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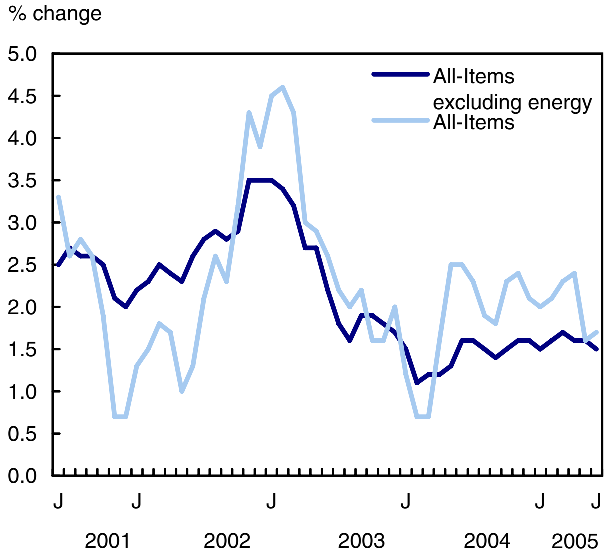
Releases

Releases

Consumer Price Index
June 2005

Consumers paid 1.7% more this June than in June 2004 for the goods and services included in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket, a slight increase over the 1.6% rise in May. The 12-month change in the All-items excluding energy index increased by 1.5% from June 2004 to June 2005 compared to 1.6% for May 2005.

Percentage change from the same month of the previous year



Gasoline prices were the primary reason for the increase in the 12-month change in the All-items index between May and June. The price level of gasoline in June 2005 was higher than in June 2004, while in May 2005 it was lower than 12 months earlier.

The All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada rose by 1.5% between June 2004 and June 2005, a slight slowdown compared to the 1.6% rise recorded in May.

Between May and June, the All-items index increased by 0.2% following a 0.1% rise between April and May.

On a monthly basis, the All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada remained unchanged in June.

After decreasing in May, gasoline prices return on their upward trend

The CPI increased by 1.7% in June compared to June 2004. Upward pressure was exerted primarily by gasoline, restaurant meals, homeowners' replacement cost and property taxes.

Moderating these increases were lower prices for computer equipment and supplies, natural gas, and traveller accommodation.

After a 1.6% decrease in May, gasoline prices returned to their upward trend, rising 4.2% between June 2004 and June 2005. This rise in the 12-month movement was intensified because the June 2004 prices had decreased on average 3.3% whereas June 2005 prices increased.

Consumers paid 3.1% more for restaurant meals between June 2004 and June 2005. All provinces recorded increases, ranging from 1.9% in Prince Edward Island and Quebec to 4.1% in Nova Scotia. Higher operating costs were an important factor in this rise.

Homeowners' replacement cost, which represents the worn out structural portion of housing and is estimated using new housing prices (excluding land), rose by 4.9% over June 2004. This was the most moderate increase in the 12-month change in this index since May 2002 and was attributed to smaller increases in material and labour costs.

The increase in property taxes (+4.3%) reflected in the CPI in October 2004 continued to be an important contributor to the 12-month rise in the All-items index.

Exerting a moderating effect on the 12-month change of the All-items index, the index for computer equipment and supplies dropped by 23.1% compared with June 2004.

For the first time since December 2004, the 12-month change in the natural gas index was negative. Prices for June 2005 were down 5.3% from June 2004, easing the pressure on prices.

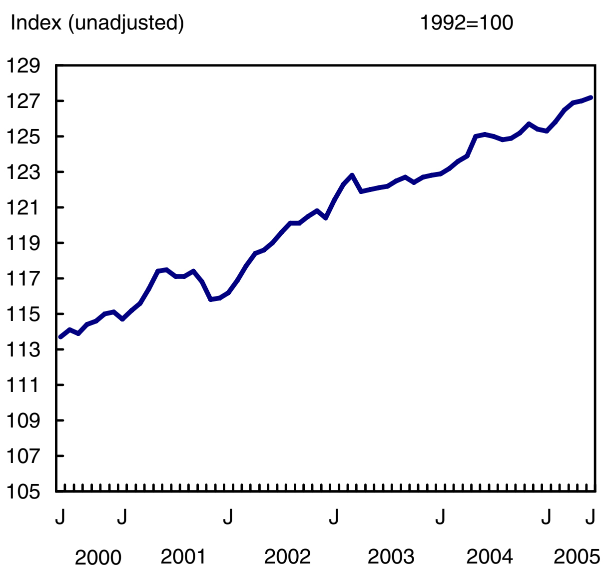
Continuing the trend that started in June 2001, the index for traveller accommodation was down 5.5% compared to June 2004. All provinces recorded decreases except Saskatchewan (+1.1%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (+1.4%).

