



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Consumer Price Index, July 2005 2

A surge in gasoline prices, partly offset by lower automotive vehicle prices, pushed the 12-month increase in the Consumer Price Index up to 2.0% in July from 1.7% in June 2005.

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Prairie farmers anticipate increased production of oilseeds (canola and flaxseed) and slightly reduced production of spring wheat, barley and dry peas in 2005.

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Releases

Consumer Price Index

July 2005

In July 2005, consumers paid 2.0% more than in July 2004 for the goods and services included in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket, compared to the 1.7% increase recorded in June. However, the 12-month change in the All-items excluding energy index was 1.4% between July 2004 and July 2005 compared to 1.5% in June 2005.

Gasoline prices were the primary reason for the increase in the 12-month change in the All-items index between June and July. After rising 4.2% between June 2004 and June 2005, gasoline prices jumped 12.3% between July 2004 and July 2005. In June 2004, gasoline prices began a downward trend for the rest of 2004. Gasoline prices have been climbing since January 2005, with one exception in May. These two opposing trends have increased the gap between the indexes for July 2004 and July 2005.

The All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada rose by 1.4% between July 2004 and July 2005, a slowdown compared to the 1.5% rise recorded in June.

Between June and July, the All-items index rose by 0.2 %, the same increase as in June. On a monthly basis, the All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada remained constant for a second month in a row.

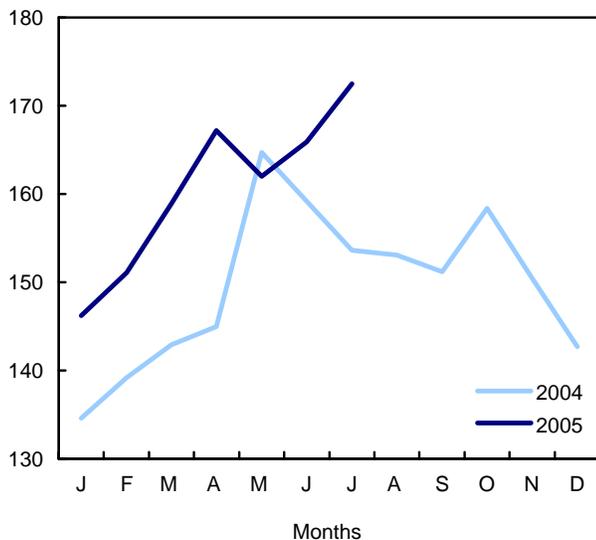
The increase in the 12-month variation mostly attributable to higher gasoline prices

The CPI was 2.0% higher in July compared with the same month a year earlier. Upward pressure was exerted primarily by gasoline, restaurant meals, and homeowners' replacement cost.

The main contributors towards moderating these increases were lower prices for the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles, computer equipment and supplies, and traveller accommodation.

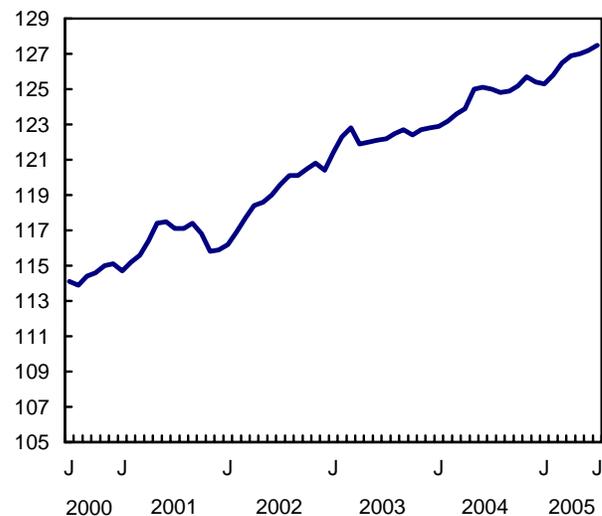
Gasoline

Indexes (1992=100)



The Consumer Price Index

Index (unadjusted) (1992=100)



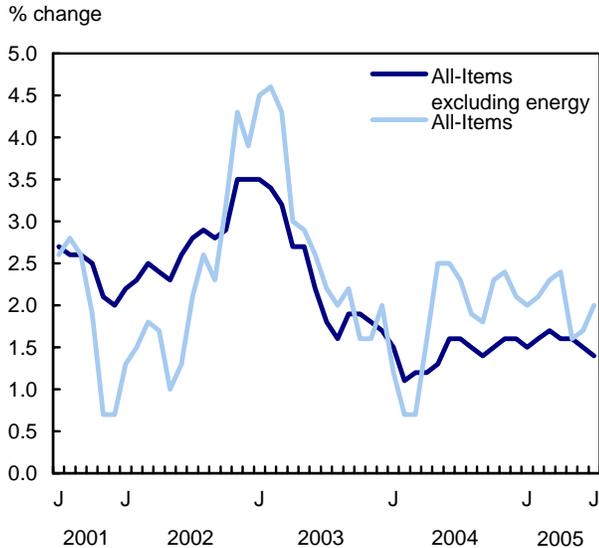
The increase in the All-items 12-month change would have been greater had the gasoline price increases not been partially offset, primarily by lower prices for the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles, and for computer equipment and supplies.

