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Releases

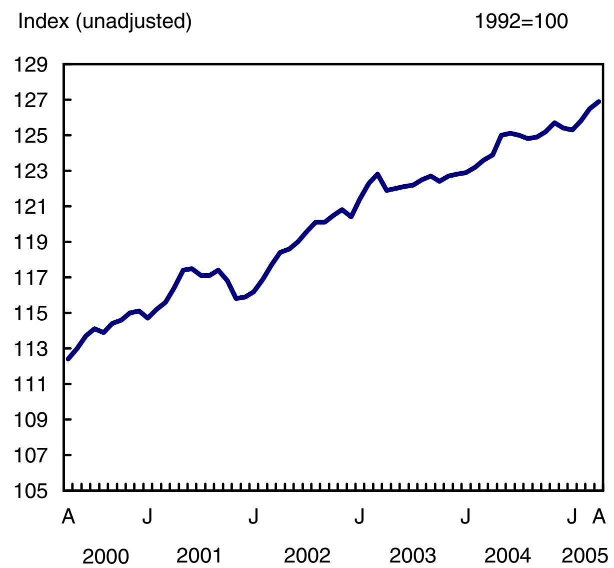
Releases

Consumer Price Index

April 2005

In April 2005, consumers paid 2.4% more than in April 2004 for the goods and services included in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket. This increase follows a 12-month rise of 2.3% in March.

The Consumer Price Index



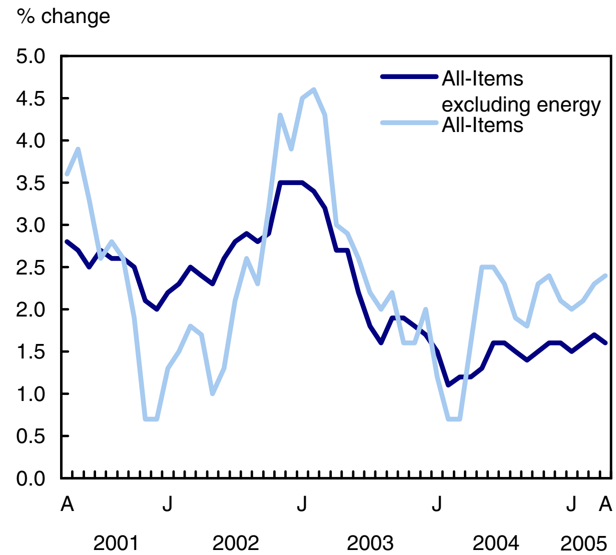
The CPI excluding energy was up 1.6% between April 2004 and April 2005. This 12-month change was slightly lower than the 1.7% increase in March 2005.

The All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada rose by 1.7% between April 2004 and April 2005, down from the 1.9% increase of March.

Between March and April, the All-items index rose by 0.3% after increasing 0.6% in March. A drop in prices for women's clothing, which usually occurs in April, accounted for most of the decrease in the monthly variation.

The All-items index excluding energy as well as the All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada remained unchanged in April.

Percentage change from the same month of the previous year



Once again, gasoline prices remained the main factor behind the 12-month increase in the CPI

In April, the CPI increased 2.4% compared with April 2004. Upward pressure was exerted primarily by gasoline prices, homeowners' replacement cost, restaurant meals, fuel oil and property taxes.

Moderating these increases were lower prices for computer equipment and supplies, women's clothing, and traveller accommodation.

On average, gasoline prices in April were 15.3% higher than in April 2004. Residents of Manitoba experienced the highest increases (+23.9%), while those of Prince Edward Island saw the lowest (+11.6%).

Homeowners' replacement cost, which represents the worn out structural portion of housing and is estimated using new housing prices (excluding land), rose 5.8% over April 2004, a 12-month increase identical to that of March. All regions reported increases which ranged from 0.8% to 8.7%.

Consumers saw a 3.1% increase in the cost of restaurant meals between April 2004 and April 2005. This increase can be explained by several specials offered last year on meals purchased from fast-food and take-out restaurants as well as an increase in meals purchased from table-service restaurants in April of this year.

Fuel oil prices jumped an average of 31.6% between April 2004 and April 2005. Increases occurred in all provinces, ranging from 27.6% in Ontario to 38.6% in Prince Edward Island.

