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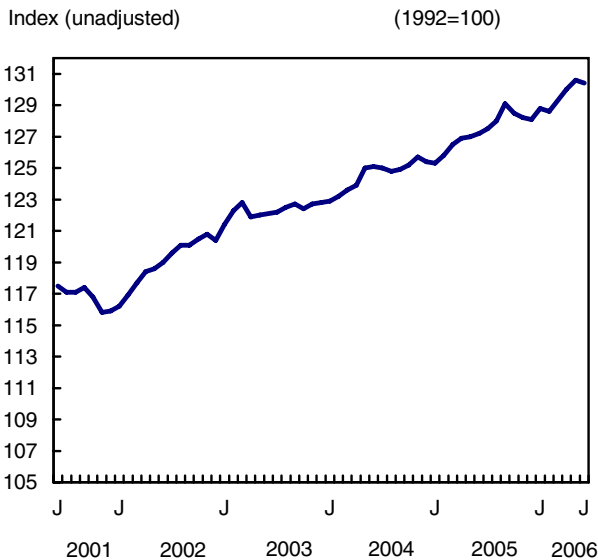
Releases

Consumer Price Index

June 2006

Canadians paid 2.5% more for the goods and services in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket in June 2006 than they did a year earlier. This was slower than the 12-month change of 2.8% in May.

The Consumer Price Index



Gasoline and natural gas prices were the main contributors to the slowdown of the change in the CPI. The 12-month increase in gasoline prices slowed from 18.6% in May to 15.4% in June, as natural gas prices went from 15.6% in May to 6.5% in June. This slowdown affected the year-over-year change in the All-items index, which fell from 2.8% in May to 2.5% in June.

The All-items index, excluding eight of the most volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada for the purposes of monetary policy, was up 1.7% between June 2005 and June 2006, following a 2.0% increase between May 2005 and May 2006. The June increase was more in line with the changes posted since August 2005, which ranged from 1.6% to 1.7%.

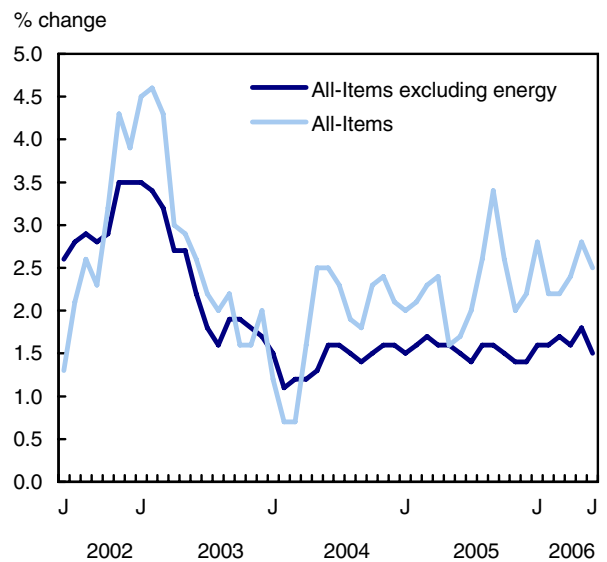
Excluding energy prices, the 12-month change in the CPI dropped from 1.8% in May to 1.5% in June.

Prices for the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles and for traveller accommodation were the main factors slowing down the change in these two indexes.

On a monthly basis, the CPI slipped 0.2% in June, after three consecutive month-over-month increases of 0.5%. The All-items index excluding energy declined 0.2% in June, the strongest monthly decrease since January 2005.

The same trend was shown by the All-items index excluding eight of the most volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada. That index declined 0.2% in June following the 0.5% jump in May. This was the largest month-over-month drop in the index since August 2004.

Percentage change from the same month of the previous year



Higher gasoline prices still major factor in 12-month change

Even though they slowed somewhat, higher gasoline prices were again the main factor behind the 12-month increase in the CPI in June. All provinces recorded increases, with the highest in Saskatchewan (+19.7%) and the lowest in Quebec (+12.1%).

