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Releases

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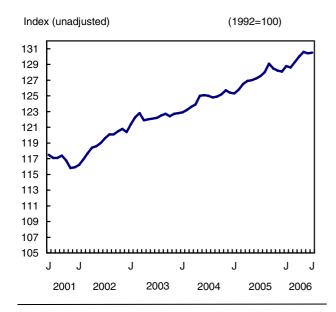
Releases

Consumer Price Index

July 2006

The 12-month percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was down for a second consecutive month, from 2.5% between June 2005 and June 2006 to 2.4% between July 2005 and July 2006. Prices were down slightly despite the 1.0% reduction in the goods and services tax (GST) that took effect on July 1.

Consumer Price Index



The 12-month change in the All-items CPI excluding eight of the most volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada for the purpose of monetary policy rose 1.5% between July 2005 and July 2006. This movement represents a net decline in comparison with the 1.7% rise posted between June 2005 and June 2006. The 12-month change of this index in July 2006 was the lowest since July 2005.

Excluding energy prices, the 12-month increase in the CPI slowed down slightly, from 1.5% in June to 1.4% in July.

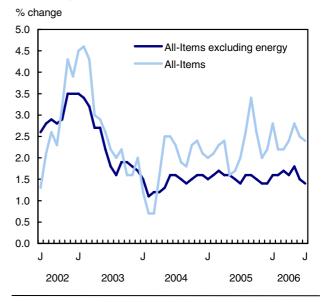
On a monthly basis, the CPI increased 0.1% in July. This suggests that price increase pressures were important enough in July to more than compensate for the expected effect of the 1.0% reduction in the GST.

The CPI release in *The Daily* on July 21, 2006, suggested that the CPI could fall by roughly 0.6% following the 1.0% reduction in the GST. Based on a simulation exercise, this estimation rests on the assumption that the entire amount of the decrease is transferred to consumers and that the industrial structure that underlies the way that prices are determined remains the same. In addition, this measure of impact does not take into account the increase in the Federal excise taxes on tobacco products and alcoholic beverages announced by the government.

The 4.6% gasoline price increase between June and July partly explains the 0.1% monthly advance. Other economic factors, such as the reaction of some retailers to changes to the GST, adjustment lags and the seasonal increase of some prices may have contributed to mitigate the expected downward pressure on the CPI resulting from the GST reduction. It is, however, difficult to quantify their individual impact.

For a second consecutive month, the All-items index excluding energy slipped 0.2%. The same trend was observed for the All-items index excluding eight of the most volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada. The latter slid 0.2% between June and July, a change identical to that of the previous month.

Percentage change from the same month of the previous year



Higher gasoline prices still major factor in 12-month change

In July 2006, the CPI climbed 2.4% over July 2005, less than the 2.5% increase posted the previous month. Higher gasoline prices accounted for most of this increase, followed by the rise in homeowners' replacement cost, the cost of purchasing and leasing automotive vehicles, and electricity prices. These increases were partly offset by lower prices for computer equipment and supplies, women's clothing, video equipment and men's clothing.

Gasoline prices climbed 16.1% between July 2005 and July 2006, up from the 15.4% leap between June 2005 and June 2006. The steep rise in the price of a barrel of oil on world markets was the main reason behind the higher prices paid by consumers at the pump last year. Aside from Prince Edward Island, the provinces registering increases higher than the national index were all situated west of Ontario. Saskatchewan posted the largest jump (+19.2%) while drivers in Newfoundland and Labrador faced the lowest increases (+11.1%) in the country.

Homeowners' replacement cost, which represents the worn-out structural portion of housing and is estimated using new housing prices (excluding land), rose by 7.6% from July 2005 to July 2006. Most of the increase originated from the special situation in Alberta, where prices have skyrocketed 40.2% over the past year. The boom in that province is stimulating housing starts, thus exerting upward pressure on material and labour costs and contributing to the rise in the CPI. Saskatchewan was a distant second, with a 12-month increase of 7.5% in July.

Prices for the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles were up 2.4% in July compared with the same month last year. Although consumers only occasionally purchase or lease an automotive vehicle, the value of the transaction represents an important share of the average expenditures of Canadian households as a whole, which explains its influence on the All-Items index.