Property tax increases reflected in the CPI in October 2004 (+4.3%) also played a large part in the 12-month rise in the All-items index.

A number of factors exerted a moderating effect on the 12-month change in the All-items index. These included the index for computer equipment and supplies, which dropped by 20.1% compared with April 2004. Since the introduction of this commodity in December 1994, the index has dropped from 100.0 to 14.7 in April 2005.

Prices for women's clothing were down 2.9% in April after posting a 12-month increase of 1.4% in March. An increase in the number of specials offered by the retailers pushed down the 12-month movement.

The index for traveller accommodation was down 5.1% compared with April 2004. All provinces posted declines, ranging from 0.6% in Saskatchewan to 8.4% in Ontario.

Although gasoline prices pushed up the monthly index, lower prices of women's clothing slowed its rise

Between March and April, the CPI rose by 0.3%, from a level of 126.5 to 126.9 (1992=100). Higher prices for gasoline, electricity and fresh vegetables accounted for most of this increase. Lower prices for women's clothing, the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles, and natural gas however exerted a mitigating effect.

Mirroring the March increase, gasoline prices were up 5.2% in April. Consumers saw increases ranging from 3.1% in Quebec to 9.6% in British Columbia.

Higher electricity prices, especially in Ontario (+6.6%), pushed up the electricity index by 2.8%. Saskatchewan was the only province where prices fell. Higher electricity prices in Ontario came into effect on April 1, 2005, when the Ontario Energy Board approved a rate increase.

Fresh vegetable prices were up 5.5% in April. Poor weather conditions for harvests of "other fresh vegetables" (+9.2%) and lettuce (+32.9%) were the main reason for this increase. In contrast, tomato prices were down (-18.4%) due to availability of products from domestic greenhouses.

Among the factors influencing the decrease in the movement of the All-items index between March and April 2005, the most significant were prices for women's clothing. Following a 6.0% increase in March 2005, prices for women's clothing were down 6.8% in April, due to many specials, typically offered by retailers in this month.

Increased financial incentives offered in April by some automotive vehicle manufacturers resulted in a monthly decrease of 0.6% in prices for the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles.

Natural gas prices were down 3.8% in April under the influence of decreases in Ontario (-12.9%), although Alberta (+15.9%) and Quebec (+2.1%) posted increases. Prices in the other provinces remained stable.

The seasonally adjusted CPI rose between March and April

Seasonally adjusted, the CPI was up 0.3% between March and April 2005.

The indexes for transportation (+0.8%), food (+0.9%), shelter (+0.3%), recreation, education and reading (+0.2%), health and personal care (+0.3%), as well as alcoholic beverages and tobacco products (+0.1%) pushed up the seasonally adjusted All-items index.

The seasonally adjusted indexes for household operations and furnishings (-0.2%), and clothing and footwear (-1.6%) exerted downward pressure.

All-items index excluding the eight most volatile components

The All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada rose by 1.7% between April 2004 and April 2005. The main contributors to this increase were homeowners' replacement cost (+5.8%), restaurant meals (+3.1%), and property taxes (+4.3%). The increase was partially offset by lower prices for computer equipment and supplies (-20.1%), women's clothing (-2.9%) and traveller accommodation (-5.1%).

From March to April 2005, the All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada remained unchanged. Lower prices for women's clothing (-6.8%) were offset by higher prices for electricity (+2.8%), bread, rolls and buns (+4.6%), and restaurant meals (+0.5%).

Energy

The energy index climbed 10.7% between April 2004 and April 2005, mainly as a result of higher gasoline prices (+15.3%). Higher prices for fuel oil (+31.6%), electricity (+2.9%) and natural gas (+2.8%), as well as for fuel, parts and supplies for recreational vehicles (+9.4%), also contributed to pushing up the energy index.

On a monthly basis, the energy index rose 3.2% mainly owing to higher gasoline prices (+5.2%). Prices for electricity (+2.8%), fuel oil (+2.2%), and fuel, parts and supplies for recreational vehicles (+2.6%) also served to push the index up. Only prices for natural gas (-3.8%) exerted a dampening effect on this increase.

