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Releases

Releases

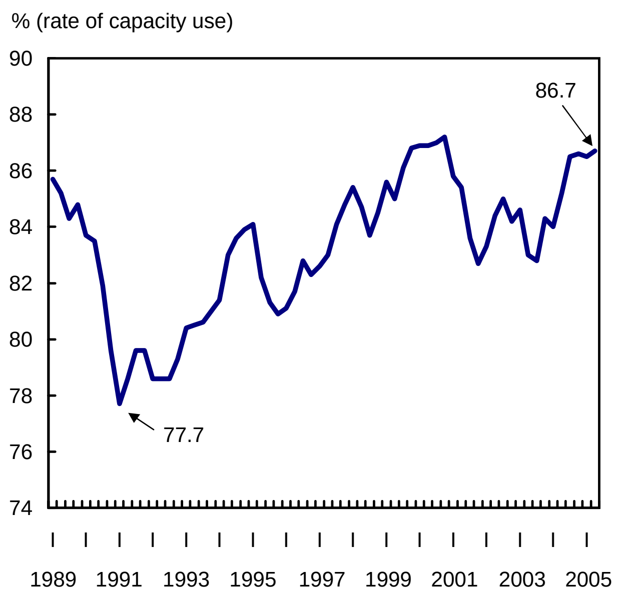
Industrial capacity utilization rates
Second quarter 2005

Capacity use by industries edged up to its highest level in nearly five years during the second quarter despite a decline in the big manufacturing sector.

Industries operated at 86.7% of capacity between April and June, up marginally from 86.5% in the first three months of the year. This slight gain took the rate to its highest point since the fourth quarter of 2000. It was also less than one percentage point below the peak of 87.6% reached in the first quarter of 1988.

An industry's capacity utilization rate is the ratio of its actual output to its estimated potential output. Rates have been revised back to the first quarter of 2003 to incorporate original data that have been revised.

Continued high level of capacity use



The second quarter saw contrasting trends. Manufacturers reduced their capacity utilization for the first time in over a year. At the same time, capacity use increased in all other sectors after declining during the first quarter.

This decline in the manufacturing sector, which accounts for 55% of the entire industrial spectrum, is attributable to weak export growth. This slowdown hit vehicle and automotive parts manufacturers especially hard with exports down 3.1%. According to the Business Conditions Survey for July 2005, manufacturers were less satisfied with the volume of new orders received and remained worried about the volume of finished product stock. For these reasons, they predicted a slight reduction in production in the third quarter of 2005. In addition, higher oil prices may be a further impediment to performance in the manufacturing sector.

Capacity use rose sharply in the mining and oil and gas extraction sector as a result of a rebound in tar sands oil extraction and vigorous demand in Asia and North America for non-ferrous metals. Strong world demand and concerns about supply helped drive up oil prices on international markets and the profits of oil and gas extraction and refinery companies reached record levels in the second quarter.

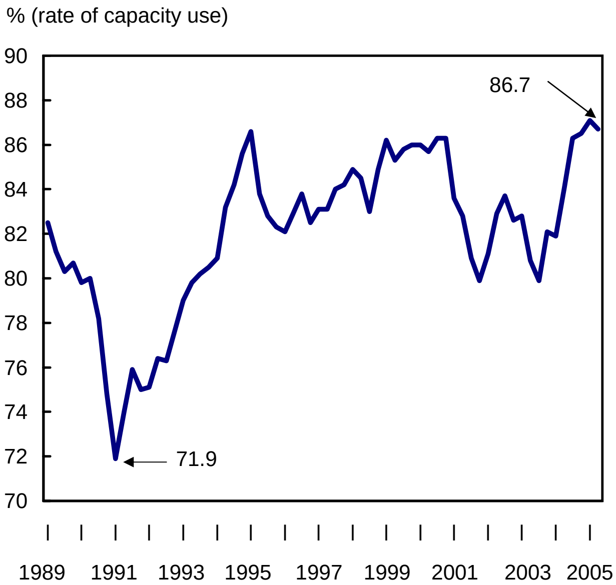
Although the industrial sector is operating at high capacity, inflation remained relatively stable. The Consumer Price Index, excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada, rose 1.4% between July 2004 and July 2005.

