



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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## Releases

### Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost

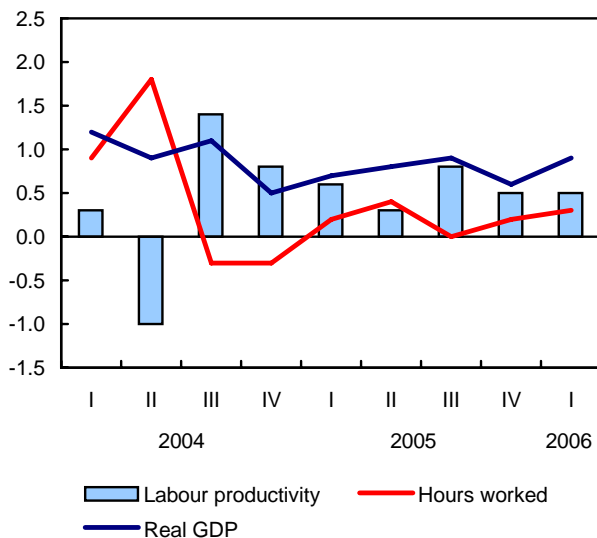
First quarter 2006

Labour productivity in Canada's business sector grew 0.5% between January and March, a similar pace to the quarterly average in 2005.

At the same time, unit labour costs, a key measure of inflationary pressures on wages, slowed for the first time in more than a year. Unit labour costs of businesses increased only 0.3% during the first quarter of 2006, compared with a gain of 1.1% in the previous quarter. It was the slowest rate of growth since the third quarter of 2004.

#### Productivity growth matches the pace set in 2005

Quarterly % change



The 0.5% increase in productivity came as economic output rose at three times the pace of hours worked. This rate of growth was equivalent to the average quarterly gain for the entire four quarters of 2005.

Labour productivity, as measured by real gross domestic product (GDP) per hour worked, is important because it has a direct impact on the population's standard of living in the long term. Unit labour costs represent the cost of wages and benefits of workers per unit of economic output.

#### Note to readers

This release contains a brief analysis of detailed data on productivity growth and other related variables. A more thorough analysis, including additional charts and tables, is available in the Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review. This electronic publication presents an analysis of labour productivity for the aggregate business sector and its constituent industries (15 two-digit North American Industrial Classification System industries) and two sectors (goods and services). The statistical series for total economy, business sector and non-commercial sector start with the first quarter of 1981, while those at industry level are available only back to the first quarter of 1997.

The term "productivity" refers to labour productivity. Calculations of the productivity growth rate and its related variables are based on index numbers rounded to one decimal place.

For more information about the productivity program, see the new National Economic Accounts module accessible from the home page of our website. You can also order a copy of a technical note about the quarterly estimates of productivity by sending an email to (productivity.measures@statcan.ca).

#### Revisions

With this release, revisions have been made back to the first quarter of 2002 to incorporate the 2002 to 2005 revisions to the National Economic and Financial Accounts that were released May 31. This release led to revisions in labour productivity at the aggregate level and to hourly compensation and unit labour costs at the industry and aggregate levels as a result of revised data on labour income by industry.

Growth in GDP in Canada has exceeded that of hours worked since the third quarter of 2004, resulting in productivity gains during the last seven quarters. During this period, productivity among Canada's businesses has increased at an average quarterly rate of 0.7%.

On the other hand, labour productivity in the US business sector increased 1.0% between January and March, twice the rate of growth in Canada. The first-quarter gap in favour of the United States was due mainly to stronger growth in economic output south of the border.

For 2005 as a whole, labour productivity in Canada rose 2.3%, the best annual performance since 2000. This was just slightly slower than the growth of 2.6% for the year in the United States, its slowest gain since 2001.