Prices this June were higher than those in June 2004 for six of the eight major components of the CPI. The shelter (+2.9%), food (+2.6%) and transportation (+1.8%) indexes exerted the strongest upward pressure. Downward pressure came from the recreation, education and reading index (-0.5%) and the clothing and footwear index (-0.6%).

The increase in the June monthly variation is explained mainly by higher gasoline prices

Between May and June, the CPI rose by 0.2%, from a level of 127.0 to 127.2 (1992=100). In contrast with May 2005, when the decrease in gasoline prices alone was sufficient to offset almost all of the upward pressure, the increase in the June monthly variation is explained mainly by the rise in gasoline prices. Prices for traveller accommodation and fresh fruit also contributed to the increase in the All-items index. Lower prices for the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles and for men's and women's clothing had a moderating effect on the increase.

The Consumer Price Index



The June 2005 gasoline index level was higher than that of May 2005, rising from 162.0 to 165.9, but was less than the peak reached in April this year. Higher gasoline prices in Ontario (+3.7%) and Quebec (+4.3%) were the dominant factors behind this 2.4% rise from May to June 2005. Residents of Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and Alberta also experienced higher gasoline prices, whereas those in the other provinces benefited from lower prices.

Prices for traveller accommodation were up 7.7% between May and June 2005, indicating that the summer tourist season is well under way. All regions posted increases, ranging from 3.9% in Saskatchewan to 14.2% in Newfoundland and Labrador.

For the third consecutive month, the monthly change in the fresh fruit index was up, with a 4.1% change in June 2005. Prices for oranges (+14.4%), apples (+6.3%) and other fresh fruit (+2.1%) were responsible for this increase, while banana prices (-2.4%) dampened the upward pressure.

Increases in the financial incentives offered by some automobile manufacturers led to a monthly decrease of 0.5% in prices for the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles.

The indexes for men's (-1.9%) and women's (-0.8%) clothing fell in June. Numerous specials contributed to these decreases, for men's clothing in particular, with all provinces other than Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan posting declines. Women's clothing prices varied throughout the country, with certain provinces showing decreases and others increases.

The seasonally adjusted CPI increased between May and June

Seasonally adjusted, the CPI was up 0.2% between May and June 2005.

Upward pressure came from the indexes for transportation (+0.5%), shelter (+0.2%), household operations and furnishings (+0.3%), health and personal care (+0.4%), food (+0.1%), and alcoholic beverages and tobacco products (+0.1%).

The index for recreation, education and reading having remained unchanged, the index for clothing and footwear (-0.1%) was the only factor that pushed down the seasonally adjusted All-items index slightly.

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 1.5% between June 2004 and June 2005. The main contributors to this increase were homeowners' replacement cost (+4.9%), property taxes (+4.3%) and restaurant meals (+3.1%). The increase was partially offset by lower prices for computer equipment and supplies (-23.1%) and traveller accommodation (-5.5%).

Between May and June 2005, the All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada remained stable. The main contributors to the downward pressure were lower prices for the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles (-0.5%), men's clothing (-1.9%) and women's clothing (-0.8%). Most of the upward pressure came from the increase in prices for traveller accommodation (+7.7%) and homeowners' replacement cost (+0.4%).

Energy

Following a 1.7% increase between May 2004 and May 2005, the energy index was up 3.9% between June 2004 and June 2005.

Higher prices for gasoline (+4.2%), fuel oil (+27.2 %) and electricity (+3.1%) as well as for fuel, parts and supplies for recreational vehicles (+3.6%) contributed to pushing up the energy index in June 2005. Only natural gas prices (-5.3%) slowed down the upward pressure.

