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Releases

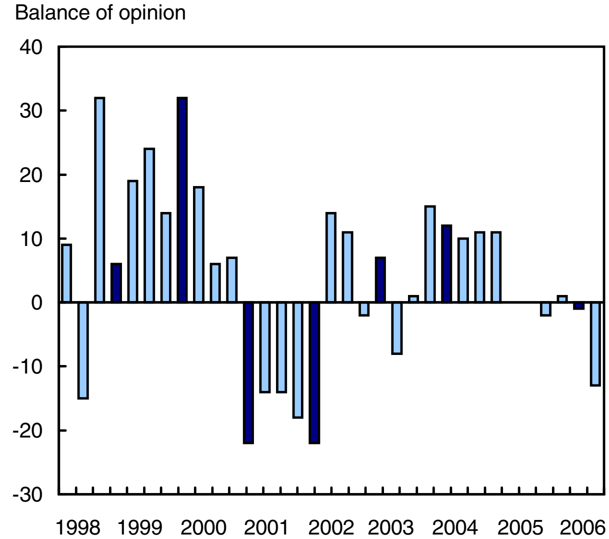
Releases

Business Conditions Survey: Manufacturing industries

April 2006

Manufacturers are expecting tougher times ahead according to the April Business Conditions Survey, due in part to dissatisfaction with the current level of orders, the effects of the higher Canadian dollar and substantial increases in the price of crude oil and other raw material inputs. As a result, manufacturers are anticipating lower production and employment levels in the coming three months.

Balance of opinion for expected volume of production next three months versus last three months



The Business Conditions Survey is a quarterly survey requesting opinions on production impediments, finished product inventory levels, new and unfilled order levels, production and employment prospects in the coming three months. The voluntary survey was conducted in the first two weeks of April and attracted almost 4,000 responses from manufacturers.

Manufacturers less optimistic about production prospects

While 14% of manufacturers stated they would increase production in the second quarter of 2006 another 27% expected to decrease production, leaving the balance of opinion at -13. This was a 12 point decrease from the -1 balance posted in the January survey. This represents the most negative balance of opinion since January 2001 when the balance stood at -23. The most positive recent balance of opinion was +11 posted in the October 2004 survey.

Manufacturers in the transportation equipment, primary metal, chemical, plastics and rubber products industries were the major contributors to the lower production prospects in the second quarter of 2006. A lack of capacity continued to be an issue for some manufacturers. According to the Industrial Capacity Utilization Rates, manufacturers operated at 84.7% of capacity in the fourth quarter of 2005.

The balance of opinion is determined by subtracting the proportion of manufacturers who expected production would be decreasing in the coming three months from the proportion who expected production would be increasing.

Note to readers

The Business Conditions Survey is conducted in January, April, July and October, and the majority of responses are recorded in the first two weeks of these months. Results are based on replies from about 4,000 manufacturers and are weighted by a manufacturer's shipments or employment. Consequently, larger manufacturers have a correspondingly larger impact on the results than smaller manufacturers.

Satisfaction with level of orders received down

In April, the balance of opinion concerning current levels of new orders dropped 5 points from the January survey to -5. This remained lower than the most recent high of +13 posted in the October 2004 survey. The number of manufacturers who stated that orders received were declining increased 5 points to 20% in April. Producers in the transportation equipment industry were the major contributors to the lower balance of opinion for orders received. According to February's Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, new orders for all manufacturing industries were down 2.1% to just over $51.1 billion.

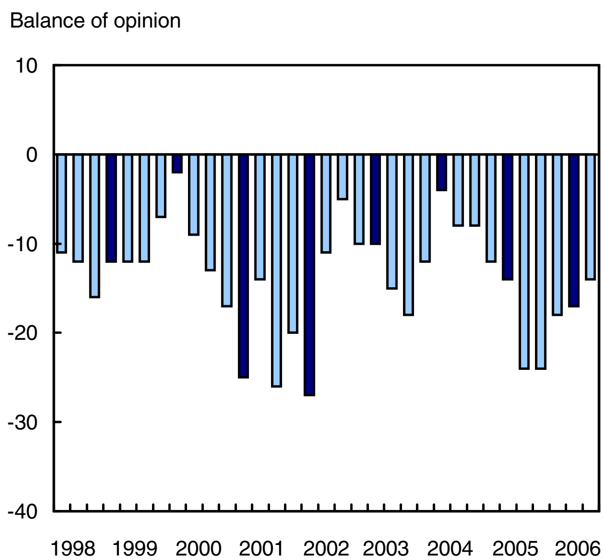
Manufacturers express more concerns with levels of unfilled orders