Other factors include gains in homeowners' replacement cost and electricity prices. These were

offset slightly by lower prices for computer equipment and supplies, video equipment and women's clothing.

Homeowners' replacement cost, which represents the worn-out structural portion of housing and is estimated using new housing prices (excluding land), rose 7.4% from June 2005 to June 2006.

Most of this increase originated in Alberta, where prices have soared 35.1% over the past year. Economic activity, spurred by the province's oil and gas operations, had an impact on housing starts, exerting upward pressure on material and labour costs.

Twelve-month changes of more than 10% in homeowner's replacement cost have been posted in Alberta since December 2005, pushing its All-items index to levels higher than the Canadian average. Manitoba was a distant second, with a 12-month increase of 7.9% in June.

Electricity prices climbed 6.2% between June 2005 and June 2006. Rising prices over the past few months in Ontario and Quebec continued to influence the 12-month trend in electricity prices.

On the flip side, prices for computer equipment and supplies fell 15.7%, while prices for video equipment were down 10.8%. Technological progress makes it possible to produce computers, audio and video players, and televisions at lower cost, thus bringing down prices for consumers.

Prices for women's clothing fell 3.1%. All provinces posted lower prices. The stronger loonie enables Canadians to pay less for clothing often made in other countries that are sold in specialty boutiques or department stores.

Decline in monthly prices halts three months of gains

Between May and June 2006, the All-items index fell 0.2%, halting three consecutive monthly gains. The downward pressure came largely from the purchase and leasing of automobiles, natural gas and women's and men's clothing.

Offsetting factors included higher prices for fresh fruit and homeowner's replacement cost.

Prices for the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles fell 1.1% in June, in the wake of financial incentives offered by some automakers.

A 7.0% drop in natural gas prices also pushed down the All-items index. In Alberta, a 33.0% plunge in natural gas prices accounted for much of this drop. Alberta consumers benefited from lower prices for gas and from a credit granted by a gas distributor. Natural gas prices also fell 2.0% in Quebec.

Clearance sales helped bring down the indexes for women's clothing (-2.8%) and men's clothing (-2.5%) from May to June 2006.

Offsetting the decrease in the All-items index to some extent, fresh fruit prices increased 4.0% between May and June 2006. All categories of fresh fruit, such as apples, oranges, bananas and other fresh fruit, posted increases.

The homeowner's replacement cost index was up 0.7% between May and June, owing largely to a 4.5% increase in Alberta.

The seasonally adjusted CPI decreased between May and June

After adjusting for seasonal variations, the CPI decreased by 0.1% between May and June 2006. The downward pressure came from the transportation (-0.4%), housing (-0.2%), clothing and footwear (-0.7%), recreation, education and reading (-0.2%), and household operations and furnishings (-0.2%) components.

The seasonally adjusted index was nonetheless pushed up mainly by the indexes for food (+0.2%) and health and personal care (+0.1%). The alcoholic beverages and tobacco products index remained unchanged.

The seasonally adjusted CPI without eight of the most volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada stayed unchanged from May to June 2006.

All-items index excluding eight of the most volatile components

One of the elements used by the Bank of Canada to measure core inflation for the purposes of monetary policy is the CPI excluding eight of the most volatile components identified by the Bank. The 12-month increase in this index was 1.7% in June 2006.

The major factors that contributed to this rise were homeowners' replacement cost (+7.4%), electricity prices (+6.2%), restaurant meals (+3.1%) and the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles (+1.6%). The increase was mitigated by lower prices for computer equipment and supplies (-15.7%), women's clothing (-3.1%), video equipment (-10.8%), and men's clothing (-2.7%).

Between May and June 2006, the All-items index excluding eight of the most volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada decreased by 0.2%. This decrease came after a 0.5% increase in May.

The main factors behind the drop in this index were lower prices for the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles (-1.1%), women's clothing (-2.8%), and men's clothing (-2.5%). The factors that partially compensated for this decrease were higher homeowners' replacement cost (+0.7%), prices for restaurant meals (+0.4%) and for paper supplies (+2.0%).

Energy

In the wake of a 14.1% rise from May 2005 to May 2006, the energy index posted a relatively smaller increase of 11.5% between June 2005 and June 2006.