On a monthly basis, the energy index increased by 1.3%, again mainly due to gasoline prices (+2.4%). Prices for natural gas (+0.9%) and fuel, parts and supplies for recreational vehicles (+1.0%) also exerted a mitigating effect on the index since the electricity and fuel oil indexes remained unchanged.

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 June 2005 issue of the *Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 84, no. 6 (62-001-XIB, $9/$83; 62-001-XPB, $12/$111) is now available. See *How to order products*.

The July 2005 Consumer Price Index will be released on August 26.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, call Mark Martin (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]	June 2005	May 2005	June 2004	May to June 2005	June 2004 to June 2005
		unadjusted				
					% change	
All-items	**100.00**	**127.2**	**127.0**	**125.1**	**0.2**	**1.7**
Food	16.89	128.9	128.5	125.6	0.3	2.6
Shelter	26.75	123.8	123.6	120.3	0.2	2.9
Household operations and furnishings	10.58	115.7	115.6	115.0	0.1	0.6
Clothing and footwear	5.37	101.3	102.3	101.9	-1.0	-0.6
Transportation	19.79	149.7	149.0	147.1	0.5	1.8
Health and personal care	4.52	121.1	120.7	119.1	0.3	1.7
Recreation, education and reading	11.96	127.8	127.5	128.5	0.2	-0.5
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	4.13	147.7	147.6	144.0	0.1	2.6
All-items (1986=100)		162.9				
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1992		78.6	78.7	79.9		
Special aggregates						
Goods	48.84	122.1	121.9	120.7	0.2	1.2
Services	51.16	133.0	132.6	130.0	0.3	2.3
All-items excluding food and energy	74.27	123.6	123.5	122.0	0.1	1.3
Energy	8.84	160.9	158.8	154.8	1.3	3.9
All-items excluding the 8 most volatile components[3]	82.75	126.6	126.6	124.7	0.0	1.5

1. *2001 CPI basket weights at June 2004 prices, Canada: Effective July 2004. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 at (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, 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)

	June 2005	May 2005	June 2004	May to June 2005	June 2004 to June 2005
	unadjusted				
				% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador	126.1	126.0	123.2	0.1	2.4
Prince Edward Island	128.2	128.4	124.9	-0.2	2.6
Nova Scotia	129.0	129.1	126.5	-0.1	2.0
New Brunswick	126.8	126.9	124.8	-0.1	1.6
Québec	123.4	123.1	121.0	0.2	2.0
Ontario	128.2	128.0	125.8	0.2	1.9
Manitoba	131.3	131.1	128.5	0.2	2.2
Saskatchewan	132.1	131.8	129.9	0.2	1.7
Alberta	133.9	133.4	133.0	0.4	0.7
British Columbia	125.4	125.2	123.6	0.2	1.5
Whitehorse	123.9	123.4	121.8	0.4	1.7
Yellowknife	123.8	123.4	121.3	0.3	2.1
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	103.0	102.8	101.8	0.2	1.2

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
May 2005

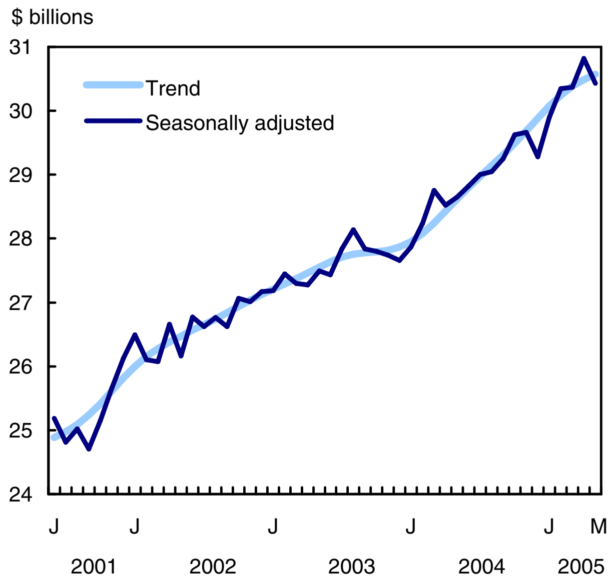
For the first time in five months, consumers reduced their spending in retail stores in May. Retailers sold $30.4 billion worth of goods and services, down 1.3% from April, when sales rose 1.5%.

