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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

Releases

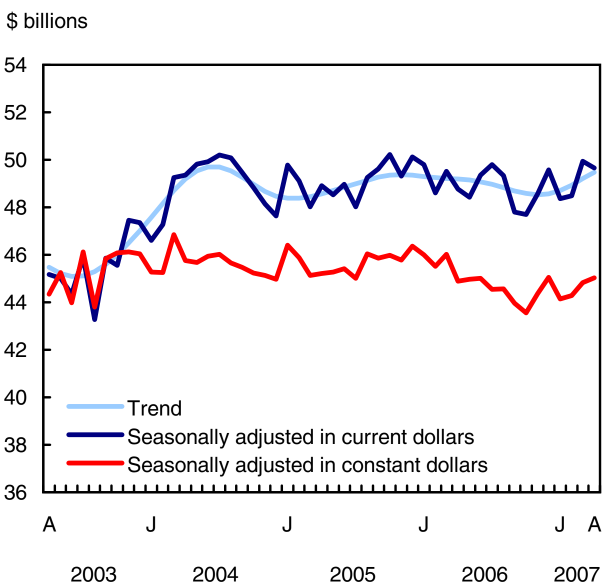
Monthly Survey of Manufacturing
April 2007

Following a strong gain in March (+3.0%), manufacturing shipments edged down in April. Shipments decreased by 0.6% to an estimated $49.7 billion.

Excluding the motor vehicle parts and accessory industries, manufacturing shipments increased 1.0% in April.

At 1997 prices, shipments rose 0.5% to $45.0 billion. The constant dollar measurement takes price fluctuations into account. This was the fifth volume advance in six months.

Factory shipments pull back slightly in April



Shipments declined in 12 of 21 manufacturing industries, which represent about 51% of total output.

Shipments of non-durable goods increased for the third consecutive month in April, rising 0.7% to $22.5 billion. Durable goods dropped 1.7%, as shipments by automotive and aerospace products manufacturers slipped after a robust March. The decrease in durable good shipments was only the second negative result in the last seven months.

Shipments in the transportation equipment sector plunged 7.6% in April, offsetting most of the 8.6% advance posted in March. Excluding the transportation sector, shipments were positive for the most part, led by primary metals and petroleum and coal products.

New orders showed strength, increasing 0.8% in April after slipping 0.4% in the previous month. Meanwhile, unfilled factory orders, an indicator of probable future shipments, remained robust with a 1.9% gain.

Note to readers

Preliminary estimates are provided for the current reference month. Estimates, based on late responses, are revised for the three prior months.

Non-durable goods industries *include food, beverage and tobacco products, textile mills, textile product mills, clothing, leather and allied products, paper, printing and related support activities, petroleum and coal products, chemicals, and plastics and rubber products.*

Durable goods industries *include wood products, non-metallic mineral products, primary metals, fabricated metal products, machinery, computer and electronic products, electrical equipment, appliances and components, transportation equipment, furniture and related products and miscellaneous manufacturing.*

Unfilled orders *are a stock of orders that will contribute to future shipments assuming that the orders are not cancelled.*

New orders *are those received whether shipped in the current month or not. They are measured as the sum of shipments for the current month plus the change in unfilled orders. Some people interpret new orders as orders that will lead to future demand. This is inappropriate since the "new orders" variable includes orders that have already been shipped. Readers should note that the month-to-month change in new orders may be volatile. This will happen particularly if the previous month's change in unfilled orders is closely related to the current month's change.*

Not all orders will be translated into Canadian factory shipments because portions of large contracts can be subcontracted out to manufacturers in other countries. Also, some orders may be cancelled.

Transportation equipment shipments fall back after surge in March

Transportation equipment shipments reversed direction in April, giving up the sizeable gains realized in March. Shipments of motor vehicles tumbled 11.1% to $5.0 billion after a jump of 8.7% to $5.7 billion the previous month. Shipments had surged in March following a rail strike that had affected motor vehicle manufacturers in February. In addition, after a strong March due to quarter-end production, the aerospace products and parts industry decreased 6.4% in April.

