



The Daily

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<p>The 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index edged up to 2.4% in April, largely the result of higher gasoline prices drivers paid at the pump. However, the CPI excluding energy moved inversely, falling from 1.7% in March to 1.6% in April.</p>	
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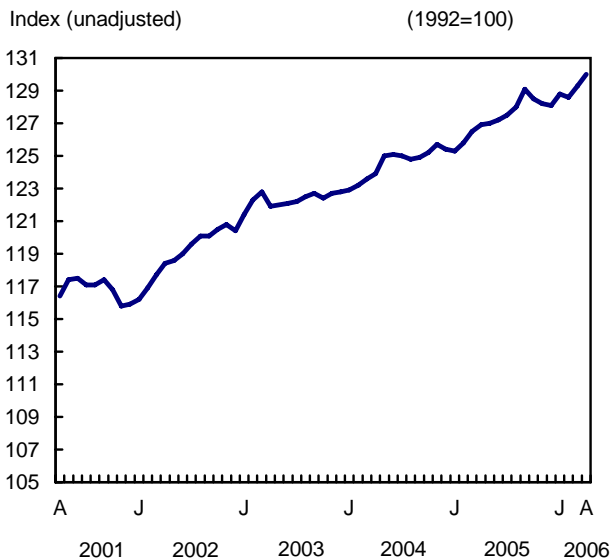
Consumer Price Index

April 2006

The 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index edged up to 2.4% in April, largely the result of higher gasoline prices drivers paid at the pump. However, the CPI excluding energy moved inversely, falling from 1.7% in March to 1.6% in April.

Between April 2005 and April 2006, gasoline prices surged 15.8%, twice the 12-month rate of growth of 7.4% the month before. This was largely a reflection of a 13.5% jump in gasoline prices between March and April this year, the strongest monthly change since May 2004.

The Consumer Price Index

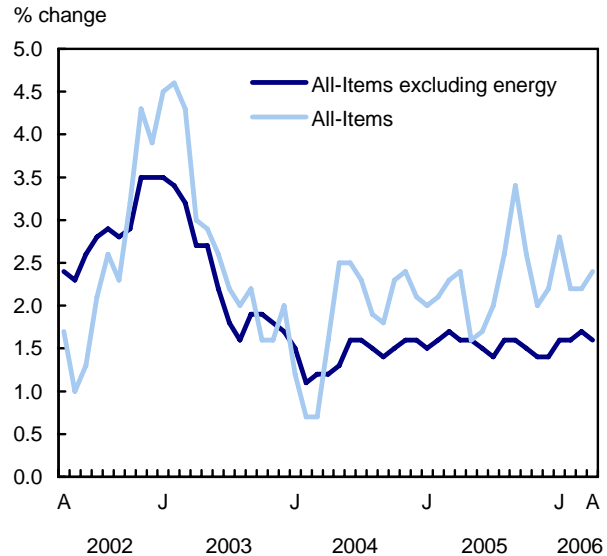


The all-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada for the purpose of the monetary policy slipped from 1.7% in March to 1.6% in April. This index has been relatively stable since August 2005, fluctuating between 1.6% and 1.7%.

On a monthly basis, the All-items index rose by 0.5% from March to April 2006, the same increase as the month before. Excluding energy, the All-items index fell by 0.1%, largely because of a decline in prices of women's clothing.

The All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada edged down 0.1% between March and April 2006, after rising 0.4% in the previous month.

Percentage change from the same month of the previous year



Gasoline is largely the source of the 12-month increase of the CPI

The higher price of gasoline paid by consumers at the pump was the main source of the 2.4% increase in the All-items CPI in April. However, higher automotive vehicle prices and homeowners' replacement cost also played a role.

These gains were somewhat offset by lower prices for computer equipment and supplies, video equipment and women's and men's clothing. Prices for these commodities have been declining for several years, mainly because of technological advances and trade liberalization, which has opened the door for Canadian consumers to more imported products.

The main source of increase of the CPI was the 15.8% jump in gasoline prices between April 2005 and April 2006. Gains of more than 10% were reported in all provinces, ranging from 11.3% in British Columbia to 18.6% in Prince Edward Island.

The cost of purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles increased by 3.4% in April compared to the previous year. All provinces posted gains, from 3.0% in Alberta to 5.4% in Manitoba.