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 April 2005 issue of the *Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 84, no. 4 (62-001-XIB, $9/$83; 62-001-XPB, $12/$111) is now available. See *How to order products*.

The May 2005 Consumer Price Index will be released on June 24.

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.

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Consumer Price Index and major components

(1992=100)

	Relative importance[1]	April 2005	March 2005	April 2004	March to April 2005	April 2004 to April 2005
		unadjusted				
					% change	
All-items	**100.00**	**126.9**	**126.5**	**123.9**	**0.3**	**2.4**
Food	16.89	128.3	127.1	123.4	0.9	4.0
Shelter	26.75	123.4	123.0	119.6	0.3	3.2
Household operations and furnishings	10.58	115.5	115.7	115.6	-0.2	-0.1
Clothing and footwear	5.37	102.9	106.0	103.8	-2.9	-0.9
Transportation	19.79	149.5	148.3	143.5	0.8	4.2
Health and personal care	4.52	120.9	120.0	119.0	0.8	1.6
Recreation, education and reading	11.96	126.8	126.8	127.1	0.0	-0.2
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	4.13	146.5	146.3	142.2	0.1	3.0
All-items (1986=100)		162.6				
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1992		78.8	79.1	80.7		
Special aggregates						
Goods	48.84	122.2	121.8	119.1	0.3	2.6
Services	51.16	132.1	131.9	129.3	0.2	2.2
All-items excluding food and energy	74.27	123.2	123.4	121.7	-0.2	1.2
Energy	8.84	161.9	156.9	146.2	3.2	10.7
All-items excluding the 8 most volatile components[3]	82.75	126.4	126.4	124.3	0.0	1.7

1. *2001 CPI basket weights at June 2004 prices, Canada, effective July 2004. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 (http://www.statcan.ca/english/sdds/index.htm).*
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)

	April 2005	March 2005	April 2004	March to April 2005	April 2004 to April 2005
	unadjusted				
				% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador	126.0	125.0	121.6	0.8	3.6
Prince Edward Island	127.8	126.7	123.9	0.9	3.1
Nova Scotia	128.9	128.2	125.1	0.5	3.0
New Brunswick	127.1	126.6	123.5	0.4	2.9
Quebec	122.9	122.9	119.9	0.0	2.5
Ontario	128.0	127.8	125.1	0.2	2.3
Manitoba	130.8	130.0	126.4	0.6	3.5
Saskatchewan	132.5	131.6	128.4	0.7	3.2
Alberta	133.6	132.7	130.6	0.7	2.3
British Columbia	124.9	124.1	122.4	0.6	2.0
Whitehorse	122.9	122.2	120.2	0.6	2.2
Yellowknife	122.4	122.0	120.2[2]	0.3	1.8[2]
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	102.1	101.8	100.8	0.3	1.3

1. *View the geographical details for the city of Whitehorse, the city of Yellowknife and the town of Iqaluit.*
2. *Part of the increase first recorded in the shelter index for Yellowknife for December 2004 inadvertently reflected rent increases that actually occurred earlier. As a result, the change in the shelter index was overstated in December 2004, and was understated in the previous two years. The shelter index series for Yellowknife has been corrected from December 2002. In addition, the Yellowknife All-items CPI and some Yellowknife special aggregate index series have also changed. Data for Canada and all other provinces and territories were not affected.*

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Retail trade

March 2005

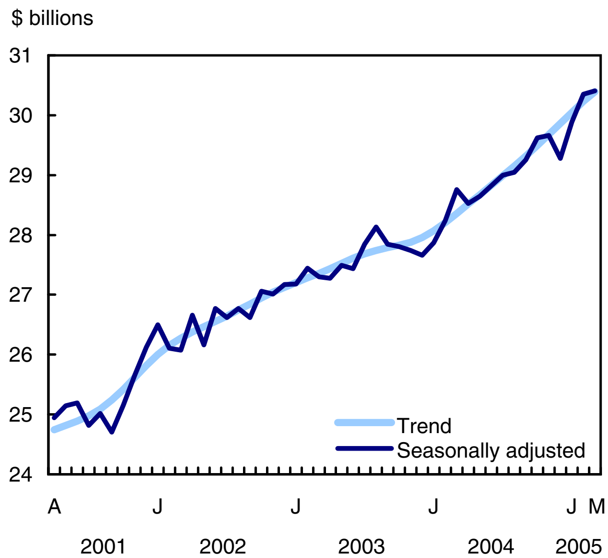
Retail sales edged up 0.2% in March to $30.4 billion, as weaker spending in half of all retail sectors almost completely offset the gains in the other half.

