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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, October 30, 2007
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Releases

(continued on page 2)

Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada

October 2007

This issue of Statistics Canada's free online publication, *Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada*, contains two articles.

"Learning online: Factors associated with use of the Internet for education purposes" investigates the use of the Internet for education-related reasons, based on findings from the 2005 Canadian Internet Use Survey. The article describes selected social, economic and geographic characteristics of those going online for education-related purposes and the reasons for doing so, including for distance education, self-directed learning and correspondence courses. It found that rural and small-town Internet users from more remote communities were more likely than their urban counterparts to go online for distance education.

Using current Statistics Canada data sources related to the education of Canadians, the second article, "From aspiring to graduating and working in a health occupation" reveals some important information about what happens before, during and after health education. It focuses on the interest of youth in health occupations, the characteristics of students and faculty in university health programs, the labour market experiences of recent graduates from these programs, and the ongoing participation of health workers in formal and informal training.

The October 2007 issue of *Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada*, Vol. 4, no. 4 (81-004-XIE, free), is now available on our website. From the *Publications* module, under *Free Internet publications*, choose *Education, training and learning*, then *Education Matters*.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1 800 307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-4441; *educationstats@statcan.ca*), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

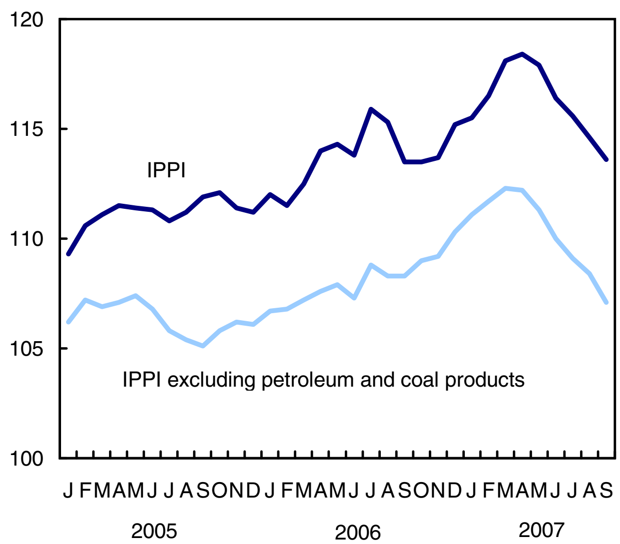
Releases

Industrial product and raw materials price indexes

September 2007

In September, prices for manufactured products and raw materials continued their downward movement, despite the strong increase in energy prices.

Prices for manufactured goods continue to decline



From August to September, the prices charged by manufacturers, as measured by the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI), fell 0.9%, the same rate as in August. The IPPI registered a fifth consecutive monthly decrease since the historical peak reached in April 2007. The reduction in the index essentially represents a decrease in prices for motor vehicles, primary metal products, and pulp and paper products. However, a jump in petroleum and coal prices slowed the decline of the IPPI.

On a 12-month basis, the IPPI remained stable with a slight increase of 0.1%, following a 0.6% decline observed in August. Increases in the prices for petroleum and coal products, and for fruit, vegetables and feed products were offset by declines in the prices for motor vehicles and other transportation equipment, primary metal products, and pulp and paper products.

The exchange rate, reflecting the ongoing effect of a strong Canadian dollar in relation to its US counterpart, also played an important role in the price declines.

Note to readers

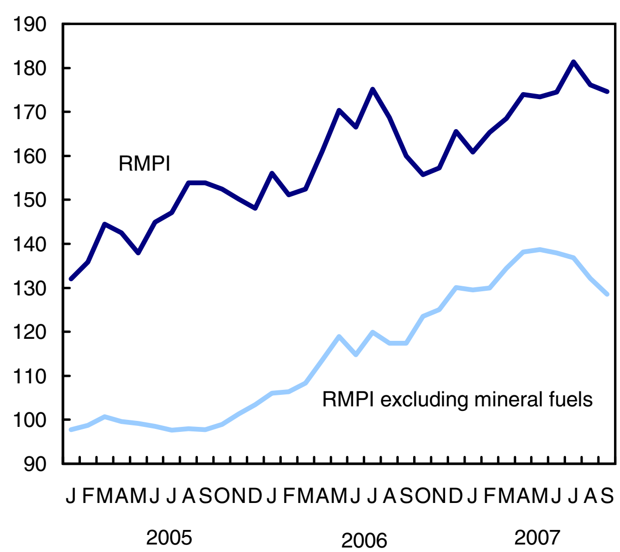
The ***Industrial Product Price Index*** *(IPPI) reflects the prices that producers in Canada receive as the goods leave the plant gate. It does not reflect what the consumer pays. Unlike the Consumer Price Index, the IPPI excludes indirect taxes and all the costs that occur between the time a good leaves the plant and the time the final user takes possession of it, including transportation, wholesale, and retail costs.*