Manufacturing sector falters after four straight quarters of increases

Following four straight quarters of increases, the manufacturing sector's capacity utilization rate fell 0.4 percentage points to 86.7% in the second quarter. The 21 industrial groups comprising this sector were almost evenly split between those where rates rose and those where they fell.

The biggest contribution to the decline came from the transportation equipment, chemical, non-metallic mineral products and fabricated metal products industries.

Downturn in manufacturing



Among transportation equipment manufacturers, the rate fell from 89.8% to 87.8%. Weak international demand for automotive products was largely responsible for a 2.1% decline in production in this industry.

Among chemical manufacturers, the rate slipped to 81.0% from 83.7% in the first quarter. A slowdown in production activities for the majority of main components in the group resulted in a 2.6% reduction in chemical production.

After peaking at 91.5% in the first quarter, industrial capacity utilization among manufacturers of non-metallic mineral products tumbled to 87.2%. Production declined for all of the main components of this group.

In the fabricated metal products manufacturing industry, the rate was 85.5%, down 1.7 points from the previous quarter. After posting strong results during four straight quarters, production in this industry declined 1.8% in the second quarter, largely due to a 9.6% drop in production by manufacturers of boilers, tanks and shipping containers.

However, higher capacity utilization in the primary metal, machinery and computer and electronic products manufacturing industries helped moderate the drop in utilization rate in the manufacturing sector.

Among primary metal manufacturers, producers of steel and aluminium products posted significant production increases, and production of primary metal products rose 2.6%. As a result, the rate for this industry climbed from 86.2% to 88.5%.

Machinery manufacturers used more of their production capacity for an eighth consecutive quarter, with the rate climbing from 91.4% to a record 93.2%. Mixed results among the main components of this group translated into a 1.6% increase in production.

For manufacturers of computer and electronic products, the rate rose to 95.5%, up from 93.2% in the previous quarter. This was the highest rate since the third quarter of 2000 when it peaked at 99.7%.

Capacity use up in all other sectors

All other industrial sectors used more of their production capacity in the second quarter of 2005.

The mining and oil and gas extraction sector posted strong results in the second quarter. Solutions to production problems with the treatment of the tar sands produced an increase of 1.3% in production in the oil and gas extraction industry, which reached a use rate of 82.6%, up 1.8 percentage points from the previous quarter. It was the largest increase in the capacity utilization rate in this sector since the second quarter of 1999 when the rate rose 2.0 points.

Capacity utilization also posted robust growth in the mining sector where it rose from 91.5% to 94.8%. Production in non-metallic mineral mines jumped 13.8%, making a major contribution to this sector's increased production.

In the forestry and logging industry, the use rate climbed 1.1 points to 94.7%, the result of a 1.7% increase in production.

Capacity use rose in the construction sector, climbing from 84.7% to 85.0%. Residential construction, which peaked in June, was a strong contributor to a 0.8% gain in production in this sector.

Production of electricity rose 1.0% in the second quarter. As a result, the capacity utilization rate in the electrical power sector increased from 87.6% to 88.4%.

Available on CANSIM: table 028-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2821.

Data on industrial capacity utilization rates for the third quarter will be released on December 9.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality, contact Richard Landry (613-951-2579) or Mychèle Gagnon (613-951-0994), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

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Industrial capacity utilization rates