Although five out of the eight retail sectors posted sales declines, weak auto sales were responsible for the bulk of May's setback. Excluding sales by dealers of new, used and recreational vehicles and auto parts, which account for about one-quarter of the retail industry, retail sales fell by only 0.4% in May. This followed a 0.8% gain in April.

Once prices are taken into account, constant dollar retail sales declined 1.1% in May after rising 1.3% in April.

Despite May's decline, retail sales have been quite strong since the start of the year. Cumulative sales in the first five months of 2005 stood at 6.9% above those in the same period of 2004. This growth rate outperformed the year-to-date increases seen in the same five-month period of the previous seven years. Moreover, May's decline marked only the third monthly sales decline posted by retailers since the start of 2004.

First sales decline in five months for retailers



In May, consumers reduced their spending by at least 1.0% in half of all retail sectors: automotive (-3.5%), furniture and electronics (-2.2%), clothing (-2.0%) and the general merchandise sector (-1.0%). On the other hand, food and beverage stores enjoyed a 1.3% sales gain after two months of stagnation.

Sales movements were much less pronounced in the remaining retail sectors in May. Sales fell slightly in the miscellaneous sector (-0.2%), while advancing moderately in the pharmacies (+0.4%) and the building supplies (+0.2%) sectors. The miscellaneous sector includes retailers such as sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores.

Auto sector drives down sales

Sales in the automotive sector fell 3.5% in May, completely offsetting April's 3.2% gain. Within this sector, new car dealers (-5.1%) and gasoline stations (-2.6%) suffered sales declines in May, while used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers (+1.8%) enjoyed higher sales for a second consecutive month.

After posting a healthy 4.0% sales gain in April, cutbacks on financial incentives offered by some auto manufacturers were partly behind the significant sales decline suffered by new car dealers in May. Despite May's setback, sales at new car dealers have generally been increasing since the start of 2004, after a period of declines in the second half of 2003.

For the first time in five months, lower gasoline prices at the pump (down 3.1%, according the Consumer Price Index) reduced the value of sales at gasoline stations in May. Nevertheless, sales at gasoline stations have generally been rising since the middle of 2003 on the strength of higher prices.

Declines in all categories of retailers in the furniture, home furnishings and electronics sector led to a 2.2% sales retreat in the overall sector in May. Home electronics and appliance stores, which account for about 40% of all sales in the sector, experienced their first sales decline in six months. These retailers led their sector counterparts on an annual basis with sales up 9.8% in May compared with the same month last year. Home electronics and appliance stores have experienced rising sales since the middle of 2004, following a period of essentially flat sales in the previous 12 months.

Shoppers reduced their spending by 2.0% in clothing and accessories stores in May, the first monthly reduction in six months. Sales in clothing and accessories stores have generally been increasing since the spring of 2003, with the exception of a short pause in the second half of 2004.

General merchandise stores posted their second consecutive monthly sales loss in May (-1.0%). Within this sector, lower sales were reported by department stores (-0.8%) and by other general merchandise stores (-1.2%). In spite of recent declines, retail sales in the general merchandise sector were still essentially at the record levels reached in early 2005. Previously, general merchandise stores had enjoyed a 5.3% sales gain in 2004, their strongest annual performance in five years.

After two months of stagnation, food and beverage store sales increased 1.3% in May, thanks to higher sales in each store category included in the sector. Despite the lack of growth in March and April, cumulative sales in the first five months of 2005 were 6.2% above those in the same period in 2004. About one-third of that growth rate was caused by higher prices.

Retail sales down across the country, except in Saskatchewan and Alberta

Retail sales fell in all provinces in May, except in Saskatchewan (+2.8%) and Alberta (+1.0%). Reduced spending across the country pushed down retail sales by more than 1.0% in seven provinces.

Retailers in Saskatchewan and Alberta, who have enjoyed five consecutive months of growth, have seen their sales jump by slightly more than 10% since the end of 2004.