Excluding sales by dealers of new, used and recreational vehicles and auto parts, retail sales actually rose 0.9% in March, after advancing 2.1% in January and 1.1% in February.

In constant dollars, retail sales edged down 0.2% in March, following two months of strong increases. Consumers paid more for gasoline and clothing in March compared with February.

Consumer spending in retail stores has been increasing in almost every month since the start of 2004, except for the declines in December (-1.3%) and April (-0.8%) of that year. In fact, spending by consumers in retail stores advanced by almost 10% over the course of the period.

Retail sales changed little in March after two months of strong gains



Shoppers reduced their spending in four of the eight retail sectors in March. Retailers in the furniture sector posted the largest sales decline (-1.5%), followed by similar decreases in the automotive (-0.8%), clothing (-0.7%) and building supplies (-0.6%) sectors.

On the other hand, higher consumer spending was observed in the food (+1.7%), general merchandise (+1.1%), pharmacy (+1.0%) and miscellaneous (+0.9%) sectors. The miscellaneous sector includes retailers such as sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores.

Note to readers

Revised seasonally adjusted estimates in current and constant dollars are presented this month only for January and February 2005, instead of the usual three-month period. This was necessary in order to keep the sum of seasonally adjusted monthly estimates for 2004 equal to the sum of unadjusted monthly estimates.

Special study

A new article analysing the influence of gift cards on retail sales entitled Gift Cards: A Win-win Way to Give *will be available free of change in the* Analysis in Brief *publication on May 24 (11-621-MIE).*

Beer, wine and liquor stores on the rebound

Within the food and beverage sector, beer, wine and liquor stores posted the largest sales growth in March (+3.9%), followed by identical increases of 1.2% in supermarkets, and convenience and specialty food stores.

In the first three months of 2005, beer, wine and liquor stores have been on the rebound from poor sales results in the last two months of 2004. These declines were mostly attributed to the labour disputes at the Société des alcools du Québec and in the National Hockey League. Sales in this trade group also include alcoholic beverage sales to other retail establishments, such as bars, restaurants and supermarkets. Sales reported by beer, wine and liquor stores in the first quarter of 2005 stood at 8.5% above those in the last quarter of 2004.

In March, shoppers increased their spending by 1.4% in general merchandise stores not classified as department stores and by 0.9% in department stores. Sales in the overall general merchandise sector, in the first quarter of 2005, were 2.9% above those in the last quarter of 2004. This represented the largest quarterly gain for this sector in just over three years.

Pharmacies and personal care stores enjoyed sales increases in each of the first three months of 2005, resulting in a 1.5% quarterly gain. Sales at these stores have been rising in every quarter of the last five years.

First decline in four months in furniture sector

In March, retailers in the furniture, home furnishings and electronic sector suffered their first monthly sales loss in four months. Three of the four categories of retailers in this sector experienced lower sales. The only exception was a 0.8% increase in home electronics and appliance stores, which represented their fourth consecutive monthly sales gain. Despite March's setback, sales by retailers in the overall furniture sector in the first quarter of 2005 were 3.4% above those in the last quarter of 2004.

Lower sales at used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers (-3.8%) and at new car dealers (-1.7%) led to the sales decline observed in the overall automotive sector in March. Sales at new car dealers have generally been advancing since the start of 2004, after falling in the second half of 2003. Despite March's decline, sales at these dealers were still 2.2% above the average sales level seen in the record year of 2002.

For a third consecutive month, higher gasoline prices at the pump inflated sales at gasoline stations, which saw their sales rise 2.1% in March. Sales at gasoline stations have generally been increasing since the spring of 2003, mostly due to higher prices.

After three months on the rise, consumers reduced their spending in clothing and accessories stores in March. Overall, clothing and accessories stores enjoyed an excellent first quarter of 2005 in terms of sales growth. Sales advanced 2.9% compared with the last quarter of 2004, which represented the strongest quarterly growth for these retailers since the third quarter of 2000 (+4.3%).