Homeowners' replacement cost, which represents the worn-out structural portion of housing, and which is estimated using new housing prices (excluding land), increased 6.5% between April 2005 and April 2006. All provinces showed price increases, the highest in Alberta (+24.5%), which was four times higher than the 6.6% increase in Nova Scotia, a distant second.

Heavy migration to Alberta in recent years in the wake of its surging economic growth has translated into an increase in housing starts. The subsequent boom in Alberta's construction sector, in turn, has led to upward pressures on the costs of materials and labour.

Mitigating the upward trend of the 12-month All-item index, prices for computer equipment and supplies tumbled 16.3% in April. This is a reflection of technical progress in the production of semi-conductors and microprocessors which translated into important costs savings.

Video equipment was another moderating factor on the increase of the CPI, falling 11.8%.

The price of women's and men's clothing fell compared to April 2005. The women's clothing index was 2.4% lower in April 2006 than in April 2005. Similarly, the men's clothing index dropped 2.7% during the same period. This reflects the combination of downward cost pressures on clothing due particularly to emerging economies such as China and India, the surge in the Canadian dollar and the increasing competition in the retail trade sector with the establishment of mega department stores.

Gasoline prices surge in April

Between March and April 2006, the All-items index rose by 0.5%, from 129.3 to 130.0 (1992=100). Upward pressure on the CPI came mainly from the transportation sector because of higher prices for gasoline and air transportation, as well as homeowners' replacement cost. However, this overall upward trend was mitigated by lower prices for women's clothing, automotive vehicles and natural gas.

The price of gasoline jumped 13.5% between March and April 2006, the strongest monthly change in the index since May 2004. Every province posted monthly increases in excess of 12%, the smallest being in Alberta (+12.4%) and the largest in Prince Edward Island (+17.2%).

The price of air transportation increased by 4.7% in April, mainly due to higher rates for some international flights.

Homeowners' replacement cost, which is estimated using new housing prices (excluding land), increased

by 0.8% between March and April 2006. Alberta posted the strongest increase (+4.2%), followed by Saskatchewan (+2.3%).

Women's clothing exerted downward pressure on the CPI, falling by 5.8% in April. This drop came on the heels of the new spring lines introduced in March, which pushed prices up. This situation is typical between March and April, a period where department stores generally launch their spring sales to revive their business activities.

The price for purchasing and leasing automotive vehicles fell by 0.7% in April. Financial incentives offered by some automobile manufacturers pushed down prices.

The price of natural gas fell 3.7% in April. However, fluctuations in prices varied significantly across the country. Ontario posted the largest decrease (-11.2%), mainly because of lower prices approved by the Ontario Energy Board. However, Alberta posted a 28.2% increase because of the removal of a natural gas rebate approved by the provincial government.

The seasonally adjusted CPI increases between March and April

After adjusting for seasonal variations, the CPI increased by 0.5% between March and April 2006.

Upward pressure came from the indexes for transportation (+3.3%), shelter (+0.3%), and alcoholic beverages and tobacco products (+0.3%). The household operations and furnishings index as well as the recreation, education and reading index remained stable.

The seasonally adjusted index was pushed down by clothing and footwear (-0.5%), food (-0.2%), as well as health and personal care (-0.2%).

The All-items index excluding the eight volatile components

The All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada increased by 1.6% between April 2005 and April 2006. The main factors behind this increase were the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles (+3.4%), homeowners' replacement cost (+6.5%), restaurant meals (+2.8%) and property taxes (+3.2%). The increase was moderated by a drop in prices for computer equipment and supplies (-16.3%), video equipment (-11.8%), and women's clothing (-2.4%).

Between March and April 2006, the All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada decreased by 0.1%. The main factors exerting downward pressure were women's clothing (-5.8%), the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles (-0.7%), as well as ham and bacon (-8.4%).

Factors pushing the index upward were homeowners' replacement cost (+0.8%), dental care (+3.2%), automotive parts, repair and maintenance (+1.6%), as well as fuel, parts and supplies for recreational vehicles (+6.6%).

Energy

After increasing by 7.4% between March 2005 and March 2006, the energy index rose by 11.2% between April 2005 and April 2006.

Although all components contributed to the increase in the energy index, gasoline (+15.8%) was again the main factor, followed by natural gas (+14.6%), electricity (+2.5%), fuel oil (+9.3%) and fuel, parts and supplies for recreational vehicles (+10.3%).