Consumer spending in Saskatchewan retail stores has been on the rise since the fall of 2004, after remaining essentially flat in the summer and spring of that year. In Alberta, retail sales have been increasing rapidly since the start of 2004, rising by an astonishing 22% over the period.

Related indicators for June

Total employment advanced for a third consecutive month in June (+0.1%). This sequence of increases led to a 0.5% growth rate in the second quarter, a rate three times larger than the one observed in the first quarter of 2005. Furthermore, the unemployment rate fell to 6.7% in June, representing one of the lowest rates seen in almost three decades.

The number of housing starts increased 7.2% in June compared with the previous month, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. While housing starts are returning to the record highs of 2004, the overall activity on the existing housing market has already surpassed levels seen in the previous year. The Canadian Real Estate Association indicated that 179,759 homes changed hands in the first six months of 2005, an increase of 1.1% from the same period of 2004.

The number of new motor vehicles sold in June has increased by about 7% from the previous month, 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 May 2005 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-XIE, $18/$166) will soon be available.

Data on retail trade for June will be released on August 22.

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

	May 2004	February 2005[r]	March 2005[r]	April 2005[r]	May 2005[p]	April to May 2005	May 2004 to May 2005
	seasonally adjusted						
	$ millions					% change	
Automotive	**9,570**	**10,280**	**10,244**	**10,572**	**10,204**	**-3.5**	**6.6**
New car dealers	5,529	5,993	5,898	6,136	5,824	-5.1	5.3
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,189	1,306	1,301	1,337	1,361	1.8	14.4
Gasoline stations	2,852	2,981	3,045	3,100	3,019	-2.6	5.9
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	**1,970**	**2,139**	**2,119**	**2,156**	**2,109**	**-2.2**	**7.0**
Furniture stores	698	759	746	765	727	-5.0	4.1
Home furnishings stores	364	388	383	391	390	-0.3	7.1
Computer and software stores	130	142	135	140	138	-1.6	5.9
Home electronics and appliance stores	778	850	855	860	854	-0.7	9.8
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	**1,731**	**1,853**	**1,847**	**1,927**	**1,930**	**0.2**	**11.5**
Home centres and hardware stores	1,376	1,468	1,469	1,532	1,532	0.0	11.4
Specialized building materials and garden stores	356	385	377	395	398	0.7	12.0
Food and beverage stores	**6,841**	**7,175**	**7,165**	**7,171**	**7,261**	**1.3**	**6.1**
Supermarkets	4,932	5,174	5,190	5,193	5,245	1.0	6.3
Convenience and specialty food stores	727	767	770	774	780	0.9	7.3
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,182	1,233	1,205	1,204	1,236	2.7	4.6
Pharmacies and personal care stores	**1,870**	**1,963**	**1,986**	**1,980**	**1,989**	**0.4**	**6.3**
Clothing and accessories stores	**1,670**	**1,760**	**1,771**	**1,791**	**1,755**	**-2.0**	**5.1**
Clothing stores	1,263	1,359	1,355	1,380	1,342	-2.8	6.3
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	407	401	416	411	413	0.5	1.4
General merchandise stores	**3,493**	**3,603**	**3,661**	**3,632**	**3,596**	**-1.0**	**2.9**
Department stores	1,821	1,864	1,896	1,854	1,840	-0.8	1.0
Other general merchandise stores	1,672	1,740	1,765	1,778	1,756	-1.2	5.1
Miscellaneous retailers	**1,503**	**1,571**	**1,577**	**1,588**	**1,584**	**-0.2**	**5.4**
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	707	771	780	789	777	-1.5	9.9
Miscellaneous store retailers	796	801	798	798	807	1.1	1.4
Total retail sales	**28,647**	**30,344**	**30,369**	**30,817**	**30,427**	**-1.3**	**6.2**
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	**21,929**	**23,045**	**23,170**	**23,344**	**23,242**	**-0.4**	**6.0**
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	476	493	489	495	488	-1.5	2.5
Prince Edward Island	116	127	118	121	116	-4.2	-0.1
Nova Scotia	865	896	876	898	881	-1.9	1.8
New Brunswick	652	700	697	695	673	-3.0	3.3
Quebec	6,449	6,908	6,930	6,991	6,901	-1.3	7.0
Ontario	10,670	11,174	11,162	11,366	11,075	-2.6	3.8
Manitoba	963	1,042	1,029	1,043	1,031	-1.1	7.0
Saskatchewan	862	904	909	931	956	2.8	11.0
Alberta	3,580	3,898	3,926	4,036	4,076	1.0	13.8
British Columbia	3,917	4,096	4,126	4,134	4,123	-0.3	5.2
Yukon	35	36	38	39	39	1.1	12.0
Northwest Territories	42	50	49	48	48	0.1	14.6
Nunavut	19	21	20	21	20	-2.8	2.7