#### Economic growth accelerating in Canada and the United States, but pace slower here

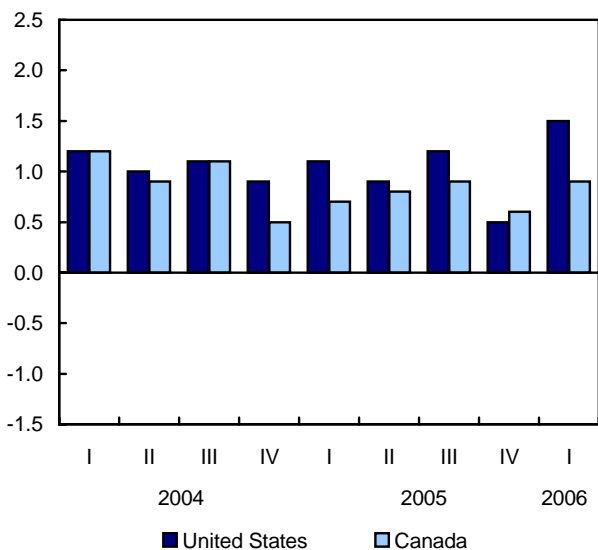
Economic growth is accelerating in both Canada and the United States, but the pace is slower in Canada.

The upward trend in hours worked continued in both countries in the first quarter. But it was mainly the net change in GDP south of the border that allowed American businesses to post better gains in productivity.

After stagnating in the fourth quarter, productivity among US businesses rebounded in the first quarter, rising 1.0%, which was double the 0.5% gain in Canada. In the last quarter of 2005, Canada's productivity growth out-distanced that of the United States.

### GDP growth accelerates in both countries

Quarterly % change



In Canada, growth in real GDP hit 0.9% in the first quarter of 2006, after increasing 0.6% in the last three months of 2005. This increase was almost identical to the average growth of 0.8% recorded during the four quarters of 2005.

Canada owed its strong first-quarter economic activity largely to household consumer spending. Canadians spent heavily on durable goods, such as household appliances, and on semi-durable goods, such as clothing and footwear. A strong recovery in investment in residential construction also contributed to economic growth.

South of the border, real GDP rose 1.5% in the first quarter of 2006, compared with only 0.5% in the previous quarter. This was the strongest quarterly gain in GDP in the United States since a 2.3% increase in the third quarter of 2003.

Virtually all components of American economic output that had slowed in the fourth quarter of 2005 rebounded in the first quarter. Consumer spending by households, which spent heavily on durable goods, rose 1.3% in the first quarter, after edging up only 0.2% in the last three months of 2005.

Hours worked in both countries continued to increase slightly, although more slowly in Canada.

In Canada, growth in economic activity went hand-in-hand with a relatively stable labour market. Hours worked on output in Canadian businesses rose 0.3% in the first quarter, compared to 0.2% in the last quarter of 2005. Increases in part-time labour (+0.8%) outstripped those in full-time jobs (+0.3%).

After climbing 0.4% in the fourth quarter of 2005, hours worked in the United States went up 0.6% in the first quarter, double the rate of growth in Canada.

### Canadian unit labour costs in US dollars weaken

Excluding the exchange rate, unit labour costs in Canada and the United States rose at the same pace in the first quarter of 2006, that is, 0.3%. (Unit labour costs represent the cost of wages and benefits of workers per unit of economic output.)

In Canada, this represented a net slowdown in unit labour cost per unit of GDP for Canadian businesses, compared to the 1.1% increase recorded in the fourth quarter of 2005.

In contrast, for the United States, the first-quarter rate represented a slight acceleration from the last three months of 2005 when unit labour costs declined 0.2%.

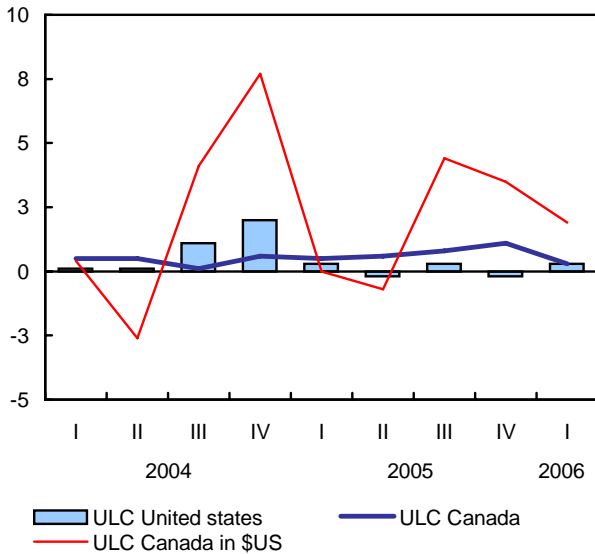
Hourly compensation paid to workers in Canadian businesses increased 0.8% between January and March this year, only half the increase of 1.6% in the last quarter of 2005.