Although all components contributed to the increase in the energy index, gasoline (+15.4%) was the primary factor, followed by electricity (+6.2%), fuel oil (+13.5%), natural gas (+6.5%) and fuel, parts and supplies for recreational vehicles (+10.3%).

On a monthly basis, the energy index fell 1.0% between May and June 2006, primarily owing to the decrease in prices for natural gas (-7.0%), gasoline (-0.4%), and parts and supplies for recreational vehicles (-0.3%).

Prices for electricity and fuel oil remained unchanged.

First half of 2006: Higher energy prices behind the increase in the CPI since the beginning of the year

Although Canadian consumers will enjoy a decrease in the Goods and Services Tax as of July 1, 2006 and the evolution of the exchange rate is favourable, they have had to face substantial increases in energy costs since the beginning of the year. During the first six months of 2006, the average level of the CPI rose 2.5% in comparison with the same period last year. The energy sector, which includes gasoline, fuel oil, natural gas and electricity, jumped 11.3%. All provinces posted increases ranging from 13.4% in Ontario to 8.1% in British Columbia.

Gasoline and fuel oil prices shot up more than 10% throughout Canada's provinces during the first six months of 2006, largely because of the dizzying rise in the price of a barrel of oil on world markets. Trends in natural gas and electricity prices varied widely from province to province. This situation can primarily be explained by the different policies adopted by provincial governments to set price levels for natural gas and electricity. Ontario (+24.2%) and Manitoba (+17.1%) recorded the highest increases in natural gas prices over the first six months, while Alberta (+3.2%) and Saskatchewan (+4.8%) posted the lowest increases.

Alberta nonetheless experienced the most substantial rise in electricity prices, which were up an average of 14.2% during the first six months of 2006. Deregulation in Alberta's electricity sector has led to greater price fluctuations over the last few years. With a 0.6% drop in electricity rates, Prince Edward Island is the only province that posted a decrease in the first six

months of 2006. Since September 2005, consumers in that province have enjoyed lower prices for 10 straight months owing to a mechanism in place whereby rates are adjusted each month to reflect the costs incurred to produce electricity.

Impact of decline in Goods and Services Tax

The Government of Canada recently announced that the rate in effect for the Goods and Services Tax (GST) will be reduced from 7% to 6% as of July 1, 2006.

Since the price changes measured by the CPI take into account the value of the consumption taxes paid by Canadians, this 1% decrease will have an impact on the CPI.

A rough estimation of the impact of this reduction on the level of the CPI suggests a decrease in the order of 0.6%. This estimation is based on the assumption that the entire amount of the decrease will be transferred to consumers and that the industrial structure that underlies the way that prices are determined will remain the same.

Since some products, such as many foods sold in supermarkets, are exempt from GST, the resulting decrease will necessarily be less than 1%.

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).

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

The June 2006 issue of the *Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 85, no. 6 (62-001-XIB, free) is now available from the *Our Products and Services* page of our website. A paper copy (62-001-XPB, \$12/\$111) is also available. See *How to order products*.