With 22% of manufacturers expressing a lower-than-normal backlog and 12% stating a higher-than-normal backlog, the balance of opinion concerning the current level of unfilled orders stood at -10. Although this was down 4 points from what was reported in the January survey, it remains higher than the -23 registered in the April 2005 survey. Producers in the computer and electronic products industries, in addition to the chemical, plastics and rubber products industries, were the major contributors to the decreasing unfilled orders balance of opinion. According to February's Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, unfilled orders picked up 1.0% to just over $43.4 billion, the fifth increase in a row.

Manufacturers remain less concerned with finished product inventories

In April, 83% of manufacturers reported that the current level of finished product inventories was about right, up 6 points from the January level. Some 15% stated that inventories were too high, while only 1% said inventories were too low. This left the balance of opinion at -14, a 3 point improvement over the January balance. According to February's Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, finished product inventories edged up 0.2% to almost $22.3 billion.

Balance of opinion for current level of finished-product inventory on hand



Except for the data on production difficulties, data in this release are seasonally adjusted.

Manufacturers' employment outlook down slightly

The balance of opinion for employment prospects for the next three months decreased 1 point to -2 in April. While 84% of manufacturers stated that they would keep or add to their work force, 15% indicated that they expected to decrease employment in the second quarter of 2006. Regionally, manufacturers expected slightly lower employment levels in Ontario (balance -7) and Quebec (balance -7), which more than offset by gains in Manitoba (+21), Saskatchewan (+8), Alberta (+10) and British Columbia (+9) — where manufacturers still expressed difficulty in finding skilled labour. According to the March Labour Force Survey, employment in the manufacturing sector stood at 2.13 million, down 0.6% from the February level. Since the end of 2002, employment in manufacturing has fallen by 8.2%, with 189,000 fewer people working in this industry.

Manufacturers report more production impediments

The number of manufacturers reporting production impediments increased 2 points to 21% in the April survey. The appreciation of the Canadian dollar, higher raw material costs and labour shortages in the western provinces were among the factors cited.

Available on CANSIM: tables 302-0007 and 302-0008.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2152.

Business Conditions Survey data for July 2006 will be released on July 27.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; fax: 613-951-9499; *manufact@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of the release, contact Claude Robillard (613-951-3507; *claude.robillard@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

□

Business Conditions Survey: Manufacturing industries

	April 2005	July 2005	October 2005	January 2006	April 2006
	seasonally adjusted				
Volume of production during next three months compared with last three months will be:					
About the same (%)	64	60	69	69	58
Higher (%)	18	19	16	15	14
Lower (%)	18	21	15	16	27
Balance of opinion	0	-2	1	-1	-13
Orders received are:					
About the same (%)	60	65	76	70	64
Rising (%)	17	13	14	15	15
Declining (%)	23	22	10	15	20
Balance of opinion	-6	-9	4	0	-5
Present backlog of unfilled orders is:					
About normal (%)	52	58	61	65	66
Higher than normal (%)	12	18	19	14	12
Lower than normal (%)	35	23	20	20	22
Balance of opinion	-23	-5	-1	-6	-10
Finished product inventory on hand is:					
About right (%)	66	72	68	75	83
Too low (%)	5	2	7	4	1
Too high[1] (%)	29	26	25	21	15
Balance of opinion	-24	-24	-18	-17	-14
Employment during the next three months will:					
Change little (%)	65	71	72	73	71
Increase (%)	19	14	13	13	13
Decrease (%)	16	14	15	14	15
Balance of opinion	3	0	-2	-1	-2
	unadjusted (%)				
Sources of production difficulties:					
Working capital shortage	3	2	3	3	3
Skilled labour shortage	7	8	9	6	8
Unskilled labour shortage	2	3	4	4	4
Raw material shortage	5	4	5	4	4
Other difficulties	12	3	5	3	3
No difficulties	71	79	74	81	79

