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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

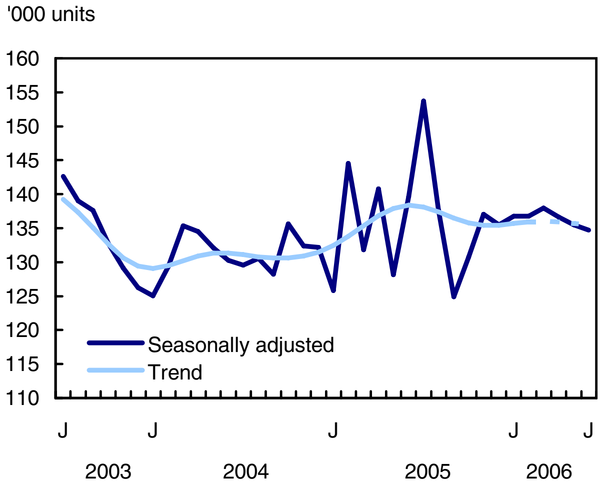
Releases

New motor vehicle sales

June 2006

Sagging demand for trucks drove new motor vehicle sales down for a third consecutive month in June. Sales slipped by 0.6% in June after edging down by 0.8% in May and 1.0% in April. Consumers drove 134,734 new vehicles off dealers' lots in June, 770 fewer vehicles than in the previous month. Sales in the second quarter of 2006 weakened slightly, edging down 1.1%, partially offsetting the 2.0% increase recorded in the first quarter.

New vehicle sales slip for a third consecutive month in June



The last few points could be subject to revisions when more data are added. This is indicated by the dashed line.

Although sales have declined slightly over the past three months with the absence of major promotions or incentive programs, in general new motor vehicle sales have remained relatively stable since the end of 2005. This stability follows a series of major sales swings throughout much of 2005 which were heavily influenced by the introduction and subsequent removal of major incentive programs such as "employee pricing". Previously, sales had declined steeply at the end of 2003 before recovering partially and then levelling off for the remainder of 2004.

Based on preliminary sales figures from the auto industry, the number of new motor vehicles sold rebounded by about 3% in July. These preliminary estimates indicate the increase was the result of truck sales rising after several months of declines. New passenger car sales, on the other hand, are estimated to have declined slightly in July.

Note to readers

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted.

***Passenger cars** include those used for personal and commercial purposes, such as taxis or rental cars. **Trucks** include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.*

***North American built new motor vehicles** include vehicles manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico. All other new motor vehicles are considered to have been manufactured overseas.*

For reasons of confidentiality, data for Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are included with those for British Columbia.

The New Motor Vehicle Sales Survey is compiled on the basis of figures obtained from motor vehicle manufacturers and importers. These results may vary from those obtained directly from auto dealers, due to possible differences in record keeping.

Truck sales slump in June

Lacklustre trucks sales have been the primary driver of declining new motor vehicle sales over the past three months, and have been mostly outperformed by passenger car sales in the first half of 2006.

Though consumers' recent predilection for comparatively more fuel efficient cars may be partly attributable to high sustained gasoline prices (prices at the pump were among record highs in May and June), trucks have not bowed out yet: preliminary estimates show that car sales lost ground in July, and that trucks sales staged a comeback.

Trucks (which include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses) accounted for all of the sales losses in June, falling 5.0%. After posting some small increases in the first few months of 2006, truck sales have since slumped significantly. Truck sales had been gradually rising since the beginning of 2004, although they showed great volatility in 2005.

Sales of new passenger cars were fairly strong in June, pulling ahead 3.5% compared to May. Overseas built cars gained 4.8% in June, and other than a decline in January have gained steadily in 2006. Sales of North American built vehicles posted their strongest increase in the past five months, advancing 2.8% in June. North

American built vehicles have not realized the same gains as overseas built cars so far in 2006.

Overall, car sales have been trending up slightly over the past eight months, following a softening in the late summer months of 2005, as generous incentive programs came to an end.

Mixed results across the country

The cup appeared half-empty in June. Although half of the provinces registered sales gains during the month, overall sales were pulled down by heavy-weights such as Quebec and Alberta where there were sizeable declines.

In terms of the number of vehicles sold, the largest decreases in June were seen in Quebec and in Alberta. Sales in Quebec declined 2.4% or by about 750 vehicles. Sales also declined 2.4% in Alberta, the equivalent of about 500 fewer vehicles leaving dealers' lots. Sales have generally been very strong in Alberta, as this was only the second decrease for the province in eight months.