In comparison, the rate of growth in hourly compensation paid to workers in American businesses climbed from a decline of 0.2% in the last quarter

of 2005 to an increase of 1.3% in the first quarter of 2006.

**Canadian unit labour costs (ULC) in US dollars continues to slow**

Quarterly % change



When the exchange rate is taken into consideration, the situation shifted even more to favour American businesses.

After levelling off in the first half of 2005, the Canadian dollar appreciated in the last three quarters. The Canadian dollar's appreciation of 1.5% compared to the American currency in the first quarter of 2006 resulted in the Canadian unit labour cost expressed in US dollars climbing 1.9% in the first quarter compared to an average increase of 4.0% in the previous two quarters.

**Recent revisions in productivity figures in Canada had virtually no impact on the Canada/US gap**

Data released today include annual revisions of Canada's GDP from 2002 to 2005. Revisions to American data are expected this September.

Overall, the revisions during this period had the impact of reducing the rate of growth in Canadian labour productivity in 2003, and increasing it in 2004 and 2005.

**Comparison of annual labour productivity growth in the business sector before and after revision**

	Canada		United States
	Before revision	After revision	
	annual % change		
1981 to 2005	1.5	1.5	2.2
1981 to 2000	1.6	1.6	1.9
2000 to 2005	1.0	1.0	3.3
2002	1.4	1.4	4.0
2003	0.4	0.0	4.1
2004	0.0	0.4	3.5
2005	2.2	2.3	2.6

**Note:** US data are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Productivity and Costs: First quarter 2006*, published in NEWS, June 1.

These revisions tended to cancel each other out. As a result, they had virtually no impact on the gap in labour productivity growth between Canada and the United States during the post 2000 period.

In 2005, labour productivity among Canadian businesses was revised upward from 2.2% to 2.3%. With this revision, the gap in productivity growth between the two countries was only 0.3 percentage points, the smallest it has been in the past five years.

Between 2000 and 2005, productivity in the United States increased at an annual average rate of 3.3%, more than three times faster than the 1.0% rate of growth in Canada. Over the 2000 to 2005 period, GDP growth in Canada was 2.5% on average combined with an increase of 1.4% in hours worked. In comparison, US GDP grew by 2.8% on average while hours worked declined by 0.5% during the same period.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 383-0008 and 383-0012.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5042.**

A more comprehensive analysis, including additional charts and tables, is now available online in the first quarter 2006 issue of *Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review* (13-010-XIE, free). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our free internet publications* choose *National accounts*.

Second quarter data for labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost will be released on September 13.

To order data, contact Client Services ([productivity.measures@statcan.ca](mailto:productivity.measures@statcan.ca)). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean-Pierre Maynard (613-951-3654; fax: 613-951-3292; [maynard@statcan.ca](mailto:maynard@statcan.ca)), Micro-economic Analysis Division.

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**Business sector: Labour productivity and related variables for Canada and the United States**