1. *No evident seasonality.*

Business Conditions Survey: Manufacturing industries: Production prospects balance of opinion for select industries

	April 2005	July 2005	October 2005	January 2006	April 2006
Major group industries	seasonally adjusted				
Non-durable goods	**1**	**2**	**2**	**-5**	**-5**
Food	2	7	-3	0	5
Chemical	-1	2	8	19	-1
Petroleum and coal products	-7	-10	35	-63	12
Paper	6	-5	-6	-1	-2
Plastic and rubber products	4	8	8	13	0
Durable goods	**-3**	**-8**	**5**	**13**	**-28**
Transportation equipment	-8	-8	0	-2	-35
Primary metal	9	-9	10	25	2
Wood products	-8	3	-9	3	-3
Fabricated metal products	5	20	27	3	12
Machinery	12	15	10	8	5
Computer and electronic products	23	-1	8	-28	14

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Education Matters: Students in the labour market

2005

Employment rates for students — both during summer and throughout the school year — have improved during the past eight years. But in 2005, they were still far below the peak levels reached during the heydays of the late 1980s, according to a new study.

The study examines shifts in student employment, pay and working hours for students who had a summer job and for those who combined school and work during the academic year.

It showed that the summer job market has grown at a far slower pace in recent years than the job market for students who held jobs during the school year.

In the summer of 2005, the employment rate for students who were planning to return to their studies in the fall averaged 51.7%. This was a moderate gain of 4.8 percentage points from 46.9% in the summer of 1998, when the student job market started to trend up.

During the 2004/2005 academic year, students had an average employment rate of 38.9%, up 7.0 percentage points from the 1997/1998 school year.

Employment rates in both cases were below peaks just prior to the 1991 recession, especially during the summer months. In the summer of 1989, 61.4% of students on average were employed. During the 1989/1990 academic year, the proportion was 41.7%.

The study also found that older students were far more likely than teens to have combined school and work in 2004/2005. Female students were more likely to have jobs than male students, in part because of better job opportunities in retail trade and accommodation and food services sectors, where women are more likely to work.

In terms of summer employment, opportunities improved moderately for both younger and older students. Again, however, girls were the main beneficiaries of employment growth, and by 2005, they were far more likely than boys to have had a summer job.

Adjusted for inflation, average hourly wages for full-time students who had jobs during the school year were unchanged over the last eight years. But, because students worked an average of one hour a week more during the 2004/2005 school year than they did in 1997/1998, their total weekly wages increased slightly.

During the summer of 2005, younger students were paid less and were working fewer hours than they did in 1998. On the other hand, older students earned more than they did eight years earlier because of longer periods of work and higher base pay on average.

Note to readers

This release is based on an article in the April 2006 edition of Statistics Canada's free online publication Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada.

The article uses data from the Labour Force Survey to examine trends in the labour market experiences of young men and women aged 15 to 24 years who are full-time students.

It further breaks the analysis into two age groups: younger students aged 15 to 17 years (of normal high school age) and older students aged 18 to 24 years old (a typical age for attending postsecondary institutions). The analysis also investigates employment during the school year (September to April) and employment during the summer months.

Education Matters*, released every two months, is a source of facts and analyses on education, training and learning. It offers quick access to the latest education indicators and in-depth research from Statistics Canada. It also links electronically to a wide variety of data, news on education, learning resources and tables, charts and analyses.*

Combining school and work: Big gap between young teens and older students and between male and female students

Working during the academic year has become increasingly common. During the 2004/2005 academic year, an estimated 939,000 of the 2.4 million full-time students aged 15 to 24 had a job while they went to school.

Prior to 1990, employment rates for young people aged 15 to 17 and for the older group aged 18 to 24 were similar. However, the early 1990s recession hit the 15-to-17 group harder, resulting in an employment gap that still remains.

In 2005, students of all ages are more likely to be working than they were in 1997/1998, but older students are much more likely to work than their younger counterparts.

