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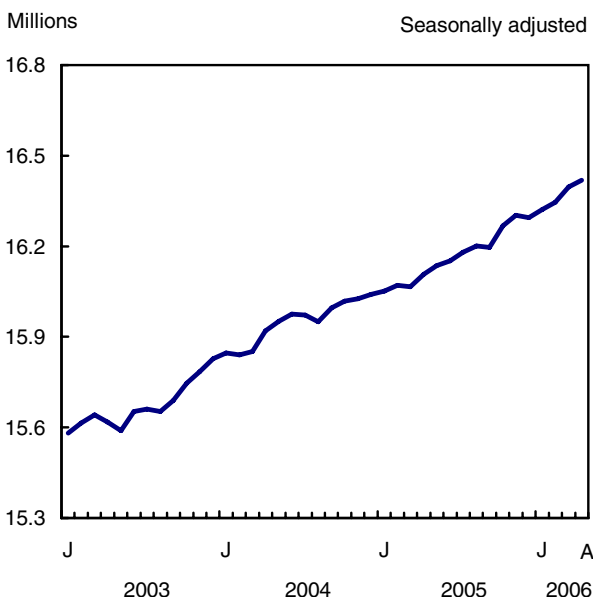
Labour Force Survey

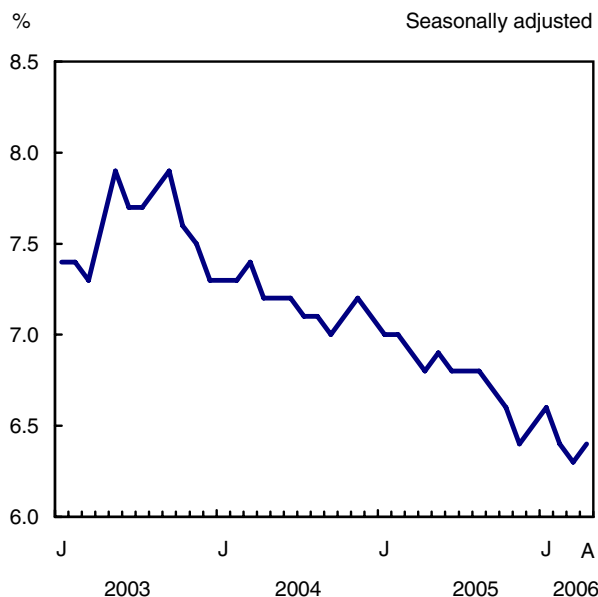
April 2006

Employment rose by an estimated 22,000 in April. At the same time, the unemployment rate edged up to 6.4% (+0.1 percentage points), still hovering around a 30-year low. So far in 2006, employment is up 124,000 or 0.8%, double the pace of growth observed over the first four months of last year.

The employment gain in April was the result of an increase in full-time work (+26,000). This continues the long-term trend of full-time growth. Part-time employment has remained around the same level over the last three years.

Employment



Unemployment rate**Employment continues to rise in Ontario**

Employment in Ontario continued to pick up in April with an increase of 24,000, mostly among adult women. A settlement of the labour dispute affecting Ontario colleges may have contributed to a decline in youth employment. As classes resumed, this may have left less time for college students to work at a paid job in April.

The recent employment growth in Ontario brings increases over the last 12 months to 108,000 (+1.7%). Over this period, increases in several service-based industries such as business, building and other support services (+34,000); educational services (+30,000); as well as retail and wholesale trade (+23,000) have more than offset losses in manufacturing (-56,000). There has also been strength in construction with 31,000 more workers in the industry compared to 12 months ago.

The Atlantic provinces also benefited from employment gains in April, with more people working in both Newfoundland and Labrador (+3,000) and Prince Edward Island (+2,000). Despite more employment in Newfoundland and Labrador, the unemployment rate edged up 0.2 percentage points to 15.9% as more people entered the labour force. In Prince Edward Island, the increase in employment pushed the unemployment rate for the province down to 10.5% (-1.5 percentage points).