	Second quarter 2004[r]	First quarter 2005[r]	Second quarter 2005	Second quarter 2004 to second quarter 2005	First to second quarter 2005
				percentage point change	
Total industrial	**85.2**	**86.5**	**86.7**	**1.5**	**0.2**
Forestry and logging	91.5	93.6	94.7	3.2	1.1
Mining and oil and gas extraction	88.7	84.9	87.3	-1.4	2.4
Oil and gas extraction	84.8	80.8	82.6	-2.2	1.8
Mining	94.9	91.5	94.8	-0.1	3.3
Electric power generation, transmission and distribution	83.7	87.6	88.4	4.7	0.8
Construction	86.3	84.7	85.0	-1.3	0.3
Manufacturing	84.1	87.1	86.7	2.6	-0.4
Food	81.6	84.2	85.2	3.6	1.0
Beverage and tobacco products	75.5	76.4	78.1	2.6	1.7
Beverage	78.6	79.3	81.8	3.2	2.5
Tobacco	65.5	66.7	66.2	0.7	-0.5
Textile mills	76.7	77.3	78.0	1.3	0.7
Textile product mills	79.3	83.4	81.9	2.6	-1.5
Clothing	76.8	71.0	65.4	-11.4	-5.6
Leather and allied products	68.8	68.4	68.2	-0.6	-0.2
Wood products	90.6	94.1	94.2	3.6	0.1
Paper	90.8	90.9	90.5	-0.3	-0.4
Printing and related support activities	75.5	75.6	76.4	0.9	0.8
Petroleum and coal products	94.4	87.4	83.6	-10.8	-3.8
Chemical	83.8	83.7	81.0	-2.8	-2.7
Plastics and rubber products	90.8	90.9	90.1	-0.7	-0.8
Plastic products	91.7	90.3	88.6	-3.1	-1.7
Rubber products	87.0	93.3	96.9	9.9	3.6
Non-metallic mineral products	88.3	91.5	87.2	-1.1	-4.3
Primary metal	89.9	86.2	88.5	-1.4	2.3
Fabricated metal products	79.1	87.2	85.5	6.4	-1.7
Machinery	82.7	91.4	93.2	10.5	1.8
Computer and electronic products	80.0	93.2	95.5	15.5	2.3
Electrical equipment, appliance and component	77.2	81.0	80.6	3.4	-0.4
Transportation equipment	86.7	89.8	87.8	1.1	-2.0
Furniture and related products	79.2	86.7	88.4	9.2	1.7
Miscellaneous manufacturing	83.2	83.8	86.3	3.1	2.5

r *Revised figures.*

■

Control and sale of alcoholic beverages

Fiscal year ending March 31, 2004

Canadians bought more beer, wine and spirits last year, but the rate of growth cooled somewhat, according to new data on sales.

In total, Canada's beer and liquor stores and agencies sold more than $16.1 billion worth of alcoholic beverages during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2004, up 4.9% from the year before. This rate of growth was slower than the 6.0% increase during the previous fiscal year.

As usual, beer was by far the most popular beverage. In terms of dollar value, beer captured 50.7% of sales, spirits, 24.7%; and wine 24.6%.

Sales of alcoholic beverages

2004

	Beer	Wine	Spirits	Total
	$ '000			
Newfoundland and Labrador	186,033	28,535	103,780	318,348
Prince Edward Island	32,778	8,850	22,478	64,106
Nova Scotia	237,496	77,484	161,144	476,124
New Brunswick	202,816	50,640	90,993	344,449
Quebec	2,292,978	1,432,706	508,016	4,233,700
Ontario	3,034,218	1,349,823	1,603,664	5,987,705
Manitoba	226,668	79,403	185,273	491,344
Saskatchewan	218,258	39,101	157,905	415,264
Alberta	743,482	320,986	495,885	1,560,353
British Columbia	973,978	570,820	632,227	2,177,025
Yukon	13,043	4,489	7,876	25,408
Northwest Territories	18,354	4,762	16,129	39,245
Nunavut	2,788	216	923	3,927
Canada	**8,182,891**	**3,967,816**	**3,986,293**	**16,137,000**

Although Canadian products are still dominant in the beer market, imported beer is gaining ground. In 2003/04, volume of sales of imported beer captured 11% of the Canadian market, up from 10.2% in the previous fiscal year and less than 3% a decade ago.

In the wine market, red wine was by far the preferred choice of Canadians. Red varieties accounted for 49% of the volume of sales, while white brands had only 36% and unidentified wine 15%.

Revenue from the sale of alcoholic beverages plus the net income realized by provincial and territorial liquor authorities hit $4.3 billion in 2003/04, up 7.2% from the previous year. This was the largest year-over-year increase in the last 20 years.

Provincially, net income increased most in British Columbia (+11.1%) and in Ontario (+9.4%).

Note to readers

Statistics on sales of alcoholic beverages by volume should not be equated with data on consumption. Sales volumes include only sales by liquor authorities and their agents, and sales by wineries and breweries and outlets that operate under license from the liquor authorities.

Consumption of alcoholic beverages would include all these sales, plus homemade wine and beer, wine and beer manufactured through brew-on-premises operations, all sales in duty-free shops and any unrecorded transactions.