Other provinces to register declines were Prince Edward Island (-3.9%), Saskatchewan (-1.7%), and Ontario (-0.1%).

With the exception of Prince Edward Island, sales in most of Eastern Canada saw a recovery in June after weak sales in May. Sales shot ahead 9.9% in Newfoundland and Labrador, an increase of about 200 vehicles. Sales also increased in Nova Scotia (+2.2%) and New Brunswick (+1.0%).

Out West, automotive sales in the region formed by British Columbia and the territories continued to roar ahead, with sales gaining 1.3% in June. Sales in that region have risen steadily over the past seven months, with the exception of a brief drop in April. Sales in Manitoba also rose in June, gaining 2.7% after two months of declines.

Available on CANSIM: tables 079-0001 and 079-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2402.

The June 2006 issue of *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (63-007-XIE, free) will be available soon.

Data on new motor vehicle sales for July will be released on September 15.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-3549 or toll-free 1-877-421-3067; *retailinfo@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lucy Chung (613-951-1903), Distributive Trades Division.

□

New motor vehicle sales

	June 2005	May 2006r	June 2006p	June 2005 to June 2006	May to June 2006
	Seasonally adjusted				
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	**139,639**	**135,504**	**134,734**	**-3.5**	**-0.6**
Passenger cars	72,282	70,753	73,195	1.3	3.5
North American[1]	49,393	46,526	47,814	-3.2	2.8
Overseas	22,889	24,227	25,381	10.9	4.8
Trucks, vans and buses	67,357	64,751	61,540	-8.6	-5.0
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,072	1,944	2,137	3.1	9.9
Prince Edward Island	420	414	398	-5.2	-3.9
Nova Scotia	3,910	3,683	3,763	-3.8	2.2
New Brunswick	2,882	2,797	2,824	-2.0	1.0
Quebec	35,190	32,253	31,491	-10.5	-2.4
Ontario	52,299	50,736	50,677	-3.1	-0.1
Manitoba	3,959	3,631	3,730	-5.8	2.7
Saskatchewan	3,514	3,437	3,380	-3.8	-1.7
Alberta	18,995	20,502	20,019	5.4	-2.4
British Columbia[2]	16,398	16,109	16,317	-0.5	1.3

	June 2005	May 2006	June 2006p	June 2005 to June 2006
	Unadjusted			
	number of vehicles			% change
New motor vehicles	**166,024**	**173,291**	**162,033**	**-2.4**
Passenger cars	85,599	96,175	88,055	2.9
North American[1]	57,953	64,032	56,827	-1.9
Overseas	27,646	32,143	31,228	13.0
Trucks, vans and buses	80,425	77,116	73,978	-8.0
New motor vehicles				
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,865	2,839	2,903	1.3
Prince Edward Island	553	540	561	1.4
Nova Scotia	4,916	5,332	4,856	-1.2
New Brunswick	3,682	3,729	3,674	-0.2
Quebec	43,267	44,269	39,043	-9.8
Ontario	62,037	63,276	61,377	-1.1
Manitoba	4,552	4,479	4,331	-4.9
Saskatchewan	3,784	3,849	3,897	3.0
Alberta	21,327	25,907	22,356	4.8
British Columbia[2]	19,041	19,071	19,035	-0.0

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
1. *Manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico.*
2. *Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.*

■

Canadian Internet Use Survey

2005

Two-thirds of adult Canadians surfed the Internet in 2005, and those living in larger cities were much more likely to have done so than those in rural areas and small towns, according to the new Canadian Internet Use Survey.

An estimated 16.8 million adult Canadians, or 68%, used the Internet for personal non-business reasons during the 12 months prior to the survey.

Only 58% of residents living in small towns or rural areas accessed the World Wide Web, well below the national average. In contrast, rates in Canada's largest census metropolitan areas ranged from 68% in Montréal to 77% in both Ottawa–Gatineau and Calgary.

The survey also showed that the Internet has changed the way many Canadians do banking and access news. Roughly 6 of every 10 Internet users used it to read news or sports, or to conduct their banking online. Even so, three-quarters of Canadians expressed strong concerns about privacy and security.

