



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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Consumer prices increased 2.2% on average in May 2007 compared with May 2006, identical to the 12-month change in April. The Bank of Canada's core index also rose 2.2% over the same time period, a marked slowdown from the 2.5% increase posted the previous month.	
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Perspectives on Labour and Income (print edition)

Summer 2007

The Summer 2007 print edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income* contains five articles, all of which have appeared previously in its online edition.

"The busy lives of teens" examines trends in the number of hours teenagers spend daily on education-related activities, paid work and housework.

"Payday loans" looks at who uses this form of credit and why.

"Fuelling the economy" details economic activity and employment in the oil and gas industry, from exploration to retail.

"GDP and employment growth" assesses the variety of factors contributing to the slowdown of output growth relative to employment growth in 2006.

"Literacy and employability" examines the effects of literacy and numeracy skills on the employability and incomes of high school dropouts compared with graduates.

This edition also features updates on work absence rates and gambling. The "What's New?" section highlights recent studies of interest from Statistics Canada and other organizations, while "In the works" previews some upcoming articles.

The Summer 2007 issue of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 19, no. 2 (75-001-XPE, \$20/\$63) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, contact Henry Pold (613-951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

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Releases

Consumer Price Index

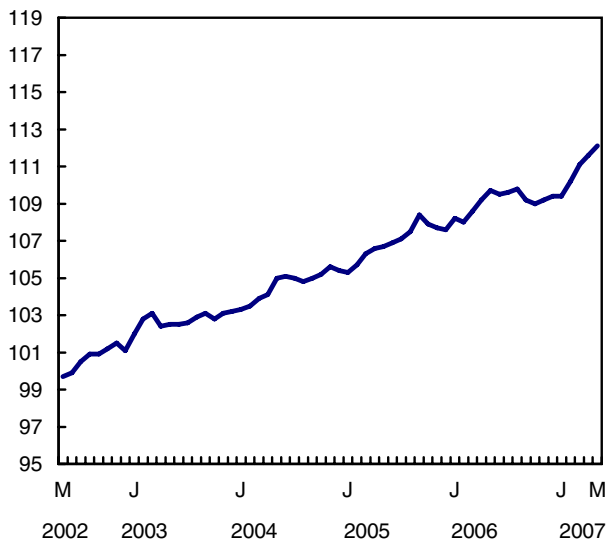
May 2007

Consumer prices increased 2.2% on average in May 2007 compared with May 2006, identical to the 12-month change in April.

Consumer Price Index

Index (not seasonally adjusted)

(2002=100)



The upward pressure came largely from increases in the costs associated with owned accommodation, as well as higher gasoline prices. These were partially offset by a decline in the price of natural gas.

The 12-month change in the all-items Consumer Price Index (CPI) without energy components was 2.1% in May, compared with a 2.3% advance posted in April. This index posted increases above 2.0% for the past four months.

The Bank of Canada's core index followed a similar trend as the one posted by the all-items excluding energy. It rose 2.2% in May 2007 over May 2006, a marked slowdown from the 2.5% increase in April. This

Note to readers

Effective today, Statistics Canada has updated the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to reflect changes in the spending patterns of Canadian households.

The update, which occurs periodically, is designed to ensure the CPI's reliability for three key purposes: a measure of inflation, a statistical series deflator, and a tool for indexing various payments and transfers.

With this updated basket, the 12-month change in the all-items index was 0.1 percentage points higher than its movement would have been based on the 2001 basket. This increase reflects the updating of weights and the introduction of new goods and services into the CPI.

The weights of various items in the basket of goods and services used to calculate the index have been updated from 2001 to 2005. In addition, the CPI base year (the period for which the value 100 is assigned to the index) has changed from 1992 to 2002.

The base period 1992=100 will continue to be available for the all-items index level. The CPI with the base period 1986=100 will be discontinued.

Users should note that the changeover to the base year 2002=100 will in no way alter rates of changes measured for previous periods, barring rounding.

The weights for the various components of the basket of goods and services are being updated on the basis of the most recent Survey of Household Spending (SHS). The update ensures that the CPI reflects any changes in the consumption patterns of Canadians.

The weights between January 2003 and mid-2007 are based on 2001 consumption patterns. The new basket is based on patterns obtained by the 2005 SHS.