Similarly, statistics on sales of alcoholic beverages by dollar value of sales should not be equated with consumer expenditures on alcoholic beverages. The sales data refer to the revenues received by liquor authorities, wineries and breweries and these revenues include sales to licensed establishments such as bars and restaurants. The sales data do not, therefore, reflect the total amount spent by consumers on alcoholic beverages since the prices paid in licensed establishments are greater than the price paid by those establishments to the liquor authorities.

Per capita data is based on the population aged 15 and over.

Net income of provincial and territorial liquor authorities and revenue from the sales of alcoholic beverages

	2003	2004	
	$ '000		% change
Newfoundland and Labrador	92,270	100,038	8.4
Prince Edward Island	21,567	22,670	5.1
Nova Scotia	161,616	171,621	6.2
New Brunswick	113,694	121,904	7.2
Quebec	695,107	714,818	2.8
Ontario	1,402,302	1,534,521	9.4
Manitoba	167,647	177,586	5.9
Saskatchewan	126,425	134,544	6.4
Alberta	541,312	556,608	2.8
British Columbia	660,424	733,749	11.1
Yukon	6,889	7,915	14.9
Northwest Territories	19,819	20,420	3.0
Nunavut	1,813	1,923	6.1
Canada	**4,010,885**	**4,298,317**	**7.2**

The provinces: What Canadians like to buy

Stores and agencies sold almost 2.8 billion litres of alcoholic beverages in 2003/04. Beer accounted for 80.5% of sales, wine 12.4% and spirits, 7.1%.

On average, each Canadian aged 15 and older purchased 107.2 litres of alcoholic beverages, up one litre from the previous fiscal year.

Of this total, Canadians bought 86.3 litres of beer, 13.3 litres of wine and 7.6 litres of spirits during the year. Their total per capita purchases of alcoholic beverages amounted to $623.60.

Among provinces, consumers in Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador led the pack, purchasing just over 115 litres of alcoholic beverages per capita. In contrast, those in Saskatchewan purchased only 94.4 litres, lowest of all.

In volume, per capita purchases of beer were also highest in Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec, and lowest in British Columbia.

Newfoundlanders also bought the highest per capita volumes in spirits. Quebeckers led the way with purchases of wine.

Per capita sales of wine, in volume, were above the national average in only three provinces: Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia. Red wine was the preferred choice in only four provinces: Quebec, where it accounted for almost 70% of the market compared with white; and Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia, where it represented about 55% of the market.

Among spirits, rum was still most popular in Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. Whisky was the preferred choice for consumers from Ontario to British Columbia.

Sales of alcoholic beverages per capita 15 years and over
2004

	Beer	Wine	Spirits	Total
		$		
Newfoundland and Labrador	428.8	65.8	239.2	733.8
Prince Edward Island	293.3	79.2	201.1	573.6
Nova Scotia	305.8	99.8	207.5	613.0
New Brunswick	324.9	81.1	145.7	551.7
Quebec	369.4	230.8	81.8	682.1
Ontario	304.9	135.6	161.1	601.7
Manitoba	244.5	85.7	199.9	530.1
Saskatchewan	275.4	49.3	199.2	524.0
Alberta	293.4	126.7	195.7	615.8
British Columbia	282.7	165.7	183.5	631.9
Yukon	531.4	182.9	320.9	1 035.2
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	420.6	99.0	339.3	858.9
Canada	**316.2**	**153.3**	**154.0**	**623.6**

Note: *The per capita sales of Northwest Territories and Nunavut are combined.*

Volume sales of domestic beverages rising more slowly than imported brands

During the past 10 years, volume sales of domestic alcoholic beverages have increased at much lower rates than imported products.

From 1993/94 to 2003/04, volume sales of Canadian spirits increased at an annual average rate of 4.0% compared with an average of 6.1% for imported products.

The contrast is even bigger in the beer market. During this 10-year period, the volume of imported beer sales more than quadrupled compared with a gain of only 3.1% for Canadian products.

In the wine market, the volume of sales of Canadian wine usually exceeded that of imported wine up to the fiscal year 1989/90. Since then, however, the Canadian wine market has been dominated by imported products.

For red wine, imported products have captured three-quarters of the Canadian market, while imported brands account for about one-half of the white wine market.

Beer: Sales surpass $8-billion mark

Beer sales surpassed the $8-billion mark in 2003/04. In total, beer and liquor stores and agencies sold almost $8.2 billion worth of beer, up 4.0% from the previous year.