Canadian producers export many goods. They often quote their prices in foreign currencies, particularly for motor vehicles, pulp and paper products, and wood products. Therefore, a rise or fall in the value of the Canadian dollar against its US counterpart affects the IPPI.

The ***Raw Materials Price Index*** *(RMPI) reflects the prices paid by Canadian manufacturers for key raw materials. Many of these prices are set in a world market. Unlike the IPPI, the RMPI includes goods not produced in Canada.*

Determining the full effect of fluctuating exchange rates on the IPPI is a difficult analytical task. However, it should be noted that many prices collected to calculate the IPPI are quoted in US dollars and then converted into Canadian dollars. If the exchange rate used to convert these prices had remained unchanged from the previous month, the IPPI would have remained unchanged rather than declining 0.9% from August and, on a 12-month basis, the IPPI would have risen 2.4% rather than 0.1%.

Raw materials prices decrease again



The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) fell 0.9% from August to September, a second consecutive monthly decrease for this index after the record level reached in July. In September, the RMPI was pulled down mainly by falling prices for non-ferrous metals, although this decline was tempered by rising prices for mineral fuels and vegetable products.

Compared with September 2006, raw materials cost plants 9.1% more. The increase in the index was caused mainly by higher prices for mineral fuels, non-ferrous metals and vegetable products.

In September, the IPPI was 113.6 (1997=100), down from August's revised level of 114.6. The RMPI was 174.6 (1997=100), down from August's revised level of 176.1.

IPPI: Decline in industrial prices index tempered by petroleum and coal products

Month over month, manufacturers' prices were pulled down mainly by falling prices for motor vehicles and other transportation equipment, primary metal products, and pulp and paper products. Price reductions were noted for most products, with price increases limited to petroleum and coal products, and fruit, vegetables and feed products.

In September, prices for motor vehicles fell 1.9% in conjunction with several factors, including the strong appreciation of the Canadian dollar against its US counterpart, as well as the rebates offered by manufacturers in order to liquidate inventories in anticipation of the arrival of new models.

Prices for primary metal products declined 1.2% in September, their fifth consecutive monthly decrease. Declines were noted for aluminum products (-3.2%), iron and steel products (-0.8%), and copper and copper alloy products (-1.8%). Metal prices were sensitive to reduced economic activity in North America, especially in residential construction, and were also affected by high inventory levels. On the other hand, declining prices for primary metal products were moderated by higher prices for nickel products, which rose 3.5%. This rise in nickel prices follows three steep monthly declines. Despite September's increase, the price index for nickel fell 47.4% from the historical peak reached in March 2007. As in the case of other metals, the nickel industry is still feeling the effects of high inventories and weak demand.

Prices for pulp and paper products fell 1.5% from August. The price index reached its lowest level since February 2004. Prices are undergoing the combined effect of an appreciating Canadian dollar, conditions in the forest industry, and weak demand for newsprint.

Prices for petroleum and coal products rose 1.7% in September after dropping 2.6% in August. Movements in energy prices change direction from month to month and are highly sensitive to world events. Prices for petroleum and coal products in September were 5.9% lower than the historical peak reached in July 2006. If the prices for petroleum and coal had been excluded, the IPPI would have decreased 1.2% instead of 0.9%, registering a sixth consecutive monthly decline.

IPPI: 12-month change leaves prices unchanged

The IPPI edged up 0.1% from September 2006 to September 2007, following two consecutive declines in July and August. Lower prices for motor vehicles and other transportation equipment offset higher prices for petroleum and coal products.

Motor vehicle prices fell 5.2%, a sixth consecutive decline. Prices for primary metals fell 3.8%. This drop is comparable to the 12-month change observed in August, and is the third consecutive year-over-year decline. Decreases were observed for iron and steel products (-3.9%), aluminum products (-6.7%), nickel products (-7.3%), and copper and copper alloy products (-4.8%).