The new survey, which replaces the Household Internet Use Survey, was redesigned to focus on individual Internet use. The CIUS did show that in 2005, an estimated 7.9 million Canadian households (61%) were connected to the Internet, up slightly from the nearly 60% reported in 2004 by the Survey on Household Spending.

Urban areas have big impact on usage rates

In general, Internet use rises provincially from east to west, although only three provinces had usage rates above the national average of 68% — Ontario (72%), Alberta (71%) and British Columbia (69%).

However, urban areas had a huge impact on usage rates. For example, in Nova Scotia, 67% of adults aged 18 and over used the Internet in the year prior to the survey for personal non-business reasons. But the rate in Halifax was 75%, much higher than the 62% in the rest of the province.

Percent of adult Canadians using Internet during 2005

	%
Halifax	75
Montréal	68
Ottawa–Gatineau	77
Toronto	75
Winnipeg	70
Calgary	77
Edmonton	69
Vancouver	71
Other urban areas	68
Rural and small town areas	58

Halifax has a concentration of universities, government and health care institutions that attract younger students and professionals with higher incomes.

In general, larger cities have younger populations and more residents with higher levels of income and education, all related to higher rates of Internet use. The concentration of population also presents an attractive market for Internet service providers.

Note to readers

The 2005 Canadian Internet Use Survey (CIUS) was conducted as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey in November 2005. The survey excluded residents of the territories, inmates of institutions, persons living on Indian reserves, and full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

The survey asked more than 30,000 Canadians aged 18 years and over about their Internet use, including electronic shopping, for the last 12 months.

Information on electronic shopping (the number and value of purchases made online by Canadians) will be released by October 2006.

This survey replaces the Household Internet Use Survey (HIUS), conducted from 1997 to 2003, which focused on households. The new survey focuses on individual Internet use to more closely conform to international standards. This change in focus prevents direct comparison between HIUS and CIUS estimates.

Definitions

An "Internet user" is someone who used the Internet from any location during 2005 for personal non-business reasons. A "home user" is someone who reported using the Internet from home, for the same reasons.

Urban boundaries are based on Statistics Canada's census metropolitan areas (CMA) and census agglomerations (CA). The rural and small town category consists of Canadians living outside CMAs and CAs.

Digital divide persists among certain groups

Canada's digital divide (the gap in the rate of Internet use among certain groups of people) still exists, according to CIUS data. Income, education, age and the presence of children in the household all influence Internet use.

About 88% of adults with household incomes of $86,000 or more used the Internet last year, well above the proportion of 61% among adults living in households with incomes below $86,000.

Similarly, 80% of adults with at least some post-secondary education used the Internet, compared with just under one half (49%) of adults with less education.

Canadians between the ages of 18 and 44 (85%) were over one and a half times more likely to use the Internet than those 45 years of age and older (50%).

The presence of children under 18 years in the household is also associated with a higher rate of Internet use among adults. About 81% of persons in households with children used the Internet, compared to only 61% of persons in households without children.

While there was no clear pattern between the proportion of men and women using the Internet, there are differences in their intensity and types of use.

Vast majority accessed the Internet at home

Just over 15 million individuals aged 18 or older were estimated to have accessed the Internet from home for personal non-business reasons, about 90% of all Internet users.

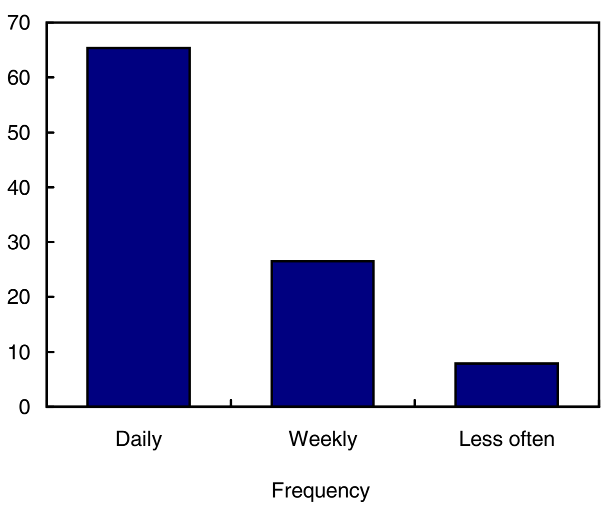
About 39% of Internet users used it from work, the second most frequent location, while 30% reported accessing it from other locations such as from the home of a friend or relative, or from an Internet café.

