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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, May 16, 2006
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Business Conditions Survey: Traveller accommodation industries

Second quarter 2006

Despite labour shortage concerns, Canada's hotel operators continue to have a positive outlook for the second quarter, according to results from the Business Conditions Survey for the Travel Accommodation Industries.

Almost one in three hoteliers indicated they are experiencing a shortage of unskilled labour (32%). In contrast, only 15% of hotel managers recorded a shortage of unskilled labour a year ago. Furthermore, about one in four hoteliers (24%) reported a shortage of skilled labour across the country. In April 2006, there were fewer youths aged 15 to 24 in the labour force, keeping the unemployment rate for them among the lowest in 15 years, according to the most recent Labour Force Survey.

Since the inception of the survey, the proportion of hoteliers expecting their employees to work more hours is the highest. Twice as many hotel managers expect an increase (31%) in the number of hours worked than a decrease (15%). In comparison, 19% of respondents expected an increase in the same quarter of 2005.

As in the previous four quarters, hotel operators expect room rates to rise. The survey found that 45% of hoteliers expect an increase in room rates between April and June, while only 12% feel they will drop.

Occupancy rates are expected to go up. More than one in three (35%) respondents expects occupancy rates to rise while one in five expects a decrease. Similarly, close to half of the hotel operators (48%) anticipated their number of room nights booked to stay the same, while 32% expect an increase and 20% a decrease.

In addition to a labour shortage, other business impediments cited were excess room supply (22%) and general economic conditions (20%). Almost one-third (30%) of the hotel operators reported no difficulties at this time.

The survey of almost 1,200 businesses, mostly hotels, was conducted in April to assess their outlook about key indicators compared to the same period last year. Some of these key indicators include bookings, occupancy rates, room rates and hours worked by employees.

Note: The Business Conditions Survey for Traveller Accommodation Industries is made possible with the support of industry partners, the Canadian Tourism Commission and the Ontario Ministry of Tourism. Results are based on survey questionnaires sent to traveller accommodation providers and are weighted by their operating revenues. Consequently, the larger businesses have a correspondingly larger impact on the results than smaller businesses.

Available on CANSIM: tables 351-0004 and 351-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5050.

For more information, to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, or to obtain the survey background paper, contact Veronica Utovac (613-951-0813; fax: 613-951-6696; *veronica.utovac@statcan.ca*) or Konstantine Anastasopoulos (613-951-8354; fax: 613-951-6696; *anaskon@statcan.ca*), Service Industries Division. □

Traveller accommodation industries

	Second quarter 2005	Third quarter 2005	Fourth quarter 2005	First quarter 2006	Second quarter 2006
Anticipated number of room nights booked will be:					
About the same (%)	49	47	48	48	48
Higher (%)	31	31	27	30	32
Lower (%)	20	23	25	22	20
Balance of opinion	10	8	3	8	12
Occupancy rate will be:					
About the same (%)	51	46	50	48	46
Higher (%)	30	32	25	31	35
Lower (%)	20	23	25	22	20
Balance of opinion	10	9	0	9	15
Number of corporate/commerical travellers will be:					
About the same (%)	59	57	57	55	56
Higher (%)	23	22	22	24	27
Lower (%)	18	21	21	21	18
Balance of opinion	4	2	1	3	9
Average daily room rate will be:					
About the same (%)	46	44	46	53	44
Higher (%)	39	39	35	34	45
Lower (%)	15	18	19	13	12
Balance of opinion	24	21	16	21	34
Total number of hours worked by employees:					
About the same (%)	63	62	56	59	54
Higher (%)	19	20	20	19	31
Lower (%)	17	18	24	22	15
Balance of opinion	2	2	-4	-3	16
	First quarter 2005	Second quarter 2005	Third quarter 2005	Fourth quarter 2005	First quarter 2006
			%		
Business impediments					
Shortage of unskilled labour	15	21	22	24	32
Shortage of skilled labour	21	23	23	21	24
Excess room supply	25	26	21	23	22
General economic conditions	32	19	21	20	20
Lack of attractions or complementary facilities in the vicinity	19	16	13	16	12
Canada's reputation as a desired tourist destination	9	11	8	11	11
Abnormal weather and/or natural disasters	12	11	4	9	4
Access to financing	8	8	7	6	4
Public health and safety concerns	3	2	2	2	2
Third-party distribution channels (global distribution systems)	1	2	1	1	1
No difficulties at this time	30	32	38	31	30