The energy index rose by 6.9% between March and April 2006, largely under the influence of gasoline prices, which rose 13.5%. Except for the natural gas index, which fell by 3.7%, all other indexes rose. The fuel oil index rose by 3.5%, the index for fuel, parts and supplies for recreational vehicles was up by 6.6% and the index for electricity increased by 0.5%.

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). To obtain a copy, go to the *Our products and services* page online.

Available at 7 a.m. online under *Today's news releases from The Daily*, then *Latest Consumer Price Index*.

The April 2006 issue of the *Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 85, no. 4 (62-001-XIB, free) is now available. To obtain a copy, go to the *Our products and services* page online. A paper copy is also available (62-001-XPB, \$12/\$111). See *How to order products*.

The May Consumer Price Index will be released on June 20.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, call Client Services Unit (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	April 2006	March 2006	April 2005	March to April 2006	April 2005 to April 2006
Unadjusted						
					% change	
All-items	100.00²	130.0	129.3	126.9	0.5	2.4
Food	16.89	130.0	130.2	128.3	-0.2	1.3
Shelter	26.75	127.7	127.3	123.4	0.3	3.5
Household operations and furnishings	10.58	116.4	116.5	115.5	-0.1	0.8
Clothing and footwear	5.37	100.8	103.3	102.9	-2.4	-2.0
Transportation	19.79	158.5	153.5	149.5	3.3	6.0
Health and personal care	4.52	122.3	121.9	120.9	0.3	1.2
Recreation, education and reading	11.96	126.6	126.6	126.8	0.0	-0.2
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	4.13	150.7	150.2	146.5	0.3	2.9
All-items (1986=100)		166.5				
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1992		76.9	77.3	78.8		
Special aggregates						
Goods	48.84	125.1	124.1	122.2	0.8	2.4
Services	51.16	135.5	135.0	132.1	0.4	2.6
All-items excluding food and energy	74.27	125.2	125.2	123.2	0.0	1.6
Energy	8.84	180.1	168.5	161.9	6.9	11.2
All-items excluding the 8 most volatile components ³	82.75	128.4	128.5	126.4	-0.1	1.6

1. 2001 CPI basket weights at June 2004 prices, Canada, effective July 2004. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 (<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 website at (www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm).

Consumer Price Index by province, and for Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit¹
(1992=100)

	April 2006	March 2006	April 2005	March to April 2006	April 2005 to April 2006
Unadjusted					
				% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador	128.5	127.4	126.0	0.9	2.0
Prince Edward Island	131.9	129.9	127.8	1.5	3.2
Nova Scotia	132.9	131.3	128.9	1.2	3.1
New Brunswick	130.5	129.4	127.1	0.9	2.7
Québec	126.0	125.2	122.9	0.6	2.5
Ontario	131.0	130.7	128.0	0.2	2.3
Manitoba	133.6	132.4	130.8	0.9	2.1
Saskatchewan	135.1	133.8	132.5	1.0	2.0
Alberta	138.3	137.0	133.6	0.9	3.5
British Columbia	127.1	126.3	124.9	0.6	1.8
Whitehorse	125.8	124.5	122.9	1.0	2.4
Yellowknife ²	125.5	124.5	122.4	0.8	2.5
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	104.5	103.7	102.1	0.8	2.4

1. View the geographical details for the city of Whitehorse, the city of Yellowknife and the town of 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.

Travel between Canada and other countries

March 2006

Same-day car travel from the United States increased only slightly in March after falling to its lowest monthly level on record the month before.

Over 1.2 million Americans took same-day car trips to Canada in March, up a marginal 0.4% from February. (Unless otherwise specified, monthly data are seasonally adjusted.)

Despite steady declines in recent years, the number of same-day car trips from the United States has remained somewhat stable in the last six months, hovering around the 1.2 million mark.

Overnight car travel from the United States also increased in March, up 2.8% to 706,000 trips. As a result, total overnight travel by Americans to Canada rose 1.6% to just over 1.1 million trips.

Overall, 2.5 million Americans visited Canada in March, a 0.9% increase from February.

Meanwhile, Canadian travel to the United States hit 3.3 million trips in March, up 5.3% from the previous month. This was the second highest level since August 2001.

Both same-day travel and overnight travel recorded gains. Almost 2.0 million Canadians took same-day car trips to the United States in March, up 6.4% from February.