On a per capita basis, this amounted to $316.20 for every person aged 15 and over.

Consumers bought $1.1 billion in imported beer, up 13.5% from the previous year. In contrast, sales of domestic brands rose 2.7% to $7.1 billion.

Canada exported 391 million litres of beer in 2003/04, while it imported 220 million litres.

During the past decade, the volume of imported beer has increased at an annual average rate of 14.7%, compared with only 1.7% on average for our exports to the world.

More than 60% of all imported beer distributed on the Canadian market comes from the United States, Netherlands and Mexico. All of our exported beer went to the United States.

Wine: Market dominated by imports

Liquor stores and their agencies sold nearly $4.0 billion worth of wines in 2003/04, up 7.4% from the previous year.

Value of sales of imported red wines rose 9.7% in 2003/04, compared with a 6.5% gain among domestic red wines.

Between 1993/94 and 2003/04, imports of wine increased at an annual average rate of 6.0% to 285 million litres.

More than 60% of all imported wine distributed in Canada came mainly from three countries: France, Italy and the United States.

On the other hand, 85% of our wine exports went to the United States in 2003/04.

Spirits: Whisky top seller

Liquor stores sold nearly $4.0 billion worth of spirits in 2003/04, up 4.3% from the previous year.

Sales of imported spirits climbed 6.5% to $1.4 billion, while sales of domestic spirits grew 3.1% to $2.6 billion.

Among Canadian products, whisky was the top seller, followed by rum and vodka. The leading imported product was liqueurs.

In the spirits market, based on litres of absolute alcohol, Canada imported 33 million litres of spirits in 2003/04, an annual average gain of 5.0% from a decade earlier.

American products accounted for more than 30% of all imported products, followed by those from the United Kingdom, at 21.5%.

Available on CANSIM: tables 183-0005, 183-0006 and 183-0015 to 183-0020.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1726.

The 2004 issue of *The Control and Sale of Alcoholic Beverages in Canada* (63-202-XIE, $31) is now available. A print-on-demand version is available on request. Data are also available in special tabulations.

For more information on products and services, contact Jo-Anne Thibault (613-951-0767 or *pid-info-dip@statcan.ca*), Public Institutions Division. For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Claude Vaillancourt (613-951-1820), Public Institutions Division. ■

New Housing Price Index

July 2005

New housing prices edged up 0.2% compared to June, while the 12-month rate of increase remained stable at 4.7%.

A steady market for new housing along with building materials and labour cost increases nudged prices up nationally. Land value increases were a factor in only 3 of the 21 metropolitan areas surveyed. Victoria, in particular, was experiencing land shortages.

According to the New Housing Price Index (which is based on contractors' selling prices of new homes in 21 metropolitan areas), the price of new homes rose 0.2% on a monthly basis, down substantially from the 0.8% gain in the previous month.

The New Housing Price Index (1997=100) rose to 129.5 in July.

New housing price indexes

(1997=100)

	July 2005	July 2004 to July 2005	June to July 2005
		% change	
Canada total	**129.5**	**4.7**	**0.2**
House only	137.4	4.3	0.2
Land only	114.1	5.4	0.1
St.John's	125.3	4.8	0.0
Halifax	122.5	0.6	0.6
Charlottetown	114.2	4.7	0.0
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton	109.2	4.5	0.3
Québec	133.8	3.4	0.0
Montréal	141.5	5.1	0.0
Ottawa–Gatineau	155.1	4.4	1.0
Toronto and Oshawa	133.0	4.2	0.0
Hamilton	135.3	5.6	0.5
St. Catharines–Niagara	137.5	5.7	-0.1
Kitchener	131.5	5.4	0.0
London	126.9	5.1	-0.2
Windsor	105.8	3.6	0.0
Greater Sudbury/Grand-Sudbury and Thunder Bay	100.5	2.1	0.5
Winnipeg	132.5	6.9	0.0
Regina	142.6	6.2	0.0
Saskatoon	126.1	5.4	0.0
Calgary	145.2	4.8	0.0
Edmonton	137.8	6.4	0.7
Vancouver	106.3	5.1	0.4
Victoria	113.0	6.8	0.9

Note: *View the census subdivisions that comprise the metropolitan areas online.*

Of the 21 metropolitan areas surveyed, only 8 posted monthly gains. The most significant changes were in Ottawa–Gatineau and Victoria with increases of 1.0% and 0.9% respectively. Price increases in Ottawa–Gatineau were attributed to market demand coupled with increased costs of inputs, which prompted some builders to re-evaluate prices. In Victoria, higher lot values, a strong market and higher costs of labour and building materials combined to push new housing prices up.

