



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Friday, December 14, 2007**

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## Releases

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**Industrial capacity utilization rates, third quarter 2007** 2

Capacity utilization by Canadian industries fell for the second consecutive quarter between July and September. Every sector, with the exception of mining, reduced its industrial capacity utilization in the third quarter.

**National balance sheet accounts, third quarter 2007** 5

National net worth reached \$5.4 trillion by the end of the third quarter of 2007, or \$163,700 per capita. National net worth expanded by a modest \$63 billion in the quarter. This represented an increase of 1.2% over the second quarter, the weakest growth in eight quarters.

Study: Canada's trade with China, 1997 to 2006 8

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**New products** 9

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**Release dates: December 17 to 21, 2007** 11

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## Releases

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### Industrial capacity utilization rates

Third quarter 2007

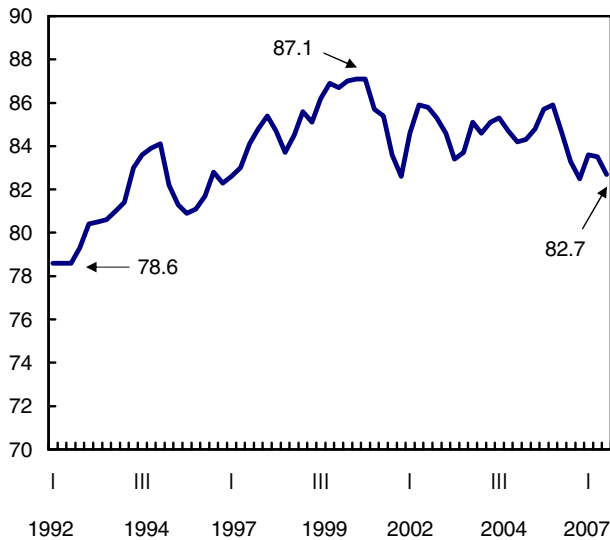
Capacity utilization by Canadian industries fell for the second consecutive quarter between July and September. Every sector, with the exception of mining, reduced its industrial capacity utilization in the third quarter.

Industries operated at 82.7% of capacity in the third quarter, down from 83.5% in the second quarter. This decline puts the current rate 4.4 percentage points below the most recent high of 87.1% reached in the fourth quarter of 2000.

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#### Capacity utilization declines

% (rate of capacity use)



The industrial capacity utilization rate is the ratio of an industry's actual output to its estimated potential output. For this release, the rates have been revised back to the first quarter of 2002 to reflect the revised source data.

In the manufacturing sector, accounting for almost half of total production, 16 of the 21 major groups reduced their capacity utilization in the third quarter, including a significant decline in the wood product manufacturing industry.

Wood product manufacturers had difficulty obtaining supplies because of labour conflicts in Western Canada, and they bore the brunt of a collapse in US demand, the result of the sharp slowdown in residential construction in the United States.

Manufacturers operated at 81.7% of their production capacity in the third quarter, down from 82.4% in the second quarter. This decline would have been much more pronounced without the solid results posted by the transportation equipment manufacturing industry.

Even so, manufacturers were optimistic about the outlook for production in the fourth quarter. Based on the Business Conditions Survey for October 2007, manufacturers are expecting production to rise in the last few months of 2007. However, they remained concerned about labour shortages and the strength of the Canadian dollar.

Only mining, with 15% of total production, posted a rise in its rate in the third quarter, the result of a hike in oil and gas extraction activities and higher international demand for metal ore.

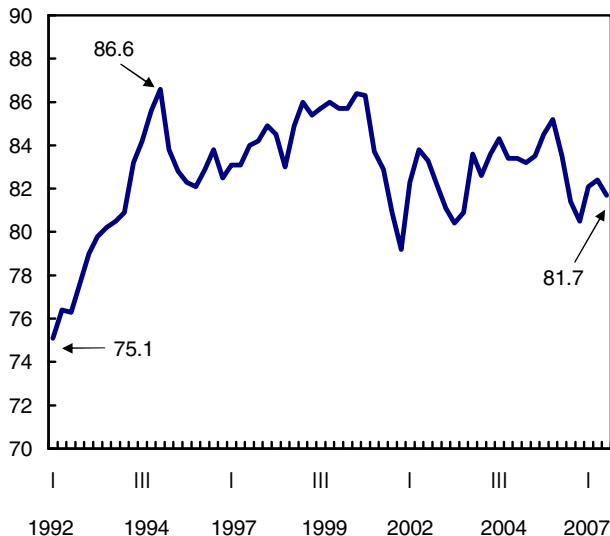
#### Transportation equipment manufacturing mitigates the decline in manufacturing

The transportation equipment manufacturing industry, with a solid gain in capacity utilization, helped mitigate the decline in capacity use in the overall manufacturing sector.