The July Consumer Price Index will be released on August 22.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, call Client Services Unit (toll-free 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 | June 2006 | May 2006 | June 2005 | May to June 2006 | June 2005 to June 2006 |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Unadjusted | | | | | | |
| | | | | | % change | |
| All-items | 100.00² | 130.4 | 130.6 | 127.2 | -0.2 | 2.5 |
| Food | 16.89 | 131.4 | 130.7 | 128.9 | 0.5 | 1.9 |
| Shelter | 26.75 | 128.4 | 128.6 | 123.8 | -0.2 | 3.7 |
| Household operations and furnishings | 10.58 | 116.2 | 116.5 | 115.7 | -0.3 | 0.4 |
| Clothing and footwear | 5.37 | 99.0 | 101.1 | 101.3 | -2.1 | -2.3 |
| Transportation | 19.79 | 157.7 | 158.4 | 149.7 | -0.4 | 5.3 |
| Health and personal care | 4.52 | 122.6 | 122.6 | 121.1 | 0.0 | 1.2 |
| Recreation, education and reading | 11.96 | 127.9 | 128.3 | 127.8 | -0.3 | 0.1 |
| Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products | 4.13 | 150.5 | 150.5 | 147.7 | 0.0 | 1.9 |
| All-items (1986=100) | | 167.0 | | | | |
| Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1992 | | 76.7 | 76.6 | 78.6 | | |
| Special aggregates | | | | | | |
| Goods | 48.84 | 124.8 | 125.5 | 122.1 | -0.6 | 2.2 |
| Services | 51.16 | 136.5 | 136.3 | 133.0 | 0.1 | 2.6 |
| All-items excluding food and energy | 74.27 | 125.4 | 125.7 | 123.6 | -0.2 | 1.5 |
| Energy | 8.84 | 179.4 | 181.2 | 160.9 | -1.0 | 11.5 |
| All-items excluding eight of the most volatile components ³ | 82.75 | 128.8 | 129.1 | 126.6 | -0.2 | 1.7 |

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 of the most 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, consult the Bank of Canada website (www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm).

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

| | June 2006 | May 2006 | June 2005 | May to June 2006 | June 2005 to June 2006 |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------------|------------------------|
| Unadjusted | | | | | |
| | | | | % change | |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 129.4 | 129.7 | 126.1 | -0.2 | 2.6 |
| Prince Edward Island | 132.2 | 132.7 | 128.2 | -0.4 | 3.1 |
| Nova Scotia | 133.0 | 133.2 | 129.0 | -0.2 | 3.1 |
| New Brunswick | 130.5 | 130.6 | 126.8 | -0.1 | 2.9 |
| Quebec | 126.0 | 126.3 | 123.4 | -0.2 | 2.1 |
| Ontario | 131.3 | 131.6 | 128.2 | -0.2 | 2.4 |
| Manitoba | 134.5 | 134.3 | 131.3 | 0.1 | 2.4 |
| Saskatchewan | 135.6 | 135.6 | 132.1 | 0.0 | 2.6 |
| Alberta | 138.9 | 139.4 | 133.9 | -0.4 | 3.7 |
| British Columbia | 128.1 | 128.1 | 125.4 | 0.0 | 2.2 |
| Whitehorse | 126.9 | 126.5 | 123.9 | 0.3 | 2.4 |
| Yellowknife ² | 125.4 | 125.6 | 123.8 | -0.2 | 1.3 |
| Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100) | 105.1 | 104.8 | 103.0 | 0.3 | 2.0 |

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.

Radio listening

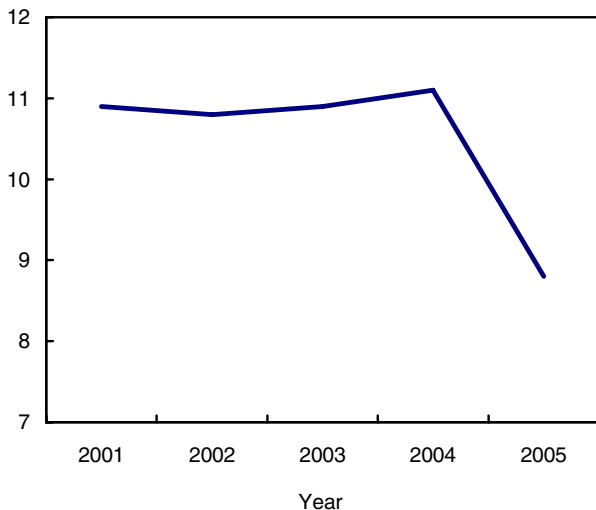
Fall 2005

The lockout ordered by CBC management last August cost Canada's public broadcaster a large share of its listening audience, according to data from an annual survey covering more than 90,000 radio listeners.

The lockout, which ran from August 15 to October 11, coincided with the survey in which listeners filled in a log-type questionnaire over an eight-week period from September 5 to October 30. Listeners were split into groups, each of which filled in their log for a week.

The lockout of 2005 cost the public broadcaster a large share of its listening audience

Hours per week



The results show that the CBC captured a share of only 8.8% of the total audience during this period after holding steady at around 11% during the past four years.