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

Retail sales

	May 2004	April 2005[r]	May 2005[p]	May 2004 to May 2005
	unadjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Automotive	**10,871**	**11,453**	**11,784**	**8.4**
New car dealers	6,388	6,786	6,862	7.4
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,505	1,667	1,774	17.9
Gasoline stations	2,978	3,000	3,148	5.7
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	**1,847**	**1,945**	**1,949**	**5.5**
Furniture stores	710	726	722	1.7
Home furnishings stores	347	367	372	7.2
Computer and software stores	121	132	129	6.4
Home electronics and appliance stores	669	720	727	8.6
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	**2,180**	**1,925**	**2,481**	**13.8**
Home centres and hardware stores	1,692	1,533	1,920	13.5
Specialized building materials and garden stores	488	392	561	15.0
Food and beverage stores	**6,969**	**6,976**	**7,192**	**3.2**
Supermarkets	5,055	5,155	5,221	3.3
Convenience and specialty food stores	751	755	795	5.8
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,163	1,065	1,177	1.2
Pharmacies and personal care stores	**1,859**	**1,926**	**1,979**	**6.5**
Clothing and accessories stores	**1,702**	**1,715**	**1,724**	**1.3**
Clothing stores	1,279	1,325	1,305	2.1
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	423	391	419	-0.9
General merchandise stores	**3,613**	**3,433**	**3,630**	**0.5**
Department stores	1,785	1,730	1,753	-1.8
Other general merchandise stores	1,829	1,704	1,877	2.7
Miscellaneous retailers	**1,478**	**1,440**	**1,531**	**3.5**
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	658	712	705	7.0
Miscellaneous store retailers	820	728	826	0.7
Total retail sales	**30,518**	**30,813**	**32,270**	**5.7**
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	**22,625**	**22,359**	**23,634**	**4.5**
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland and Labrador	505	480	520	3.0
Prince Edward Island	123	116	123	0.1
Nova Scotia	902	877	913	1.2
New Brunswick	694	695	715	3.0
Quebec	7,184	7,255	7,630	6.2
Ontario	11,354	11,176	11,702	3.1
Manitoba	1,014	1,051	1,086	7.0
Saskatchewan	897	930	1,008	12.4
Alberta	3,722	4,045	4,251	14.2
British Columbia	4,025	4,083	4,214	4.7
Yukon	36	36	41	12.6
Northwest Territories	41	48	45	10.4
Nunavut	20	21	21	3.3

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

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Couriers and local messengers industry

2002 (revised) and 2003 (preliminary)

In 2003, the couriers and local messengers industry included 20,512 establishments providing a variety of services, from letter delivery by bicycle messenger to high-tech equipment delivery in Canada and other countries. The number of establishments increased 4% from 2002.

The industry generated operating revenues of about $5.7 billion in 2003, up 3% from the previous year. Operating expenses totalled nearly $5.4 billion in 2003, up 3% from 2002. The largest increase in operating expenses compared to 2002 were property and business taxes (+32%) and repair and maintenance expenses (+19%).

The industry's operating margin (the difference between revenues and expenses) was $370 million, up 13% compared with 2002 and marking an end to two consecutive years of decline.

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) divides the industry into two segments: courier companies, which provide national and international delivery services, and local messenger businesses, which provide delivery services within a smaller region, such as a city or a metropolitan area.

While couriers accounted for only about 13% of the industry's establishments in 2003, they generated roughly 79% of the total operating revenues. Courier establishments had an average operating margin of about $102,000, up 15% from 2002.