A record high 45.9% of students aged between 18 and 24 worked during the 2004/2005 school year. This compares with 31.2% of students aged 15 to 17, which was well below their peak rate of employment of 40.8% in 1989/1990.

An employment rate gap also exists between male and female students, and it has never been wider. In the 2004/2005 school year, 34.3% of female students aged 15 to 17 were working, much higher than the proportion of 28.2% among males the same age.

The gender gap was even greater among older students. Just over one-half (50.5%) of female students aged 18 to 24 were working, compared with 40.7% of male students, a record gap. This reflects employment growth in retail trade and accommodation and food services, sectors in which women are more likely to work as cashiers, salespersons, or food servers.

Two sectors combined employed 6 in 10 working students during the 2004/2005 academic year: retail and wholesale trade, and accommodation and food services. These sectors offer students flexibility to combine schooling with part-time employment. But they also often offer lower pay and less security.

Summer job market: Only moderate gains

Although gains were not strong, summer employment opportunities have nevertheless improved for both younger and older students.

As in the case of the school year, females have been the main beneficiaries of summer employment growth. Prior to the recession of the 1990s, male full-time students were more likely than female students to be employed during the summer months.

The recession of the early 1990s hit male students harder than female students and the recovery has been weaker for male students. As a result, female full-time students are now much more likely than their male counterparts to be employed in the summer.

The employment rate for females students hit 55.2% in the summer of 2005, up 7.1 percentage points from 1998. This compares with a gain of only 2.2 percentage points for male students, whose 2005 employment rate was 47.9%.

The diminishing employment role of the goods-producing sector has had an impact on summer employment among male full-time students. Male full-time students are currently more likely to be working in the services sectors while fewer work in agriculture, construction and manufacturing.

No gain in wages for students working during school year

Average hourly wages have not increased for students combining work and school over the last eight school years, although the trends have been different for the two age groups. After adjusting for inflation, hourly wages for students aged 15 to 17 actually declined 1.8% from 1997/1998, while they rose 2.1% for older students.

In the 2004/2005 academic year, students aged 18 to 24 earned an average of $9.60 an hour, compared to $7.82 an hour for those aged 15 to 17.

Hourly wages for younger students closely resemble minimum wage rates which vary by province, ranging from $6.00 to $8.00 per hour in 2005.

Students who have jobs during the school year are working longer than ever before. In 2004/2005, student employees spent on average 15.3 hours a week at their main job, compared to between 13 and 14 hours a week in the 1980s and 1990s.

During the summer of 2005, students aged 15 to 24 made an average of $246.84 a week, up 2% from 1998, adjusted for inflation. Because older students were better paid and worked longer hours, they earned more than younger students.

Older students earned $294.98 a week on average last summer, while younger students earned $157.37.

Alberta tops for jobs during school year, Prince Edward Island during summer

Booming Alberta led the nation in terms of employment rates among full-time students who combined work and school. About 44.3% of full-time students in Alberta were employed during the 2004/2005 school year, compared with only 23.0% in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Employment rates were above the national average in the Prairie provinces, Quebec and Ontario in 2004/2005. All provinces experienced employment rate increases among full-time students between 1997/1998 and 2004/2005, the largest occurring in Quebec and New Brunswick.

But during the summer months, Prince Edward Island topped all provincial labour markets. Last summer, two-thirds of the island’s full-time students were employed (67.1%), largely due to the host of tourism and agricultural jobs available. The Prairie provinces, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick followed close behind.

In Canada’s three largest provinces (Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia), employment rates for full-time students last summer were at or below the national average.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.

The study "Students in the labour market" is now available online in the April 2006 issue of *Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada*, Vol. 3, no. 1 (81-004-XIE, free). This issue also presents another feature article entitled "Tuition fee deregulation: Who pays?" From the *Our products and services page*, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Education*, then *Education Matters*.

For more information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382 or 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; *educationstats@statcan.ca*), Centre for Education Statistics. ■

Restaurants, caterers and taverns

February 2006 (preliminary)

Total estimated sales of the restaurants, caterers and taverns industry reached $2.9 billion in February, up 6.0% compared with the same month a year earlier. (Data are neither seasonally adjusted, nor adjusted for inflation). Favourable economic conditions and particularly mild weather in February are amongst the factors that have contributed to this result.