Just under one-half (49%) of employed Internet users from age 35 to 54 reported accessing it from work for personal non-business use, while 9 out of 10 (91%) full-time students under age 25 who used the Internet reported accessing it from school.

Of the more than 15 million adult Canadians who used the Internet from home in 2005, almost two-thirds used it every day during a typical month, and just under one-quarter reported using it 10 hours or more during a typical week.

Frequency of Internet use from home in a typical month

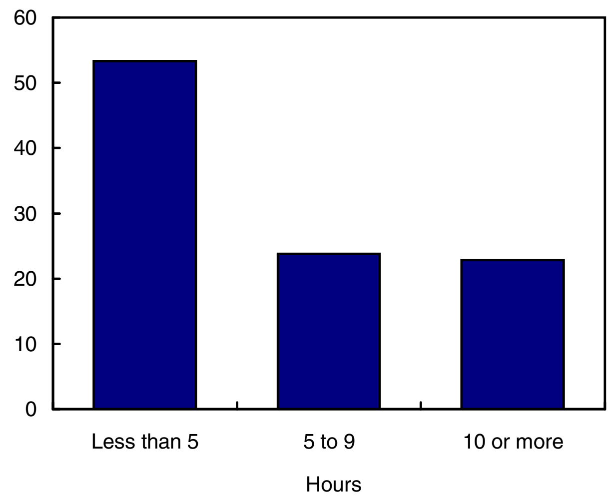
Percent of adult home users



Among home users, over 4 out of 10 (43%) men aged 18 to 24, and about one-third (34%) of their female counterparts, spent 10 hours or more on-line during a typical week.

Hours of Internet use from home during a typical week

Percent of adult home users



Internet use from home: More than half paid bills online

The vast majority of home users reported using the Internet in 2005 for e-mailing and browsing. Around two-thirds used it to obtain information about weather and road conditions and for travel information. About 62% used it to view news or sports.

The Internet has also become an important way to conduct financial affairs and to interact with governments. About 6 in every 10 home users (58%) used it to do their banking, and 55% used it to pay their bills online. Just over one-half searched for information on governments and 58% searched for information about health or medical conditions.

Over one half (57%) of home users went online to window shop while 43% reported ordering personal goods or services over the Internet.

Individual use varied with age and sex. About 79% of home users under 25 reported using it for education, training or school work, and 61% used it to play games.

Women were more likely than men to use the Internet from home to search for information about health or medical conditions. Among home users, about 63% of women did so, compared with 53% of men.

Reasons for adult home users to go on-line during 2005

	%
E-mail	91
General browsing	84
Weather or road conditions	67
Travel information or making travel arrangements	63
View news or sports	62
Search for medical or health related information	58
Electronic banking	58
Window shopping	57
Pay bills	55
Search for information about governments	52
Ordering personal goods or services	43
Education, training or school work	43
Research community events	42
Play games	39
Chat or to use a messenger	38
Obtain or save music (free or paid downloads)	37
Obtain or save software (free or paid downloads)	32
Research investments	26
Listen to the radio over the Internet	26
Communicate with governments	23
Download or watch TV or a movie over the Internet	12
Any other personal non-business reason	11

These women reported searching for information on specific diseases, on lifestyle, on certain symptoms, and for information on drugs or medications.

In contrast, men (56%) were more likely than women (48%) to use the Internet from home to search for information about governments. Men did so mainly to access government programs, download government forms and file income taxes online.

Majority had high-speed Internet connection

The majority of home users reported accessing the Internet over a high speed connection, according to the survey (only home users not accessing the Internet by cable or satellite were asked about high speed).

About 50% who accessed the Internet at home did so using a cable line connected to a computer, while 44% used a telephone line connected to a computer.

However, of the group that used a telephone line, about 59% reported it was a high-speed connection (cable Internet service providers typically offer a range of package options with various speeds, all faster than conventional dial-up service).

An estimated 2.7 million individual home users reported that they did not use a high-speed connection to access the Internet in 2005. They accounted for about 18% of all home users.

Among these individuals, just over one-third (922,250) reported that a high-speed Internet service (either cable or phone) was not available in their area. Almost 70% of these people lived in smaller towns and rural areas.

Security a concern for three-quarters of adult Canadians

Almost three-quarters of survey respondents (both Internet users and non-users) said that they were either concerned (33%) or very concerned (40%) about privacy and security. More than one-half (57%) of all Canadians were very concerned about Internet credit card use.