Electricity prices climbed 6.3% from July 2005 to July 2006. This increase is attributable mainly to increases in Ontario, Alberta, Quebec and British Columbia over the past year. Between June and July, although the GST reduction effects were felt in all provinces, they were totally offset by higher tariffs in Newfoundland and Labrador, British Columbia, Alberta and Prince Edward Island. As a result, the national index for electricity went up 0.5% between June and July.

Confirming the trends observed for a while now, information technology products contributed to mitigate upward pressures from energy and shelter prices, thus moderating the 12-month growth in the All-Items index. The index for computer equipment and supplies plunged 17.1%, while that for video equipment dropped 11.6%. The combined effects of technological progress, as well as the appreciation of the Canadian dollar (which encourages imports of goods), lowered prices for computers, televisions and video players.

Men's clothing prices dropped 3.7% from July 2005 to July 2006, in comparison with women's clothing which fell 3.4%. The strong dollar enabled Canadian consumers to pay less for clothing. These items are often imported from Asian countries like China and India, where production costs are known to be globally competitive.

GST reduction offset by price increases in July

After slipping 0.2% between May and June, the All-items index was up 0.1% from June to July 2006. The upward pressure on the CPI came mainly from gasoline and fresh fruit. The purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles, restaurant meals and telephone services were the most significant factors in offsetting this upward movement.

After dropping slightly the two previous months, gasoline prices rose 4.6% between June and July despite the GST reduction. The largest increases were in Quebec (+6.5%) and Alberta (+6.4%), while Newfoundland and Labrador (+0.9%) and British Columbia (+1.5%) recorded the smallest advances.

The upward trend of fresh fruit prices continued for the third month in a row, climbing 7.4% between June and July. Since April, fresh fruit prices have shot up 18.1%, the most substantial increase for the same period since 1990. In July, prices for oranges, grapes, apples, pears, and pineapples have increased, pushing up the fresh fruit index.

Mitigating the upward trend in the monthly index to some degree, prices for the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles were down 1.0% in June. The 1.0% reduction in the GST in July had a more significant impact on the decrease in automotive vehicle prices than the financial incentives offered by some car manufacturers to diminish their inventories.

The 0.7% decline in prices for restaurant meals also served to push down the All-items index, as did the 0.9% drop in the cost of telephone services. The lowering of the GST accounts for much of the downward movement in these two components, which have a relatively important weight in the CPI basket.

Alberta stands out once again

In July, Alberta continued to set itself apart by posting the largest 12 month increase in the CPI, at 4.3%. Since early 2006, Alberta has recorded 12-month changes of more than 3%, reflecting the flourishing economic activities in the province. The

rise in the Albertan index was mainly the result of the appreciation in the prices of the shelter components which are weighted fairly heavily in the CPI. The increases in homeowners' replacement cost, homeowners' insurance premiums, mortgage interest cost, and electricity have led to the substantial rise in the CPI in Alberta, despite an important fall in natural gas prices. This situation contrasts with that of other provinces for which CPI increases are mainly fuelled by the gasoline price hikes.

Excluding shelter, the 12-month increase in the All-Items index was 2.4%. This rise is more comparable with increases in other provinces, which fluctuated between 1.6% and 3.2%.

The seasonally adjusted CPI increased from June to July

After adjusting for seasonal variations, the CPI increased 0.1% between June and July 2006. The upward pressure came from the transportation (+0.8%), shelter (+0.3%) and food (+0.2%) components.

The downward pressure on the seasonally adjusted index came from household operations and furnishings (-0.6%), recreation, reading and education (-0.5%), clothing and footwear (-0.4%), health and personal care (-0.4%) and alcoholic beverages and tobacco products (-0.1%).

The seasonally adjusted CPI without eight of the most volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada dropped 0.2% between June and July 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 purpose of monetary policy is the CPI without eight of the most volatile components identified by the Bank. These volatile components are 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 12-month increase in this index was 1.5% in July 2006. The major factors that contributed to this rise were homeowners' replacement cost (+7.6%), the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles (+2.4%), electricity prices (+6.3%) and prices for restaurant meals (+2.1%). The increase was mitigated by lower prices for computer equipment and supplies (-17.1%), women's clothing (-3.4%), video equipment (-11.6%), and men's clothing (-3.7%).