March's lower sales in building and outdoor home supplies stores followed two consecutive months of strong gains. Sales in the first quarter of 2005 by these retailers stood at 9.3% above those in the same quarter of 2004. Building and outdoor home supplies stores have led all other retail sectors in terms of annual sales growth in the past three years.

Sales up in British Columbia, Alberta, Quebec and Saskatchewan

The only provincial retail sales gains in March occurred in British Columbia (+0.8%), Alberta (+0.6%), Quebec (+0.5%) and Saskatchewan (+0.5%). For their part, retailers in Ontario and New Brunswick posted essentially no change in sales, while those in the remaining provinces suffered sales declines.

Consumer spending in retail stores has been on the rise in each of the first three months of 2005 in Alberta, Quebec and Saskatchewan, leaving sales in these provinces about 3% above those in the last quarter of 2004.

Related indicators for April

Total employment advanced 0.2% in April, following a period of five months where the number of jobs grew by only 0.3%. Housing starts rose 5.5% to 230,400 units in April, just shy of the average level seen in the record year of 2004. The number of new motor vehicles sold in April is expected to remain at essentially the same level as in March, according to preliminary results from the auto industry.

Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0014 to 080-0017 and 076-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2406 and 2408.

The March 2005 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-XIE, $18/$166) will soon be available.

Data on retail trade for April will be released on June 21.

For more information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; *retailinfo@statcan.ca*). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Paul Gratton (613-951-3541), Distributive Trades Division.

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Retail sales

	March 2004	December 2004	January 2005[r]	February 2005[r]	March 2005[p]	February to March 2005	March 2004 to March 2005
	seasonally adjusted						
	$ millions					% change	
Automotive	**9,705**	**9,865**	**10,025**	**10,267**	**10,181**	**-0.8**	**4.9**
New car dealers	5,872	5,640	5,809	5,990	5,889	-1.7	0.3
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,218	1,281	1,252	1,293	1,244	-3.8	2.2
Gasoline stations	2,615	2,943	2,964	2,984	3,047	2.1	16.5
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	**1,962**	**2,061**	**2,101**	**2,143**	**2,111**	**-1.5**	**7.6**
Furniture stores	712	710	741	763	738	-3.3	3.7
Home furnishings stores	358	394	388	388	382	-1.6	6.7
Computer and software stores	129	142	142	142	135	-4.7	4.7
Home electronics and appliance stores	764	814	831	850	857	0.8	12.2
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	**1,726**	**1,783**	**1,803**	**1,839**	**1,828**	**-0.6**	**5.9**
Home centres and hardware stores	1,365	1,433	1,421	1,456	1,451	-0.3	6.3
Specialized building materials and garden stores	360	350	382	383	376	-1.8	4.4
Food and beverage stores	**6,746**	**6,913**	**7,120**	**7,188**	**7,308**	**1.7**	**8.3**
Supermarkets	4,855	5,146	5,215	5,180	5,243	1.2	8.0
Convenience and specialty food stores	723	759	755	775	784	1.2	8.5
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,169	1,008	1,149	1,232	1,281	3.9	9.6
Pharmacies and personal care stores	**1,868**	**1,914**	**1,959**	**1,963**	**1,983**	**1.0**	**6.2**
Clothing and accessories stores	**1,714**	**1,692**	**1,700**	**1,758**	**1,746**	**-0.7**	**1.9**
Clothing stores	1,296	1,284	1,322	1,361	1,348	-0.9	4.1
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	418	408	378	397	398	0.3	-4.8
General merchandise stores	**3,496**	**3,523**	**3,631**	**3,625**	**3,666**	**1.1**	**4.9**
Department stores	1,813	1,817	1,878	1,887	1,904	0.9	5.0
Other general merchandise stores	1,683	1,706	1,753	1,738	1,762	1.4	4.7
Miscellaneous retailers	**1,540**	**1,531**	**1,551**	**1,571**	**1,585**	**0.9**	**2.9**
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	726	759	761	770	784	1.8	8.0
Miscellaneous store retailers	814	772	790	801	801	0.1	-1.5
Total retail sales	**28,757**	**29,281**	**29,889**	**30,354**	**30,409**	**0.2**	**5.7**
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	**21,668**	**22,360**	**22,828**	**23,071**	**23,276**	**0.9**	**7.4**
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	467	492	487	494	490	-0.9	5.0
Prince Edward Island	118	114	117	127	119	-6.2	0.9
Nova Scotia	863	842	841	895	874	-2.3	1.3
New Brunswick	657	668	687	702	703	0.1	6.9
Quebec	6,525	6,575	6,858	6,918	6,956	0.5	6.6
Ontario	10,738	10,952	11,135	11,186	11,189	0.0	4.2
Manitoba	975	974	1,015	1,042	1,029	-1.2	5.5
Saskatchewan	851	867	875	900	904	0.5	6.3
Alberta	3,571	3,702	3,786	3,881	3,903	0.6	9.3
British Columbia	3,896	3,994	3,986	4,102	4,134	0.8	6.1
Yukon	35	36	36	36	37	3.3	6.5
Northwest Territories	42	46	47	50	49	-1.2	16.2
Nunavut	20	20	20	21	21	-0.5	3.6