Capacity use in the transportation equipment manufacturing industry, which accounts for 18% of the production in the manufacturing sector, rose from 80.4% to 82.7%, the largest hike in its rate in two years. In particular, automobile exports to the United States jumped in September. The production of automotive products played a large part in the 2.3% boost in production for transportation equipment.

### Downturn in manufacturing's rate

% (rate of capacity use)



On the flip side, the industries that contributed to the reduction in the manufacturing sector's capacity-use rate included the wood products, fabricated metal products, machinery and chemical products manufacturing industries. These four industries represent around 30% of the manufacturing sector's production.

In the wood products manufacturing industry, capacity use fell from 73.0% to 67.9%. This is the sixth consecutive quarterly decline and the lowest rate posted by this industry since the first quarter of 1991, when the rate was 62.1%. Supply issues, low wood prices and weaker international demand led to a 4.5% cutback in production in this industry.

After posting solid results for the first two quarters of 2007, fabricated metal product manufacturers cut back their industrial capacity utilization from 84.4% to 82.1%. The production of architectural products and steel frames, which played a large part in this industry's growth over the first two quarters, was responsible to a large extent for a 2.6% drop in production in the third quarter.

Machinery manufacturers ended three consecutive quarterly hikes, posting a rate drop from 86.4% to 84.8%. Mixed results for the majority of components in this group led to a 1.6% decline in machinery production.

In the chemical products manufacturing industry, the rate dipped by 1.0 percentage points, settling at 83.4%. The majority of components in this group contributed to the 1.4% drop in the production of chemical products in the third quarter.

### Capacity use rises only in the mining sector

Production in the mining sector rose by 5.7% as a result of the growth in oil and gas exploration and metal ore extraction. Metal ore production rose significantly in the third quarter and exports reached record levels in July. As a result, the mining sector's rate rose from 71.7% to 74.8%.

Capacity utilization dropped from 83.3% to 82.2% in the oil and gas extraction sector in the third quarter as production in this sector fell by 0.9%. This decline was attributable to the drop in natural gas production, given that crude oil production rose in the third quarter.

In the forestry and logging sector, capacity utilization fell by 4.2 percentage points, settling at 77.3%. This is the lowest rate for this sector since the third quarter of 2003, when it was at 75.9%. Labour disputes in the forestry sector and the slowdown in residential construction in the United States resulted in a drop in exports. The sector's production fell by 7.0% from July to September 2007.

In the construction sector, representing 20% of the total production, capacity use dropped from 87.2% to 86.6%. The expenditure increases in this sector have not been able to offset the gain in production capacity and the rate fell for a third consecutive quarter.

Capacity utilization fell from 89.0% to 86.9% in the electric power sector. Electricity production fell by 1.6% in the third quarter.

**Available on CANSIM: table 028-0002.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2821.**

Data on industrial capacity utilization rates for the fourth quarter of 2007 will be released on March 13, 2008.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mychèle Gagnon (613-951-0994), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