Between June and July 2006, the All-items index excluding eight of the most volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada was down 0.2%, matching the decline of the previous month. The purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles (-1.0%), restaurant meals (-0.7%) and telephone services (-0.9%) were the primary sources of this decline. Those three components were down largely as a result of the GST reduction.

Energy

In the wake of 12-month increases of 14.1% in May and 11.5% in June, the energy index continued to decelerate, posting a relatively smaller increase of 10.6% in July. Aside from natural gas, all components contributed to the rise in the energy index, with gasoline (+16.1%) playing the largest part, followed by electricity (+6.3%), fuel oil (+12.1%), and fuel, parts and supplies for recreational vehicles (+10.1%). Natural gas prices were nonetheless down by 3.3% in July, largely owing to the 18.8% drop in Alberta.

On a monthly basis, the energy index climbed 2.6% between June and July 2006, despite the 1.0% decrease in the goods and services tax that applied to all energy components of the CPI. Rising gasoline prices (+4.6%) explained most of the upward movement in the index. Higher prices for electricity (+0.5%), natural gas (+0.5%), and fuel, parts and supplies for recreational vehicles (+1.8%) also pushed the index up. Lower fuel oil prices (-1.3%), however, exerted a dampening effect. It should be noted that natural gas prices varied widely in July, with Alberta posting a 44.8% increase and Ontario a 10.3% drop.

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), which is available from the *Publications* module of our website.

Available at 7 a.m. online under *The Daily* module, then *Latest Consumer Price Index*.

The July 2006 issue of the *Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 85, no. 7 (62-001-XIB, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. A paper copy is also available (62-001-XPB, \$12/\$111). See *How to order products*.

The August 2006 Consumer Price Index will be released on September 19.

For	more information,	or	to e	enquire	613-951-1539;	prices-prix@statcan.ca),	Prices
about the	e concepts, metho	ds or	data	quality	Division.		
of this	release, call C	ent S	Services	Unit			
(toll-free	1-866-230-2248;	613-95	1-9606;	fax:			

Consumer Price Index and major components (1992=100)

	Relative	July	June	July	June	July
	importance ¹	2006	2006	2005	to	2005
	·				July	to
					2006	July
						2006
				Unadjusted		
					% change	
All-items	100.00 ²	130.5	130.4	127.5	0.1	2.4
Food	16.89	131.4	131.4	128.6	0.0	2.2
Shelter	26.75	128.8	128.4	124.5	0.3	3.5
Household operations and furnishings	10.58	115.4	116.2	115.7	-0.7	-0.3
Clothing and footwear	5.37	98.4	99.0	100.9	-0.6	-2.5
Transportation	19.79	159.0	157.7	150.3	0.8	5.8
Health and personal care	4.52	122.1	122.6	121.5	-0.4	0.5
Recreation, education and reading	11.96	128.0	127.9	128.5	0.1	-0.4
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	4.13	150.2	150.5	147.7	-0.2	1.7
All-items (1986=100)		167.2				
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar						
expressed in cents, compared to 1992		76.6	76.7	78.4		
Special aggregates						
Goods	48.84	125.1	124.8	122.4	0.2	2.2
Services	51.16	136.6	136.5	133.3	0.1	2.5
All-items excluding food and energy	74.27	125.2	125.4	123.5	-0.2	1.4
Energy	8.84	184.0	179.4	166.3	2.6	10.6
All-items excluding eight of the most volatile						
components ³	82.75	128.5	128.8	126.6	-0.2	1.5

1. 2001 CPI basket weights at June 2004 prices, Canada - Effective July 2004. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 (http://www.statcan.ca/english/sdds/index.htm).

2. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

3. Excluded from the All-items CPI are the following eight volatile components, as defined by the Bank of Canada: fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuel; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies. The Bank of Canada further adjusts this series to obtain their measure of core inflation, which also excludes the effect of changes in indirect taxes. For data and information on core inflation, please consult the Bank of Canada website (www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm).