[r] *Revised figures.*
[p] *Preliminary figures.*

Retail sales

	March 2004	February 2005[r]	March 2005[p]	March 2004 to March 2005
	unadjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Automotive	**10,003**	**8,437**	**10,508**	**5.1**
New car dealers	6,257	4,888	6,318	1.0
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,183	948	1,199	1.3
Gasoline stations	2,563	2,600	2,991	16.7
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	**1,794**	**1,679**	**1,919**	**7.0**
Furniture stores	635	590	658	3.5
Home furnishings stores	338	308	360	6.6
Computer and software stores	156	133	157	0.7
Home electronics and appliance stores	664	648	744	12.0
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	**1,408**	**1,200**	**1,472**	**4.6**
Home centres and hardware stores	1,116	952	1,164	4.3
Specialized building materials and garden stores	292	248	308	5.7
Food and beverage stores	**6,268**	**6,161**	**6,984**	**11.4**
Supermarkets	4,627	4,582	5,152	11.3
Convenience and specialty food stores	665	652	730	9.7
Beer, wine and liquor stores	975	928	1,102	13.0
Pharmacies and personal care stores	**1,848**	**1,791**	**1,967**	**6.4**
Clothing and accessories stores	**1,393**	**1,186**	**1,447**	**3.9**
Clothing stores	1,070	901	1,138	6.3
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	323	285	309	-4.2
General merchandise stores	**2,927**	**2,581**	**3,114**	**6.4**
Department stores	1,496	1,336	1,599	6.9
Other general merchandise stores	1,431	1,245	1,514	5.8
Miscellaneous retailers	**1,351**	**1,221**	**1,400**	**3.6**
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	608	558	667	9.7
Miscellaneous store retailers	743	662	733	-1.3
Total retail sales	**26,991**	**24,255**	**28,811**	**6.7**
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	**19,551**	**18,419**	**21,293**	**8.9**
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland and Labrador	426	373	450	5.6
Prince Edward Island	100	91	101	0.8
Nova Scotia	794	698	811	2.2
New Brunswick	605	541	652	7.8
Quebec	6,179	5,382	6,668	7.9
Ontario	10,002	8,936	10,460	4.6
Manitoba	913	837	977	7.0
Saskatchewan	785	720	844	7.5
Alberta	3,394	3,172	3,760	10.8
British Columbia	3,695	3,417	3,979	7.7
Yukon	32	27	34	8.2
Northwest Territories	47	44	54	16.4
Nunavut	20	17	21	4.1

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

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Family income

2003

For the first time ever, couple families in Oshawa had the highest median total family income among all census metropolitan areas. The median for couple families in Oshawa reached $80,300 in 2003, up a slight 0.3% over 2002, after adjusting for inflation. The median is the point where exactly one half of incomes are higher and one half are lower.

Nationally, the median total income for couple families fell 0.5% to $62,600 in 2003. Among census metropolitan areas, only those couple families living in Kingston, Saint John, St. John's and Oshawa posted increases in median family income.

Oshawa edged out couple families in Ottawa–Gatineau who had ranked first for the three previous years. Those in Ottawa–Gatineau had a median total income of $79,600, down 1.2% from the previous year, coinciding with the downturn in the computer technology industry.

