed to the advance in the crop sector.

Despite declines in wheat, oat and barley, sales of grains and oilseeds rose 5.0% on average, partly the result of a 29.7% increase in soybeans and a 17.5% gain in canola.

Total average livestock revenues fell 3.3% in 2003. Average cattle revenues fell 15.4%, mainly because of the ban on beef trade half-way through 2003. However, milk products and subsidies were up 10.3%. Poultry and hog revenues also improved.

Average program payments and insurance proceeds increased 35.1%. In 2003, they accounted for 8.9% of average operating revenues, the highest share since 1992.

The higher operating expenses were mostly driven by a 13.0% growth in crop expenses, in particular a 16.0% increase in fertilizer and chemical costs. Heating fuel costs jumped 40.3%, while insurance was up 17.2% and marketing expenses rose 13.5%.

Livestock expenses fell 2.9% in 2003, mainly due to a 13.8% drop in cattle purchases. The cost of feed and veterinary fees both went up.

Fruit and tree nuts farms where the only farm type posting higher operating margins in 2003, with a gain of only 1.0 cent. Only dairy farms reported operating margins above 20 cents on average in 2003 at 22.9 cents per dollar of revenue. This was down 0.5 cents from 2002.

Grain and oilseed farms ranked second at 19.1 cents, but they posted the biggest decline of 4.8 cents. Beef cattle and feedlot operations reported a drop of 4.3 cents.

On the basis of sales, farms with operating revenues of between $250,000 and $499,999 had the highest operating margins of an estimated 18.0 cents, down 2.0 cents from 2002.

Farms with operating revenues of between $100,000 and $249,999 recorded a margin of 17.3 cents, down 3.9 cents. Farms with operating revenues above $500,000 represent 7.5% of all farms but 54.6% of all farming revenues.

Note: These estimates cover unincorporated farms with gross operating revenues of $10,000 and over, and corporations with total farm sales of $25,000 and over for which 50% or more of sales come from agricultural activities. These estimates include communal organizations such as Hutterite colonies. Operating margin is defined as one dollar minus operating expenses (before depreciation) per dollar of revenue.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3447.

For custom data requests, contact Client Services (1-800-465-1991; 613-951-5027). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Daniel Michaud (613-951-0701), Agriculture Division. □

Average operating revenues and expenses per farm and operating margins

	2002			2003			2002 to 2003	
	Average operating revenues	Average operating expenses	Operating margins[1]	Average operating revenues	Average operating expenses	Operating margins[1]	Average operating revenues	Average operating expenses
	dollars		cents	dollars		cents	% change	
All farms	**202,654**	**172,405**	**14.9**	**207,689**	**182,122**	**12.3**	**2.5**	**5.6**
Farm types								
Grain and oilseed	131,891	100,338	23.9	138,173	111,751	19.1	4.8	11.4
Potato	620,995	501,150	19.3	598,228	495,261	17.2	-3.7	-1.2
Other vegetable and melon	292,599	248,236	15.2	285,750	243,854	14.7	-2.3	-1.8
Fruit and tree nut	142,574	124,016	13.0	154,587	132,883	14.0	8.4	7.1
Greenhouse, nursery and floriculture	683,518	615,728	9.9	729,241	661,523	9.3	6.7	7.4
Other crop	98,543	79,197	19.6	97,035	82,016	15.5	-1.5	3.6
Beef cattle and feedlots	181,816	166,989	8.2	170,433	163,731	3.9	-6.3	-2.0
Dairy and milk production	299,244	229,245	23.4	322,523	248,738	22.9	7.8	8.5
Hog and pig	720,330	666,444	7.5	793,886	754,752	4.9	10.2	13.3
Poultry and egg	722,630	641,468	11.2	743,932	663,735	10.8	2.9	3.5
Other animal	148,217	132,354	10.7	152,869	138,572	9.4	3.1	4.7

1. Defined as one dollar less operating expenses (before depreciation) per dollar of revenue.

■

Domestic sales of refined petroleum products

February 2005 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products totalled 8 080 900 cubic metres in February, up 0.4% from February 2004. Sales increased in three of the seven major product groups, with diesel fuel oil up 81 300 cubic metres or 4.1%. Motor gasoline rose 35 800 cubic metres or 1.1 % and heavy fuel oil rose 75 700 cubic metres or 14.5%.