The decline pushed the public broadcaster from third place in overall format ranking, where it had been for three straight years, to fifth place. It was leapfrogged by country music and talk radio.

This year's survey will also be conducted during September and October, so it is not known yet whether the CBC has recouped its losses.

On the whole, radio listening remained stable in 2005 for the third straight year. Canadians on average tuned in for 19.1 hours a week last fall, over an hour below the peak of 20.5 hours in the autumn of 1999.

Note to readers

The results in this release are based on a survey of Canadians aged 12 and older.

While the return rate, at 42.5%, is modest by Statistics Canada standards, it is in line with Canadian and international broadcasting industry practice for audience measurement. However, the data should be interpreted with caution.

The radio project of the Culture Statistics Program is a joint endeavour of the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), the Department of Canadian Heritage, and Statistics Canada.

The Statistics Canada radio listening data bank integrates files from a variety of sources. The basic listening data are acquired from BBM Canada and include demographic characteristics of survey respondents. The information on specific radio station formats is provided by the CRTC.

Residents of Prince Edward Island were the most avid listeners at 21.2 hours a week, four more hours a week than their counterparts in British Columbia, where listening was lowest.

CBC listening declined in all provinces except Quebec

Public radio's audience declined in all provinces except Quebec, where its share remained stable. That is likely because the lockout did not apply to employees in Quebec or at the Moncton office.

This entire loss was made up by commercial radio, which captured nearly 85% of the total listening time compared to 82% in 2004.

The steepest drop was registered by listeners in Prince Edward Island, who devoted 9.6% of their listening time to public radio, down substantially from 25.1% in 2004. Country music largely benefited from this situation, capturing nearly half (47.6%) of the total listening time in Prince Edward Island.

The lockout's impact was also clearly reflected along linguistic lines. The entire decrease was registered by English-language public radio.

The share for French-language public radio remained stable at 2.7% compared to 2004, while English-language public radio's share was 6.0%, down from 8.5% in 2004.

Among age groups, the oldest, aged 65 and over, posted the steepest drop in the time spent listening to the CBC. Among senior men aged 65 and over, the time spent listening to public radio went from 21.5% in 2004 to 17.2% in 2005. Among senior women, it fell from 22.9% to 18.3%.

By education level, the largest decline in CBC listening time occurred among respondents who had

completed a university degree, going from 28.2% in 2004 to 22.4% in 2005. Even so, it is still clear that public radio's audience share increases with age and education level.

Adult contemporary music captured one-quarter of nation's listening time

Overall, adult contemporary music was still the first choice of Canadians on the radio. In the fall of 2005, this station format captured one-quarter of Canadians' listening time, followed by gold/oldies/rock (14.9%).

Country music and talk radio were tied for third place at just over 10% each. Third spot had been occupied since 2002 by the CBC, which fell to fifth.

Public radio's decline enabled the contemporary music format to slip into fourth place. It captured 9.5% of Canadians' listening time, up from 8.5% a year earlier.

The choice of station format also varied from province to province. Country music was first choice in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

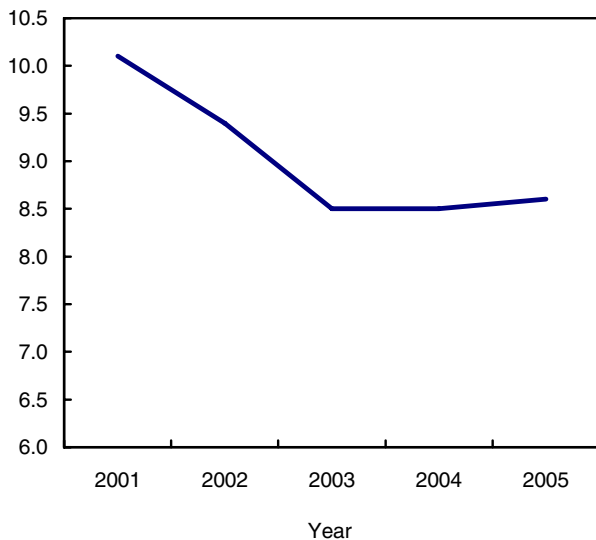
In New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, adult contemporary music was number one. Talk radio stations were the most popular among listeners in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Teen listening stable after several years of decline

Among the various groups based on age and sex, teenage males aged 12 to 17 reduced their listening time the most during the past five years.