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**Industrial capacity utilization rates**

|   | Third<br>quarter<br>2006 <sup>r</sup> | Second<br>quarter<br>2007 <sup>r</sup> | Third<br>quarter<br>2007 | Third quarter<br>2006<br>to<br>third quarter<br>2007 | Second<br>to<br>third<br>quarter<br>2007 |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
|   | %                                     |  |                          | % point change                                       |  |
| <b>Total industrial</b>                                     | <b>83.3</b>                           | <b>83.5</b>                            | <b>82.7</b>              | <b>-0.6</b>  | <b>-0.8</b>                              |
| Forestry and logging  | 80.9                                  | 81.5                                   | 77.3                     | -3.6   | -4.2                                     |
| Mining and oil and gas extraction                           | 82.2                                  | 80.2                                   | 80.2                     | -2.0   | 0.0                                      |
| Oil and gas extraction                                      | 81.6                                  | 83.3                                   | 82.2                     | 0.6  | -1.1                                     |
| Mining  | 84.0                                  | 71.7                                   | 74.8                     | -9.2   | 3.1                                      |
| Electric power generation, transmission and<br>distribution | 86.2                                  | 89.0                                   | 86.9                     | 0.7  | -2.1                                     |
| Construction  | 88.7                                  | 87.2                                   | 86.6                     | -2.1   | -0.6                                     |
| Manufacturing   | 81.4                                  | 82.4                                   | 81.7                     | 0.3  | -0.7                                     |
| Food  | 81.3                                  | 81.7                                   | 81.2                     | -0.1   | -0.5                                     |
| Beverage and tobacco products                               | 76.6                                  | 82.5                                   | 80.3                     | 3.7  | -2.2                                     |
| Beverage  | 79.1                                  | 84.8                                   | 82.8                     | 3.7  | -2.0                                     |
| Tobacco   | 65.4                                  | 69.8                                   | 66.1                     | 0.7  | -3.7                                     |
| Textile mills   | 68.8                                  | 72.3                                   | 72.2                     | 3.4  | -0.1                                     |
| Textile product mills                                       | 72.9                                  | 85.3                                   | 81.0                     | 8.1  | -4.3                                     |
| Clothing  | 73.6                                  | 72.6                                   | 75.4                     | 1.8  | 2.8                                      |
| Leather and allied products                                 | 72.0                                  | 89.9                                   | 82.7                     | 10.7   | -7.2                                     |
| Wood products   | 82.1                                  | 73.0                                   | 67.9                     | -14.2  | -5.1                                     |
| Paper   | 87.5                                  | 92.1                                   | 92.0                     | 4.5  | -0.1                                     |
| Printing and related support activities                     | 71.8                                  | 75.6                                   | 76.2                     | 4.4  | 0.6                                      |
| Petroleum and coal products                                 | 88.5                                  | 78.7                                   | 75.2                     | -13.3  | -3.5                                     |
| Chemical  | 83.2                                  | 84.4                                   | 83.4                     | 0.2  | -1.0                                     |
| Plastics and rubber products                                | 75.8                                  | 72.1                                   | 72.3                     | -3.5   | 0.2                                      |
| Plastic products  | 74.1                                  | 70.9                                   | 71.4                     | -2.7   | 0.5                                      |
| Rubber products   | 83.2                                  | 77.3                                   | 76.5                     | -6.7   | -0.8                                     |
| Non-metallic mineral products                               | 79.7                                  | 87.0                                   | 85.0                     | 5.3  | -2.0                                     |
| Primary metal   | 92.9                                  | 90.7                                   | 89.7                     | -3.2   | -1.0                                     |
| Fabricated metal products                                   | 79.2                                  | 84.4                                   | 82.1                     | 2.9  | -2.3                                     |
| Machinery   | 79.1                                  | 86.4                                   | 84.8                     | 5.7  | -1.6                                     |
| Computer and electronic products                            | 87.9                                  | 94.6                                   | 94.9                     | 7.0  | 0.3                                      |
| Electrical equipment, appliance and<br>component            | 78.9                                  | 83.7                                   | 83.1                     | 4.2  | -0.6                                     |
| Transportation equipment                                    | 81.8                                  | 80.4                                   | 82.7                     | 0.9  | 2.3                                      |
| Furniture and related products                              | 77.5                                  | 81.4                                   | 79.0                     | 1.5  | -2.4                                     |
| Miscellaneous manufacturing                                 | 80.0                                  | 84.2                                   | 79.5                     | -0.5   | -4.7                                     |