Overnight travel to the United States climbed to its second highest level in a decade, reaching 1.3 million trips. The 3.9% jump was fuelled by gains in all modes of transportation.

In terms of overseas travel, an estimated 395,000 foreign visitors came to Canada in

March, up 6.9% from the previous month. This was the highest level since October 2004.

The biggest gains occurred in travel from the Netherlands (+37.5%), Germany (+11.8%) and the United Kingdom (+10.0%). Only 2 of Canada's top 12 overseas markets recorded declines — South Korea and Hong Kong.

In the opposite direction, Canadian travel to overseas countries continued its upward trend in March, increasing for the fourth consecutive month. A record 548,000 Canadian residents visited overseas countries, slightly more than in February.

The Canadian dollar slipped to 86.4 cents US on average in March, down 0.7% from February. The loonie also fell against other major international currencies such as the Japanese yen, the British pound sterling and the euro.

Available on CANSIM: tables 427-0001 to 427-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5005.

The March 2006 issue of *International Travel, Advance Information*, Vol. 22, no. 3 (66-001-PIE, free) is now available. To obtain a copy, go to the *Our products and services* page online.

For general information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-9169; fax: 613-951-2909; cult.tourstats@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Éric Desjardins (613-951-1781; eric.desjardins@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. □

Travel between Canada and other countries

	February 2006 ^r	March 2006 ^p	February to March 2006	March 2006	March 2005 to March 2006
	Seasonally adjusted			Unadjusted	
	'000		% change	'000	% change
Canadian trips abroad¹	3,715	3,883	4.5	4,273	4.2
To the United States	3,167	3,335	5.3	3,483	3.2
To other countries	547	548	0.1	790	9.0
Same-day car trips to the United States	1,848	1,965	6.4	1,921	5.1
Total trips, one or more nights	1,813	1,862	2.7	2,286	3.4
United States ²	1,265	1,314	3.9	1,496	0.7
Car	729	761	4.4	800	-3.1
Plane	444	458	3.2	637	8.6
Other modes of transportation	93	95	3.1	60	-19.9
Other countries ³	547	548	0.1	790	9.0
Travel to Canada¹	2,814	2,861	1.7	2,077	-9.7
From the United States	2,444	2,466	0.9	1,841	-10.3
From other countries	370	395	6.9	235	-3.9
Same-day car trips from the United States	1,202	1,207	0.4	1,058	-11.7
Total trips, one or more nights	1,480	1,524	2.9	953	-7.4
United States ²	1,119	1,137	1.6	722	-8.5
Car	687	706	2.8	429	-10.1
Plane	307	306	-0.3	247	-4.4
Other modes of transportation	125	125	0.2	46	-15.0
Other countries ³	361	386	6.9	231	-3.5
Most important overseas markets⁴					
United Kingdom	69	76	10.0	50	-13.4
Japan	37	39	3.4	28	0.1
France	29	31	6.9	17	3.8
Germany	27	31	11.8	13	-5.7
Mexico	18	19	4.9	11	-31.3
South Korea	17	17	-1.7	11	2.1
Australia	15	17	9.6	8	-2.0
Netherlands	9	13	37.5	6	28.4
China	11	11	7.6	7	26.2
Hong Kong	10	9	-2.1	6	-27.4
Taiwan	8	9	5.2	6	-1.8
Switzerland	8	8	7.2	4	-10.2

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Totals exceed the sum of "same-day car trips" and "total trips, one or more nights" because they include all of the same-day trips.

2. Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.

3. Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.

4. Includes same-day and one or more night trips.

Travel Price Index

First quarter 2006

The Travel Price Index (TPI) showed that prices Canadians paid to travel inside the country between the first quarters of 2005 and 2006 increased at a slower pace than the rate of inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index.

The TPI reached 141.7 (1992=100) in the first quarter of 2006, up 1.4% compared to the first quarter of 2005. In comparison, the Consumer Price Index increased 2.4%.

The components which contributed the most to the growth in the Travel Price Index were the costs related to the operation of automotive vehicles and costs associated to the purchase of food from restaurant and served alcoholic beverages.

Costs related to operating automotive vehicles climbed 4.9% between the first quarters of 2005 and 2006. This growth was mainly due to the continuous rise in the price of gasoline during this period (+11.2%).

Between the first quarters of 2005 and 2006, both the costs of food purchased from restaurants and of served alcoholic beverages rose 3.1%.