	2004 Q1	2004 Q2	2004 Q3	2004 Q4	2005 Q1	2005 Q2	2005 Q3	2005 Q4	2006 Q1
% change from previous quarter, seasonally adjusted									
<b>Canada</b>									
Labour productivity	0.3	-1.0	1.4	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.5
Real GDP	1.2	0.9	1.1	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.9
Hours worked	0.9	1.8	-0.3	-0.3	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.3
Hourly compensation	0.7	-0.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	0.9	1.7	1.6	0.8
Unit labour cost	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.1	0.3
Exchange rate <sup>1</sup>	0.2	3.2	-3.9	-6.6	0.5	1.4	-3.3	-2.4	-1.5
Unit labour cost in US dollars	0.4	-2.6	4.1	7.7	0.0	-0.7	4.4	3.5	1.9
<b>United States<sup>2</sup></b>									
Labour productivity	0.9	0.9	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.3	1.3	0.0	1.0
Real GDP	1.2	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.2	0.5	1.5
Hours worked	0.3	0.1	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.4	0.6
Hourly compensation	1.0	0.9	1.6	2.7	1.2	0.1	1.5	-0.2	1.3
Unit labour cost	0.1	0.1	1.1	2.0	0.3	-0.2	0.3	-0.2	0.3
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Q2	2005 Q3	2005 Q4	2006 Q1
% change from the previous year					% change from same quarter of previous year, seasonally adjusted				
<b>Canada</b>									
Labour productivity	1.1	1.4	0.0	0.3	2.3	3.1	2.5	2.2	2.1
Real GDP	1.6	3.1	1.4	3.3	3.0	3.0	2.8	3.0	3.2
Hours worked	0.5	1.6	1.3	3.1	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.8	0.9
Hourly compensation	3.2	1.4	2.6	2.0	4.8	4.9	5.2	5.4	5.0
Unit labour cost	2.1	-0.1	2.6	1.8	2.3	1.8	2.6	3.1	2.8
Exchange rate	4.3	1.3	-10.8	-7.1	-6.9	-8.6	-8.1	-4.0	-5.9
Unit labour cost in US dollars	-2.2	-1.4	15.2	9.5	9.9	11.3	11.7	7.3	9.3
<b>United States<sup>2</sup></b>									
Labour productivity	2.5	4.0	4.1	3.5	2.6	2.2	3.0	2.4	2.5
Real GDP	0.3	1.5	3.4	4.8	4.0	4.1	4.2	3.7	4.2
Hours worked	-2.1	-2.4	-0.7	1.3	1.4	1.9	1.1	1.3	1.7
Hourly compensation	4.2	3.5	4.0	4.7	5.1	5.7	5.6	2.6	2.8
Unit labour cost	1.6	-0.5	-0.1	1.2	2.4	3.4	2.5	0.2	0.3

1. The exchange rate corresponds to the US dollar value expressed in Canadian dollars.

2. US data are from Bureau of Labor Statistics, Productivity and costs: First quarter 2006 published in NEWS, June 1.



## Study: Distribution of crime on the Island of Montréal

2001

Crime does not occur randomly in cities, but is associated with demographic, socio-economic and land use factors, according to a new study that analyzes the link between crime and land use in Montréal.

The report showed that criminal offences in Canada's second largest metropolitan area followed a slightly different pattern than that in other Canadian cities.

Property offences on the Island of Montréal were essentially concentrated in neighbourhoods in the city centre; however, violent crime was distributed among a number of hot spots throughout the region.

The report also indicates that the vast majority of people charged for those crimes lived on the Island of Montréal. The distances travelled to commit an offence were relatively short.

Three key factors were relevant to explain the variation of violent and property crime rates at the neighbourhood level: low income, the proportion of single people and commercial land use.

The results underline the importance of targeting the specific needs of neighbourhoods, and recognizing the diversity of Canadian cities in developing strategies for combating crime.

This analytic approach examines such questions as how police-reported crimes are distributed across city neighbourhoods, and whether the crime rate in a given neighbourhood is associated with factors specific to that neighbourhood. The factors considered include housing, land use, demographic and socio-economic characteristics. The report also presents the first descriptive analysis of charged persons' travel patterns to the location of offences in Montréal.

The report is the second prepared by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics to examine crime data at a neighbourhood level using a combination of statistical analysis and crime mapping based on Geographic Information System (GIS) technology.

### Crime not evenly dispersed across the Island

Maps produced using data from the GIS show that reported crime was not evenly dispersed across the Island of Montréal in 2001.

They show a concentration of criminal incidents in some areas of the Island, such as the city centre. However, in other areas, criminal incidents were quite rare.