Gasoline, which accounts for 4.6% of the expenditures on the goods and services included in the CPI basket, was the main contributor to the 12-month change in the All-items index with a 12.3% increase in prices. Every province reported higher

prices, ranging from increases of 9.5% in Nova Scotia to 16.3% in Alberta.

Prices for restaurant meals were up 3.0% between July 2004 and July 2005. Higher operating costs were the main reasons behind the higher prices experienced by consumers.

Percentage change from the same month of the previous year



Homeowners' replacement cost, which represents the worn out structural portion of housing and is estimated using new housing prices (excluding land), rose by 4.4% over July 2004.

Among the factors that exerted a moderating effect on the 12-month change in the All-items index was the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles, which was down 1.7% as a result of the greater number of financial incentives offered throughout the year by automobile manufacturers.

The index for computer equipment and supplies plunged 23.1% compared to July 2004.

Continuing the downward trend that started in July 2001, the index for traveller accommodation was down 4.8% compared to July 2004. Every province recorded year-over-year decreases with the exception of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta where increases were noted.

All major components of the CPI posted 12-month increases except recreation, education and reading, which edged down 0.3% due to lower prices for

computer equipment and supplies. Shelter (+3.2%), transportation (+2.8%), food (+2.4%) and alcohol and tobacco (+2.4%) exerted the strongest upward pressure on the All-items index. Health and personal care (+1.9%) and household operations and furnishings (+0.7%) showed more moderate increases, while clothing and footwear remained unchanged.

Energy prices push up the CPI in July

Between June and July, the CPI rose by 0.2%, from a level of 127.2 to 127.5 (1992=100). Higher prices for energy, particularly gasoline, but also natural gas, were behind the increase. Seasonal increases for traveller accommodation also contributed to the rise in the All-items index. Lower prices for the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles were the main factor in moderating these upward trends. Fresh vegetables prices also had a mitigating effect.

The gasoline index in July 2005 was 4.0% higher than in June 2005, having risen from 165.9 to 172.5 (1992=100). All provinces experienced price increases, ranging from 1.9% in British Columbia to 6.4% in New Brunswick.

A 10.7% increase in natural gas prices was the most significant since October 2002. The largest increases were in Alberta (+27.6%) and Ontario (+7.8%) with British Columbia (+4.4%) and Quebec (+2.1%) also showing higher prices.

Prices for traveller accommodation were up 5.5% between June and July 2005. With the exception of Newfoundland and Labrador, where a 4.0% decrease was recorded, all provinces posted increases ranging from 3.6% in Manitoba to 11.2% in Nova Scotia. It is normal for prices to increase in July as the tourist season peaks across the country.

Increases in financial incentives offered by automobile vehicle manufacturers led to a monthly decrease of 1.7% in prices for the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles. It is not unusual, at this time of year, for manufacturers to increase their incentive programs to help reduce stock before the arrival of new models. This year, some manufacturers enhanced their financial incentives by offering their employee discount packages to the general public. As a result, the price decline generally observed in July for the purchase and leasing of automobiles was the largest since 2000.

Seasonally lower prices as a result of the availability of new local harvests, served to bring down the index for fresh vegetables by 5.0%. Lower prices in Québec (-11.0%) were the main contributor to the decrease in the national index. All other provinces showed decreases except for Saskatchewan.

Seasonally adjusted CPI increases between June and July

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

Upward pressure came from the indexes for shelter (+0.6%), transportation (+0.4%), recreation, education and reading (+0.2%), health and personal care (+0.4%), and alcoholic beverages and tobacco products (+0.1%).

Downward pressure came from the clothing and footwear index (-0.3%).

The indexes for household operations and furnishings and for food remained unchanged.

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 1.4% between July 2004 and July 2005. The main contributors to this increase were homeowners' replacement cost (+4.4%), property taxes (+4.3%) and restaurant meals (+3.0%). These increases were partially offset by lower prices for the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles (-1.7%) and computer equipment and supplies (-23.1%).