Consumer Price Index by province, and for Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit $^1 (1992 {=} 100)$

	July 2006	June 2006	July 2005	June to July 2006	July 2005 to July
			Unadjusted	2000	2006
			onaujusteu		
				% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador	129.6	129.4	126.6	0.2	2.4
Prince Edward Island	132.4	132.2	128.3	0.2	3.2
Nova Scotia	133.3	133.0	129.4	0.2	3.0
New Brunswick	130.1	130.5	127.5	-0.3	2.0
Quebec	126.2	126.0	123.6	0.2	2.1
Ontario	130.9	131.3	128.4	-0.3	1.9
Manitoba	135.0	134.5	131.7	0.4	2.5
Saskatchewan	135.9	135.6	132.4	0.2	2.6
Alberta	140.8	138.9	135.0	1.4	4.3
British Columbia	128.2	128.1	125.7	0.1	2.0
Whitehorse	126.5	126.9	124.1	-0.3	1.9
Yellowknife ²	125.4	125.4	123.8	0.0	1.3
Igaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	104.8	105.1	103.0	-0.3	1.7

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

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.

Health Reports: Regional differences in obesity

2004

Adults who lived in large Canadian cities in 2004 were far less likely to be obese than were their counterparts who lived outside such metropolitan areas, a new report indicates.

The report "Regional differences in obesity" is based on actual measurements of height and weight from the 2004 Canadian Community Health Survey. The study examines obesity and overweight individuals inside and outside census metropolitan areas (CMAs).

Overall, 20% of CMA residents aged 18 or older were obese in 2004, compared with 29% of those who lived outside a CMA. The national average for obesity was 23%.

Furthermore, as the size of the city increased, the likelihood of being obese fell. In CMAs with a population of at least 2 million (Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver) only 17% of adults were obese. The comparable figure for CMAs with a population of 100,000 to 2 million was 24%. In urban centres with populations of 10,000 to 100,000, 30% of adults were obese.

The report examined whether low obesity rates in the largest cities could be explained by the tendency of immigrants to settle in these areas, given that immigrants are less likely than people born in Canada to be obese. However, the relatively low prevalence of obesity in large cities persisted, even when immigrant status and the number of years since immigrating were both taken into account.

Among adults who did not live in urban centres, those who commuted to a large city or even to a smaller urban centre were less likely to be obese.

In municipalities where a high or fairly high proportion of the population commuted to a nearby urban centre, obesity rates were comparable with the national average. In those where few commuted to work in an urban centre, the obesity rate was almost twice the national average (44%).

While there was a relationship between excess weight and urban-rural residence among adults, the same was not true for children. Nationally, the proportion of 2- to 17-year-olds who were overweight or obese was comparable in large CMAs, smaller CMAs, other cities and rural areas. Alberta was the one exception to this trend. There, young people aged 2 to 17 who lived in CMAs were less likely to be overweight/obese than were those who did not.

In a small number of CMAs, the prevalence of obesity/overweight differed significantly from the national average of 26.2% for those aged 2 to 17. Proportions were much higher than the national average among children in Gatineau (48%), Kingston

Note to readers

This release is based on regional differences in obesity, one of five articles in the latest issue of Health Reports. The report is based on data from Statistics Canada's Canadian Community Health Survey, which actually measured the height and weight of adults and children.

(46%) and Winnipeg (32%) and low in Quebec City (15%), Ottawa (16%) and Calgary (16%). However, these differences were based on small sample sizes and should be interpreted with caution.

In the adult population, the obesity rate differed significantly from the national average of 23% in St. John's (36%), Toronto (16%) and Vancouver (12%).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts. methods or data quality of this contact Margot Shields (613-951-4177; article. margot.shields@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division.

This edition of Health Reports contains four other articles. The article "Trends in adult obesity" examines the increase in obesity between 1978/1979 and 2004. The increase was greater among men than among women, and was particularly pronounced among men who were former smokers. Since the mid-1980s, differences between income groups in the prevalence of obesity tended to diminish. For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this article, contact Margot Shields (613-951-4177; margot.shields@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division.