Sales of regular non-leaded (+1.5%) and sales of premium (+0.8%) rose while mid-grade (-10.6%) fell from February 2004.

Year-to-date sales of refined petroleum products at the end of February reached 18 069 000 cubic metres up 9.9% from the same period of 2004. Sales rose in six of the seven major product groups, with the largest increase in motor gasoline (+9.7% or 621 900 cubic metres).

Sales of refined petroleum products

	February 2004[r]	February 2005[p]	February 2004 to February 2005
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total, all products	**8 047.0**	**8 080.9**	**0.4**
Motor gasoline	3 123.4	3 159.2	1.1
Diesel fuel oil	1 961.4	2 042.7	4.1
Light fuel oil	707.4	634.0	-10.4
Heavy fuel oil	522.0	597.7	14.5
Aviation turbo fuels	450.3	409.0	-9.2
Petrochemical feedstocks[1]	367.1	361.8	-1.4
All other refined products	915.3	876.4	-4.2

	January to February 2004[r]	January to February 2005[p]	Jan.-February 2004 to Jan.-February 2005
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total, all products	**16 435.2**	**18 069.0**	**9.9**
Motor gasoline	6 410.1	7 032.0	9.7
Diesel fuel oil	3 860.8	4 408.1	14.2
Light fuel oil	1 604.1	1 544.9	-3.7
Heavy fuel oil	1 139.2	1 620.6	42.3
Aviation turbo fuels	894.4	914.2	2.2
Petrochemical feedstocks[1]	740.1	758.8	2.5
All other refined products	1 786.5	1 790.3	0.2

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.

Note: 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 toll free (1-866-873-8789 or 613-951-9497; *energ@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products

December 2004

Data on the net receipts of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons, liquefied petroleum gases and refined petroleum products, pipeline exports of crude oil and deliveries of crude oil by pipeline to Canadian refineries are now available for December 2004.

Available on CANSIM: tables 133-0001 to 133-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2148 and 2191.

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. ■

Farm product prices

February 2005

Prices received by farmers in February for grains, oilseeds, specialty crops, potatoes, cattle, hogs, poultry, eggs and dairy products are now available.

The Manitoba oat price in February was $130.20 per metric tonne, down 1% from January 2005 but up 3% from February 2004 when it was $126.56.

The February feeder cattle price in Ontario was $96.13 per hundredweight, up 7% from January 2005 and up 46% from the February 2004 price when it was at $65.75.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3436.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-3445; fax: 204-983-7543; *gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Sawmills and planing mills

January 2005

Data on sawmills and planing mills are now available for January.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0009.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2134 and 2135.

The January 2005 issue of *Sawmills and Planing Mills*, Vol. 59, no. 1 (35-003-XIB, $10/$93) 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. ■

Asphalt roofing

February 2005

Data on asphalt roofing are now available for February.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0052.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2123.

Note: The publication *Asphalt Roofing* (45-001-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. ■

New products

Sawmills and Planing Mills, January 2005, Vol. 59, no. 1
Catalogue number 35-003-XIB ($10/$93).

Employment, Earnings and Hours, January 2005, Vol. 83, no. 1
Catalogue number 72-002-XIB ($26/$257).

Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics: Research Papers: Salaries and Salary Scales of Full-time Teaching Staff at Canadian Universities, 2002/03: Final Report, no. 27
Catalogue number 81-595-MIE2005027 (free).

Quarterly Demographic Statistics, October to December 2004, Vol. 18, no. 4
Catalogue number 91-002-XIB ($9/$27).

Quarterly Demographic Statistics, October-December 2004, Vol. 18, no. 4
Catalogue number 91-002-XPB ($11/$36).

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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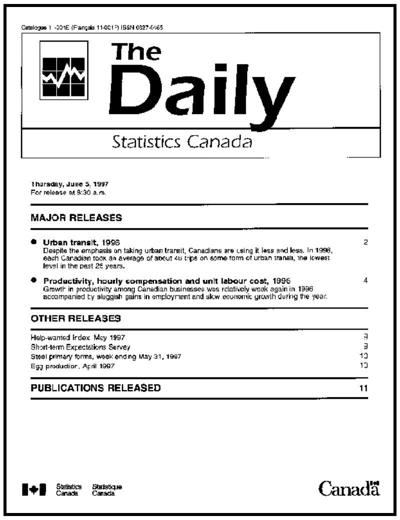

Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

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

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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