Some of the areas in which there were few criminal offences, such as the land occupied by petroleum

#### Note to readers

*This is the second in a series of studies by Statistics Canada that examine crime data at a neighbourhood level using a combination of statistical analyses and crime mapping based on Geographic Information System (GIS) technology.*

*The study, funded by the National Crime Prevention Centre at Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada, uses demographic and socio-economic information from the Census, zoning data from the Communauté urbaine de Montréal and police-reported crime data for 2001 to investigate neighbourhood-level crime patterns.*

*The analytic approach examines such questions as how police-reported crimes are distributed across city neighbourhoods, and whether the crime rate in a given neighbourhood is associated with factors specific to that neighbourhood, such as housing, land use, demographic or socio-economic characteristics. A descriptive analysis of charged persons' travel distance to the location of the offences, using GIS technology, is also provided for Montréal for the first time.*

*The first study, "Neighbourhood characteristics and the distribution of crime in Winnipeg", was released in The Daily on September 16, 2004. Results from a third study, on Regina, will be released later in 2006.*

industries in the east end, are relatively inaccessible and in some cases, have controlled access.

The neighbourhoods with the highest densities of violent crime were in the city centre, Verdun, Mercier-Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, Montréal-Nord, Rosemount-La-Petite-Patrie and Villeray-St-Michel-Parc-Extension.

Property crimes were highly and almost exclusively concentrated in the city centre. Hot spots outside the city centre included the Island's large shopping malls and the Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau International Airport.

Crime was concentrated in a small number of neighbourhoods. In fact, about 20% of violent crime incidents reported in 2001 occurred in 7% of the Island's "census tracts", which are roughly equivalent to neighbourhoods of between 2,500 and 8,000 people. About 20% of reported property crime incidents occurred in 4% of census tracts.

### Persons charged unlikely to travel far to commit an offence

Using the location of criminal incidents and the place of residence of persons charged, it is possible to calculate the distance travelled by offenders.

The study showed that the vast majority of persons charged in criminal incidents that occurred in 2001 lived on the Island of Montréal.

The distances travelled by the persons charged were relatively short, and varied with the type of offence, the age of the person charged and their relationship

with the victim. Offenders came from a larger number of neighbourhoods in the case of violent incidents and were less concentrated than in the case of property crimes. Overall, persons charged with violent incidents travelled less (0.9 km) than those charged with property incidents (4 km).

The median distance travelled also varies according to the closeness of the relationship between the person charged and the victim. (The median is the point at which half are above, and half below.) Charged persons who know their victim travel little, while those who do not cover a greater distance and converge toward the city centre. The youngest offenders travelled the most in cases of violent incidents, and the least in the case of property crime.

Persons charged with assault travelled the least, about 0.4 km, while those who committed robbery travelled the greatest median distance of all persons charged with violent offences, more than 3 km. In 2001, persons charged with breaking and entering travelled the shortest distance of all persons charged with property offences, at 3.3 km, while those charged either with theft \$5,000 and over or theft under \$5,000 travelled 4.4 km. The longest distances travelled were for car thefts, at more than 6.5 km.

These results support British research findings indicating that most movements by offenders are relatively short. In addition, travel associated with crime is driven by opportunities presenting themselves during daily activities, rather than plans to offend.

#### **Crime more prevalent where residents have less access to socio-economic resources**

The results of this study show several differences in the characteristics of high- and low-crime neighbourhoods. They suggest that crime is more prevalent in neighbourhoods where residents have less access to socio-economic resources.

These neighbourhoods are characterized by an economically disadvantaged population with a lower proportion of highly educated people.

They are also more likely to have a larger number of single people, lone-parent families and recent immigrants. They exhibit greater residential instability, fewer owner-occupied dwellings and a larger proportion of the population spending more than 30% of their budget on housing.

Neighbourhoods with the highest crime rates also tend to have a greater portion of their land set aside for commercial or multi-family use.

Nevertheless, it must be remembered that these are crime rates that are measured at the neighbourhood level and not the delinquency rates of their residents. For example crimes committed in a downtown core may not be committed by downtown residents, but by those coming into the area. It is therefore important not to make generalizations.

When all other factors are taken into account, a limited number of factors are found to be linked to the variation in the crime rate at the neighbourhood level. The set of explanatory factors varies according to whether the offence is violent or property.

However, three key factors are involved in both types of crime: low income, the proportion of single people and commercial land use.