Some differences by language of use were reported. Among Internet users who indicated English as their preference, over 97% reported obtaining information in the language of their choice. Among those indicating French as their preference, just 83% did so.

Canadians with a personal computer or another device to access the Internet but who did not use the Internet from home last year, or had never used it, gave a variety of reasons. Many said they had no interest (29%) or no need for it (25%) while others said it cost too much (16%) or it was too hard to use (12%).

Even so, almost one-third of these non users said they plan to use it during the next 12 months from one location or another.

Available on CANSIM: tables 358-0122 to 358-0134.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4432.

Additional data tables on Internet use by province and on the characteristics of individuals using the Internet are available online. From the *Summary tables* page, select *What's new?* Or from the *Summary tables* page under *Subject*, choose *Communications* then *Internet*.

For further information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Larry McKeown (613-951-2582, *larry.mckeown@statcan.ca*). For custom table requests, contact Lyne Lafontaine (613-951-6288, *lyne.lafontaine@statcan.ca*), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

Apartment Building Construction Price Index
Second quarter 2006

The composite price index for apartment building construction (1997=100) was 139.9 in the second quarter of 2006, up 2.9% from the previous quarter and up 7.0% from the second quarter of 2005. The quarterly percentage change was the highest measured since an increase of 3.5% in the second quarter of 1986. The 2.9% increase was mostly the result of higher material and labour costs and a strong market for building construction.

Western Canada recorded the highest quarterly changes, led by Calgary (+5.3%), Edmonton (+5.0%) and Vancouver (+4.8%). Lower price increases were measured in Eastern Canada with a 2.1% advance in Toronto, followed by Ottawa–Gatineau (Ontario part) (+1.9%), Halifax (+1.8%) and Montréal (+1.2%).

On a year-over-year basis, Calgary experienced the highest gain from the second quarter of 2005 (+10.8%), followed by Vancouver (+10.3%), Edmonton (+10.0%), Toronto (+5.9%), Ottawa–Gatineau (Ontario part) (+5.2%), Halifax (+4.9%) and Montréal (+3.9%).

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

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

	Second quarter 2006	Second quarter 2005 to second quarter 2006	First to second quarter 2006
		% change	
Composite index	**139.9**	**7.0**	**2.9**
Halifax	129.2	4.9	1.8
Montréal	134.3	3.9	1.2
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario part	141.6	5.2	1.9
Toronto	146.7	5.9	2.1
Calgary	148.1	10.8	5.3
Edmonton	144.4	10.0	5.0
Vancouver	140.1	10.3	4.8

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

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0040.

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

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

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Client Services Unit (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax 613-951-1539; *prices-prix@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. ■

Dairy statistics

June 2006 (preliminary)

Cheese manufacturers produced 11 570 metric tonnes of cheddar cheese and 17 859 metric tonnes of specialty cheeses in June. Cheddar cheese production increased 3.3% while variety cheese production was virtually unchanged from year ago levels. Processed cheese production decreased to 5 200 metric tonnes from 6 400 metric tonnes a year ago.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0007 to 003-0012, 003-0029, 003-0033 and 003-0034.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3430, 3431 and 3432.

The second quarter 2006 issue of *The Dairy Review* (23-001-XIB, free) and the new publication *Dairy Statistics* (23-014-XIE, free) will soon be available.

For more information, contact Anna Michalowska (613-951-2442 or toll free 1-800-465-1991; fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division. ■

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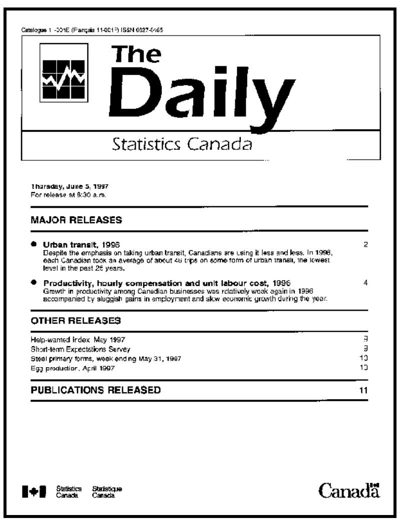
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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index, May 1997	9
Short-term Expectations Survey	9
Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997	10
Egg production, April 1997	10

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