



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Study: Rural tourism 2002

Canadian tourists accounted for more than 80% of all leisure visits in Canada in 2002 but only about 60% of total spending, according to a new study.

The study, based on data from the Canadian Travel Survey and the International Travel Survey, analyzed visits to the nation's rural areas by domestic, American and overseas tourists.

Visitors paid an estimated 211 million leisure visits to Canada in 2002 and spent about \$30 billion.

Domestic travellers accounted for 83% of the visits, Americans 12% and overseas visitors another 5%.

However, Canadians accounted for only 61% of the money spent during visits to rural areas, while Americans accounted for 25% and foreigners about 14%.

Tourism to rural destinations accounted for almost half of all tourism in Canada in 2002.

Young Canadians were more likely to visit rural areas, while tourists from the United States were more likely to be older.

About 22% of Canadian visits were by people under 20 years of age compared with only about 10% among Americans and overseas tourists.

On the other hand, 41% of American visitors were people aged 55 and over, while only 30% of overseas tourists and 20% of Canadian tourists were in this age group.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3152 and 3810.

The article "A visit to Canada's countryside: Rural tourism," is now available online in the publication *Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin*, Vol. 6, no. 5 (21-006-XIE, free). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Roland Beshiri (613-951-6506; roland.beshiri@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Employment Insurance May 2005 (preliminary)

The number of Canadians (adjusted for seasonality) receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits in May dropped by an estimated 2.1% from April. Most provinces and territories showed declines in May with the largest occurring in Alberta (-4.1%), Manitoba (-3.6%), Ontario (-2.9%) and British Columbia (-2.5%). Northwest Territories (+2.8%), Newfoundland and Labrador (+2.5%), Prince Edward Island (+1.4%) and New Brunswick (+0.1%) reported increases.

Compared to the same time last year, the number of regular beneficiaries has fallen 6.0% nationally.

Since May 2003, the number of regular beneficiaries in Canada has fallen by 9.8%. This drop has been primarily due to declines in Alberta (-38.0%), British Columbia (-23.1%) and Ontario (-9.2%). Only Nunavut (+8.8%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (+5.6%) have posted increases during this time.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, regular benefit payments in May totalled \$712.4 million, while the number of people making initial and renewal claims was 239,230.

Note: Employment Insurance Statistics Program data are produced from an administrative data source and may, from time to time, be affected by changes to the *Employment Insurance Act* or administrative procedures. The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who received Employment Insurance benefits for the week containing the 15th day of the month. The regular benefit payments series measures the total of all monies received by individuals for the entire month.

Employment Insurance statistics

	May 2005	April 2005	May 2004	April to May 2005	May 2004 to May 2005
seasonally adjusted					
					% change
Regular beneficiaries	512,190 ^P	523,250 ^r	544,950	-2.1	-6.0
Regular benefits paid (\$ millions)	712.4 ^P	690.6 ^r	755.8	3.1	-5.8
Initial and renewal claims received ('000)	239.2 ^P	233.9 ^r	237.5	2.3	0.7
Unadjusted					
All beneficiaries ('000) ¹	742.3 ^P	882.2 ^P	771.1		
Regular beneficiaries ('000)	464.3 ^P	588.8 ^P	496.2		
Initial and renewal claims received ('000)	184.8	181.9	177.6		
Payments (\$ millions)	1,297.8	1,397.7	1,292.4		
year-to-date (January to May)					
		2005	2004	2004 to 2005	% change
Claims received ('000)		1,111.7	1,099.1		1.2
Payments (\$ millions)		7,071.7	7,128.5		-0.8

^r Revised figures.

^P Preliminary figures.

1. "All beneficiaries" includes all claimants receiving regular benefits (for example, as a result of layoff) or special benefits (for example, as a result of illness) and are representative of data for the Labour Force Survey reference week which is usually the week containing the 15th of the month.

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	May 2005 ^P	April to May 2005	May 2004 to May 2005
seasonally adjusted			
	% change		
Canada	512,190	-2.1	-6.0
Newfoundland and Labrador	39,000	2.5	2.2
Prince Edward Island	8,560	1.4	10.0
Nova Scotia	30,000	-0.8	1.1
New Brunswick	34,800	0.1	3.0
Quebec	173,810	-2.0	-5.2
Ontario	129,120	-2.9	-5.8
Manitoba	12,490	-3.6	-10.2
Saskatchewan	10,970	-2.0	-10.6
Alberta	21,920	-4.1	-22.4
British Columbia	50,790	-2.5	-14.1
Yukon Territory	900	0.0	-5.3
Northwest Territories	730	2.8	-13.1
Nunavut	370	-5.1	-5.1

^P Preliminary figures.

Note: The number of beneficiaries includes all claimants who received regular benefits for the Labour Force Survey reference week, usually containing the 15th day of the month.

Available on CANSIM: tables 276-0001 to 276-0006, 276-0009, 276-0011, 276-0015 and 276-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2604.

Data on Employment Insurance for June will be released on August 23.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-4090; 1-866-873-8788; labour@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091), Labour Statistics Division. ■

Farm Product Price Index

May 2005

Prices farmers received for their commodities fell 7.7% in May from the same month a year earlier in the wake of a sharp decline in crop prices, while prices for livestock were virtually unchanged.

Overall, producers received prices for crops that were 18.9% below levels in May 2004, continuing a downward trend in year-over-year price changes that began in September 2003, according to the Farm Product Price Index (FPPI). Farmers received lower prices for grains, oilseeds, specialty crops and fruit.

On the other hand, prices for livestock and animal products were slightly higher in May (+0.2%) than they were a year earlier. The overall livestock and animal products index has recorded year-over-year increases since June of last year.