Edmonton and Halifax posted notable increases of 0.7% and 0.6% respectively, mostly due to material, labour and land increases.

Monthly increases were also noted in Hamilton, Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury and Thunder Bay; Vancouver; and Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton.

Eleven metropolitan areas registered no monthly change, most notably Toronto and Oshawa. The metropolitan areas of St. Catharines–Niagara (-0.1%) and London (-0.2%) were the only ones that recorded monthly decreases.

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.

The second quarter 2005 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XPB, $26/$85) will be available in October.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact our Client Services Section (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; *infounit@statcan.ca*) or Randy Sterns (613-951-8183; *sterran@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. ■

For-hire motor carriers of freight, top carriers

Second quarter 2005

The top 91 for-hire motor carriers of freight (Canadian-based trucking companies earning $25 million or more annually) generated operating revenue of $2.26 billion and expenses of $2.12 billion in the second quarter. Average per-carrier revenue decreased 1.1% from the second quarter of 2004 to $24.9 million. Average per-carrier expenses decreased 1.4% to $23.3 million.

The top for-hire carriers' operating ratio (operating expenses divided by operating revenue) was unchanged at 0.94 compared with the second quarter of 2004. A ratio greater than 1.00 represents an operating loss.

Second quarter 2005 data on the top for-hire carriers, taken from the Quarterly Motor Carriers of Freight Survey, provide results from 66 general freight carriers and 25 specialized freight carriers.

Note: Readers should note that, with few exceptions, additions and deletions to the top carriers are done only for the first quarter of each calendar year, while the composition of a top carrier may change at any time due to acquisitions or divestitures. Year-over-year variations in revenue and expenses may arise from changes to the mix of companies included in the top carriers and/or changes in the financial results reported by individual carriers. The revenue and expenses attributed to top carriers may also include that of some companies with less than $25 million in annual revenue, particularly when these companies exist in complex corporate structures where their individual activities may be difficult to accurately measure.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2748.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ron Chrétien (613-951-8774; *ron.chetien@statcan.ca*) or Denis Pilon (613-951-2707; fax: 613-951-0579; *denis.pilon@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Financial Information of Universities and Colleges Survey

2003/04

Data for the 2003/04 academic year coming from the Financial Information of Universities and Colleges Survey are now available.

The survey provides financial information (income and expenditures) on all universities and degree-granting colleges in Canada.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3121.

For further information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; *educationstats@statcan.ca*), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

Production of eggs and poultry

July 2005 (preliminary)

Egg production was estimated at 49.8 million dozen in July, up 7.8% from July 2004.

Poultry meat production reached 96.0 million kilograms in July, up 10.5% from July 2004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3424, 3425 and 5039.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandy Gielfeldt (613-951-2505), (*sandy.gielfeldt@statcan.ca*) or Barbara Bowen (613-951-3716), (*barbara.bowen@statcan.ca*) Livestock and Animal Products Section, Agriculture Division. ■

New products

The Control and Sale of Alcoholic Beverages in Canada, 2004
Catalogue number 63-202-XIE ($31).

Building Permits, July 2005, Vol. 49, no. 7
Catalogue number 64-001-XIE ($15/$156).

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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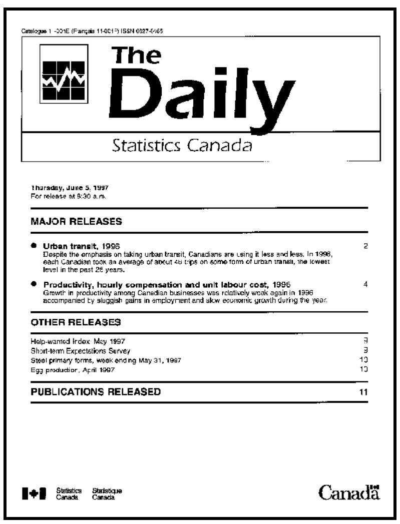
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The Daily

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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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED — 11

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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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