Electronic versions of the three remaining Health Reports articles were released previously. "Adult obesity" and "Overweight and obesity among children and youth" reflect the July 6, 2005 releases in Canadian Community Health Survey series the (82-620-MWE, free), which is available from the Publications module of our website. "Obesity: A growing issue," released on April 7, 2005 as part of the Healthy Today, Healthy Tomorrow? Findings from the National Population Health Survey (82-618-MWE, free) series, is also available from the Publications module of our website.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5049.

Complete versions of all five *Health Reports* articles appear in the latest issue of *Health Reports*. Vol. 17. No. 3 (82-003-XIE, free), which is now available from the Publications module of our website. A printed version (82-003-XPE, \$22/\$63) is also available. See How to order products.

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

Current economic conditions

Since the beginning of 2006, services accounted for all the growth in output and jobs, thanks mainly to wholesale trade and, to a lesser extent, to finance and information industries. Many consumer-related industries took a respite from their recent rapid gains. This break was partly offset by a pickup in government spending, notably for the census.

On the Prairies, all components of household demand continued their steady growth. Retail sales increased again in May, and are up nearly 10% since December. Housing starts rose to 51,000 units (at an annual rate) in June, close to their all-time high recorded in March. Alberta's population has grown by nearly 10,000 every month this year. This alone would represent a need for some 50,000 additional dwellings per year.

After a slow start to the second quarter, economic conditions in British Columbia quickly improved. Non-residential construction expanded rapidly earlier in the year and, in May, this began to have an impact on manufacturing production.

Ontario again relied primarily on the housing sector for its growth, with housing starts continuing to rise in June from their low in April. Exports and shipments in the automotive sector continued to decline, despite the rebound posted by the Canadian plants of foreign manufacturers. This weakness of exports and shipments helped curtail retail sales, which fell 1.9% in May, the steepest decline in the country.

Household demand also remained weak in Quebec. However, manufacturing picked up, as in the West. Shipments jumped 3.2% in May, led by capital goods, which largely offset a sudden one-third drop of refinery shipments, following temporary stoppages for maintenance. Shipments rose 67% for transportation equipment, including nearly \$600 million for aircraft shipments.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1301, 1901, 2152, 2306, 2406 and 3701.

The print version of the August 2006 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 19, no. 8 (11-010-XPB, \$25/\$243) is now available. See *How to order products*. This issue summarizes the major economic events that occurred in July and presents the article "Converging gender roles".

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Philip Cross (613-951-9162; *ceo@statcan.ca*), Current Economic Analysis Group.

Film, video and audio-visual post-production 2004

Canada's film, video and audio-visual post-production companies posted a record \$1.0 billion in operating revenues in 2004, but their profitability continued a long-term decline as rising expenses outpaced growth in revenues.

As a result, their profit margin fell from 7.3% in 2001 to only 4.3% in 2004. Profitability has been on the decline since 1999 when it peaked at 17.9%.

Exports were the sole driver of revenue growth, rising to \$523 million in 2004 from \$401 million in 2001.

This information comes from a 2004 census of film, video and audio-visual post production facilities in Canada. To be included, a company had to be a motion picture laboratory or post-production facility engaged in production or post-production services in 2004. These facilities performed work on a film after production was complete, such as film printing, editing, and adding subtitles or visual effects.

Revenue earned from duplication and transcoding was one of the largest streams for post-production facilities, but it fell 28.0% over this period. This compares to the 10.4% increase in total operating revenue.

Although full-time employees constituted almost 9 out of every 10 employees in 2004, their number grew by only 2.5% from 2001. Meanwhile the number of part-timers fell by 19.9%, while 23.6% fewer freelancers were hired by Canadian post-production firms.

Total wages and salaries rose 7.0% for post-production employees from 2001 to 2004. This compares with a 4.9% increase in the average weekly wage for workers in the information, culture and recreation industries combined, from December 2001 to December 2004, according to data from the Labour Force Survey.

Money paid out for interest and all other operating expenses also rose over this period, leading to a 14.1% increase in operating expenses.

Ontario firms dominated Canadian post-production, earning 60.3% of total operating revenue in 2004. Quebec firms, however, experienced the greatest growth in revenues from 2001 to 2004 (+42.1%) compared with just 0.4% growth for Ontario.