Oshawa, Ottawa–Gatineau and Windsor have consistently shown the highest medians for total couple family income over the years. In 2003, those in Windsor had a median of $76,600, down 1.0% compared with 2002.

Amongst census agglomerations in 2003, the median total income for couple families in Wood Buffalo in northern Alberta was the highest at $114,900. Dominated by the population living in Fort McMurray, this area is recognized for its involvement in oil sands development. Couple families in the census agglomeration of Yellowknife ranked second with a median income of $111,500 followed by couple families in Labrador City at $87,900.

Among lone-parent families, those in the census metropolitan area of Ottawa–Gatineau had the highest median family total income in 2003, at $34,700. Lone-parent families in Oshawa and Calgary followed closely behind, at $34,600 and $34,500 respectively. The national median income for lone-parent families was $28,600, down 1.0% from 2002.

Note: Data are defined according to census family definitions. Couple families consist of a couple living together, whether married or common law, at the same address and any children living at the same address. A lone-parent family is a family with only one parent, male or female, and with at least one child.

Income data in this release are after receipt of government transfers and before the payment of income tax; income data are also available after the payment of tax. All figures for previous years have been adjusted for inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index.

A census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a large urban area (known as the urban core). The census population count of the urban core must have reached at least 10,000 to form a census agglomeration and at least 100,000 to form a census metropolitan area. To be included in the CMA or CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census place of work data.

Data in this release were obtained primarily from income tax returns filed in the spring of 2004.

Available on CANSIM: tables 111-0009 to 111-0023 and 111-0032 to 111-0035.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4105.

Data for family income (13C0016, various prices) and seniors' income (89C0022, various prices) are available for letter carrier routes, census tracts, urban forward sortation areas (the first three characters of the postal code), cities, towns, federal electoral districts, census agglomerations, census divisions, census metropolitan areas, economic regions, provinces, territories and Canada.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-866-652-8443; 613-951-9720; fax: 1-866-652-8444 or 613-951-4745; *saadinfo@statcan.ca*), Small Area and Administrative Data Division. □

Median total income, families
2003

	All families		Couple families		Lone-parent families	
	Amount $	% Change 2002/03	Amount $	% Change 2002/03	Amount $	% Change 2002/03
Canada	**56,000**	**-0.9**	**62,600**	**-0.5**	**28,600**	**-1.0**
St.John's	55,800	0.9	64,300	0.4	25,000	-1.5
Halifax	59,200	-0.7	66,800	-0.3	26,800	-0.1
Saint John	52,900	0.5	60,800	0.8	24,500	-0.7
Montréal	54,400	-1.1	61,000	-0.9	29,800	-0.4
Québec	59,600	-0.4	64,800	-0.5	33,800	-0.3
Saguenay	54,300	-1.1	59,100	-1.4	28,100	-1.6
Sherbrooke	52,100	-0.2	57,600	-1.0	29,200	0.4
Trois–Rivières	50,500	-0.5	56,700	-0.6	26,800	2.7
Ottawa–Gatineau	71,100	-1.5	79,600	-1.2	34,700	-1.6
Hamilton	65,200	-0.6	72,400	-0.1	31,500	-0.5
Kingston	61,900	0.6	69,100	1.1	30,100	1.3
Kitchener	67,000	-1.1	73,400	-0.7	32,900	-1.2
London	61,200	-0.4	68,500	-0.1	29,800	0.3
Oshawa	72,400	0.2	80,300	0.3	34,600	3.3
St.Catharines–Niagara	57,300	-1.5	63,800	-1.0	29,100	-0.3
Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury	59,200	-1.2	67,600	-0.2	26,100	-1.2
Thunder Bay	63,400	-0.2	71,000	-0.2	28,500	2.7
Toronto	58,500	-2.2	65,700	-1.3	32,300	-3.6
Windsor	67,800	-1.7	76,600	-1.0	30,600	-0.8
Winnipeg	57,300	-0.8	64,300	-0.4	28,800	-1.3
Regina	63,300	0.1	72,700	-0.1	28,800	-0.6
Saskatoon	57,500	-0.3	65,300	-0.1	24,900	-1.5
Calgary	67,800	-1.1	74,500	-0.7	34,500	-1.6
Edmonton	64,800	-0.5	72,200	-0.4	31,300	-1.8
Abbotsford	51,000	-1.5	56,300	-1.3	25,100	-1.5
Vancouver	54,100	-1.6	59,700	-1.0	29,400	-3.7
Victoria	61,700	-0.6	68,100	-0.5	32,100	-1.2

1. Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.