Teen listening stable after several years of decline

Hours per week



In the fall of 2005, they reported listening for an average of 8.6 hours per week, down from 10.1 hours per week in 2001. However, their listening time appears to have stabilized in the past three years.

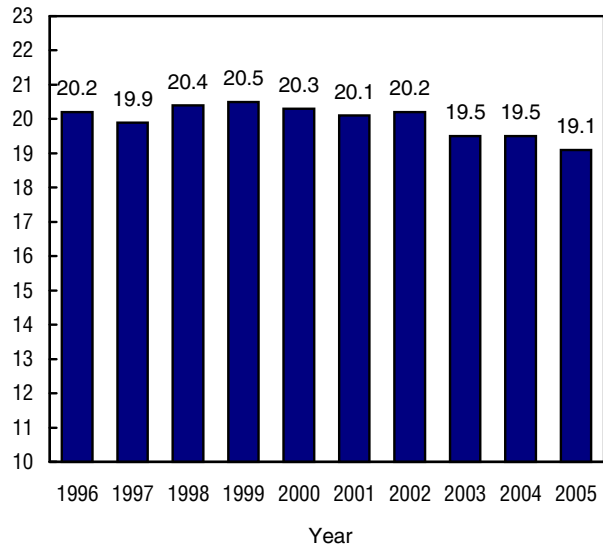
Alberta teens listened to radio for 10 hours a week, the highest of any province.

Contemporary music remained the first choice of teens, whose listening time for this format was unchanged (26%) compared to 2004. As a result, the increase in the listening time for this format was wholly attributable to adults aged 18 and over.

This stability was also observed among both men and women aged 18 and over. The gap between adult and teen listening times remains very wide (adult listening is more than double teen listening), but it has stopped expanding.

Radio listening remains stable in Canada

Hours per week



Available on CANSIM: tables 503-0001 to 503-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3153.

Selected details from the Radio Listening Survey are now available in the publication *Radio Listening: Data Tables* (87F0007XIE, free) from the *Our Products and Services* page of our website. Data from this survey are also available by province. Users can request special tabulations on a cost-recovery basis.

To obtain more information, order data or enquire about the methods, concepts or quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; fax: 613-951-9040; culture@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