Between June and July 2005, the All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada remained stable. The main contributor to the downward pressure was the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles (-1.7%). Most of the upward pressure came from prices for traveller accommodation (+5.5%), restaurant meals (+0.3%), cablevision (+1.7%), and women's clothing (+1.0%).

Energy

After rising 3.9% between June 2004 and June 2005, the energy index was up 9.2% between July 2004 and July 2005.

All components contributed to the increase: prices for gasoline (+12.3%), fuel oil (+27.2%), electricity (+2.8%), natural gas (+5.0%), and parts and supplies for recreational vehicles (+7.6%).

On a monthly basis, the energy index increased by 3.4%, mainly due to gasoline prices (+4.0%). Prices for natural gas (+10.7%), electricity (+0.4%) and parts and supplies for recreational vehicles (+2.0%) also exerted upward pressure on the index while the fuel oil index did not change.

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 July 2005 issue of the *Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 84, no. 7 (62-001-XIB, \$9/\$83; 62-001-XPB, \$12/\$111) is now available. See *How to order products*.

The August Consumer Price Index will be released on September 22.

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. □

Consumer Price Index and major components
(1992=100)

| | Relative importance ¹ | July 2005 | June 2005 | July 2004 | June to July 2005 | July 2004 to July 2005 |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| unadjusted | | | | | | |
| | | | | | % change | |
| All-items | 100.00 | 127.5 | 127.2 | 125.0 | 0.2 | 2.0 |
| Food | 16.89 | 128.6 | 128.9 | 125.6 | -0.2 | 2.4 |
| Shelter | 26.75 | 124.5 | 123.8 | 120.6 | 0.6 | 3.2 |
| Household operations and furnishings | 10.58 | 115.7 | 115.7 | 114.9 | 0.0 | 0.7 |
| Clothing and footwear | 5.37 | 100.9 | 101.3 | 100.9 | -0.4 | 0.0 |
| Transportation | 19.79 | 150.3 | 149.7 | 146.2 | 0.4 | 2.8 |
| Health and personal care | 4.52 | 121.5 | 121.1 | 119.2 | 0.3 | 1.9 |
| Recreation, education and reading | 11.96 | 128.5 | 127.8 | 128.9 | 0.5 | -0.3 |
| Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products | 4.13 | 147.7 | 147.7 | 144.2 | 0.0 | 2.4 |
| All-items (1986=100) | | 163.3 | | | | |
| Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1992 | | 78.4 | 78.6 | 80.0 | | |
| Special aggregates | | | | | | |
| Goods | 48.84 | 122.4 | 122.1 | 120.2 | 0.2 | 1.8 |
| Services | 51.16 | 133.3 | 133.0 | 130.4 | 0.2 | 2.2 |
| All-items excluding food and energy | 74.27 | 123.5 | 123.6 | 122.2 | -0.1 | 1.1 |
| Energy | 8.84 | 166.3 | 160.9 | 152.3 | 3.4 | 9.2 |
| All-items excluding the eight most volatile components ³ | 82.75 | 126.6 | 126.6 | 124.9 | 0.0 | 1.4 |

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, 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)

| | July 2005 | June 2005 | July 2004 | June to July 2005 | July 2004 to July 2005 |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Unadjusted | | | | | |
| | | | | % change | |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 126.6 | 126.1 | 123.9 | 0.4 | 2.2 |
| Prince Edward Island | 128.3 | 128.2 | 124.6 | 0.1 | 3.0 |
| Nova Scotia | 129.4 | 129.0 | 126.7 | 0.3 | 2.1 |
| New Brunswick | 127.5 | 126.8 | 124.8 | 0.6 | 2.2 |
| Quebec | 123.6 | 123.4 | 120.9 | 0.2 | 2.2 |
| Ontario | 128.4 | 128.2 | 126.0 | 0.2 | 1.9 |
| Manitoba | 131.7 | 131.3 | 128.3 | 0.3 | 2.7 |
| Saskatchewan | 132.4 | 132.1 | 130.1 | 0.2 | 1.8 |
| Alberta | 135.0 | 133.9 | 132.1 | 0.8 | 2.2 |
| British Columbia | 125.7 | 125.4 | 123.4 | 0.2 | 1.9 |
| Whitehorse | 124.1 | 123.9 | 121.8 | 0.2 | 1.9 |
| Yellowknife | 123.8 | 123.8 | 121.4 | 0.0 | 2.0 |
| Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100) | 103.0 | 103.0 | 101.8 | 0.0 | 1.2 |

1. View the geographical details for Whitehorse, Yellowknife and 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.

Estimate of production of principal field crops

July 31, 2005

Prairie farmers anticipate increased production of oilseeds (canola and flaxseed) and slightly reduced production of spring wheat, barley and dry peas in 2005.