On the heels of a strong increase in gross domestic product in 2005, employment in Saskatchewan was up 5,000 in April. This brings employment growth since the start of the year to 1.7%, driven by increases in

construction, retail and wholesale trade and a resurgent natural resources sector. The employment gains in April pushed the unemployment rate down 0.5 percentage points to 4.8%.

In Manitoba, employment increased by 4,000 in April, bringing total gains from 12 months ago to 11,000 (+1.9%). Despite more employment in April, the unemployment rate rose by 0.5 percentage points to 4.7% as more people entered the labour force in search of work. Over the past 12 months, the largest employment increases have been in retail and wholesale trade; finance, insurance, real estate and leasing, as well as construction.

Despite little change in April, employment growth in Alberta and British Columbia has outpaced the rest of the country over the last 12 months. In Alberta, the rising price of oil over the past year has caused employment to go up in the oil patch as well as in professional, scientific and technical services. In British Columbia, strength over the same period has come from retail and wholesale trade; information, culture and recreation as well as transportation and warehousing. With these strong employment gains, their respective unemployment rates remained lower in April than in any other province (3.5% in Alberta and 4.5% in British Columbia).

In Quebec, employment fell by an estimated 24,000 in April. This is the first significant decline so far in 2006 and leaves growth since last May, when employment began to pick up, at 1.6% or 60,000. In spite of the decline in employment, the unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage points to 8.3%, the result of a decline in the number of youths in the labour force.

Adult women gain momentum

So far in 2006, employment growth among adult women aged 25 and over has been brisk, increasing by 39,000 in April and by 94,000 or 1.5% since the start of the year. This contrasts with the weak 0.2% employment growth among adult men since the start of the year. As a result of the recent employment strength among adult women, their unemployment rate now stands at 5.3%, slightly below the rate for adult men.

Despite a decline of 29,000 in April, employment among youths aged 15 to 24 has grown by 71,000 since last September. The youth unemployment rate remained at 11.5% in April as fewer youths were in the labour force, keeping the rate among the lowest in 15 years.

Employment up in manufacturing and trade

Employment in manufacturing rose by an estimated 25,000 in April. Despite this gain, losses since the end of 2002 have totalled 165,000 or 7.1%.

Although there are fewer workers, factory output has shown an upward trend over the corresponding period. Furthermore, the recent decline in manufacturing employment pales in comparison to the recession of the early 1990s when employment fell much more sharply over the same span of time, down 329,000 or 15.5%.

Employment in retail and wholesale trade continued its upward trend with an increase of 20,000 in April, bringing gains over the past 12 months to 105,000 (+4.1%). Strength over the last year has been most pronounced in British Columbia with notable growth also in Quebec and Ontario.

Transportation and warehousing (-15,000) was the only industry with a significant employment decline in April. This offsets a similar increase the month before and leaves employment in the industry 20,000 (+2.6%) above the level from 12 months ago.

Available on CANSIM: tables 282-0001 to 282-0042, 282-0047 to 282-0064 and 282-0069 to 282-0099.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.

Available at 7:00 a.m. on our Web site. From the home page, choose *Today's news releases from The Daily*, then *Latest Labour Force Survey*.

A more detailed summary, *Labour Force Information*, is available today for the week ending April 15 (71-001-XIE, free). To obtain a copy, go to the *Our products and services* page of our Web site. LAN and bulk prices are available on request. The 2005 *Labour Force Historical Review on CD-ROM* (71F0004XCB, \$209) is now available. LAN and bulk prices are available on request.

Data tables are also available in the *Canadian Statistics* module of our website.

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on Friday, June 9.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750) or Danielle Zietsma (613-951-4243), Labour Statistics Division.