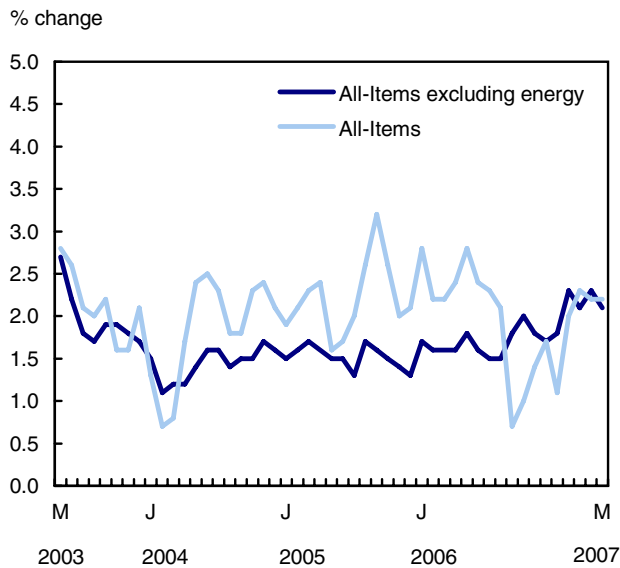
index is used by the Bank of Canada to monitor the inflation control target. The 12-month change in this index has remained above 2.0% since July 2006.

On a monthly basis, the all-items index rose by 0.4% between April and May 2007, smaller than the 0.5% increase posted between March and April. Higher gasoline prices accounted for most of the upswing.

The all-items index without energy components rose by 0.3% in May after posting a 0.2% increase in April.

On a monthly basis, the Bank of Canada core index rose 0.3% between April and May 2007, faster than the 0.1% gain between March and April.

Percentage change from the same month of the previous year



12-month change: Gasoline prices and owned accommodation costs account for gain

The sustained increase in costs associated with owned accommodation, combined with rising gasoline prices, accounted for most of the 2.2 % increase in the national all-items index in May. Higher vehicle insurance premiums and prices for restaurant meals also exerted upward pressure, but to a lesser extent.

Mortgage interest cost rose 5.7% in May compared with the same month in 2006. Mortgage interest cost, which measures the changes brought about by prices in the amount owed by homeowners, has posted a 12-month change higher than 5.0% since early 2007.

Homeowners' replacement cost, which represents the worn-out structural portion of housing and is estimated using new housing prices (excluding land), increased by 6.0%. The contribution of replacement cost to the rise in the all-items index remained substantial in May despite signs that it has tapered off since November 2006.

Consumers spent an average of 3.5% more to eat in May than they did in May 2006. They paid 2.3% more for restaurant meals and 4.0% more at the grocery store for food.

Motorists paid 5.8% more to fill up their vehicles, while vehicle insurance premiums increased by 3.7%.

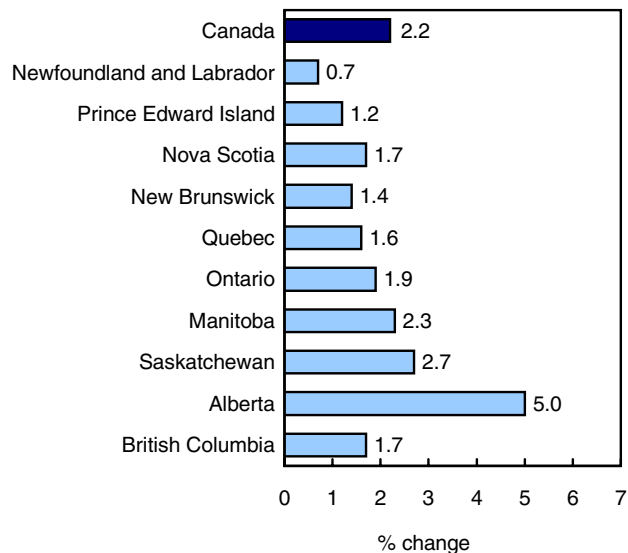
However, declines in prices for computer equipment and video equipment, natural gas and vehicle purchases and leases mitigated the rise in the all-items CPI.

A 20.0% decline in prices for computer equipment and supplies, and an 8.5% decrease in video equipment, continued the downward trend observed in recent months.

Homeowners were able to take advantage of an 8.8% decline in natural gas prices.

Also, consumers paid 0.3% less to purchase or lease new vehicles. They were able to purchase vehicles that were often better equipped for prices below those of 2006.

Percentage change in the all-items index from the same month of the previous year, Canada and provinces



Albertans experience higher price increases than residents of other provinces

Prices paid by consumers were on the rise in all provinces. However, only three provinces posted increases higher than the national average: Alberta (+5.0%), Saskatchewan (+2.7%) and Manitoba (+2.3%).

In all three provinces, the strong year-over-year increase in homeowners' replacement cost exerted most of the upward pressure on consumer prices.

In May, homeowners' replacement cost in Alberta surged 26.3% from May 2006, followed by increases of 20.9% for residents of Saskatchewan and 7.2% for those in Manitoba.

All other provinces posted increases below 2.0% between May 2006 and May 2007, reflecting a relatively slower growth in owned accommodation costs. The slowest increases occurred in Newfoundland and

Labrador (+0.7%) and Prince Edward Island (+1.2%). Price increases were lower than the national average in Ontario (+1.9%), Quebec (+1.6%) and British Columbia (+1.7%).

Month-over-month: Pump prices up for a fourth month in a row

Gasoline prices were behind most of the 0.4% growth in the all-items CPI between April and May 2007.

On average, gasoline prices rose 5.5% in May, their fourth consecutive monthly increase. Prices paid at the pump rose in all provinces, with gains ranging from 2.0% in Prince Edward Island to 10.0% in Saskatchewan.

Between January and May 2007, gasoline prices have risen 26.3% on average across the country. Price increases were strongest in Alberta (+30.9%) and Ontario (+28.7%).

The 9.1% increase in prices for traveller accommodation between April and May 2007 also helped push up the monthly all-items CPI. This price jump stayed within historical averages usually posted in the month of May.

Prices for overnight stays were up across the country, as many hotel operators started to apply summer rates. This seasonal trend is normal since each year this sector of the CPI displays increases in May.

Conversely, average prices for natural gas were down 5.2% between April and May 2007, dampening the month-over-month rise in the national all-items CPI. Much of the overall decline in natural gas prices was due to a decrease in prices granted to Alberta residents.

A drop in clothing prices also moderated the rise in the monthly all-items index. Prices for women's clothing fell 3.5% between April and May 2007, while men's clothing prices were down 1.4%.

New collections introduced at boutiques and department stores in the previous months are now available to consumers at reduced prices. This situation is typical for this period of the year, when stores generally hold spring promotions to stimulate sales and reduce their inventories to make room for the next season's collections.

The 3.5% decline in fresh vegetable prices also dampened the rise in the CPI between April and May.

Available on CANSIM: tables 326-0009, 326-0012, 326-0015 and 326-0020 to 326-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2301.

More information about the concepts and use of the CPI are also available online in *Your Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (62-557-XIB, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

Available at 7 a.m. online under *The Daily* module of our website.

The May 2007 issue of the *Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 86, no. 5 (62-001-XWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. A paper copy is also available (62-001-XPE, \$12/\$111). See *How to order products*. A more detailed analysis of the CPI is available in this publication.

The June Consumer Price Index will be released on July 18.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, call Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax 613-951-1539; prices-prix@statcan.ca), Prices Division.

□

Consumer Price Index and major components
(2002=100)

	Relative importance ¹	May 2007	April 2007	May 2006	April to May 2007	May 2006 to May 2007
Unadjusted						
					% change	
All-items	100.00²	112.1	111.6	109.7	0.4	2.2
Food	17.04	112.5	112.2	108.7	0.3	3.5
Shelter	26.62	116.0	116.2	113.0	-0.2	2.7
Household operations and furnishings	11.10	103.0	103.3	102.4	-0.3	0.6
Clothing and footwear	5.36	96.0	97.7	96.1	-1.7	-0.1
Transportation	19.88	120.7	118.6	117.8	1.8	2.5
Health and personal care	4.73	107.4	106.8	106.1	0.6	1.2
Recreation, education and reading	12.19	102.2	100.9	101.5	1.3	0.7
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	125.2	124.5	121.8	0.6	2.8
Special aggregates						
Goods	48.78	109.6	109.2	108.4	0.4	1.1
Services	51.22	114.5	113.9	111.0	0.5	3.2
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	109.0	108.7	107.0	0.3	1.9
Energy	9.39	142.0	139.1	139.8	2.1	1.6
Core CPI ³	82.71	109.9	109.6	107.5	0.3	2.2

- 2005 CPI basket weights at April 2007 prices, Canada, effective May 2007. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 (www.statcan.ca/english/sdds/index.htm).
- Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.
- The measure of the Core Consumer Price Index (CPI) excludes from the All-items CPI the effect of changes in indirect taxes and eight of the most volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada: fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuel; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies. For additional information on the Core CPI, please consult the Bank of Canada website (www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm).

Consumer Price Index by province, and for Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit¹
(2002=100)

	May 2007	April 2007	May 2006	April to May 2007	May 2006 to May 2007
Unadjusted					
				% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador	111.4	111.1	110.6	0.3	0.7
Prince Edward Island	114.2	113.7	112.8	0.4	1.2
Nova Scotia	113.1	112.5	111.2	0.5	1.7
New Brunswick	111.6	111.2	110.1	0.4	1.4
Quebec	111.1	110.6	109.3	0.5	1.6
Ontario	111.6	111.1	109.5	0.5	1.9
Manitoba	111.7	110.9	109.2	0.7	2.3
Saskatchewan	112.6	111.8	109.6	0.7	2.7
Alberta	117.8	117.5	112.2	0.3	5.0
British Columbia	110.5	109.9	108.7	0.5	1.7
Whitehorse	109.5	108.7	107.5	0.7	1.9
Yellowknife ²	111.3	110.4	108.0	0.8	3.1
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	108.0	107.7	104.8	0.3	3.1

- View the geographical details for the city of Whitehorse, the city of Yellowknife and the town of Iqaluit.
- Part of the increase first recorded in the shelter index for Yellowknife for December 2004 inadvertently reflected rent increases that actually occurred earlier. As a result, the change in the shelter index was overstated in December 2004, and was understated in the previous two years. The shelter index series for Yellowknife has been corrected from December 2002. In addition, the Yellowknife all-items CPI and some Yellowknife special aggregate index series have also changed. Data for Canada and all other provinces and territories were not affected.

Study: Canadians and their non-voting political activity

2003

One in three Canadians aged 19 to 64 was involved in non-voting political activities in 2003, according to a new study published today.

The study, published today in the June 2007 online edition of *Canadian Social Trends*, uses data from the 2003 General Social Survey on social engagement to examine the characteristics of non-retired Canadians aged 19 to 64 who engage in certain types of political activity. Seniors and retired persons were excluded from the study because they face fewer time constraints than people who are employed, attending school, engaged in household work or caring for family members; for this reason, they have very different patterns of engagement than persons who are not retired from the labour force.

Searching for political information was the most common type of non-voting political activity, pursued by 27% of non-retired Canadian adults. As well, 13% wrote to a newspaper or a politician to express their views, and at least 1 in 20 volunteered for a political party and/or joined a political party.

University graduates were over three times more likely to participate in one of these activities than individuals with a high school education. Just over half of those with a university education had engaged in at least one of these activities in 2003, compared with just 18% of those with a high school education or less.

Adult men tend to be somewhat more active than women

Adult men tended to be somewhat more active than women. Age was also a factor, with those aged 19 to 25 the most likely to participate in non-voting political activities, followed by those aged 45 to 64.

Those who follow the news regularly were almost twice as likely to be engaged in non-voting political activities as those who do not regularly follow the

news. However, the way Canadians get their news is important. Those who rely solely on television to follow current affairs are only half as likely to be politically engaged as those who include newspapers and/or the Internet among their news sources.

Parents play a role in developing an individual's political consciousness. Canadians who have one parent with a university degree were more likely to be politically involved than those whose parents had less education; that likelihood increased if both parents had degrees. As well, Canadians whose parents had a history of volunteerism were more likely to take part in non-voting political activities.

Other aspects of a person's youth can be significant. Almost half of Canadians who participated in student government or belonged to a youth group (like Scouts or 4-H clubs) also engaged in political activities as an adult.

As well, people who perceive themselves as having a high level of control over their life chances are more likely to be active than those who consider themselves less in control of their own future.

Marital status, income, place of birth, region of residence, and living in a rural or urban area were not significant influences on non-voting political behaviour, once other factors were taken into account, the study found.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4503.

The study "Canadians and their non-voting political activity" is now available in the June 2007 issue of *Canadian Social Trends*, Vol. 83 (11-008-XWE, free) from the *Publications* module of our website. A printed version (11-008-XPE, \$24/\$39) is also available. See *How to order products*.

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: Streaming in Grade 10 in four provinces

2000

Social background – specifically, the education level of parents and the family's income – played a significant role in the course-selection choices made by high school students in four provinces, according to a new study.

The study examined the extent to which the "streaming" of Grade 10 students occurred in 2000 in four provinces: Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. It used data from Cycle 1 of the Youth in Transition Survey.

Streaming, or the "tracking" of high school students through different sequences of core courses, has been practised in Canada and other developed countries for decades. It has been the subject of vigorous debate.

Specifically, the study found that the academic placement of students in Grade 10 math, science, and English courses was strongly related to their parents' education and family income.

Teens from more advantaged families were more likely to be taking the type of math, science and English courses that would keep all their postsecondary options open, compared to teens from families in which neither parent had a postsecondary education and in which family incomes tended to be lower.

The study also showed that, although the effects were weaker, visible minority and immigrant students and students for whom English or French was not their first language were somewhat more likely to have all postsecondary options open.

This is in contrast with earlier research which suggested that some visible minority groups and students taking English as a second language were disproportionately found in streams that would restrict their educational and career options. However, it was consistent with more recent research which suggested that visible minority immigrant youth aim high.

The study found large provincial differences in streaming. A Grade 10 student in Saskatchewan, for example, was much more likely to have university options open than a student in British Columbia, Ontario or Alberta.

Proponents of streaming argue that students with different abilities and aptitudes should have the opportunity to take different sequences of courses while completing high school.

Those most academically inclined should have the opportunity to take the most advanced courses, which will challenge them. In contrast, students who are less academically inclined should be encouraged to take the level of course that best meets their learning needs and allows them to develop to the fullest of their abilities.

Opponents argue that the unintended consequences of the practice include the channelling of young people from less advantaged backgrounds into secondary course streams. These, in turn, may limit their chances of getting into postsecondary programs that lead to better-paying and higher-status careers.

The article "Streaming in the 10th grade in four Canadian provinces in 2000" is now available in the online publication *Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada*, Vol. 4 no. 2 (81-004-XIE, free), from the *Publications* module of our website.

This edition of *Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada* also contains the article "A first look at provincial differences in educational pathways from high school to college and university." It examines differences in educational choices between boys and girls aged 15 to 19 in various provinces and on the basis of family income.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, 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. ■

Study: Maternal employment, breastfeeding and health

1998 to 2003

Longer maternity leaves for Canadian mothers have meant that more of them have met breastfeeding targets recommended by public health agencies, according to a new study.

The study examined the impact that an increase in maternity leave entitlement had on time away from work, breastfeeding, and the health of both mothers and their children.

Women who gave birth before December 31, 2000 were typically entitled to a job-protected leave of six months. Those who gave birth after that date became entitled to one year in most provinces.

The study found that the extension has meant that more mothers returned to work later after giving birth and that they breastfed their infants exclusively for the recommended six months or longer.

It found that eligible mothers returned to work three to three and a half months later following the policy change and that breastfeeding was prolonged by an average of one month.

The proportion of eligible mothers who breastfed exclusively for at least six months – the duration recommended by the World Health Organization and

Health Canada – increased from 20% pre-reform to 28% post-reform.

However, the study found that women are not more likely to start breastfeeding or attempt breastfeeding as a result of extended leave entitlements.

Extending leave entitlements have led to mothers breastfeeding longer, but the change did not appear to have affected the decision to initiate breastfeeding.

The study also examined whether the increased duration of breastfeeding led to improved health for infants and mothers. Data currently available limit the study of health benefits to children aged 0 to 24 months.

The study found no conclusive evidence that the increase in breastfeeding led to short-term improvements in the health of mothers or infants.

Ear infections were fewer but data suggest that this was due to a declining trend in ear infections rather than any induced increase in breastfeeding. There was no observed difference in the weight of children as a result of the increased duration of breastfeeding.

Data for the study were taken from the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY) and the Canadian Community Health Survey.

Note: The sample from the NLSCY included all children born between 1998 and 2003 inclusively, with three exceptions: births in Quebec, children from single parent families (about 10% of births) and cases where survey respondents were fathers rather than mothers.

The study *Maternal Employment, Breastfeeding and Health: Evidence from Maternity Leave Mandates* has been published in English only by the National Bureau of Economic Research by Michael Baker, Professor and RBC Chair in Public and Economic Policy at the University of Toronto, and by Kevin Milligan, Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of British Columbia.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3226 and 4450.

The study was conducted at Statistics Canada's Research Data Centres, a joint initiative involving

Statistics Canada, the Social Science and Humanities Research Council, the Canadian Institute for Health Research and university consortiums.

For more information about the study, and to obtain a copy of the study, contact Michael Baker (416-978-4138), University of Toronto. For French media enquiries, contact Denis Gonthier (514-283-3282), