



The Daily

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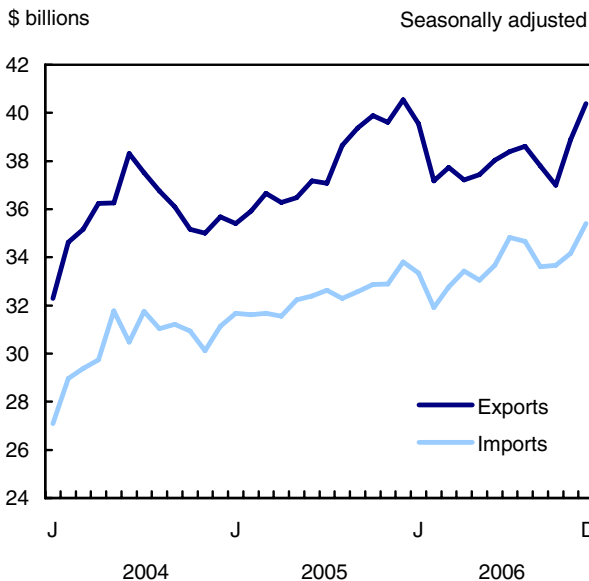
Canadian international merchandise trade

December 2006

Canada's merchandise exports to the world hit a record annual high in 2006, despite the first decline in exports to the United States in three years.

In total, Canadian companies exported nearly \$458.2 billion worth of merchandise abroad last year, a 1.1% gain from 2005. However, imports rose nearly four times as fast (+4.2%) to \$404.5 billion, which was also a record high.

Exports and imports



As a result, Canada's annual merchandise trade balance with the world fell by more than \$11.2 billion to \$53.6 billion, its lowest level since 1999.

On a monthly basis, both exports and imports ended the year on a strong note. Imports surged 3.6%

Note to readers

Merchandise trade is one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services.

International trade data for the United States, Japan and the United Kingdom are available on both a balance of payments basis as well as a customs basis. Trade data for all other individual countries are available on a customs basis only.

There will be a section in The Daily at the end of each quarter describing trends in trade between Canada and emerging economies, such as China. This section will discuss data which are on a customs basis and are not seasonally adjusted.

The International Trade Division is currently updating the base year for import and export price indices. This update will see the base year change from 1997 to 2002, and is being undertaken in collaboration with the System of National Accounts. Base year 2002 CANSIM tables will replace the current CANSIM tables 228-0035 to 228-0040 and 228-0044 to 228-0046 in mid-2007.

Revisions

In general, merchandise trade data are revised on an ongoing basis for each month of the current year. Customs basis data are revised for the previous data year each quarter.

Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs forms, replacement of estimates with actual figures, changes in classification of merchandise based on more current information, and changes to seasonal adjustment factors.

Revised data are available in the appropriate CANSIM tables.

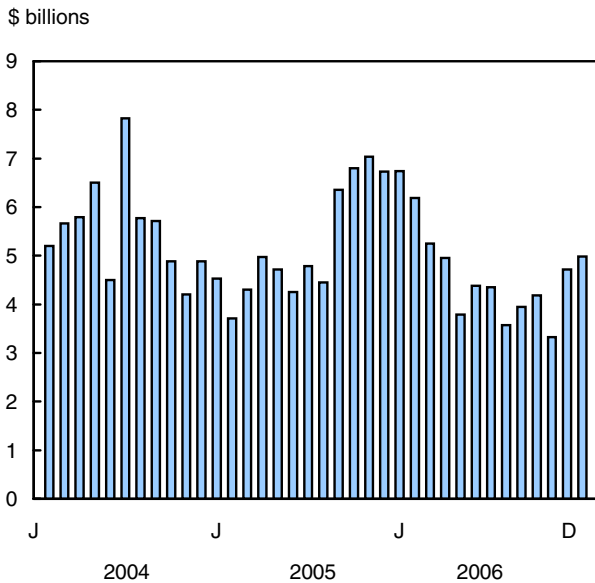
in December to a new monthly peak of \$35.4 billion, the third monthly gain in a row. Exports rose 3.8% to \$40.4 billion. This level was just shy of the monthly high recorded a year ago December, when energy prices peaked after hurricanes devastated the US Gulf Coast.

As a result of the larger gain in exports, Canada's trade surplus with the world increased to \$5.0 billion in December, its highest level since February.

Automobiles and energy led December's gains in both exports and imports, although all sectors registered increases. Shipments of new car and truck models to

the rest of the North American auto market pushed up exports. Strong auto sales in Canada up to the very end of 2006 meant strong auto imports for December.

Trade balance



A glance at 2006

Overall, export receipts were up for agricultural products, machinery and equipment and industrial goods last year. This was due primarily to exporters receiving higher metals prices and finding new markets for wheat, canola and aerospace products. Imports rose in all major sectors in 2006.

Energy exports last year were stable at 2005's high levels, but the picture was mixed. Crude petroleum exporters had a stellar year, but that was offset by a year of falling prices for natural gas exporters.

In constant dollar terms, which means that the price effect is removed in order to isolate the change in volumes, exports last year were up 1.6% while imports increased 6.7%, indicating that price declines were weighing down both export and import values.

Import prices were pulled down by falling prices for electronics and consumer goods, while export prices registered a decline as a result of energy and forestry prices offsetting the gains in metals.

Canada's exports to the United States fell 2.0% last year, largely because of weakness in the automobile and forestry industries. Exports in the auto industry, primarily to the United States, slumped 6.0% from 2005, while forestry exports were down 8.6%. Imports from the United States were up 1.9%.

The United States, still Canada's largest export market, accounted for 79% of exports in 2006, down from 81% the year before. Canada's trade surplus with the United States amounted to \$96.5 billion, the lowest value since 2003.

Exports to countries other than the United States amounted to \$96.9 billion, up 15% last year over the previous high in 2005. Imports from these countries rose a strong 8.8%, but were outpaced by exports. This resulted in a trade deficit that shrank slightly to \$43 billion.

Emerging economies in 2006

Customs-based trade with the emerging economies of China, Brazil, India, and Russia advanced in 2006. Exports to the group equalled \$11.5 billion, 17% higher than 2005, while imports registered gains of 14%, hitting \$41.1 billion for the year.

Increased demand for Canadian wood pulp, metals and aerospace products accounted for the gain in exports to these destinations. The gain for imported products was widespread, with increased Canadian orders of consumer goods such as house furnishings, electronics, and clothing from China, and sugar and aerospace products from Brazil, and coffee and teas and jewellery from India all contributing.

China remained Canada's second largest source of imports and fourth-largest destination for exports in 2006. Exports grew by 7.8% to \$7.7 billion while import values increased by 17% to \$34.4 billion.

Exports to India increased 54% to \$1.7 billion while exports to Brazil increased 21% to \$1.3 billion. Imports from Brazil were up 8.4% to \$3.4 billion while the value of imported products from India rose 7.4% over 2005 to \$1.9 billion.

While imports from Russia fell back 20% to \$1.4 billion, Canadian merchandise destined for Russia increased by over 50%, hitting \$870 million in 2006.

December exports: Vehicle exports lead increase

Exports of automotive products posted a strong 8.4% gain in December, the third consecutive increase for the sector, as Canadian auto manufacturers put a push on distributing new models to the US market.

Exports of industrial goods hit a record high of \$8.8 billion as a result of a 2.0% increase for the month, the sector's eighth consecutive rise. Metals and alloys accounted for most of the gain, rising 4.2% to \$3.2 billion, with both prices and volumes contributing.

Energy export values were up 5.8% in December to \$7.3 billion, mainly on the strength of natural gas.

Natural gas exports posted a 12.8% increase in December as both prices and volumes increased for the month.

Exports of agricultural products increased 4.1% to \$2.8 billion for December. The gain was accounted for by increases in export values of fish, alcoholic beverages and wheat.

Forestry exports increased 3.8% in December to \$2.7 billion, to return to levels last seen in August. This is in contrast to the downward trend that has dominated 2006.

Machinery and equipment remained stable at \$8.3 billion for December. This follows three consecutive increases.

Imports: Widespread gains push December to record high

Gains were widespread amongst all sectors for imports, although autos, energy and other consumer goods made notable advances for the month.

Automotive imports increased for the third consecutive month, climbing 6.5% in December to \$7.1 billion. This level, just short of the record high \$7.3 billion attained in July, was pushed up by increased demand for cars manufactured in the United States and Japan.

Energy imports were up for a second month in December, with an increase of 7.9% to \$2.9 billion. Following the \$3.4 billion record-high reached in August 2006, imports for crude petroleum and other energy products have returned to levels more in line with recent historical trends as prices have softened.

Machinery and equipment grew 1.8% in December to just over \$10.0 billion — a level unseen since the record high of \$10.7 billion registered during the information technology boom in November 2000. In December, although computer and telecommunications equipment did record a gain, imports were boosted primarily as a result of increased demand for other equipment and tools, as well as drilling and mining machinery.

Industrial goods and materials increased 1.6% in December to \$7.1 billion, just shy of the record attained in October 2006. Imports of metals and metal ores increased in December as quantities and prices both advanced.

Imports of other consumer goods increased in December, up 3.4% to \$4.6 billion, with the largest gains recorded for pharmaceutical products, apparel and footwear, as well as home furnishings. This was the fifth consecutive gain for the sector and a new record high.

December was a record high for imports of agricultural and fishing products, increasing 2.9% over November to \$2.1 billion. Higher-than-usual imports of alcoholic beverages and dried fruits, as holidays took full effect, fuelled the gain.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001 to 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The December 2006 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 60, no. 12 (65-001-XIB, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. The publication includes tables by commodity and country on a customs basis. Current account data (which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, service transactions, investment income and transfers) are available quarterly in *Canada's Balance of International Payments* (67-001-XIE, free).

The publication is available free in PDF format on the morning of release.

For more information on products and services, contact Anne Couillard (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-6867). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Diana Wyman (613-951-3116), International Trade Division.

□

Merchandise trade

	November 2006 ^r	December 2006	November to December 2006	December 2005 to December 2006	January to December 2005	January to December 2006	January–December 2005 to January–December 2006
Seasonally adjusted, \$ current							
	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		% change
Principal trading partners							
Exports							
United States	30,044	31,013	3.2	-6.4	368,577	361,310	-2.0
Japan	901	945	4.9	-8.9	10,471	10,760	2.8
European Union ¹	3,141	2,994	-4.7	19.6	28,890	33,556	16.2
Other OECD countries ²	1,883	1,944	3.2	53.3	15,245	18,379	20.6
All other countries	2,917	3,481	19.3	32.7	29,876	34,161	14.3
Total	38,887	40,377	3.8	-0.4	453,063	458,166	1.1
Imports							
United States	22,565	23,090	2.3	2.8	259,784	264,784	1.9
Japan	854	1,000	17.1	4.7	11,212	11,878	5.9
European Union ¹	3,676	3,489	-5.1	8.3	38,349	42,174	10.0
Other OECD countries ²	1,974	2,060	4.4	-10.0	24,309	23,725	-2.4
All other countries	5,101	5,760	12.9	17.7	54,556	61,982	13.6
Total	34,168	35,396	3.6	4.7	388,210	404,534	4.2
Balance							
United States	7,479	7,923	...	...	108,793	96,526	...
Japan	47	-55	...	...	-741	-1,118	...
European Union ¹	-535	-495	...	...	-9,459	-8,618	...
Other OECD countries ²	-91	-116	...	...	-9,064	-5,346	...
All other countries	-2,184	-2,279	...	...	-24,680	-27,821	...
Total	4,719	4,981	...	...	64,853	53,632	...
Principal commodity groupings							
Exports							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,695	2,805	4.1	5.6	30,217	31,525	4.3
Energy products	6,885	7,284	5.8	-16.8	86,924	86,540	-0.4
Forestry products	2,623	2,722	3.8	-12.6	36,607	33,475	-8.6
Industrial goods and materials	8,579	8,754	2.0	19.8	84,641	94,706	11.9
Machinery and equipment	8,259	8,273	0.2	2.6	94,642	95,861	1.3
Automotive products	6,958	7,539	8.4	-4.7	88,163	82,894	-6.0
Other consumer goods	1,635	1,786	9.2	23.0	17,320	18,183	5.0
Special transactions trade ³	795	735	-7.5	-0.5	8,290	8,733	5.3
Other balance of payments adjustments	456	478	4.8	-14.5	6,257	6,246	-0.2
Imports							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,993	2,051	2.9	7.7	22,054	23,448	6.3
Energy products	2,731	2,947	7.9	-3.4	33,659	34,834	3.5
Forestry products	260	270	3.8	6.3	3,137	3,082	-1.8
Industrial goods and materials	7,026	7,138	1.6	0.9	78,556	83,979	6.9
Machinery and equipment	9,896	10,073	1.8	4.5	110,883	114,696	3.4
Automotive products	6,689	7,126	6.5	7.8	78,363	79,785	1.8
Other consumer goods	4,464	4,617	3.4	9.4	49,461	52,019	5.2
Special transactions trade ³	431	463	7.4	14.6	4,559	4,631	1.6
Other balance of payments adjustments	677	711	5.0	7.9	7,537	8,061	7.0

^r revised

... figures not appropriate or not applicable

1. Includes Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom.

2. Includes Australia, Canada, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Switzerland and Turkey.

3. These are mainly low valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.

Study: Time with the family

2005

Spending more time at work and less time with the family? You're not alone, according to a new study that examines the time Canadian workers spend with family members during a typical workday.

The study, published today in *Canadian Social Trends*, found that on average workers spent 45 minutes less with their family during workdays in 2005 than they did two decades earlier.

Based on a 260-day work year, that amounts to 195 hours less, or the equivalent of about five 40-hour work weeks.

The study was based on data from four cycles of the General Social Surveys on Time Use (1986, 1992, 1998 and 2005). Using a time journal, participants aged 15 and over provided detailed information on the amount of time they spent on various activities on a given day. For each activity, they indicated if they had been alone, or in the company of family members or other people.

For the purposes of this study, respondents had to have worked at least three hours on the "diary day", not including commuting time, and had to have lived with a spouse or at least one child.

The study showed that time spent with family members declined between 1986 and 2005 for most groups of workers. For example, in 1986 women spent an average of 248 minutes with their family members, while in 2005 they spent 209 minutes, a difference of 39 minutes during a typical working day.

For men, the average time fell by 45 minutes, from 250 minutes in 1986 to 205 in 2005.

The study said the main factor associated with the decline was an appreciable increase in time devoted to paid employment on a typical working day.

More time at work, less time with the family

Not surprisingly, the more time people spent at work, the less they spent with their family, according to the study. For example, workers who devoted between 9 and 10 hours a day to paid employment spent 52 minutes less with their families than those who devoted 7 to 8 hours.

Between 1986 and 2005, the average time devoted to paid employment during the typical workday, including lunch and coffee breaks, increased considerably. On average, Canadians worked 536 minutes, or 8.9 hours, during a typical workday in 2005, up from 506, or 8.4 hours, two decades earlier.

The proportion of workers who devoted long hours to their paid activities also increased. For example, in 1986, about 17% of workers devoted 10 hours or more to their work; by 2005, this had jumped to 25%.

This increase in the average length of the workday had major implications for the overall trends in average time spent with family.

The analysis showed that the increased time workers devoted to paid employment accounted for about 39% of the decline in time spent with family between 1986 and 2005.

This proportion was higher than for all other factors considered in the study. (These results provide no information about time spent with family during workers' leave days.)

Television watching and meal habits both factors in the decline in family time

The study pinpointed several other factors that had an impact on the decline in time spent with family members, the main ones being the fact that workers tend increasingly to watch television alone, eat alone, and spend less time on meals.

Both in 1986 and 2005, the more time workers spent watching television on a given day, the more time they spent with family (likely because they were in the company of family members).