On a positive note, continued demand in Asia for primary metal products pushed both shipments and prices higher in April. Shipments of primary metal products rose 5.9% in April to $4.8 billion, the highest level on record. This was the third consecutive monthly increase, after a period of relative stability in the latter half of 2006. Prices for primary metals accounted for some of the increased value of shipments in April, rising 1.1% from March.

Shipments by petroleum and coal product manufacturers remained very strong, advancing 4.5% from March to a level not seen since August 2006. Most of the gain can be attributed to a 3.6% price increase on rising demand and ongoing concerns in the Middle East.

Provincial results split in April

The provinces were evenly split in April as substantial declines in Ontario and Manitoba were partly offset by higher shipments in Quebec and British Columbia.

Following March's 4.0% surge, Ontario's manufacturers posted a 2.0% decline (-$490 million) to $23.9 billion in April. Shipments had been stronger than normal in March, due to the end of a recent rail strike that had impeded some industries in February. As a result, Ontario's motor vehicle and parts manufacturers were among the top contributors to April's decline.

Manitoba's manufacturing sector also gave back most of March's considerable gains (+11.8%), as shipments tumbled 10.4% (-$147.9 million) to $1.3 billion. Shipments had spiked in March on the strength of several industries, all of which have since returned to more normal levels. Primary metals and transportation equipment were the main contributors to the decline.

Offsetting Ontario and Manitoba, shipments in Quebec advanced 1.5% (+$184 million) to $12.2 billion, the third successive increase. Healthy demand and rising prices boosted the primary metals and petroleum products industries.

Resource-based industries were also the primary contributors in both British Columbia (+2.2%) and Saskatchewan (+7.8%).

Manufacturing shipments, provinces and territories

	March 2007[r]	April 2007[p]	March to April 2007
	Seasonally adjusted		
	$ millions		% change
Canada	**49,947**	**49,653**	**-0.6**
Newfoundland and Labrador	249	238	-4.2
Prince Edward Island	126	127	0.6
Nova Scotia	806	783	-2.8
New Brunswick	1,157	1,218	5.2
Quebec	11,992	12,177	1.5
Ontario	24,342	23,852	-2.0
Manitoba	1,422	1,275	-10.4
Saskatchewan	852	918	7.8
Alberta	5,537	5,527	-0.2
British Columbia	3,455	3,530	2.2
Yukon	2	3	42.8
Northwest Territories including Nunavut	5	5	6.9

r *revised*
p *preliminary*

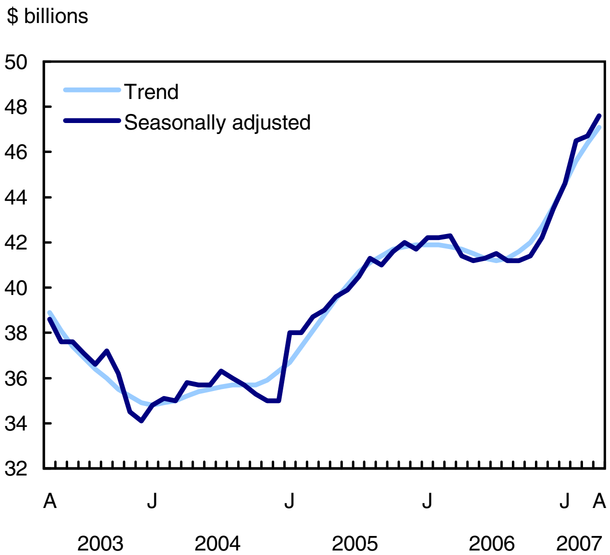
Seven months in a row: Unfilled orders continue upward

As a result of robust growth in April, unfilled orders were up 1.9% to $47.6 billion, their highest level since November 2001. This marked the seventh consecutive monthly increase. Unfilled orders have been slowly improving following a slight cool down in the summer of 2006.

Heightened demand for both military and civilian aircraft and parts was the main contributor to the increase in April and fuelled much of the strong performance in the first quarter of 2007. Orders for aerospace products jumped 2.7% to $20.2 billion. This represented the highest level for the industry since the summer of 2002, up 46% over April 2006.

Other major contributors to the growth in unfilled orders were computers and electronic products (+7.5% to $3.5 billion) and fabricated metal products (+3.9% to $4.8 billion).

Unfilled orders increase for a seventh consecutive month



New orders show modest increase

New orders showed a modest upturn in April, increasing 0.8% to $50.5 billion after a slight dip in March (-0.4%). April marked the second highest level in the past 18 months, the highest being a $51.0 billion peak seen in December 2006.

Computer and electronic products led the pack in April, with a sharp increase of 24.9% to $1.7 billion. This was the strongest performance for the sector since April 2005, and was partly due to new contracts in the navigational, measuring and control instruments industry. Other strong contributors to the increase included fabricated metal products (+7.2%) and primary metals (+7.1%).

Decreases were driven primarily by the automotive related industries, which are typically the largest source of new orders nationally. Both motor vehicles (-8.7%) and automotive parts (-3.9%) pulled back after experiencing a surge in new orders in March (+8.0% and +5.7% respectively).

Inventories: Only the second increase in the past six months

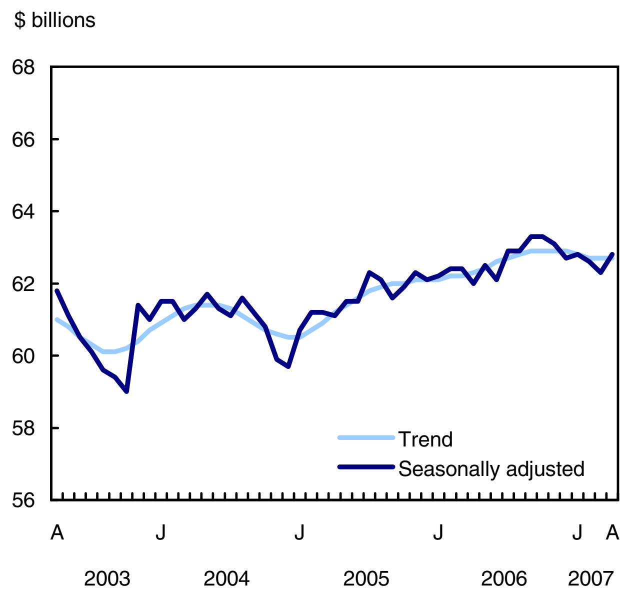
Manufacturer's total inventories increased for the first time in three months, advancing 0.7% to $62.8 billion. Despite the slight increase in April, inventories have been trending down slowly over the past six months after hovering at near record levels for several months in the fall of 2006.

Overall, 15 of 21 industries reported an increase to their inventories in April. Petroleum and coal product inventories increased 4.8% to a record high level of $3.8 billion, despite prices being only 1.0% higher than in April 2006. Before the recent surge, inventories had remained fairly stable throughout 2006 after rising steadily in 2005.

Other notable increases to inventories came from chemical product manufacturers and the aerospace products and parts sector, as both reported a 1.5% rise in inventory levels.

Compared to the United States, Canadian manufacturers' inventory levels have remained relatively stable over the past few years. Inventory levels in Canada were only 2.4% higher than in April 2004. In the United States, however, the manufacturing sector has seen significant growth in inventory levels during the same period, rising 23.7% over the past three years.

Manufacturers' inventory levels up slightly

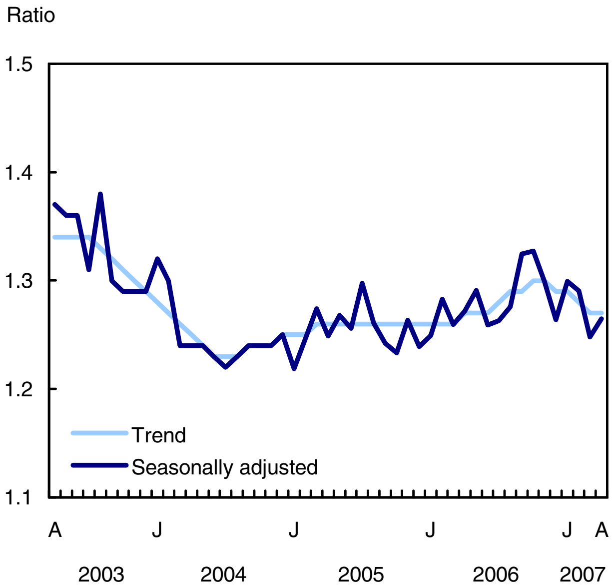


Inventory-to-shipment ratio remains steady

The inventory-to-shipment ratio remained virtually unchanged in April at 1.26. The ratio had reached a recent low of 1.25 in March after peaking at a three-year high of 1.33 in October 2006.

The inventory-to-shipment ratio is a key measure of the time, in months, that would be required to exhaust inventories if shipments were to remain at their current level.

Inventory-to-shipment ratio remains steady



Available on CANSIM: tables 304-0014, 304-0015 and 377-0008.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2101.

All data are benchmarked to the 2004 Annual Survey of Manufactures.

Data from the May Monthly Survey of Manufacturing will be released on July 16.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; fax: 613-951-9499; *manufact@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of the release, contact Elton Cryderman (613-951-4317, *elton.cryderman@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

□

Shipments, inventories and orders in all manufacturing industries

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders		Inventories-to-shipments ratio
	Seasonally adjusted								
	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	
April 2006	48,774	-1.5	62,043	-0.5	41,417	-2.0	47,940	-3.4	1.27
May 2006	48,422	-0.7	62,516	0.8	41,180	-0.6	48,185	0.5	1.29
June 2006	49,356	1.9	62,132	-0.6	41,298	0.3	49,474	2.7	1.26
July 2006	49,805	0.9	62,898	1.2	41,485	0.5	49,992	1.0	1.26
August 2006	49,326	-1.0	62,935	0.1	41,207	-0.7	49,048	-1.9	1.28
September 2006	47,791	-3.1	63,302	0.6	41,202	0.0	47,786	-2.6	1.32
October 2006	47,701	-0.2	63,303	0.0	41,403	0.5	47,903	0.2	1.33
November 2006	48,703	2.1	63,370	-0.3	42,192	1.9	49,288	3.3	1.30
December 2006	49,572	1.8	62,652	-0.7	43,523	3.2	50,976	3.0	1.26
January 2007	48,368	-2.4	62,840	0.3	44,633	2.6	49,478	-2.9	1.30
February 2007	48,480	0.2	62,567	-0.4	46,496	4.2	50,342	1.7	1.29
March 2007	49,947	3.0	62,341	-0.4	46,679	0.4	50,131	-0.4	1.25
April 2007	49,653	-0.6	62,798	0.7	47,565	1.9	50,539	0.8	1.26

Manufacturing industries except motor vehicle, parts and accessories

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders	
	Seasonally adjusted							
	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change
April 2006	41,392	-1.8	59,316	-0.4	38,703	-2.0	40,598	-3.4
May 2006	41,260	-0.3	59,791	0.8	38,448	-0.7	41,004	1.0
June 2006	41,966	1.7	59,464	-0.5	38,722	0.7	42,239	3.0
July 2006	42,448	1.2	59,959	0.8	38,988	0.7	42,715	1.1
August 2006	42,103	-0.8	60,119	0.3	38,965	-0.1	42,080	-1.5
September 2006	40,959	-2.7	60,394	0.5	39,271	0.8	41,265	-1.9
October 2006	40,996	0.1	60,345	-0.1	39,860	1.5	41,585	0.8
November 2006	41,217	0.5	60,483	0.2	40,869	2.5	42,225	1.5
December 2006	41,538	0.8	59,872	-1.0	42,317	3.5	43,063	2.0
January 2007	40,988	-1.3	59,980	0.2	43,329	2.4	42,001	-2.5
February 2007	41,007	0.0	59,757	-0.4	45,279	4.5	42,956	2.3
March 2007	41,924	2.2	59,584	-0.3	45,562	0.6	42,207	-1.7
April 2007	42,348	1.0	60,050	0.8	46,408	1.9	43,194	2.3

■

General Social Survey: Navigating family transitions
2006

A growing proportion of fathers have taken leave from work for the birth or adoption of a child since 2001, although they have been returning to work sooner than mothers, according to a new report.

The report, based on data from the 2006 General Social Survey (GSS), analyzes the supports and services families use during key transitions in their life, such as a having or adopting a child or going through a separation or a divorce.

While the proportion of women who took leave for a child's birth or adoption remained stable between 2001 and 2006, the proportion of men who did so increased. Most fathers returned to work within the month following the child's birth or adoption, well before mothers.

The vast majority (86%) of those parents who took leave from work for a child's birth or adoption reported that they were satisfied with their return to the job.

Nevertheless, women who return to work after maternity leave undergo far more stress than men who take similar time off. In fact, 6 out of every 10 mothers (62%) reported that the transition between leave and work was stressful. One-fifth described it as very stressful. On the other hand, most fathers (65%) rated the transition as not too stressful, or even not stressful at all.

GSS data showed that nearly half of parents cited balancing job and family responsibilities as the main source of stress associated with their return to work.

The report examined how two groups of people made key transitions in their lives. One consisted of people who had had a child, or had adopted one, in the five years prior to the survey. The other consisted of those who had had a separation or divorce.

In both cases, it explored the use of formal social support programs in aiding transitions. In the case of divorce or separation, it looked at the challenge of establishing parental care arrangements for children.

Over one-third of parents who had recently been separated or divorced when the survey was taken did not have agreements in place for child support or for residential custody. Among those who did, many worked out arrangements between themselves without lawyers, judges or other professionals.

The report found that, between 2001 and 2006, just under 2.0 million people went through a separation or divorce. About half left a marriage, while half left a common-law relationship. Moreover, 7 out of 10 faced these events for the first time.

Note to readers

This release is based on the report Navigating Family Transitions: Evidence from the General Social Survey*, available today.*

Between June and October 2006, the General Social Survey interviewed 23,608 people aged 15 or older living in a private household in the provinces.

The survey collected detailed data on various aspects of the family, namely the transitions experienced by respondents: leaving the parental home, marrying or entering into a common-law union, having or adopting children, moving or buying a home, and separating or getting divorced.

The survey also addressed important topics about the family, such as assistance and care provided to relatives as well as work-family balance.

These data reflect that, although common-law relationships are less frequent than marriages, representing only 17% of all couples in 2006, they have a higher rate of break-up. On average, the common-law unions that ended were of shorter duration than the marriages that ended.

Over 3 million had a child, or adopted one, since 2001

According to the report, more than 3.2 million Canadians aged 15 or over, about 12% of the total population, had a child, or adopted one, between 2001 and 2006. A little more than 9 out of 10 of these children were born or adopted into a two-parent family.

Two-thirds of all recent parents in both single and two-parent families received at least one type of formal service or support, such as parenting skills, breastfeeding support services, nutrition information and home care.

The report found that parents increasingly made use of formal services. In 2001, about 59% who had or adopted a child reported receiving some type of formal support. Five years later, this proportion had increased to 71%.

Just under half (48%) requested services related to breastfeeding, while about 44% sought help with questions about nutrition. Four-fifths of first-time parents sought help, compared with only about half of those who already had a child.

The GSS showed that 9 out of 10 Canadians who received such services rated the support as helpful.

Increase in the proportion of fathers taking leave from their job

Among respondents who were paid workers or self-employed before they had a child, or adopted one, between 2001 and 2006, two-thirds (65%) took a paid or unpaid leave from their job.

The vast majority of mothers, nearly 90%, took a leave of absence from work, a proportion that remained stable during the five-year period.

After government increased eligibility for benefits and extended parental leave in 2001 to 35 weeks, the proportion of fathers who took any kind of leave for the birth or adoption of their child, including parental leave, rose from 38% in 2001 to 55% five years later.

The more than one-third (35%) of parents who did not take leave, either paid or unpaid, from their job cited one or more reasons for not doing so. About 4 in 10 reported they could not afford it and 37% cited working conditions that did not allow them to take it.

Among men, factors related to finances, employment and career played a dominant role in the decision not to take leave. In fact, men were twice as likely as women to cite their financial situation as a reason.

More than three-quarters of parents returned to the labour force

Following a more or less prolonged leave of absence to care for a child between 2001 and 2006, more than 77% of parents returned to the labour market, the report found.

Most fathers returned to work in the month following the child's birth or adoption. Nearly half of mothers returned to work between 12 to 47 months following the child's arrival.

However, almost one-quarter (23%) of parents who took leave did not reintegrate into the labour market, the report found.

Among those who decided to stay at home, more than half (54%) said their decision was motivated by a desire to raise their child themselves. Many parents indicated that they stayed at home because of a subsequent pregnancy.

Nearly 24% of parents who did not return to work said it was for financial reasons, stating that child care services were too expensive to be worth the cost. These parents were likely to be working part-time and to have accumulated less seniority in their most recent job worked. About 8% of parents cited professional reasons.

Divorce and separation: Common law couples more likely to break up

Of the 2 million Canadians who ended a union between 2001 and 2006, just over half underwent a separation or divorce and just under half ended a common-law relationship. This was despite the fact that common-law relationships represented 17% of all couples in 2006.

Age is a factor for break-ups. Nearly 60% of persons who ended a common-law relationship did so before the age of 30, compared to only 12% of the divorced and 15% of persons separated from a marriage.

People in common-law relationships that ended between 2001 and 2006 had remained together for an average of 4.3 years. This was 10 years less than the average duration of 14.3 years for marriages that ended.

Majority of common-law partners do not use formal services during separation

The report found that an individual's use of formal services for separation and divorce varied substantially according to the type of union they were ending.

Nearly two-thirds (65%) of those who left a common-law relationship between 2001 and 2006 did not make use of any formal program or service during the breakup. This compares with only 31% of people who recently separated from a marriage, and 18% of those recently divorced.

More specifically, three-quarters (76%) of people who divorced used legal services, including lawyers, alternative dispute resolution such as mediation or conciliation, and family law information centres, compared with just 25% of individuals who left a common-law union.

In terms of social support services, 39% of people who divorced used some form of them, compared with 19% of individuals dissolving a common-law relationship.

People under the age of 30 were less likely to use services regardless of whether they were leaving a marriage or a common-law relationship. Only 3 in 10 used services of some kind compared to 7 in 10 people aged 30 and over. A somewhat greater proportion of women (60%) than men (53%) made use of legal, social or other services.

The report showed mixed results for parents as they tried to make arrangements for their children in the aftermath of a separation or divorce. While a majority had agreements for child support, residential custody, or major decision-making for children, 20% did not.

Among those who did have agreements, over one-third worked them out between themselves, without lawyers, judges or other professionals. Non-users were sometimes unaware of services, but among those who were aware, most (73%) declared that they did not need any. Others were prevented from finding solutions as a result of persistent conflict with their former partners or dealing with an absent or uninvolved parent.

Financial arrangements for children were the most likely to involve legal input, either from a lawyer or court services such as mediation, or from a hearing or a trial with a judge. Even so, 34% of financial support arrangements for children were based on verbal agreements or on written agreements made without legal counsel.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4501.

The report *General Social Survey Cycle 20: Family Transitions Survey : Navigating Family Transitions: Evidence from the General Social Survey* (89-625-XWE2007002, free) is now available. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *Free Internet publications*, choose *Families, households and housing*.

An additional data product is released today. The report *General Social Survey Cycle 20: Family Transitions Survey : Family Structure by Region* (89-625-XWE2007001, free) is also available. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *Free Internet publications*, choose *Families, households and housing*.

For more information about these publications, contact Marcel Béchard (613-951-6115), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division. For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Client Services and Dissemination Section (613-951-5979; fax: 613-951-4378; *sasd-dssea@statcan.ca*), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division. ■

New products

General Social Survey Cycle 20: Family Transitions Survey : Family Structure by Region, 2006, no. 1
Catalogue number 89-625-XWE2007001
(free).

General Social Survey Cycle 20: Family Transitions Survey : Navigating Family Transitions: Evidence from the General Social Survey, 2006, no. 2
Catalogue number 89-625-XWE2007002
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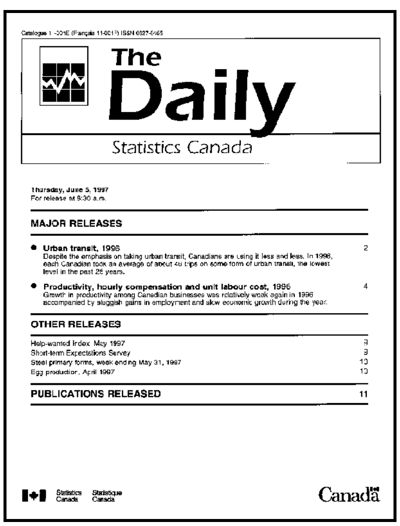
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The Daily

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 48 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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