□

Employment by industry (based on NAICS) and class of worker for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	March 2006	April 2006	March to April 2006	April 2005 to April 2006	March to April 2006	April 2005 to April 2006
seasonally adjusted						
	'000			%		
All industries	16,396.2	16,418.2	22.0	310.3	0.1	1.9
Goods-producing sector	3,992.5	4,019.7	27.2	16.5	0.7	0.4
Agriculture	348.9	357.2	8.3	24.2	2.4	7.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas	323.4	322.9	-0.5	18.4	-0.2	6.0
Utilities	116.3	114.4	-1.9	-12.9	-1.6	-10.1
Construction	1,071.9	1,068.8	-3.1	58.3	-0.3	5.8
Manufacturing	2,132.0	2,156.5	24.5	-71.5	1.1	-3.2
Services-producing sector	12,403.7	12,398.5	-5.2	293.8	0.0	2.4
Trade	2,626.1	2,646.2	20.1	104.8	0.8	4.1
Transportation and warehousing	811.2	796.1	-15.1	19.9	-1.9	2.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,023.8	1,019.7	-4.1	30.2	-0.4	3.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,086.5	1,086.8	0.3	42.5	0.0	4.1
Business, building and other support services	667.8	674.8	7.0	38.0	1.0	6.0
Educational services	1,155.5	1,160.4	4.9	49.9	0.4	4.5
Health care and social assistance	1,747.2	1,750.3	3.1	29.9	0.2	1.7
Information, culture and recreation	750.4	738.8	-11.6	7.8	-1.5	1.1
Accommodation and food services	987.7	989.4	1.7	-10.3	0.2	-1.0
Other services	713.3	709.3	-4.0	9.3	-0.6	1.3
Public administration	834.2	826.8	-7.4	-27.9	-0.9	-3.3
Class of worker						
Public sector employees	3,195.4	3,192.0	-3.4	55.9	-0.1	1.8
Private sector	13,200.8	13,226.2	25.4	254.5	0.2	2.0
Private employees	10,687.8	10,700.6	12.8	230.7	0.1	2.2
Self-employed	2,513.0	2,525.6	12.6	23.8	0.5	1.0

Note: Related to CANSIM tables 282-0088 and 282-0089.

Employment by type of work, age and sex, seasonally adjusted

	April 2006	March to April 2006	April 2005 to April 2006	April 2006	March to April 2006	April 2005 to April 2006	April 2006	March to April 2006	April 2005 to April 2006
seasonally adjusted									
	Both sexes			Men			Women		
	'000								
Employment	16,418.2	22.0	310.3	8,702.3	-11.7	155.5	7,715.9	33.6	154.8
Full-time	13,413.2	26.4	277.9	7,741.5	-8.2	128.8	5,671.7	34.7	149.0
Part-time	3,005.0	-4.5	32.5	960.8	-3.4	26.7	2,044.2	-1.0	5.8
15-24	2,529.9	-29.1	77.2	1,280.2	-23.9	59.2	1,249.7	-5.1	18.0
25 and over	13,888.3	51.0	233.1	7,422.1	12.3	96.4	6,466.2	38.7	136.8
25-54	11,599.4	52.5	142.2	6,123.7	13.7	67.6	5,475.7	38.8	74.6
55 and over	2,288.9	-1.5	90.9	1,298.4	-1.5	28.7	990.5	0.0	62.2