Price reductions were also observed for pulp and paper products (-4.5%), lumber and other wood products (-1.9%), and electrical and communication products (-3.1%).

The drop in the IPPI was moderated mainly by prices for petroleum and coal, which rose 10.7% following three consecutive year-over-year declines. If petroleum and coal had been excluded, the IPPI would have fallen 1.1% instead of edging up 0.1%. Among other price increases, prices for fruit, vegetables and feed rose 5.7%, and prices for tobacco and tobacco products jumped 13.3%.

RMPI: Non-ferrous metals continue to decline

Prices for raw materials fell 0.9% in September, a second consecutive monthly decline. The RMPI was pulled down by the steep drop in prices for non-ferrous metals, and animals and animal products. However, higher prices for mineral fuels and vegetable products partially offset the monthly decline.

Non-ferrous metals prices tumbled 8.2%. While the decline was fairly general among metals, most of the decrease was caused by a drop of 18.6% in radioactive concentrates, and 14.3% in zinc concentrates.

Prices for animals and animal products declined 0.9%, especially owing to lower prices for hogs for slaughter, which fell 10.9% because supply was at a very high level. Lower prices were also observed for wood, more specifically, logs and bolts (-1.6%).

Prices for mineral fuels rose 1.1% in a change of direction from the 2.4% decrease observed in August. This rise is attributable to a tightening world market and lower inventory levels. If mineral fuels had been excluded, the RMPI would have fallen 2.7% from August instead of declining 0.9%.

Prices for vegetable products increased 6.5%, mainly because of prices for grains (+12.9%) and oilseeds (+7.0%). Wheat prices reached a historical level with a rise of 17.0%, owing to strong global demand and unfavourable weather conditions in Australia, Europe and the United States.

On a 12-month basis, raw materials prices rose 9.1% in September, a growth rate exceeding those observed in the previous four months. Raw materials prices were mainly propelled by price increases for mineral fuels, non-ferrous metals and vegetable products. Mineral fuels rose 8.9% on the strength of a 12.2% year-over-year increase in the price for crude oil. Without mineral fuels, the RMPI would have risen 9.5% instead of 9.1%.

Prices for non-ferrous metals jumped 12.3%, mainly because of year-over-year increases in the prices for radioactive concentrates (+64.3%) and lead concentrates (+118.3%).

Prices for vegetable products were up 30.1% from the previous year, especially for grains (+54.8%) and oilseeds (+55.4%), owing to a disequilibrium between global supply and demand.

Prices for intermediate goods continue to decline for a fifth consecutive month

From August to September, prices for intermediate goods fell 0.8%. This was their fifth straight month-over-month decline, although it was smaller than the 1.2% drop observed in August. The reduction in prices was widespread across product categories. The biggest contributors to the decrease were primary metal products, pulp and paper products, motor vehicles, as well as lumber and other wood products.

Prices for intermediate goods rose 0.3% from September 2006 to September 2007, following a 0.3% decline observed in August. Most of the increase was due to petroleum and coal products, and fruit, vegetables and feed products.

However, the year-over-year increase of the intermediate goods index was slowed by lower prices for primary metal products, pulp and paper products, motor vehicles and electrical and communication products.

Prices for finished products pulled down by lower prices for motor vehicles

From August to September, prices for finished products fell 0.8%, led by prices for motor vehicles. The finished products index registered a sixth consecutive month-over-month decline. Few products contributed significantly to the change in the index. Apart from motor vehicles, slight decreases were observed for electrical and communication products, machinery and equipment, and chemical products.

Since September 2006, prices for finished products have declined 0.4%, a smaller decrease than those observed in the previous two months. Prices were down for motor vehicles, machinery and equipment, and electrical and communication products. The index's decline was moderated by higher prices for petroleum and coal products, tobacco and tobacco products, fruit, vegetables and feed products, chemical products, and beverages.

Available on CANSIM: tables 329-0038 to 329-0049 and 330-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2306 and 2318.

The September 2007 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011-XWE, free) will soon be available.

The industrial product and raw material price indexes for October will be released on November 29.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; *prices-prix@statcan.ca*), or Danielle Gouin (613-951-3375; *danielle.gouin@statcan.ca*), Prices Division.