Despite the 5.2% increase, costs incurred from using local and commuter transportation has only slightly influenced the TPI. The increase resulted from an 8.7% rise in taxi prices.

However, the growth in the TPI in the first quarter of 2006 compared to the first quarter of 2005 was mitigated by a 5.5% decline in the price of traveller accommodation.

Three of the remaining components of the TPI fell, namely clothing (-2.6%), footwear (-1.9%) and rental of automotive vehicles (-1.7%). The other components posted increases between 1.0% and 2.7%.

On a quarter-over-quarter basis, the TPI edged down 0.6% between the fourth quarter of 2005 and the first quarter of 2006.

Four components contributed to the slight quarterly decrease in the TPI. The price paid for traveller accommodation fell 3.6%, continuing the downward trend of last quarter.

Lower costs related to the purchase of footwear (-2.6%) and clothing (-1.1%) also negatively affected the index.

Finally, the 1.9% reduction in costs related to the use of inter-city transportation also contributed to the quarterly decrease of the TPI. A 2.5% drop in airplane

ticket prices was responsible for the decrease in this component.

Two other components of the TPI declined between the fourth quarter of 2005 and the first quarter of 2006: rental of automotive vehicles (-1.9%) and operating automotive vehicles (-0.3%). The remaining components registered increases ranging between 0.4% and 2.3%.

Available on CANSIM: table 428-0002.

For general information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-9169; fax: 613-951-9040; cult.tourstats@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marinka Ménard (613-951-4483; marinka.menard@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

Selected components of the Travel Price Index (1992=100)

Components	First quarter 2006	Fourth quarter 2005	First quarter 2005	Fourth quarter 2005 to first quarter 2006	First quarter 2005 to first quarter 2006
	Unadjusted			% change	
Inter-city transportation	197.2	201.1	194.9	-1.9	1.2
Local and commuter transportation	158.3	154.7	150.5	2.3	5.2
Rental of automotive vehicles	125.1	127.5	127.3	-1.9	-1.7
Operation of automotive vehicles	166.8	167.3	159.0	-0.3	4.9
Traveller accommodation	91.6	95.0	96.9	-3.6	-5.5
Food purchased from stores	128.8	126.7	125.5	1.7	2.6
Food purchased from restaurants	134.6	133.5	130.6	0.8	3.1
Served alcoholic beverages	131.5	130.4	127.6	0.8	3.1
Alcoholic beverages purchased from stores	127.1	126.3	125.8	0.6	1.0
Spectator entertainment	169.2	168.6	164.8	0.4	2.7
Clothing	97.4	98.5	100.0	-1.1	-2.6
Footwear	100.7	103.4	102.6	-2.6	-1.9
Travel Price Index	141.7	142.6	139.7	-0.6	1.4
Consumer Price Index	128.9	128.3	125.9	0.5	2.4

Construction Union Wage Rate Index

April 2006

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in April compared to the revised March level of 135.3 (1992=100). The composite index increased 2.5% compared with the revised April 2005 index (132.0).

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes on a 1992=100 time base are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0003 and 327-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2307.

The second 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 Client Services Unit (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca) or Louise Châiné (613-951-3393), Prices Division. ■

Primary iron and steel

March 2006

Data on primary iron and steel for March are now available.

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0048 to 303-0051.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2116 and 2184.

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. ■

New products

Canadian Economic Observer, May 2006, Vol. 19,
no. 5
Catalogue number 11-010-XPB (\$25/\$243).

The Consumer Price Index, April 2006, Vol. 85, no. 4
Catalogue number 62-001-XIB
(free).

The Consumer Price Index, April 2006, Vol. 85, no. 4
Catalogue number 62-001-XPB (\$12/\$111).

Wholesale Trade, March 2006, Vol. 69, no. 3
Catalogue number 63-008-XIE
(free).

Imports by Commodity, March 2006, Vol. 63, no. 3
Catalogue number 65-007-XMB (\$40/\$387).

Imports by Commodity, March 2006, Vol. 63, no. 3
Catalogue number 65-007-XPB (\$84/\$828).

International Travel, Advance Information,
March 2006, Vol. 22, no. 3
Catalogue number 66-001-PIE
(free).

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.



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 and industry 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
- Short-term Expectations Survey 8
- Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 12
- Egg production, Apr. 8, 1997 13

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11



Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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