Local messengers, on the other hand, accounted for 87% of the establishments but only 21% of the industry's operating revenues. They had an average operating margin of about $5,600, down 17% from 2002. This segment's modest operating margin is mostly due to the fact that it includes a large number of independent contractors and owner-operators who use it as personal income.

The largest expense item for couriers was wages, salaries and benefits (39%), followed by other purchased services (36%). The picture was very different for local delivery services. Their largest expense item was other purchased services (52%), which made up a much larger portion of total expenses than the second-largest item, wages, salaries and benefits (23%). One explanation for this would be that couriers tend to have paid employees while local messengers prefer to use independent contractors or owner-operators.

Large- and medium-size courier and local messenger firms (those with revenues of $1 million or more) delivered nearly 489 million items, generating just over $4.3 billion in delivery revenue in 2003. A breakdown by activity shows that second-day and other services earned only 38% of the revenue even though they accounted for 54% of all items delivered. In contrast, next-day and overnight services accounted for more than one-half of the revenue but just 33% of the total items delivered.

Of the overall total, large- and medium-size courier firms moved 86% of all items and earned 88% of the revenue. These firms provided almost all of the two days or more services, gathering virtually all of the revenue earned. They also accounted for most of the next-day and overnight services.

For their part, large- and medium-size local messenger firms moved 14% of all items delivered, while they earned 12% of the overall revenues. These firms specialized mainly in same-day delivery services, taking almost all revenues from these services in 2003.

In the industry as a whole, each item generated an average of $8.85 in delivery revenue, up slightly from $8.43 in 2002. Next-day and overnight services generated the largest average revenue per item among couriers ($13.68), while second day/other services generated the smallest average revenue per item ($6.16).

Ontario remained the dominant province in the industry, as nearly one-half of the delivery revenue was generated from shipments originating in this province. Canadian destinations accounted for 77% of total delivery revenue, while shipments to the United States made up about 18% of the total.

The couriers were mainly responsible for international shipments services, taking 98% of the total revenue from in or out of Canada shipments.

The couriers and local messengers industry depends to a large extent on relatively costly fleets of vehicles and equipment to provide its delivery services. For couriers, most of the vehicles used were cube/step vans (61%), semi-trailers (17%) and other equipment (7%).

For local messengers, the mostly commonly used equipment was automobiles (49%), cube/step vans (33%) and bicycles (8%). Overall, the industry had over 23,000 vehicles and various pieces of equipment in 2003.

In 2003, large firms (those with revenues above $25 millions) made up about 1% of the total number of businesses in the industry, but earned 71% of the operating revenues. Not surprisingly, this group also had the highest average operating margin ($835,000).

Medium-sized companies (those with revenues between $1 million and $25 millions) also accounted for 1% of the total businesses but had 11% of the industry's operating revenues. The group's average operating margin was $66,000.

Small firms accounted for about 98% of the industry's businesses, but only 18% of the operating revenue. This group also had the lowest average operating margin ($5,800).

Available on CANSIM: tables 402-0001 to 402-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4703.

The special bulletin *Service Bulletin: Surface and Marine Transport*, (50-002-XIE, $11) will soon be available. This bulletin contains a wider range of financial and operating data on the couriers and local messengers industry.

For general information or to order data, contact the Dissemination Unit (1-866-500-8400; fax: 1-613-951-0009; *transportationstatistics@statcan.ca*). For more information about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Denis Pilon (613-951-2707; fax: 613-951-0579; *denis.pilon@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Canadian Vehicle Survey

Second quarter 2004

Not only do Canadians drive more once the warmer weather arrives, but they also get better fuel efficiency.

Between April 1 and June 30, 2004, vehicles weighing less than 4 500 kilograms travelled an average of 4 100 kilometres compared to 3 600 kilometres in the previous quarter. With only a small increase (+0.4%) in the number of vehicles, the total amount of gasoline consumed dropped by 7% and the average gasoline consumption per 100 kilometres fell to 10.38 litres compared to 12.64 litres in the first quarter. Improved fuel consumption can be explained, at least in part, by improved fuel combustion in warmer engines as the weather improves.