Average hours per week of radio listening, fall 2005

| | Canada | Nfld.-Lab. | P.E.I. | N.S. | N.B. | Que. | | | Ont. | Man. | Sask. | Alta. | B.C. |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | | | | | English | French | Total | | | | | |
| Total population | 19.1 | 19.2 | 21.2 | 19.0 | 18.3 | 20.5 | 19.7 | 19.7 | 19.2 | 18.5 | 20.0 | 19.3 | 17.2 |
| Men | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18+ | 20.3 | 19.9 | 23.3 | 20.5 | 19.6 | 20.7 | 21.0 | 20.9 | 20.3 | 19.4 | 21.9 | 21.4 | 18.2 |
| 18 to 24 | 15.1 | 14.4 | 29.5 | 13.3 | 13.7 | 14.0 | 15.9 | 15.7 | 14.9 | 15.6 | 17.4 | 16.1 | 13.8 |
| 25 to 34 | 19.4 | 20.7 | 9.1 | 21.1 | 19.9 | 15.9 | 21.1 | 20.3 | 18.9 | 18.8 | 22.4 | 20.4 | 17.4 |
| 35 to 49 | 21.5 | 19.2 | 24.6 | 22.6 | 20.5 | 23.6 | 22.8 | 22.8 | 20.8 | 19.4 | 25.7 | 24.1 | 19.0 |
| 50 to 64 | 21.9 | 21.1 | 28.7 | 21.8 | 20.4 | 22.0 | 22.0 | 22.0 | 22.6 | 20.7 | 22.4 | 22.6 | 19.4 |
| 65+ | 20.3 | 21.7 | 23.4 | 17.8 | 19.7 | 24.0 | 19.0 | 19.6 | 21.6 | 20.9 | 18.1 | 19.5 | 18.9 |
| Woman | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18+ | 20.0 | 20.6 | 22.4 | 19.7 | 18.8 | 22.6 | 20.7 | 20.8 | 20.3 | 20.1 | 20.8 | 19.4 | 17.9 |
| 18 to 24 | 15.4 | 17.1 | 23.6 | 13.7 | 15.2 | 16.1 | 14.8 | 14.8 | 15.8 | 16.6 | 13.8 | 15.1 | 15.0 |
| 25 to 34 | 16.9 | 18.1 | 18.5 | 17.8 | 17.4 | 19.4 | 17.5 | 17.6 | 17.1 | 15.4 | 18.6 | 16.8 | 14.4 |
| 35 to 49 | 20.5 | 19.0 | 22.9 | 21.6 | 20.1 | 23.6 | 22.4 | 22.4 | 20.4 | 19.6 | 20.7 | 19.9 | 18.4 |
| 50 to 64 | 21.6 | 22.2 | 19.3 | 21.0 | 19.0 | 22.3 | 22.3 | 22.3 | 22.9 | 21.3 | 23.1 | 20.5 | 17.9 |
| 65+ | 22.6 | 26.5 | 28.0 | 19.0 | 19.7 | 26.9 | 22.1 | 22.5 | 22.5 | 25.7 | 23.6 | 23.6 | 22.1 |
| Teens | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 to 17 | 8.6 | 8.1 | 6.2 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.6 | 7.3 | 7.5 | 9.1 | 8.2 | 8.5 | 10.0 | 8.5 |

Note: For Quebec, the language classification is based on the language spoken at home. The total column includes those respondents who did not reply to this question or who indicated a language other than English or French.

Percentage share of radio listening by format, fall 2005

| | Canada | Nfld.-Lab. | P.E.I. | N.S. | N.B. | Que. | Ont. | Man. | Sask. | Alta. | B.C. |
|-----------------------------------|--------|------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Adult contemporary | 24.0 | 14.0 | 6.6 | 19.7 | 32.6 | 30.1 | 26.6 | 9.9 | 22.4 | 10.0 | 20.6 |
| Album oriented rock | 5.8 | 17.3 | 0.0 | 9.2 | 0.0 | 2.1 | 6.8 | 8.1 | 5.6 | 8.7 | 5.9 |
| Canadian Broadcasting Corporation | 8.8 | 5.5 | 9.6 | 11.9 | 10.4 | 11.6 | 6.6 | 7.7 | 7.7 | 6.5 | 12.2 |
| Contemporary | 9.5 | 11.7 | 26.3 | 18.9 | 5.1 | 20.2 | 4.3 | 10.6 | 0.2 | 7.2 | 6.0 |
| Country | 10.1 | 15.5 | 47.6 | 21.7 | 15.3 | 0.5 | 7.7 | 20.3 | 37.5 | 25.4 | 8.4 |
| Dance | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 1.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.5 | 0.0 |
| Easy listening | 3.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 3.8 | 4.8 | 1.8 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 0.0 |
| Gold/oldies/rock | 14.9 | 7.9 | 8.9 | 12.0 | 15.1 | 11.4 | 16.0 | 12.4 | 12.3 | 20.5 | 16.8 |
| Middle-of-the-road | 2.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.6 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 4.7 | 3.6 | 1.1 | 0.5 | 3.5 |
| Other | 6.3 | 5.9 | 1.1 | 4.7 | 17.8 | 4.8 | 4.1 | 9.1 | 5.7 | 7.4 | 13.7 |
| Sports | 1.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 1.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.6 | 1.8 |
| Talk | 10.2 | 22.1 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 12.7 | 10.6 | 15.7 | 6.9 | 9.7 | 6.5 |
| United States stations | 3.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 3.5 | 1.8 | 4.8 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.1 | 4.5 |
| Total listening | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

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

Canadian potato production

2006 (preliminary)

Canadian farmers appear to have reduced their area planted in potatoes this year, as a result of substantial declines in two western provinces, according to preliminary survey data.