❑

Industrial product price indexes

(1997=100)

	Relative importance	September 2006	August 2007r	September 2007p	September 2006 to September 2007	August to September 2007
					% change	
Industrial product price index (IPPI)	**100.00**	**113.5**	**114.6**	**113.6**	**0.1**	**-0.9**
IPPI excluding petroleum and coal products	**94.32**	**108.3**	**108.4**	**107.1**	**-1.1**	**-1.2**
Aggregation by commodities						
Meat, fish and dairy products	5.78	109.0	110.1	109.5	0.5	-0.5
Fruit, vegetables, feeds and other food products	5.99	103.8	108.9	109.7	5.7	0.7
Beverages	1.57	122.8	125.6	125.5	2.2	-0.1
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.63	192.8	218.4	218.4	13.3	0.0
Rubber, leather and plastic fabricated products	3.30	118.4	116.7	116.1	-1.9	-0.5
Textile products	1.58	100.4	99.5	99.4	-1.0	-0.1
Knitted products and clothing	1.51	105.0	105.0	104.9	-0.1	-0.1
Lumber and other wood products	6.30	85.2	84.6	83.6	-1.9	-1.2
Furniture and fixtures	1.59	118.9	120.2	120.2	1.1	0.0
Pulp and paper products	7.23	106.1	102.8	101.3	-4.5	-1.5
Printing and publishing	1.70	115.1	116.7	116.0	0.8	-0.6
Primary metal products	7.80	142.0	138.3	136.6	-3.8	-1.2
Metal fabricated products	4.11	123.9	124.4	124.1	0.2	-0.2
Machinery and equipment	5.48	106.8	105.3	104.4	-2.2	-0.9
Motor vehicles and other transport equipment	22.16	91.5	88.4	86.7	-5.2	-1.9
Electrical and communications products	5.77	93.5	91.6	90.6	-3.1	-1.1
Non-metallic mineral products	1.98	120.0	122.8	122.9	2.4	0.1
Petroleum and coal products[1]	5.68	210.1	228.7	232.6	10.7	1.7
Chemicals and chemical products	7.07	122.6	124.8	124.1	1.2	-0.6
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.40	112.5	113.0	113.0	0.4	0.0
Miscellaneous non-manufactured products	0.38	265.9	476.4	397.8	49.6	-16.5
Intermediate goods[2]	**60.14**	**117.7**	**119.1**	**118.1**	**0.3**	**-0.8**
First-stage intermediate goods[3]	7.71	145.0	151.1	146.9	1.3	-2.8
Second-stage intermediate goods[4]	52.43	113.6	114.3	113.7	0.1	-0.5
Finished goods[5]	**39.86**	**107.2**	**107.7**	**106.8**	**-0.4**	**-0.8**
Finished foods and feeds	8.50	114.1	115.8	115.7	1.4	-0.1
Capital equipment	11.73	99.6	97.7	96.3	-3.3	-1.4
All other finished goods	19.63	108.8	110.3	109.3	0.5	-0.9

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
1. *This index is estimated for the current month.*
2. *Intermediate goods are goods used principally to produce other goods.*
3. *First-stage intermediate goods are items used most frequently to produce other intermediate goods.*
4. *Second-stage intermediate goods are items most commonly used to produce final goods.*
5. *Finished goods are goods most commonly used for immediate consumption or for capital investment.*

Raw materials price indexes

(1997=100)

	Relative importance	September 2006	August 2007[r]	September 2007[p]	September 2006 to September 2007	August to September 2007
					% change	
Raw materials price index (RMPI)	**100.00**	**160.0**	**176.1**	**174.6**	**9.1**	**-0.9**
Mineral fuels	35.16	252.0	271.3	274.4	8.9	1.1
Vegetable products	10.28	81.1	99.1	105.5	30.1	6.5
Animals and animal products	20.30	103.9	105.4	104.4	0.5	-0.9
Wood	15.60	80.0	85.2	84.3	5.4	-1.1
Ferrous materials	3.36	123.2	131.7	132.8	7.8	0.8
Non-ferrous metals	12.93	200.3	245.1	225.0	12.3	-8.2
Non-metallic minerals	2.38	141.1	148.8	148.8	5.5	0.0
RMPI excluding mineral fuels	**64.84**	**117.4**	**132.1**	**128.5**	**9.5**	**-2.7**

r *revised*
p *preliminary*

■

Study: Using the Internet for education purposes

2005

The Internet is changing the way many Canadian students conduct their research for assignments or solve academic problems, a new article reports.