The largest vehicles (those weighing 15 tonnes or more) were also driven more, travelling an average of 20 350 kilometres compared to 15 800 kilometres in the first quarter. This, combined with a 6% increase in the number of these vehicles, led to a 22% jump in the amount of diesel consumed during the second quarter. These vehicles also saw a decrease in average fuel consumption, dropping to 32.20 litres of diesel per 100 kilometres from an average of 36.36 litres in the first quarter.

The Canadian Vehicle Survey measures the activity of all on-road vehicles registered in Canada with the exception of some vehicles such as buses, motorcycles, construction equipment and road maintenance equipment.

Estimates of total vehicle-kilometres are available by province and territory. Estimates of passenger-kilometres are available by province only.

Available on CANSIM: tables 405-0005 to 405-0020, 405-0026 to 405-0036, 405-0039 to 405-0046, 405-0053, 405-0054, 405-0099 and 405-0101 to 405-0110.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2749.

The second quarter 2004 issue of *The Canadian Vehicle Survey* (53F0004XIE, free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Transport and warehousing*.

The first quarter 2004 issue of *The Canadian Vehicle Survey* has been revised and is available online.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-866-500-8400; *transportationstatistics@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Steel primary forms, weekly data

Week ending July 16, 2005 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending July 16 totalled 232 321 metric tonnes, down 8.0% from 252 480 tonnes a week earlier and down 17.1% from 280 395 tonnes in the same week of 2004.

The year-to-date total as of July 16 was 8 439 715 tonnes, down 3.4% from 8 740 357 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. ■

Aircraft movement statistics: Small airports

February 2005

The February 2005 monthly report, Vol. 2 (TP141, free) is available on Transport Canada's Web site at the following URL: (*http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/Report/tp141e/tp141.htm*), Transport Canada.

Note: The TP 141 monthly report is issued in two volumes. Volume 1 presents statistics for the major Canadian airports (i.e., those with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers or flight service stations). Volume 2 presents statistics for the smaller airports (i.e., those without air traffic control towers). Both volumes are available free upon release at Transport Canada's Web site.

For more information about this Web site, contact Michel Villeneuve (613-990-3825; *villenm@tc.gc.ca*).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2715.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141; fax: 613-951-0010; *aviationstatistics@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Production of crude oil and natural gas

May 2005 (preliminary)

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

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

New products

Canadian Vehicle Survey: Quarterly, Second quarter 2004
Catalogue number 53F0004XIE
(free).

The Consumer Price Index, June 2005, Vol. 84, no. 6
Catalogue number 62-001-XIB ($9/$83).

The Consumer Price Index, June 2005, Vol. 84, no. 6
Catalogue number 62-001-XPB ($12/$111).

Income Research Paper Series: Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics: 2003 Historical Revision, no. 9
Catalogue number 75F0002MIE2005009
(free).

Income Research Paper Series: General Housing Imputation (Excluding Utilities) in the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics, 2002, no. 10
Catalogue number 75F0002MIE2005010
(free).

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

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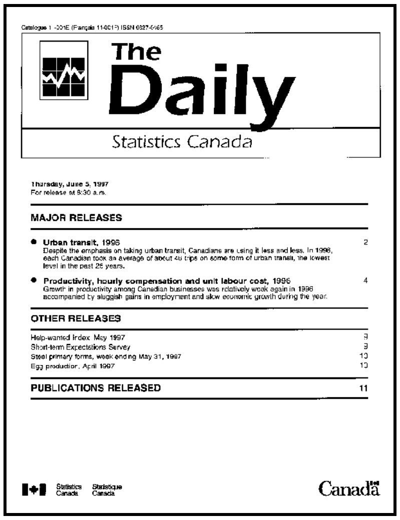

Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

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 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

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Egg production, April 1997	10

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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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Release dates: July 25 to 29, 2005

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
25	**Film, video and audio-visual distribution**	2003/04
26	**Employment Insurance**	May 2005
28	**Industrial product and raw materials price indexes**	June 2005
28	**Employment, earnings and hours**	May 2005
29	**Gross domestic product by industry**	May 2005
29	**Business Conditions Survey: Canadian manufacturing industries**	July 2005