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	March 2006	April 2006	March to April 2006	March 2006	April 2006	March to April 2006
seasonally adjusted						
Labour force			Participation rate			
	'000	% change	%		change	
Canada	17,507.5	17,532.4	0.1	67.2	67.2	0.0
Newfoundland and Labrador	251.6	255.3	1.5	58.7	59.6	0.9
Prince Edward Island	77.3	77.8	0.6	69.0	69.5	0.5
Nova Scotia	481.0	485.2	0.9	63.1	63.6	0.5
New Brunswick	396.1	396.1	0.0	64.8	64.8	0.0
Quebec	4,099.8	4,066.9	-0.8	65.8	65.2	-0.6
Ontario	6,886.0	6,915.1	0.4	67.6	67.8	0.2
Manitoba	608.4	616.1	1.3	68.3	69.1	0.8
Saskatchewan	510.2	512.7	0.5	68.3	68.7	0.4
Alberta	1,906.4	1,911.5	0.3	73.0	73.0	0.0
British Columbia	2,290.8	2,295.7	0.2	65.6	65.6	0.0
Employment			Employment rate			
	'000	% change	%		change	
Canada	16,396.2	16,418.2	0.1	62.9	62.9	0.0
Newfoundland and Labrador	211.9	214.6	1.3	49.4	50.1	0.7
Prince Edward Island	67.9	69.6	2.5	60.6	62.1	1.5
Nova Scotia	443.7	446.1	0.5	58.2	58.5	0.3
New Brunswick	359.6	360.1	0.1	58.8	58.9	0.1
Quebec	3,752.9	3,728.6	-0.6	60.2	59.8	-0.4
Ontario	6,463.0	6,486.8	0.4	63.5	63.6	0.1
Manitoba	583.0	587.2	0.7	65.5	65.9	0.4
Saskatchewan	483.2	487.9	1.0	64.7	65.3	0.6
Alberta	1,841.9	1,844.6	0.1	70.6	70.5	-0.1
British Columbia	2,189.0	2,192.8	0.2	62.7	62.7	0.0
Unemployment			Unemployment rate			
	'000	% change	%		change	
Canada	1,111.3	1,114.2	0.3	6.3	6.4	0.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	39.6	40.7	2.8	15.7	15.9	0.2
Prince Edward Island	9.3	8.2	-11.8	12.0	10.5	-1.5
Nova Scotia	37.3	39.1	4.8	7.8	8.1	0.3
New Brunswick	36.5	36.0	-1.4	9.2	9.1	-0.1
Quebec	347.0	338.2	-2.5	8.5	8.3	-0.2
Ontario	423.0	428.3	1.3	6.1	6.2	0.1
Manitoba	25.3	29.0	14.6	4.2	4.7	0.5
Saskatchewan	26.9	24.8	-7.8	5.3	4.8	-0.5
Alberta	64.5	66.9	3.7	3.4	3.5	0.1
British Columbia	101.8	102.9	1.1	4.4	4.5	0.1

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.



Health Reports: Impact of universal flu immunization in Ontario

2003

Canada's first-ever universal program for influenza shots in Ontario, introduced in the fall of 2000, had a dramatic impact on vaccination rates in the province, according to a new study in the latest edition of *Health Reports*.

The study, which focuses on Ontario's program, found that vaccination rates were increasing in all parts of the country. However, after Ontario's program came into effect, rates there rose far more sharply than the rates for the rest of the provinces combined.

The results of this analysis suggest that the introduction of universal immunization had an additional positive impact. Increases were particularly noticeable among people younger than 65, age groups not typically covered by influenza immunization programs.

Exactly what factors led to the jump in Ontario's rates is not known, whether it be the availability of free flu shots for everyone, easier access, extensive advertising, some other cause, or a combination of causes.

Vaccination rates in Ontario stabilized between 2001 and 2003, but continued to rise in the rest of the country. Even so, Ontario's 2003 rates still exceeded those for the other provinces combined.

Ontario remains the only province with a universal influenza immunization program.

Big jump in Ontario rates

By 2000, most provinces had publicly funded programs that offered free flu shots to seniors, people with chronic conditions and health care workers. The Ontario program, which began offering free flu shots to the entire population aged six months or older in the fall of that year, was the first large-scale program of its kind in the world.

Flu vaccination rates in Ontario rose substantially between 1996/1997 and 2000/2001. For example, among people aged 12 to 49 who had no chronic conditions, only 8% had had a flu shot in 1996/1997. By 2000/2001, the proportion had risen to 25%. This 17 percentage-point gain was nearly three times the increase of 6 percentage points among people in the same age group in all other provinces combined.

At the same time, the vaccination rate among Ontario residents aged 12 to 49 who had a chronic condition more than doubled from 18% to 39%, an increase of 21 percentage points. In the other provinces, the vaccination rate for this group rose about 5 percentage points from 13% to 18%.

Two years later, in 2003, rates for the other provinces combined were still below those in Ontario. For example,

Note to readers

This release is based on two articles in the latest issue of Health Reports: "The effect of universal influenza immunization on vaccination rates in Ontario" and "Flu shots — National and provincial/territorial trends." The first article is a joint effort by Statistics Canada and the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences. The data used in the analyses are from the Canadian Community Health Survey and the National Population Health Survey, both conducted by Statistics Canada.

among Ontario residents aged 12 to 49, 22% of those with no chronic condition had been vaccinated in Ontario, compared with 11% in the other provinces combined. And for those with at least one chronic condition, the Ontario rate was 36%, compared with 21% in the other provinces.