The largest year-over-year increases, at the provincial level, were recorded in Alberta (+10.7%), Quebec (+8.7%) and Saskatchewan (+7.9%). Ontario, which has the largest provincial share of the industry with 39% of the food service industry sales in February 2006, recorded a year-over-year increase of 5.1%.

The year-over-year increase in sales, at the national level, was due to higher sales at full service (+8.0%) and limited service (+5.5%) restaurants. These two sectors accounted for 85% of industry sales in February. Food service contractors (+10.7%) and social and mobile caterers (+5.4%) also had robust sales in February, with these two sectors accounting for 8.5% of the industry sales during the month.

Available on CANSIM: table 355-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2419.

For more information, to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, or to obtain the new methodology paper about the survey, contact Alain Mbassegue (613-951-2011; fax: 613-951-6696, *alain.mbassegue@statcan.ca*), Service Industries Division.

Food services sales

	February 2005[r]	January 2006[r]	February 2006[p]	February 2005 to February 2006
	not seasonally adjusted			
	$ thousands			% change
Total, food services sales	**2,708,706**	**2,907,042**	**2,870,545**	**6.0**
Full service restaurants	1,267,799	1,348,803	1,369,172	8.0
Limited service restaurants	1,009,760	1,130,714	1,065,163	5.5
Food service contractors	171,025	179,598	189,311	10.7
Social and mobile caterers	50,870	51,809	53,639	5.4
Drinking places	209,252	196,118	193,259	-7.6
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland and Labrador	32,423	31,641	30,846	-4.9
Prince Edward Island	9,371	10,047	9,848	5.1
Nova Scotia	58,376	62,713	60,706	4.0
New Brunswick	48,586	53,832	49,451	1.8
Quebec	554,975	611,796	603,337	8.7
Ontario	1,062,879	1,134,075	1,116,587	5.1
Manitoba	68,950	75,657	71,372	3.5
Saskatchewan	64,981	73,538	70,143	7.9
Alberta	337,983	372,677	374,309	10.7
British Columbia	461,369	472,791	475,161	3.0
Yukon	2,052	2,024	1,999	-2.6
Northwest Territories	6,335	6,036	6,555	3.5
Nunavut	425	213	229	-46.0

r *Revised.*
p *Preliminary.*

■

Hog inventories

First quarter 2006

Producers' inventories of hogs declined during the first quarter of 2006 as prices remained low. Farmers reported 14.5 million hogs on their farms as of April 1, 2006, down marginally from the previous quarter but 2.2% lower than the same date in 2005.

Prices for hogs weakened during the fall of 2005. Not surprisingly, hog farm cash receipts tumbled last year resulting in annual receipts at $3.9 billion, down 7.9% from the record established in 2004.

First quarter 2006 prices were 24.0% lower than the same quarter in 2005. Meanwhile, despite a countervail duty on corn entering Canada since December 2005, feed prices remain low.

Hog production in Quebec and Ontario has been more adversely affected by disease than in normal years. Producers have been contending with a new strain of porcine circovirus along with other diseases, sometimes made worse by this virulent disease. Inventories in Eastern Canada are down 2.9% from the previous year, while the West experienced a 1.2% decline.

Even though international exports of Canadian hogs, mainly younger hogs for feeding in the United States, were down from the previous quarter, they remained at historically strong levels. Over 2.0 million animals were exported during the first quarter of 2006. This was 7.4% less than the last quarter of 2005 although it was 7.3% higher compared with the same quarter last year.

Available on CANSIM: table 003-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3460.

The report *Hog Statistics*, Vol. 5, no. 2 (23-010-XIE, free) is now available on our Web site. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

For general information, contact client services (1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, please contact Robert Plourde (613-951-8716; *robert.plourde@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division.