The article also found that relatively more Canadians from rural and small-town communities were using the Internet for distance learning. This finding suggests that electronic distance learning could be a possible solution to some postsecondary access problems facing rural youth.

The article, published today in *Education Matters*, Statistics Canada's source of facts and analysis on education, training and learning, examines the use of the Internet for education-related reasons, using data from the 2005 Canadian Internet Use Survey.

Just over one-quarter (26%) of adult Canadians, an estimated 6.4 million people, logged on to the Internet for the purposes of education, training or school work during 2005. Nearly 80% of all full- and part-time students did so.

Urban residents were more likely than their rural and small-town counterparts to go online for education, training or school work. This may reflect, in part, the lower Internet use rate for education purposes among those living in rural areas and small towns, even after taking into account other factors, including age, income and education.

The most common type of education-related use of the Internet was to research information for project assignments or to solve academic problems. An estimated 4.2 million adult Canadians, comprising two-thirds (66%) of those who went online for education, training and school work, used the Internet for these purposes.

Just over one-quarter (26%) of those who used the Internet for education-related purposes went online for distance education, self-directed learning or correspondence courses. Residents of rural and small-town areas were less likely than their urban counterparts to report going online to research assignments. However, they were more likely to report going online for distance education, self-directed learning or correspondence courses.

The article highlights an important policy issue—whether online education can help reduce potential barriers to accessing education, such as cost and distance. It appears that rural and small-town Internet users from more remote communities are in fact more apt to go online for distance education.

While more definitive research on this matter is required, these findings suggest that the Internet is a valuable tool with the potential to help overcome the barrier of distance when it comes to education.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4432.

The October 2007 issue of *Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada*, Vol. 4, no. 4 (81-004-XIE, free), is now available on our website. From the *Publications* module, under *Free Internet publications*, choose *Education, training and learning*, then *Education Matters*.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-4441; *educationstats@statcan.ca*), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

Computer and peripherals price indexes

August 2007

In August, the index for commercial computers decreased 1.4% from July to 34.2 (2001=100). The index for consumer computers also declined, down 1.4% to 14.1.

In the case of computer peripherals, monitor prices decreased 1.0% to 50.8, while printer prices fell, down 0.6% to 47.3.

These indexes are available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: tables 331-0001 and 331-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5032.

For more information on these indexes, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; *prices-prix@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lu Li (613-951-1290; *lu.li@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. ■

Restaurants, caterers and taverns

August 2007 (preliminary)

Total estimated sales of the restaurants, caterers and taverns industry reached $3.7 billion in August, a 3.1 % increase over August 2006. (Data are neither seasonally adjusted, nor adjusted for inflation.)

The increase in sales, at the national level was due to higher sales at full-service restaurants (+3.4%). Sales for limited-service restaurants increased 2.0%. These two sectors accounted for more than 87% of the industry's sales in August. The food service contractors sector also posted an increase (+6.4%). That sector accounted for almost 5% of the industry's sales in August.

Available on CANSIM: table 355-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2419.

For more information, to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, or to obtain more information about the redesign of the Monthly Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns Survey, contact Tim Johnston (613-951-5108; fax: 613-951-6696; *tim.johnston@statcan.ca*), Service Industries Division.

Food services sales

	August 2006r	July 2007r	August 2007p	August 2006 to August 2007
	Not seasonally adjusted			
	$ thousands			% change
Total, food services sales	**3,618,044**	**3,706,500**	**3,728,844**	**3.1**
Full-service restaurants	1,733,772	1,800,542	1,792,564	3.4
Limited-service restaurants	1,440,256	1,444,307	1,469,208	2.0
Food service contractors	161,152	166,649	171,536	6.4
Social and mobile caterers	73,680	74,621	74,507	1.1
Drinking places	209,184	220,381	221,029	5.7
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland and Labrador	39,309	38,139	40,341	2.6
Prince Edward Island	16,831	16,125	17,423	3.5
Nova Scotia	92,887	89,329	95,969	3.3
New Brunswick	61,118	58,058	62,198	1.8
Quebec	739,411	777,454	771,750	4.4
Ontario	1,439,347	1,494,190	1,465,310	1.8
Manitoba	96,270	87,344	93,091	-3.3
Saskatchewan	87,523	92,272	92,635	5.8
Alberta	424,228	439,190	455,705	7.4
British Columbia	609,745	602,641	622,733	2.1
Yukon	3,385	3,494	3,360	-0.7
Northwest Territories	7,668	7,932	7,953	3.7
Nunavut	322	333	377	16.9

r *revised*
p *preliminary*

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Crude oil and natural gas: Supply and disposition