Together these two provinces earned 95.2% of total national post-production revenue. British Columbian firms earned 3.8%.

Quebec post-production firms were among the most profitable in the country in 2004 with a profit margin of 14.9%. Ontario firms had an operating loss of 1.3%.

Note: Data for the territories were combined with British Columbia in order to protect confidentiality. All data are in current dollars. The survey was not conducted in 2002 and 2003.

Available on CANSIM: table 501-0011.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2415.

Selected information is now available in Film, Video and Audio-visual Post-production: Data Tables

Film, video and audio-visual post-production

(87-009-XIE, free) from the *Publications* module of our website. These tables include breakdowns of data by province and region of Canada.

For general information to order special tables or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; fax: 613-951-1333; *culture@statcan.ca*), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

	2001/2002	2004/2005	%
			change
Number of firms	274	327	19.3
Total employment	7,201	6,820	-5.3
Full-time	4,862	4,982	2.5
Part-time	760	609	-19.9
Freelancers	1,532	1,170	-23.6
Working proprietors	47	59	25.5
Operating revenue (\$ millions)	915.3	1,010.9	10.4
Film printing	х	х	х
Film processing	127.7	х	х
Editing (video and sound)	91.3	101.5	11.2
Film/video transfers	38.5	20.6	-46.5
Duplication, transcoding	185.0	133.2	-28.0
Dubbing, subtitling	х	12.0	х
Animation	52.3	64.6	23.5
Audio post-production	30.4	40.6	33.6
Other production and post-production services	107.6	69.9	-35.0
All other operating revenue	119.3	157.7	32.2
Non-operating revenue (\$ millions)	4.7	7.7	63.8
Total revenue (\$ millions)	920.0	1,018.7	10.7
Operating expenses (\$ millions)	848.5	967.8	14.1
Salaries and wages	228.1	254.0	11.4
Benefits	28.0	30.7	9.6
Freelancers' fees	22.4	21.4	-4.5
Depreciation and amortization	82.0	71.3	-13.0
nterest	23.8	26.8	12.6
All other operating expenses	464.1	563.7	21.5
Exports (\$ millions)	401.0	522.6	30.3
Operating margin (% of operating revenue)	7.3	4.3	

... not applicable

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

Crude oil and natural gas production June 2006 (preliminary)

Provincial crude oil and marketable natural gas production data are now available for June.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2198.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Marketing and Dissemination Section (613-951-9497 or toll-free 1-866-873-8789; *energ@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Production and disposition of tobacco products July 2006

Canadian manufacturers sold 2.2 billion cigarettes in July, down 10.5% compared with June and down 30.7% compared with July 2005.

Cigarette production in July decreased 22.9% from June to 1.8 billion cigarettes, down 41.4% from July 2005.

At 1.5 billion cigarettes, the level of closing inventories for July decreased by 30.5% from June and stood 66.6% lower compared with July 2005.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0062.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2142.

The July 2006 issue of *Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products*, Vol. 35, no. 7 (32-022-XIE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module 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

June 2006 (preliminary)

Combined ridership on 10 large urban transit systems in Canada was 2.7% higher in June than it was for the same month in 2005.

Approximately 115.4 million passenger trips were taken on these transit systems in June. These systems account for about 80% of total urban transit in Canada.

The trips generated \$185.4 million in revenue in June (excluding subsidies), up 3.3% compared with June 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.

New products

Canadian Economic Observer, Vol. 19, no. 8 Catalogue number 11-010-XPB (\$25/\$243).

Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products, July 2006, Vol. 35, no. 7 Catalogue number 32-022-XIE (free).

Broadcasting and Telecommunications, Vol. 36, no. 3 Catalogue number 56-001-XIE (free).

The Consumer Price Index, July 2006, Vol. 85, no. 7 Catalogue number 62-001-XIB (free).

The Consumer Price Index, July 2006, Vol. 85, no. 7 Catalogue number 62-001-XPB (\$12/\$111).

Retail Trade, June 2006, Vol. 78, no. 6 Catalogue number 63-005-XIE (free). Health Reports, Vol. 17, no. 3 Catalogue number 82-003-XIE (free).

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