Hog inventories
April 1, 2006

	Breeding		Market hogs				Total hogs	
	2006	2005 to 2006	2006	2005 to 2006	2006	2005 to 2006	2006	2005 to 2006
			Under 20 kg		20 kg and over			
	’000 head	% change	’000 head	% change	’000 head	% change	’000 head	% change
Canada	**1,641**	**-0.4**	**4,370**	**-5.7**	**8,450**	**-0.6**	**14,460**	**-2.2**
Atlantic	32	-4.2	99	-3.7	200	-6.8	331	-5.6
Quebec	419	-1.0	1,231	-4.5	2,500	-2.1	4,150	-2.7
Ontario	436	-0.8	1,091	-8.7	2,067	0.0	3,593	-2.9
East	**887**	**-1.0**	**2,421**	**-6.4**	**4,767**	**-1.4**	**8,074**	**-2.9**
Manitoba	378	0.5	976	-8.8	1,567	7.0	2,920	0.3
Saskatchewan	134	0.6	325	-2.9	841	-5.5	1,300	-4.3
Alberta	222	0.3	600	1.4	1,178	-2.8	2,000	-1.2
British Columbia	21	-4.6	48	-5.7	97	-3.4	166	-4.2
West	**754**	**0.3**	**1,949**	**-4.8**	**3,683**	**0.4**	**6,386**	**-1.2**

Note: *Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.*

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Placement of hatchery chicks and turkey poults

March 2006 (preliminary)

Placements of hatchery chicks onto farms were estimated at 56.3 million birds in March, down 3.7% from March 2005. Placements of turkey poults on farms decreased 10.8% to 1.8 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. ■

Stocks of frozen and chilled meats

April 2006

Total frozen and chilled red meat in cold storage at the opening of the first business day of April amounted to 95 040 metric tonnes, down 2% from 96 773 tonnes in January 2006 and up 3% from 92 706 tonnes in April 2005. Stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on April 1st totalled 64 204 metric tonnes, up 22% from a year ago.

Note: Due to a change in operational requirements, Statistics Canada will move from collecting and releasing the Stocks of Frozen and Chilled Meat monthly, to quarterly, starting on April 1, 2006. If you require more information, contact Barbara McLaughlin (902-893-7251; *barbara.mclaughlin@statcan.ca*).

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0005 and 003-0041.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3423.

The publication *Stocks of Frozen and Chilled Meats* (23-009-XIE, free) is now available on our Web site. From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Free Publications*, then *Agriculture*.

For general information, call (1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Barbara McLaughlin (902-893-7251; *barbara.mclaughlin@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index

February and March 2006

The Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index (CMSPI) is a monthly price index measuring the change over time in prices for courier and messenger services provided by long and short distance delivery companies to Canadian-based business clients.

The CMSPI increased 0.8% to 118.1 in February (2003=100), due to higher fuel prices. The courier portion rose by 0.9% while the local messengers component was unchanged.

The CMSPI rose 0.2% in March, with the courier portion increasing by 0.3% and the local messengers component remaining unchanged.

These indexes are available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: table 329-0053.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5064.

For more information, contact Client Services (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; *infounit@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Anne Williamson (613-951-0708; *anne.williamson@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. ■

New products

Stocks of Frozen and Chilled Meats, April 2006
Catalogue number 23-009-XIE
(free).

Hog Statistics, 2006, Vol. 5, no. 2
Catalogue number 23-010-XIE
(free).

Inter-corporate Ownership, First quarter 2006
Catalogue number 61-517-XCB ($375/$1,065).

Canada's International Transactions in Securities, February 2006, Vol. 72, no. 2
Catalogue number 67-002-XIE
(free).

Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada
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(free).

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

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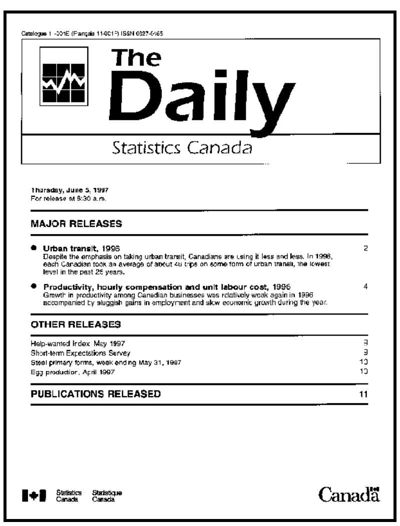
Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

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 46 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index, May 1997	9
Short-term Expectations Survey	9
Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997	10
Egg production, April 1997	10

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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