Production estimates

July 31, 2005

| Crop | 2004 | 2005 | 2004 to 2005 |
|-------------------------|----------------|--------|--------------------|
| | '000 of tonnes | | % change |
| Total wheat | 25,860 | 24,716 | -4.4 |
| Spring wheat | 18,451 | 17,836 | -3.3 |
| Barley | 13,186 | 12,358 | -6.3 |
| Canola | 7,728 | 8,325 | 7.7 |
| Durum wheat | 4,962 | 5,083 | 2.4 |
| Oats | 3,683 | 3,731 | 1.3 |
| Dry field peas | 3,338 | 3,223 | -3.4 |
| Flaxseed | 517 | 1,044 | 102.0 |
| Soybeans ¹ | 3,042 | 2,954 | -2.9 |
| Grain corn ¹ | 8,802 | 8,236 | -6.4 |

1. Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba.

Data from the annual July Farm Survey of 17,600 farmers revealed a mixed picture for two major producing regions. In Quebec and Ontario, generally hot and dry weather with spotty rainfall, especially in southern Ontario, served to stunt crops and reduce farmers' production expectations for corn and soybeans.

In the West, soil moisture levels during the survey period were generally good, with the exception of southern Manitoba, where severe flooding prohibited completion of seeding in some areas and drowned out entire fields of young plants in others. In Saskatchewan and Alberta, farmers reported strong and in some cases record production estimates. Prairie farmers nervously await the harvest, hoping that conditions will remain favourable until then.

Canola production improves

Prairie farmers reported that canola production could rise 7.8% to 8.2 million tonnes, the result of a record yield and an increase in harvested area from 2004.

Saskatchewan farmers estimate a potential production increase of 1.1 million tonnes to a record 4.0 million tonnes in 2005. Alberta farmers expect a more modest production increase of 127,000 tonnes to 3.1 million tonnes. These increases would primarily be the result of a greater area devoted to canola in 2005, and in the case of Saskatchewan, a record yield. On the other hand, adverse conditions in Manitoba should

result in a 36.0% production decline to 1.1 million tonnes. Major reductions in both area and yield were reported. The 10-year average production in Manitoba is 1.5 million tonnes.

Flaxseed production could double

In the Prairies, flaxseed production should jump from 516,900 tonnes in 2004 to 1.0 million tonnes in 2005. In spite of the increase, production is still well short of the record 1.2 million tonnes set in 1970. Expected gains in harvested area and yield combined to produce the increase. Producers in all three Prairie provinces expected increases in flaxseed production.

The increase in Saskatchewan was fueled by a strong rise in yield and a record harvested area of 1.6 million acres, which combined to produce a potential record production of 835,700 tonnes. The previous record was 711,200 tonnes set in 1999. Saskatchewan accounts for 80.0% of the flaxseed grown.

Spring wheat production down slightly

Total spring wheat production in the Prairies is expected to fall 3.7% to 17.4 million tonnes. The 10-year average is 17.7 million tonnes. The reported average yield was 37.3 bushels per acre, down 2.6% from 2004.

Saskatchewan and Alberta farmers estimated small increases in production this year, while farmers in Manitoba expected production to fall 33.1% to 2.2 million tonnes as a result of adverse weather conditions. The 10-year average in Manitoba is 3.4 million tonnes.

Durum production nudges up

Durum wheat production is expected to increase 2.4% from a year earlier to 5.1 million tonnes, the result of an increase in harvested area. The 10-year average is 4.6 million tonnes.

Farmers in all three Prairie provinces expect to see production increases this year. Over three-quarters of Canadian durum is grown in Saskatchewan.

Barley, oat production dips slightly

Prairie barley production should fall 5.8% to 11.5 million tonnes. The 10-year average is 11.4 million tonnes.

Manitoba and Alberta reported decreases of 42.0% and 9.9% respectively, while Saskatchewan bucked the trend with an estimated 8.9% increase in barley production.

Oat production in the Prairie provinces is expected to slip 0.7% to 3.2 million tonnes. The 10-year average is 3.1 million tonnes.

Provincially, farmers in Manitoba reported a 34.6% drop in production to 590,700 tonnes, the lowest production estimate since 1993. On the other hand, farmers in Saskatchewan and Alberta expected increases of 15.2% and 8.3% respectively.