<sup>r</sup> revised



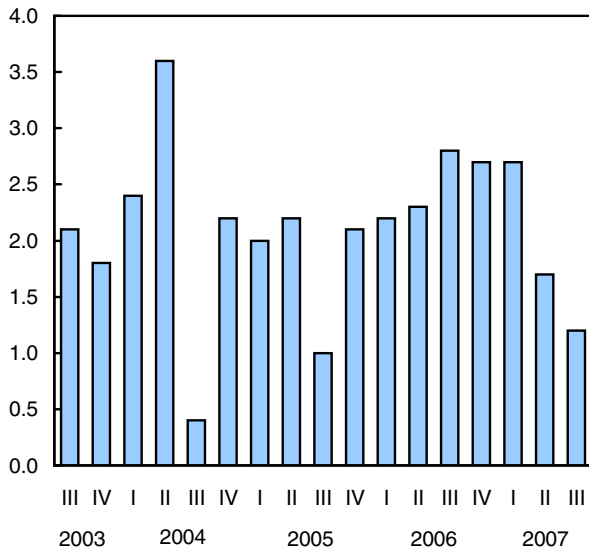
## National balance sheet accounts

Third quarter 2007

National net worth reached \$5.4 trillion by the end of the third quarter of 2007, or \$163,700 per capita. National net worth expanded by a modest \$63 billion in the quarter. This represented an increase of 1.2% over the second quarter, the weakest growth in eight quarters.

### National net worth slows down

% change, not seasonally adjusted



With economic growth slowing in the third quarter, growth in national wealth (economy-wide non-financial assets) decelerated to 1.9%, down from 2.4% in the previous quarter. Residential real estate continued to be the major driving force in the growth of national wealth, accounting for over half of the gain.

The strong saving position of the government and the corporate sectors, coupled with continuing gains in the real estate market and a resilient stock market, contributed to the sustained growth of national net worth in the third quarter. However, this growth in national net worth was dampened by an increase in Canada's net foreign indebtedness, largely resulting from revaluation, as the Canadian dollar appreciated against most major foreign currencies. The appreciation of the Canadian dollar reduced the Canadian dollar value of holdings of international assets to a much larger extent than

#### Note to readers

The national balance sheet accounts are statements of the balance sheets of all of the various sectors of the economy. They consist of the non-financial assets owned in the various sectors of the economy and of financial claims outstanding. National wealth is the sum of non-financial assets (produced assets, land surrounding structures and agricultural land) in all sectors of the economy. National net worth is national wealth less net foreign liabilities (i.e., what is owed to non-residents less what non-residents owe to Canadians). Alternatively, it is the sum of the net worth of persons, corporations and governments.

National saving is the sum of saving of persons, corporations and governments. National saving and investment contribute to change in national net worth. The revaluation of assets and liabilities also contributes to changes in national net worth. The causes of revaluation include changes in non-financial asset prices, equity prices, interest rates, exchange rates and loan allowances.

Quarterly series, both book and market value, are available from the first quarter of 1990. For more information on the market value estimates, consult the Balance sheet estimates at market value module of our website.

it reduced Canadian foreign currency-denominated liabilities. Foreign direct investment in Canada increased despite the continued appreciation of the Canadian dollar, contributing to the increase in Canadian liabilities to non-residents.

### Household net worth grows at slower pace

Growth in household net worth slowed significantly during the third quarter, increasing 1.2%, about half the pace of the second quarter and the slowest in five quarters. The advances in both financial and non-financial assets were largely offset by the substantial increase in liabilities. Increases in mortgage loans and consumer credit were the main contributors to the rise of total household liabilities.

Financial assets managed to post slight growth, with modest increases in deposits, pension funds and equities combining to offset the dampening effect of the appreciating Canadian dollar on foreign investments. Residential real estate remained the major driving force of the growth in households' non-financial assets.

Household debt, in the form of consumer credit and mortgages, continued to outpace increases in net worth. Consequently, the ratio of debt to net worth increased to 17.9%, while the overall household debt amounted to 115.7% of personal disposable income.

### Household leverage rises

As a % of net worth, not seasonally adjusted data



### Non-financial corporate leverage falls further

The private non-financial corporate sector remained in a surplus position while increasing fixed investment in the third quarter. The demand for funds in the quarter declined, resulting in a further decrease in leverage. The debt-to-equity ratio declined for the second consecutive quarter, as strong growth in retained earnings, combined with net new share issues, outpaced slight increases in debt levels.