August 2007 (preliminary)

In August, the overall production of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons totalled 14.4 million cubic metres, an increase of 9.7% from August 2006.

Exports of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons rose 9.5% from August 2006. In August 2007, 64.0% of Canada's total production went to the export market.

Natural gas domestic sales dipped to 3.6 billion cubic metres, a 10.4% decrease from the same month in 2006, according to natural gas sales data. This drop was the result of a 13.5% decrease in industrial natural gas sales.

Marketable natural gas production declined 6.1% from August 2006. Natural gas exports, which made up 72.3% of marketable natural gas production, increased 7.2%.

Note: Preliminary data are available on CANSIM at the national level to August 2007 inclusive. At the national and provincial levels, detailed information is available for crude oil (126-0001) up to June 2007 inclusive, and for natural gas (131-0001) up to February 2007 inclusive.

Available on CANSIM: tables 126-0001 and 131-0001.

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 dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *energ@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Crude oil and natural gas

	August 2006	August 2007p	August 2006 to August 2007
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons[1]			
Production	13 149.1	14 419.6	9.7
Exports	8 424.6	9 221.5	9.5
Imports[2]	4 776.5	4 371.9	-8.5
Refinery receipts	9 440.7	9 507.2	0.7
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas[3]			
Marketable production	14 421.7	13 542.0	-6.1
Exports	9 137.5	9 793.9	7.2
Domestic sales[4]	3 987.5	3 572.0	-10.4
	January to August 2006	January to August 2007	January–August 2006 to January–August 2007
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons[1]			
Production	100 338.9	106 852.8	6.5
Exports	66 818.7	69 869.1	4.6
Imports[2]	33 069.7	33 871.9	2.4
Refinery receipts	68 518.3	71 785.8	4.8
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas[3]			
Marketable production	114 657.9	112 857.8	-1.6
Exports	67 884.7	72 925.3	7.4
Domestic sales[4]	45 091.8	47 143.3	4.5

p *preliminary*
1. *Disposition may differ from production because of inventory change, industry own-use, etc.*
2. *Crude oil received by Canadian refineries from foreign countries for processing. Data may differ from International Trade Division (ITD) estimates because of timing differences and the inclusion of crude oil landed in Canada for future re-export in the ITD data.*
3. *Disposition may differ from production because of inventory change, usage as pipeline fuel, pipeline losses, line-pack fluctuations, etc.*
4. *Includes direct sales. Includes other statistical adjustments.*

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Traveller accommodation services price indexes

Third quarter 2007

Statistics Canada today publishes monthly indexes that measure the price movements of accommodation services for the third quarter of 2007. These indexes reflect changes in room rates, excluding all indirect taxes, for overnight or short stays with no meals or other services provided. The indexes are available by province and territory, for Canada, by major client group.

Available on CANSIM: table 326-0013.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2336.

For more information on these indexes, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; *prices-prix@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Matthew MacDonald (613-951-8551; *matthew.macdonald2@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. ■

New products

Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada, Vol. 4, no. 4
Catalogue number 81-004-XIE
(free).

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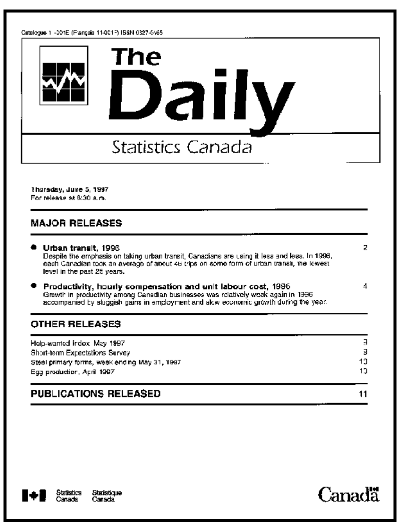

Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

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.

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