Field pea area down overall but a record high in Saskatchewan

Field pea production in the Prairies could drop slightly this year, down 111,200 tonnes to 3.2 million tonnes, as a result of lower yield.

Field pea production has grown rapidly in the last two years. The recent five-year average production is only 2.3 million tonnes.

A review at the provincial level tells a diverging story. Manitoba pea production may drop by 51.1% to 78 300 tonnes. This is the lowest production estimate since 1990. Production in Saskatchewan reached a new record of 2.5 million tonnes, breaking the record set in 2004. The 2005 production estimate is up 1.5% from 2004. Harvested area was a record 2.7 million acres, up 160,000 from the 2004 record area. Alberta production could fall 9.5%, the result of a decrease in estimated harvested area.

Ontario, Quebec farmers should produce less grain corn and soybeans

Farmers in Ontario and Quebec reported production estimates lower than 2004 for their grain corn and soybeans, the result of lower estimated yields and harvested areas.

Quebec farmers estimate corn production to fall 5.8% to 3.3 million tonnes, as a result of smaller harvested area and lower estimated yield. The 10-year average production estimate is 2.7 million tonnes.

Soybean production in Quebec may also decline by 2.9% from 2004 to 505,000 tonnes, the result of a lower estimated harvested area. The 10-year average production value is 359,200 tonnes.

In Ontario, production estimates for corn are down 9.5% to 4.8 million tonnes, the result of smaller harvested area and lower yield. The 10-year average is 5.3 million tonnes.

Soybean production may drop 3.3% from the 2004 record to 2.4 million tonnes in 2005, the result of a decline in yield. Soybean production has fluctuated significantly over the decade, ranging from 1.3 million tonnes in 2001 to 2.5 million tonnes in 2004.

Available on CANSIM: tables 001-0004, 001-0010, 001-0017 to 001-0020.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3401.

The publication *Field Crop Reporting Series*, Vol. 84, no. 5 (22-002-XIB, \$12/\$71; 22-002-XPB, \$17/\$95) is now available. See *How to order our products*.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact David Burroughs (613-951-5138; dave.burroughs@statcan.ca), Dave Roeske (613-951-0572; dave.roeske@statcan.ca), or Heather Smith (613-951-0730; heather.smith@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Placement of hatchery chicks and turkey poults

July 2005 (preliminary)

Placements of hatchery chicks onto farms were estimated at 58.2 million birds in July, down 1.1% from July 2004. Placements of turkey poults on farms decreased 4.6% to 1.9 million birds.

Available on CANSIM: table 003-0021.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5039.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandra Gielfeldt (613-951-2505; sandy.gielfeldt@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Steel primary forms, weekly data

Week ending August 20, 2005 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending August 20 totalled 288 026 metric tonnes, down 1.5% from 292 306 tonnes a week earlier and down 0.4% from 289 085 tonnes in the same week of 2004.

The year-to-date total as of August 20 was 9 847 223 tonnes, down 4.0% from 10 254 143 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. ■

Sawmills and planning mills

June 2005

Data on sawmills and planning mills are now available for June.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0009.

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

The June 2005 issue of *Sawmills and Planning Mills*, Vol. 59, no. 6 (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. ■

New products

Finding and Using Statistics
Catalogue number **11-533-XWE**
(free).

Field Crop Reporting Series, Vol. 84, no. 5
Catalogue number **22-002-XIB** (\$12/\$71).

Field Crop Reporting Series, Vol. 84, no. 5
Catalogue number **22-002-XPB** (\$17/\$95).

Sawmills and Planing Mills, June 2005, Vol. 59, no. 6
Catalogue number **35-003-XIB** (\$10/\$93).

The Consumer Price Index, July 2005, Vol. 84, no. 7
Catalogue number **62-001-XIB** (\$9/\$83).

The Consumer Price Index, July 2005, Vol. 84, no. 7
Catalogue number **62-001-XPB** (\$12/\$111).

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

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
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.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- Map-based index, May 1997 3
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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11



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The Daily, August 26, 2005

Release dates: August 29 to September 2, 2005

(Release dates are subject to change.)

| Release date | Title | Reference period |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 29 | Characteristics of international travellers | First quarter 2005 |
| 29 | International travel account | Second quarter 2005 |
| 30 | Industrial product and raw materials price indexes | July 2005 |
| 30 | Balance of international payments | Second quarter 2005 |
| 31 | National economic and financial accounts | Second quarter 2005 |
| 31 | Gross domestic product by industry | June 2005 |
| 1 | University tuition fees | 2005/06 |