The report "Neighbourhood characteristics and the distribution of crime on the Island of Montréal" (85-561-MIE2006007, free) is now available as part of the *Crime and Justice Research Paper Series*. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our free internet publications* choose *Justice*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Information and Client Services (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. ■

## New Housing Price Index

April 2006

New home prices rose sharply in April. The New Housing Price Index rose by 1.2% over the previous month to 138.2 (1997=100). This was the most significant month-over-month increase at the national level since April 1989. Compared to one year ago, contractors' selling prices have increased 8.2%.

Prices advanced in 14 of the 21 metropolitan areas surveyed. Calgary led the way once again with a monthly increase of 4.7%. Edmonton (+3.9%) Regina (+1.2%), Montréal (+1.0%) and Vancouver (+0.9%) also registered significant increases. High demand for new housing, coupled with higher material and labour costs and increased land values, were cited as the main reasons for these increases.

Other noteworthy gains were registered in Hamilton, St. Catharines–Niagara and London (+0.6% each) where favourable market conditions, higher material and labour costs and increased land values pushed prices up. Monthly increases were also noted in Ottawa–Gatineau, Toronto and Oshawa, Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury and Thunder Bay, Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Victoria. Of the 14 metropolitan areas showing increases, land prices rose in 8.

Four metropolitan areas registered no monthly change while Windsor (-1.4%), Kitchener (-0.4%) and St. John's (-0.1%) posted the only decreases due to competitive pricing.

On a 12-month basis, Calgary (+34.8%) had the largest increase for new homes for the seventh month in a row, followed by Edmonton (+18.6%), Winnipeg (+10.7%), Regina and Victoria (+7.7% each) and Saskatoon (+6.7%).

**Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.**

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 our Client Services Section (613-951-9606, fax: 613-951-1539; [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)) or Randy Sterns (613-951-8183; [sterran@statcan.ca](mailto:sterran@statcan.ca)), Prices Division.

## New housing price indexes

(1997=100)

	April 2006	April 2005 to April 2006	March to April 2006
	% change		
<b>Canada total</b>	<b>138.2</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>
<b>House only</b>	<b>148.1</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<b>Land only</b>	<b>119.0</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>
St. John's	127.6	3.2	-0.1
Halifax	129.7	6.5	0.0
Charlottetown	115.4	2.3	0.0
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton	112.5	3.3	0.0
Québec	141.3	6.1	0.0
Montréal	147.0	4.2	1.0
Ottawa–Gatineau	157.3	3.3	0.4
Toronto and Oshawa	136.3	4.1	0.4
Hamilton	140.2	4.9	0.6
St. Catharines–Niagara	142.6	4.7	0.6
Kitchener	135.9	4.6	-0.4
London	132.1	4.9	0.6
Windsor	104.5	-0.5	-1.4
Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury and Thunder Bay	101.5	2.7	0.4
Winnipeg	142.2	10.7	0.2
Regina	151.7	7.7	1.2
Saskatoon	134.6	6.7	0.4
Calgary	192.3	34.8	4.7
Edmonton	159.1	18.6	3.9
Vancouver	110.9	6.1	0.9
Victoria	118.2	7.7	0.3

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



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**Study: Socio-economic status and childhood cancers other than leukemia**  
1985 to 2001

Children in Canada's poorest neighbourhoods are neither more nor less likely to get cancer than those in the richest neighbourhoods, except for leukemia, according to a new study of childhood cancer patterns on the basis of neighbourhood income.

This study, published recently in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*, was based on data from Canada's 10 provincial cancer registries. The data were analysed by researchers from the British Columbia Cancer Agency, Statistics Canada and the Electric Power Research Institute.

This report follows a similar study, released in *The Daily* on July 5, 2005, that found that children in Canada's poorest neighbourhoods were less likely to get leukemia than those in the richest neighbourhoods.

For most types of cancer, it found no statistically significant differences in relative risk in the poorest one-fifth of neighbourhoods, compared to the richest one-fifth. A somewhat lower risk in the lowest income neighbourhoods was found for carcinomas and renal tumours. However, no association was found for other types of cancer, and the overall pattern seems compatible with random variation.

This study was undertaken to determine whether there is a difference in incidence of childhood cancers other than leukemia for different levels of socio-economic status, measured by neighbourhood income.