### The ratio of government net debt to gross domestic product continues to decline

Total government net debt maintained its downward trend for a 14th consecutive quarter, propelled by a further surplus and reflected in the sustained reduction of Government of Canada short-term paper obligations and net retirement of Government of Canada bonds. Consequently, the ratio of net debt to gross domestic product (GDP) continued its decline, with net debt in

the third quarter less than half of GDP, compared with almost 90% a decade ago.

### Financial institutions continue to increase financial assets

Financial institutions, traditional net lenders to the other sectors of the economy, continued to significantly increase their financial assets, mainly on the strength of increases in bank loans, consumer credit and mortgage holdings. The currency effect of the appreciating Canadian dollar continued to be felt through the downward revaluation of foreign currency-denominated investment portfolios of the institutional investors' sectors.

Available on CANSIM: tables 378-0003 to 378-0010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1806.

The third quarter 2007 issue of *National Balance Sheet Accounts, Quarterly Estimates*, Vol. 5, no. 3 (13-214-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

The third quarter 2007 issue of *Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review*, Vol. 6, no. 3 (13-010-XWE, free), is now available online. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *Free Internet publications*, choose *National accounts*.

At 8:30 a.m. on release day, the complete national balance sheet accounts can be obtained on computer diskette. The diskettes (13-214-DDB, \$321/\$1284) can also be purchased at a lower cost seven business days after the official release date (13-214-XDB, \$65/\$257). To purchase any of these products, contact the client services officer (613-951-3810; [iead-info-dcrrd@statcan.ca](mailto:iead-info-dcrrd@statcan.ca)), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the information officer (613-951-3640), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

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**National balance sheet accounts<sup>1</sup>**

|  | Second<br>quarter<br>2006 | Third<br>quarter<br>2006 | Fourth<br>quarter<br>2006 | First<br>quarter<br>2007 | Second<br>quarter<br>2007 | Third<br>quarter<br>2007 | 2005    | 2006    |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------|---------|
| Market value, not seasonally adjusted, \$ billions |                           |                          |                           |                          |                           |                          |         |         |
| <b>National net worth</b>                          |                           |                          |                           |                          |                           |                          |         |         |
| National wealth                                    | 4,978                     | 5,079                    | 5,157                     | 5,287                    | 5,416                     | 5,520                    | 4,794   | 5,157   |
|  | 2.4                       | 2.0                      | 1.5                       | 2.5                      | 2.4                       | 1.9                      | 6.9     | 7.6     |
| Net foreign debt                                   | -126                      | -92                      | -38                       | -28                      | -67                       | -108                     | -152    | -38     |
|  | ...                       | ...                      | ...                       | ...                      | ...                       | ...                      | ...     | ...     |
| National net worth                                 | 4,852                     | 4,987                    | 5,119                     | 5,259                    | 5,349                     | 5,412                    | 4,642   | 5,119   |
|  | 2.3                       | 2.8                      | 2.6                       | 2.7                      | 1.7                       | 1.2                      | 7.5     | 10.3    |
| National net worth per capita (dollars)            | 148,700                   | 152,400                  | 156,200                   | 160,000                  | 162,300                   | 163,700                  | 143,000 | 156,200 |
|  | 1.9                       | 2.5                      | 2.5                       | 2.4                      | 1.4                       | 0.9                      | 6.4     | 9.2     |

... not applicable

1. The first line is the series itself expressed in billions of dollars. The second line is the period-to-period percentage change.



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## Study: Canada's trade with China 1997 to 2006

Canada's total merchandise trade with China has soared in the last decade, reaching \$42.1 billion in 2006 and accounting for 5.0% of Canada's world trade. In 1997, China was Canada's fourth largest trading partner, with total merchandise trade of \$8.7 billion. By 2003, the country had emerged as Canada's second largest trading partner, surpassing the U.K. and Japan. Imports from China were five times higher in 2006 than in 1997, while exports to the country had tripled.