Prices rose in May for dairy and poultry, while cattle and calves were virtually unchanged (-0.3%), hogs dropped 8.6% and eggs were down 10.9%. Gains ranged from 3.6% for poultry to 6.9% for dairy over year earlier levels.

On a monthly basis, prices farmers received for their commodities rose 0.9% in May from April, as both the overall crops and livestock and animal products indexes made small gains.

The FPPI (1997=100) stood at 97.4 in May, up from a revised April index of 96.5. This was the third increase this year as the index has been inching up from the recent low of 93.4 in November 2004.

Prices for livestock and animal products were up 0.4% in May from the revised April index, as an increase in hog prices offset losses in cattle and calves, dairy and poultry.

Hog prices were up in May, marking the largest increase since the end of last year. Hog prices were supported by steady demand and a weaker Canadian

dollar. At mid-May, the Canadian dollar hit its lowest level since the beginning of last October.

Cattle and calf prices fell in May for the third time this year, as the US border remained closed to live cattle exports. Cattle and calf prices had made some gains, then in March, just days before the anticipated reopening of the US border to live Canadian cattle and an expanded list of beef products, a preliminary injunction was granted by a Montana District Court Judge to temporarily delay the reopening of the border.

The overall crops index was slightly higher in May (+0.3%), supported by higher prices for oilseeds and special crops.

Prices for oilseeds rose in May, marking the third consecutive increase in the index after falling since May 2004. Oilseed prices were pressured down last spring as bumper crops were harvested in other major oilseed producing countries.

The grains index fell for the second time this year, dropping 3.7% in May. The index had fallen since June last year as prices were plagued by bumper crops in other exporting countries and the poor quality from last year's harvest. As the new crop year approaches, however, crop prices start to react to concerns such as cumbersome stocks at the end of this crop-year and current weather conditions.

Farm Product Price Index (1997=100)

	May 2004 ^r	April 2005 ^r	May 2005 ^p	May 2004 to May 2005 % change	April to May 2005
Farm Product Price Index	105.5	96.5	97.4	-7.7	0.9
Crops	107.7	87.0	87.3	-18.9	0.3
Grains	105.9	72.2	69.5	-34.4	-3.7
Oilseeds	111.0	79.0	81.0	-27.0	2.5
Specialty crops	120.3	86.4	86.7	-27.9	0.3
Fruit	110.2	104.1	101.5	-7.9	-2.5
Vegetables	114.9	116.3	116.2	1.1	-0.1
Potatoes	110.2	125.8	122.9	11.5	-2.3
Livestock and animal products	103.8	103.6	104.0	0.2	0.4
Cattle and calves	97.5	100.0	97.2	-0.3	-2.8
Hogs	103.6	87.2	94.7	-8.6	8.6
Poultry	96.1	99.7	99.6	3.6	-0.1
Eggs	106.8	95.2	95.2	-10.9	0.0
Dairy	116.0	125.5	124.0	6.9	-1.2

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0021 and 002-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5040.

The May 2005 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 5, no. 5 (21-007-XIE, free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

For general information or to order data, call (1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Waugh (613-951-2701; fax: 613-951-3868; robert.waugh@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Railway carloadings

May 2005

Coal, one of the top bulk commodities moved by rail in Canada, took the top position in May with loadings in excess of 3.2 million metric tonnes.

While most commodities showed moderate variations, coal loadings increased by 15.1% from April to May. This increase of 426,000 tonnes resulted in coal loadings reaching their highest volume since May 2002.

Overall, May proved to be an excellent month for rail carriers across Canada. In total, more than 24.5 million metric tonnes of goods were loaded on rail this month, making it the strongest month of May over the last six years. May loadings rose 3.3% from April despite the continuing strike in the iron ore sector, which held back loadings by about one million tonnes.

In May, the non-intermodal portion of freight totalled 22.1 million tonnes, up 3.6% from April. The rise was a result of increased shipments of coal, other metallic minerals, alumina and forest derived products. Loadings of automobiles and minivans also did well with a 10.1% increase in the number of rail cars required to move these goods from a month earlier. In total, about 281,400 rail cars were required to load all of May's non-intermodal freight.

Loadings of intermodal freight, that is, containers and trailers hauled on flat cars, amounted to 2.4 million tonnes, virtually unchanged from March or April.

Freight coming from the United States, either destined for or passing through Canada, reached 2.5 million tonnes, up 8.8% from the previous month.

On a year-over-year basis, non-intermodal tonnage was up 1.3% from May last year. Intermodal traffic was up 3.4%, while traffic received from the United States was up 9.9%.

Available on CANSIM: table 404-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2732.

The May 2005 issue of *Monthly Railway Carloadings*, Vol. 82, no. 5 (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. ■

Refined petroleum products

May 2005 (preliminary)

Data on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for May. Other selected data about these products are also available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

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

New products

Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin, 2002, Vol. 6, no. 5
Catalogue number 21-006-XIE
(free).

Farm Product Price Index, May 2005, Vol. 5, no. 5
Catalogue number 21-007-XIE
(free).

Cereals and Oilseeds Review, May 2005, Vol. 28, no. 5
Catalogue number 22-007-XIB (\$12/\$120).

Aviation: Service Bulletin, Vol. 37, no. 3
Catalogue number 51-004-XIB (\$9).

Monthly Railway Carloadings, May 2005, Vol. 82, no. 5
Catalogue number 52-001-XIE (\$9/\$83).

Capital Expenditure Price Statistics, First quarter 2005, Vol. 21, no. 1
Catalogue number 62-007-XPB (\$26/\$85).

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
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 The Daily	
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Thursday, June 5, 1997 For release at 9:30 a.m.	
MAJOR RELEASES	
• Urban transit, 1995 Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.	2
• Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995 Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses also noticeably weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.	4
OTHER RELEASES	
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