■

Railway carloadings
March 2005

Driven by strong demand for Canadian raw commodities in Asian markets, the country's railways carried more freight in March than they had for any March during the last five years.

Railways loaded more than 24.7 million metric tonnes of freight, a gain of 3.1 million tonnes or 14.1% from February. Loadings were up 1.3% over March last year.

During the first three months of the year, railways carried 67.6 million tonnes of freight, second only to the record high of 69.3 million tonnes set in the first quarter of 2000.

Loadings of coal, iron ore, potash, wheat and lumber continued to have the greatest influence on carloadings figures, accounting for just under 50% of all loadings in Canada.

Non-intermodal freight totalled 22.4 million tonnes, a 14.4% increase from February. About 280,000 railcars were required to move this freight.

The intermodal portion, that is containers and trailers hauled on flat cars, rose 10.9% to 2.4 million tonnes.

Freight coming from the United States, either destined for or passing through Canada, reached 2.4 million tonnes, up 6.6%.

On a year-over-year basis, non-intermodal tonnage for March was up 1.0% from March last year. Intermodal traffic was up 7.3%, while traffic received from the United States rose 3.5%.

First-quarter results of 2005 show a 1.9% increase of non-intermodal traffic over the same period of last year, while intermodal traffic was up by 7.2%.

Available on CANSIM: table 404-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2732.

The March 2005 issue of *Monthly Railway Carloadings*, Vol. 82, no. 3 (52-001-XIE, $9 / $83) 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 Unit (1-866-500-8400; fax: 1-613-951-0009; *transportationstatistics@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Steel primary forms, weekly data

Week ending May 14, 2005 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending May 14 totalled 317 136 metric tonnes, up 18.0% from 268 751 tonnes a week earlier and down 0.7% from 319 416 tonnes in the same week of 2004.

The year-to-date total as of May 14 was 5 922 205 tonnes, down 1.7% from 6 024 345 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. ■

Crude oil and natural gas production

March 2005 (preliminary)

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

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. ■

Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard

March 2005

Data on particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard are now available for March. The data for February have been revised.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0058.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2141.

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

Monthly Railway Carloadings, March 2005, Vol. 82, no. 3
Catalogue number 52-001-XIE ($9/$83).

The Consumer Price Index, April 2005, Vol. 84, no. 4
Catalogue number 62-001-XIB ($9/$83).

The Consumer Price Index, April 2005, Vol. 84, no. 4
Catalogue number 62-001-XPB ($12/$111).

Canada's International Transactions in Securities, March 2005, Vol. 71, no. 3
Catalogue number 67-002-XIE ($15/$142).

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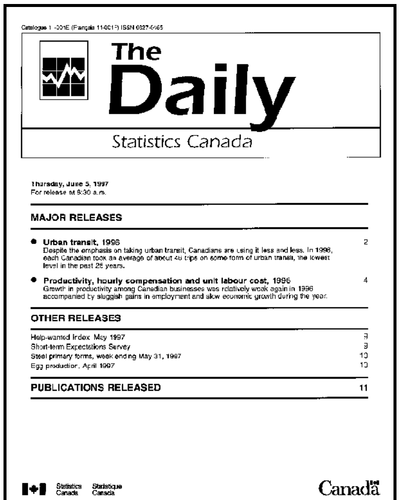
Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

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

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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Release dates: May 24 to 27

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
24	**Leading indicators**	April 2005
24	**Gifts Cards: A Win-win Way to Give**	2002 to 2005
24	**Employment insurance**	March 2005
25	**Net farm income**	2004
25	**Farm cash receipts**	First quarter 2005
26	**Quarterly financial statistics for enterprises**	First quarter 2005
26	**Employment, earnings and hours**	March 2005
27	**Characteristics of international travellers**	2004
27	**International travel account**	First quarter 2005