Target met for seniors in Ontario

A national conference in 1993 set a target coverage rate for influenza vaccination of 70% for seniors and all adults with chronic medical conditions. By 2003, Ontario had met this target for seniors, among whom the overall vaccination rate was 74%.

However, the province still fell short of the target for younger adults with chronic conditions. Among Ontario residents aged 50 to 64 with at least one chronic condition, 59% had had a flu shot in 2003. While this was higher than the rate of 45% in the other provinces, it was below the 70% target. Thus, even in the context of a universal vaccination program, there appears to be room for improvement, the study noted.

Other provinces have reached the 70% target only for seniors with a chronic condition. In 2003, in the other provinces combined, the vaccination rate for seniors with chronic conditions was 71%, still well below the comparable rate of 80% in Ontario.

Provincial trends in flu shots

A separate article in *Health Reports*, "Flu shots — National and provincial/territorial trends," provides vaccination rates in Canada and each province in 2003.

Nationally, 28% of Canadians aged 12 or older had received a flu shot in 2003. Only two provinces, Ontario (35%) and Nova Scotia (31%), had rates significantly above the national average.

Among people with at least one chronic condition, about 47% had had a flu shot. Rates were significantly higher in two provinces: Ontario (55%) and Nova Scotia (54%).

In the case of seniors, nationally, two-thirds (67%) of people aged 65 or older reported having had a flu shot in 2003. This was almost unchanged from 2000/2001, but up considerably from 51% in 1996/1997. Again,

Ontario and Nova Scotia had rates above the national average.

Since flu shots have been available, immunization has been recommended for health care workers. In 2003, however, less than half (46%) of individuals employed in health care settings such as hospitals and nursing homes reported having had a flu shot.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this article and "Flu shots — National and provincial/territorial trends," contact Helen Johansen (613-722-5570), Health Statistics Division.

The May 2006 issue of *Health Reports* also contains two other studies.

"Survival from cancer — Up-to-date predictions using period analysis" provides predictions of short- and long-term relative survival rates of Canadians recently diagnosed with cancer. It concludes that survival for many forms of cancer is higher than that estimated by previous studies using different methods. For more information, contact Larry F. Ellison (613-951-5244), Health Statistics Division.

"Medication use among pregnant women" examines the use of prescription and non-prescription drugs among pregnant women aged 15 to 49. It shows that while smoking and alcohol consumption declined among expectant mothers during the past 10 years, the use of medication by this group increased. The gain is mainly attributable to the growing use of non-prescription drugs. For more information, contact Didier Garriguet (613-951-7187), Health Statistics Division.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3226 and 3236.

Complete articles appear in the May 2006 issue of *Health Reports*, Vol. 17, no. 2 (82-003-XIE, free; 82-003-XPE, \$22/\$63), now available. To obtain a copy, go to the *Our products and services* page of our Web site.

For more information about *Health Reports*, contact Christine Wright (613-951-1765; christine.wright@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division. ■

Domestic sales of refined petroleum products

March 2006 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products totalled 8 489 300 cubic metres in March, down 1.8% from March 2005. Sales decreased in five of the seven major product groups, with heavy fuel down 81 200 cubic metres or 11.0%. Diesel fuel oil sales rose 91 600 cubic metres or 4.1 %, while motor gasoline sales increased 58 000 cubic metres or 1.7%.

Sales of mid-grade (+13.0%) and regular non-leaded gasoline (+2.3%) rose while sales for premium (-7.3%) fell from March 2005.

Year-to-date sales of refined petroleum products at the end of March reached 23 967 100 cubic metres,

down 4.8% from the same period of 2005. Sales fell in six of the seven major product groups, with the largest decrease in heavy fuel oil (-466 900 cubic metres or down 21.4%).

Preliminary domestic sales of refined petroleum products data are no longer available on CANSIM.