However, workers' television viewing habits have changed considerably in the past two decades.

First, the average time they spent watching television declined from 95 minutes in 1986 to 79 minutes in 2005.

Secondly, when workers do watch television, they are more likely to watch it alone than in the past.

According to the study, almost one-quarter (24%) of the decline in the time spent with family can be explained by the fact that workers were more likely to have watched television alone during the day rather than with other family members.

The study also found that workers tend increasingly to eat alone when not at work. In 2005, 42% of workers had taken at least one meal alone, compared to 28% in 1986. This was the third most important factor accounting for the decline in average time spent with family between 1986 and 2005.

Other factors which accounted for the decline in time with family include more time occupied with personal care (including sleep), a decrease in the time devoted to having meals at home, and less time spent on social activities outside the home.

Family structure: Young female workers with children spend more time with family

The study identified other elements correlated with the time workers spend with their family.

Holding all other factors constant, the estimated time spent with family by workers with a child less than age five is significantly greater than that of workers living with a spouse but no children.

Lone parent workers with a young child spent the most time with family, about one hour more than workers living with a spouse only.

In contrast, lone parent workers with older children spent the least time with family. There is little surprise in this, since they have no spouse with whom to share their activities outside of work and their children probably have their own activities that they want to pursue alone or with friends.

Women's time with family is more affected than men's by the presence of young children in their household.

In fact, when young children are present, women spend significantly more time with family than do men (about three-quarters of an hour more).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4503.

The study "Time spent with family on a typical workday, 1986 to 2005" is now available in the February 2007 issue of *Canadian Social Trends*, Vol. 83 (11-008-XWE, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-5979; sasd-dssea@statcan.ca), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division. ■

Study: Factors driving rural Canada's economy

Technology, prices and demography are key forces driving the economy in the nation's rural areas, according to a new study.

While not unique to rural Canada, these forces provide opportunities for rural areas relative to their urban counterparts, the study found.

The key factor is labour-saving technology, or the increasing value of human time. For example, in agriculture, the price of labour is rising relative to the price of machinery.

This means there is an on-going incentive to adopt labour-saving technology to substitute machines for labour. Consequently, regardless of the price of outputs, such as wheat, lumber or nickel, communities dependent on primary sectors will have fewer and fewer people working in primary industries.

In order to maintain their employment base, successful rural communities will be those that find new goods or services to sell on the market, the study suggests.

The study noted three long-term trends in terms of price — the cost of both transporting goods and transporting information is falling, while the cost of transporting people is rising.

Rural Canada has been gaining an increasing share of Canada's manufacturing employment over the past three decades. The study suggests that the declining price of transporting goods is helping rural Canada to be even more competitive in manufacturing.

This is occurring not only in jobs related to resource commodities, but in newer jobs that are part of the network of just-in-time delivery.

Successful rural communities of the future may be expected to have a manufacturing base, exceptions being those communities with a natural amenity attraction for tourism.

However, the falling price of transferring information can be a double-edged sword for rural areas. On the one hand, rural entrepreneurs can take advantage of new information technologies to sell their goods or services. On the other hand, rural consumers can choose to purchase from outside their local area.

In terms of demography, the study suggests a number of trends.

First, Aboriginal people will remain a driving force for parts of rural Canada. For example, in Saskatchewan, projections show that by 2017 Aboriginal people will account for 21% of the total population, compared with only 14% in 2001. Also, by 2017, Aboriginal children

will represent 37% of all children in the province, up from 26%.

The study also noted that rural areas are competitive in attracting key demographic groups, such as young families and early retirees, as well as international immigrants.

The vast majority of new immigrants to Canada choose to live in large metropolitan centres. But 2001 Census data show that a small number of rural regions were competitive in attracting immigrants.

In fact, 9 of the top 30 regions attracting new immigrants in 2001 were predominantly rural regions. As natural population growth continues to decline across all Canadian regions, the ability of rural regions to attract immigrants will drive future growth.