All cases of childhood cancers other than leukemia, that is, in children up to the age of 19, diagnosed between 1985 and 2001, were identified from the 10 provincial cancer registries in Canada. Postal codes for the place of residence at the time of diagnosis were used to assign cases to census neighbourhoods.

Census data closest to the year of diagnosis were used to divide the population into five equal parts by neighborhood income.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3207.**

The study "Socioeconomic status and childhood solid tumor and lymphoma incidence in Canada," was published in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* 2006 (Advanced Access). An abstract of the article is available free online (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez>) in English only. The full text of the article is also available online in English only (<http://aje.oxfordjournals.org>).

For more information about the concepts, methods or data quality of the study, or to obtain a free copy, contact Russell Wilkins (1-613-951-5305; [russell.wilkins@statcan.ca](mailto:russell.wilkins@statcan.ca)), Health Analysis

and Measurement Group, or Marilyn Borugian (1-604-675-8058; [mborugian@bccrc.ca](mailto:mborugian@bccrc.ca)), Cancer Control Research, British Columbia Cancer Agency. ■

**Motor vehicle fuel sales**

2005 (preliminary)

In 2005, consumption of gasoline, for everything from cars to tractors, slipped for only the second time in a decade, possibly the result of soaring prices at the pump.

Canadian drivers consumed an estimated 39.8 billion litres of gasoline, down 1.4% from 40.3 billion litres in 2004, according to preliminary data on fuel sales.

It was the first decline since 1994, except for a marginal 0.1% decline in 2001 when the terrorist attacks of September 11 disrupted the transportation industry.

Gasoline prices across Canada peaked in September 2005. In Montréal, they reached an average of 118.5 cents a litre for regular unleaded gas at self-service stations. In Toronto, they averaged 107.2 cents and in Edmonton, 102.2 cents.

Consumption declined in all provinces except for Prince Edward Island, where it rose 4.1% and in Alberta, where the increase was 0.6%.

In Prince Edward Island, the price of gasoline is controlled by the provincial government, unlike other provinces, and this might have had an impact on consumption. Motorists in Alberta do not pay any provincial resale tax, and this might have had an impact as well.

Motorists in the two most populous provinces, Ontario and Quebec, accounted for 60.0% of Canada's fuel consumption last year.

As in 2004, Ontario drivers consumed the highest amount, 15.6 billion litres, or 39.2% of the total, while those in Quebec purchased 8.4 billion litres, or 20.8%. Drivers in Alberta accounted for 12.9% of total sales.

Between 1995 and 2005, gasoline consumption increased 14.4% nationally. In Ontario and Alberta, the increases were 21.9% and 26.0% respectively, well above the national average. Ontario's consumption, as mentioned before, was 15.6 billion litres in 2005, 10.4 billion litres greater than Alberta which consumed 5.1 billion litres during the same year.

Nationally, gross sales of gasoline fuel peaked in July and August, each with 3.6 billion litres, mostly because of the summer holiday season.

**Note:** Results by province may vary from year to year as a result of changes in provincial taxation laws.

Data on the volume of gasoline (in litres) sold in Canada are now available. The information provides both gross and net annual volume figures from 1993 to 2005 inclusive. Gross is the total volume

sold and net is the volume on which taxes were paid. Breakdowns by province and territory and by month are also available. Annual sales volumes between 1993 and 2005 are also provided by province for diesel.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 405-0002 and 405-0003.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2746.**

To obtain data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Dissemination Unit (1-866-500-8400; [transportationstatistics@statcan.ca](mailto:transportationstatistics@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

## **Production of eggs and poultry**

April 2006 (preliminary)

Egg production was estimated at 48.4 million dozen in April, up 2.4% from April 2005.

Poultry meat production reached 88.7 million kilograms in April, down 6.6% from April 2005.

**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](mailto:sandy.gielfeldt@statcan.ca)) or Barbara Bowen (613-951-3716; [barbara.bowen@statcan.ca](mailto:barbara.bowen@statcan.ca)), Livestock and Animal Products Section, Agriculture Division. ■

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Thursday, June 8, 1997  
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Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses also noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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