Note: *Due to rounding, components may not add to total.*

■

Apartment Building Construction Price Index

First quarter 2006

The composite price index for apartment building construction (1997=100) was 135.9 in the first quarter of 2006, up 1.2% from the previous quarter and 5.9% higher than the first quarter of 2005. The quarterly increase was mostly the result of material and labour cost increases.

Calgary recorded the highest quarterly change (+1.5%), followed by Vancouver (+1.4%), Ottawa–Gatineau (Ontario part), Toronto, and Edmonton (+1.3% for all three), Halifax (+1.1%) and Montréal (+0.8%).

On a year-over-year basis, Vancouver and Calgary experienced the highest gain from the first quarter of 2005 (+8.0%), followed by Edmonton (+7.3%), Toronto (+5.4%), Ottawa–Gatineau (Ontario part) (+4.6%), Montréal (+4.3%) and Halifax (+4.1%).

Note: The apartment building construction price indexes provide an indication of new construction cost changes in six census metropolitan areas (CMAs) (Halifax, Montréal, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver) and the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA. Besides each of the CMA indexes and the composite index, there are further breakdowns of cost changes by trade groups within the building (structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical). These price indexes are derived from surveys of general and special trade-group contractors who report on the categories of costs (material, labour, equipment, taxes, overhead and profits) relevant to the detailed construction specifications included in the surveys.

Apartment Building Construction Price Index[1]
(1997=100)

	First quarter 2006	First quarter 2005 to first quarter 2006	Fourth quarter 2005 to first quarter 2006
		% change	
Composite index	**135.9**	**5.9**	**1.2**
Halifax	126.9	4.1	1.1
Montréal	132.7	4.3	0.8
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario part	139.0	4.6	1.3
Toronto	143.7	5.4	1.3
Calgary	140.7	8.0	1.5
Edmonton	137.5	7.3	1.3
Vancouver	133.7	8.0	1.4

1. *Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.*

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0040.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2317 and 2330.

The first quarter 2006 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XIE, free) will be available in July.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mark Martin (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; *infounit@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. ■

Contract drilling and services to the oil and gas extraction industry
2003 and 2004

Revenues and expenditures data on the industries of contract drilling and services to the oil and gas extraction industry for the years 2003 and 2004 are now available.

Revised data for the years 2000 through 2002 are also available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2014.

For more information, to order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *energ@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Steel wire and specified wire products
March 2006

Data on steel wire and specified wire products production are now available for March.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0047.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2106.

The March 2006 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-XIE, free) will soon be available.

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. ■

Refined petroleum products
March 2006 (preliminary)

Data on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for March 2006. 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

New Motor Vehicle Sales, March 2006, Vol. 78, no. 3
Catalogue number 63-007-XIE
(free).

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; -XCB or –XCE are electronic versions on compact disc and -XBB or -XBE a database.

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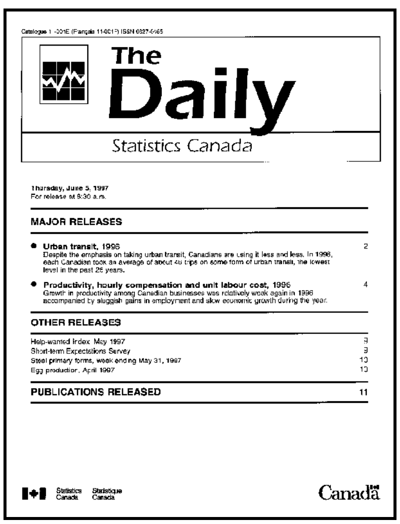

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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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.

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