The study "Factors driving rural Canada's economy" is now available as part of the *Agriculture and Rural Working Paper Series* (21-601-MIE2007083, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ray D. Bollman (613-951-3747; ray.bollman@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Travel arrangement services 2005

Travel arrangement services had a relatively strong year in 2005, earning \$8.9 billion in operating revenues, as the industry regained much of the momentum it lost after facing difficulties such as the threat of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and the war in Iraq earlier in the decade.

The travel arrangement services industry, which is composed primarily of two industries (tour operating and travel agency industries), saw 10.5% growth in operating revenues over 2004, which were offset by an 11.1% increase in operating expenses. The overall outcome was a moderate weakening in the industry's operating profits with businesses posting a 2.0% before-tax operating profit margin, compared with 2.6% in 2004.

The International Travel Survey indicated that Canadians spent nearly \$19.0 billion on overnight trips abroad in 2005; an 8.5% increase over the previous year. Canadians made nearly 21.1 million overnight trips abroad, making it the highest year on record since 1992 and the third highest ever for travel outside the country. About 9 out of every 10 dollars earned by travel arrangers came from sales to clients travelling outside the country.

The tour operator industry continued to be the largest of the travel arrangement services

industries and accounted for about four-fifths of total operating revenues in 2005. Canadian tour operators earned \$7.0 billion in operating revenues in 2005; an increase of 11.6% over the previous year. At the same time, operating expenses for tour operators have increased by 12.2% to \$6.9 billion, keeping profit margins for this industry relatively thin (1.1%).

The largest revenue source of the tour operating industry came from sales of tour packages, either directly to clients or to travel retailers (61%). Transportation fares ranked as the second most important revenue source (28%).

In terms of revenue growth, the travel agency industry experienced a record year in 2005 with a 6.1% year-over-year increase, as travel agencies generated \$1.6 billion in operating revenues. However, before-tax operating profit margins decreased slightly to 5.2%; down from 5.8% in 2004, as operating expenses grew by 6.7%.

Travel agencies drew 61% of their revenue from selling travel services and products to individuals or households for leisure purposes. Sales to business or government travellers accounted for 35% of revenue. In comparison, 83% of revenue for tour operators came from sales to leisure travellers.

In 2005, travel agencies continued to rely heavily on commissions charged from suppliers. Over a third (35%) of total revenue for this industry came from selling and reserving transportation fares. Commissions obtained for selling tour packages (27%) followed in relative importance.

Available on CANSIM: table 351-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2423.

Data for the 2005 travel arrangement services industry are now available. These data provide information such as revenue, salaries and wages, profit margin and expenditures for North American Industry Classification System codes 561510, 561520 and 561590.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Janine Stafford (613-951-3288; fax: 613-951-6696; janine.stafford@statcan.ca), Service Industries Division. ■

Export and import price indexes

December 2006

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1997=100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to December 2006 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted US price indexes (1997=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to December 2006. Included with the US commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and US-only Standard International Trade Classification section indexes.

Indexes for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups are also available now on a customs basis.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001 to 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The December 2006 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 60, no. 12 (65-001-XIB, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marketing and Client Services Section (toll-free 1-800-294-5583), International Trade Division. ■

Cement

December 2006

Data on cement are now available for December.

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0060 and 303-0061.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2140.

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

Chain Fisher dollar export and import values
1997

The International Trade Division has now produced and will be updating and disseminating chain Fisher real dollar values (reference year 1997) for Canadian international merchandise exports and imports.

This series is not available in CANSIM.

Interested users who wish to order are advised to contact the Marketing and Client Services Section (toll-free 1-800-294-5583). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bernard Lupien (613-951-6872), International Trade Division. ■

New products

Canadian Social Trends, February 2007, no. 83
Catalogue number 11-008-XWE
 (free).

Agriculture and Rural Working Paper Series: "Factors driving Canada's rural economy", 1914 to 2006, no. 83
Catalogue number 21-601-MIE2007083
 (free).

Canadian International Merchandise Trade,
 December 2006, Vol. 60, no. 12
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The Daily
 Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
 For release at 9:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
- **Steel primary forms, season ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, April 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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