A significant part of trade between Canada and China can be related to the globalization of production. In 1997, 34.3% of Canada's exports to and 37.6% of imports from China involved two-way trade within the same commodity groups. By 2006, with exports four times their 1997 level and imports more than eight times their 1997 level, the two-way trade accounted for over 45% of exports and over 57% of imports. Leading commodities in the two-way trade include: organic and inorganic chemicals; plastic and rubber materials; iron and steel and articles made of iron and steel; industrial and agricultural machinery and equipment; electronics; automotive equipment and parts; optical, photo, medical and surgical instruments; wood products, paper and paperboard; and fish products.

The commodity mix of exports to China has changed little in the last decade. Indeed, of the 30 leading commodities exported in 1997, 25 remained in the list of 30 leading commodities exported to China in 2006.

In 1997, China accounted for 1.8% of Canada's total imports of machinery and equipment (in classes 84 and 85 of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System) from the world. Imports of machinery and equipment from China accelerated over the last decade and, by 2006, the country's share in Canada's total imports in that category grew to 13.6%. Imports from China in machinery and equipment also became more intensive between 1997 and 2006. The share of this commodity group in Canada's total imports from China advanced from 23.6% in 1997 to 40.5% in 2006.

The article, "Canada's trade with China: 1997 to 2006," is in the publication *Canadian Trade Highlights* (65-508-XWE2007001, free), now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information on products and services, contact Sharon Nevins (toll-free 1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9798). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jafar Khondaker (613-951-9786), International Trade Division. ■



## New products

**Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review**,  
Third quarter 2007, Vol. 6, no. 3  
**Catalogue number 13-010-XWE**  
(free).

**National Balance Sheet Accounts, Quarterly Estimates**, July to September 2007, Vol. 5, no. 3  
**Catalogue number 13-214-DDB** (\$321/\$1284).

**National Balance Sheet Accounts, Quarterly Estimates**, July to September 2007, Vol. 5, no. 3  
**Catalogue number 13-214-XDB** (\$65/\$257).

**National Balance Sheet Accounts, Quarterly Estimates**, July to September 2007, Vol. 5, no. 3  
**Catalogue number 13-214-XWE**  
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**Income and Expenditure Accounts Technical Series: "Canadian Tourism Satellite Account Handbook"**, no. 52  
**Catalogue number 13-604-MIE2007052**  
(free).

**Income and Expenditure Accounts Technical Series: "Canadian Tourism Satellite Account Handbook"**, no. 52  
**Catalogue number 13-604-MPB2007052**  
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**Canadian Trade Highlights: "Canada's Trade with China: 1997 to 2006"**, no. 1  
**Catalogue number 65-508-XWE2007001**  
(free).

**Canada's International Investment Position**, Third quarter 2007, Vol. 5, no. 3  
**Catalogue number 67-202-XWE**  
(free).

**Population and Family Estimation Methods at Statistics Canada, 2007**  
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Document 1 - 2006: 07-0001-11-001-XIE-0001-0001-0001



Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997  
For release at 9:30 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 six rides 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 and industry work force in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- Map-based Index, May 1997 3
- Short-term Expectations Survey 9
- Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 12
- Egg producer, Apr 8, 1997 12

**PUBLICATIONS RELEASED** 11



### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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**Release dates: December 17 to 21, 2007**

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(Release dates are subject to change.)

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| <b>Release date</b> | <b>Title</b>  | <b>Reference period</b> |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 17                  | <b>Canada's international transactions in securities</b>                | October 2007            |
| 17                  | <b>New motor vehicle sales</b>  | October 2007            |
| 18                  | <b>Consumer Price Index</b>   | November 2007           |
| 18                  | <b>Long-term Productivity Growth in U.S. and Canadian Manufacturing</b> |                         |
| 18                  | <b>Employment Insurance</b>   | October 2007            |
| 18                  | <b>Leading Indicators</b>   | November 2007           |
| 19                  | <b>Wholesale trade</b>  | October 2007            |
| 19                  | <b>Quarterly Demographic Estimates</b>                                  | As of October 1, 2007   |
| 19                  | <b>Travel between Canada and other countries</b>                        | October 2007            |
| 20                  | <b>Energy supply and demand</b>   | 2006                    |
| 21                  | <b>Retail trade</b>   | October 2007            |
| 21                  | <b>Gross domestic product by industry</b>                               | October 2007            |
| 21                  | <b>Payroll employment, earnings and hours</b>                           | October 2007            |

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