Potato producers in both Manitoba and Alberta, which together account for about a third of national potato area, have cut their plantings. Area planted in Manitoba has declined 4.7% to about 82,000 acres (33 200 hectares), while in Alberta, it is down 2.7% to 54,500 acres (22 100 hectares).

However, in Eastern Canada, the situation is reversed. Farmers in Prince Edward Island, the nation's biggest potato producer, increased their area by 1.6% to 97,000 acres (39,300 hectares).

Acreage also increased in New Brunswick (+1.8%) and Ontario (+1.9%).

As a result, total acreage nationwide has declined by about 1% to 351,100 acres (142 100 hectares). This total excludes preliminary acreage data for Quebec. Updates to Quebec's list of producers resulted in the addition of some farm operators to the province's 2006 survey.

Consequently, it is not possible at this point to directly compare estimates for the entire 2006 potato crop with data for previous years. This is because it cannot be determined how much of the increase in acreage reported by Quebec producers this year is due to an actual increase in plantings, or the increase in producers.

Available on CANSIM: table 001-0014.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3401, 3407, 3446 and 3465.

The publication *Canadian Potato Production*, Vol. 4, no. 1 (22-008-XIE, free) is now available free on our website. From the *Our Products and Services* page, under *Browse our free internet publications* choose *Agriculture*.

To obtain additional information, call our toll free number (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. ■

Steel primary forms, weekly data

Week ending July 15, 2006 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending July 15 totalled 296 956 metric tonnes, down 0.4%

from 298 171 tonnes a week earlier and up 27.8% from 232 321 tonnes in the same week of 2005.

The year-to-date total as of July 15 was 8 567 947 tonnes, up 1.5% from 8 439 715 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 (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Production and disposition of tobacco products

May 2006

Total cigarettes sold in May by Canadian manufacturers increased 18.0% from April to 2.6 billion cigarettes, down 18.0% compared with May 2005.

Cigarette production for May decreased 5.3% from April to 2.2 billion cigarettes, down 28.1% from May 2005.

At 2.9 billion cigarettes, the level of closing inventories for May decreased by 15.6% from April, and declined 42.6% from May 2005.

The data from January to April 2006 have been revised.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0062.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2142.

The May 2006 issue of *Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products*, Vol. 35, no. 5 (32-022-XIE, free) is now available from the *Our Products and Services* page of our website.

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

Large urban transit

May 2006 (preliminary)

Combined ridership on 10 large urban transit systems in Canada was 5% higher in May than it was for the same month in 2005.

Approximately 110.8 million passenger trips were taken on these transit systems in May. These systems account for about 80% of total urban transit in Canada.

The trips generated \$169.2 million in revenue in May 2006 (excluding subsidies), a 3.7% increase over May 2005.

Available on CANSIM: table 408-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2745.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Dissemination Unit (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 1-613-951-0009; transportationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Refined petroleum products

May 2006 (preliminary)

Data on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for May. 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; toll-free 1-866-873-8789; energy@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

New products

Canadian Potato Production, July 2006, Vol. 4, no. 1
Catalogue number 22-008-XIE
(free).

Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products,
May 2006, Vol. 35, no. 5
Catalogue number 32-022-XIE
(free).

The Consumer Price Index, June 2006, Vol. 85, no. 6
Catalogue number 62-001-XIB
(free).

The Consumer Price Index, June 2006, Vol. 85, no. 6
Catalogue number 62-001-XPB (\$12/\$111).

Wholesale Trade, May 2006, Vol. 69, no. 5
Catalogue number 63-008-XIE
(free).

Radio Listening: Data Tables, September 21 to
December 21, 2005
Catalogue number 87F0007XIE
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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, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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The Daily, July 21, 2006

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| 27 | Business Conditions Survey: Canadian manufacturing industries | July 2006 |
| 28 | Industrial product and raw materials price indexes | June 2006 |