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 (1-866-873-8789 or 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Sales of refined petroleum products

	March 2005 ^r	March 2006 ^p	March 2005 to March 2006 % change
	'000 of cubic metres		
Total, all products	8 641.7	8 489.3	-1.8
Motor gasoline	3 314.1	3 372.1	1.7
Diesel fuel oil	2 231.9	2 323.5	4.1
Light fuel oil	584.7	533.0	-8.8
Heavy fuel oil	739.7	658.5	-11.0
Aviation turbo fuels	507.0	483.9	-4.5
Petrochemical feedstocks ¹	428.3	389.2	-9.1
All other refined products	836.0	729.0	-12.8

	January to March 2005 ^r	January to March 2006 ^p	January–March 2005 to January–March 2006 % change
	'000 of cubic metres		
Total, all products	25 178.5	23 967.1	-4.8
Motor gasoline	9 663.8	9 531.5	-1.4
Diesel fuel oil	6 358.3	6 389.5	0.5
Light fuel oil	1 947.3	1 651.6	-15.2
Heavy fuel oil	2 179.6	1 712.7	-21.4
Aviation turbo fuels	1 473.9	1 441.1	-2.2
Petrochemical feedstocks ¹	1 193.2	1 028.0	-13.8
All other refined products	2 362.3	2 212.7	-6.3

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce chemicals, synthetic rubber and a variety of plastics.

Steel primary forms, weekly data

Week ending April 29, 2006 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending April 29 totalled 318 985 metric tonnes, up 1.0% from 315 817 tonnes a week earlier and down 2.9% from 328 567 tonnes in the same week of 2005.

The year-to-date total as of April 29 was 5 143 402 tonnes, down 3.6% from 5 336 318 tonnes in the same period of 2005.

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. ■

Informatics professional services price indexes

2004 (preliminary)

Informatics professional services price indexes (IPSPI) are now available for 2004.

Starting with the 2004 reference year, two industry categories were added to the survey population: Internet Service Providers (NAICS 518111), Table 329-0054; and, Web Search Portals (NAICS 518112), Table 329-0055.

The price indexes produced for these industries are based on 2003=100, whereas the price indexes produced since 1993 for the Computer Systems and Related Services (NAICS 541510) are

based on 1997=100. The price indexes produced since 2002 for the Software Publishers (NAICS 511210) and for Data Processing, Hosting and Related Services (NAICS 518210) are based on 2001=100.

The IPSPI measure change in the total price of informatics professional services as well as changes in their labour cost and realised net multiplier components. These indexes are available at the Canada-level only.

Available on CANSIM: tables 329-0014, 329-0051, 329-0052, 329-0054 and 329-0055.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2333.

For more information on these indexes, contact Prices Division (613-951-9606; 1-866-230-2248; infounit@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Monique Beyrouti (613-951-1673; monique.beyrouti@statcan.ca), Prices Division. ■

New products

Building Permits, March 2006, Vol. 50, no. 3
Catalogue number 64-001-XIE
(free).

Labour Force Information, Week ending April 15, 2006
Catalogue number 71-001-XIE
(free).

Health Reports, 2005, Vol. 17, no. 2
Catalogue number 82-003-XIE
(free).

Health Reports, 2005, Vol. 17, no. 2
Catalogue number 82-003-XPE (\$22/\$63).

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

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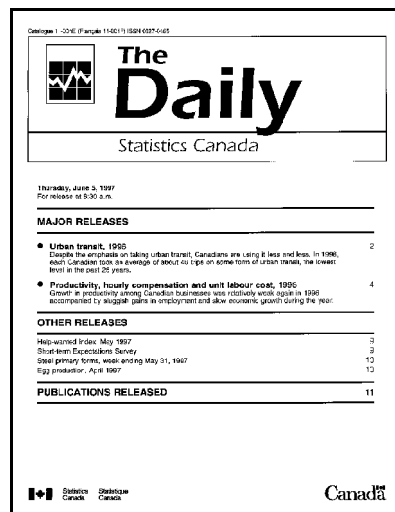
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The Daily, May 5, 2006

Release dates: May 8 to 12, 2006

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
10	Stocks of grain	As of March 31, 2006
10	New Housing Price Index	March 2006
11	Innovation capabilities: Comparing science and engineering employment in Canadian and US cities	1981 to 2001
12	Canadian international merchandise trade	March 2006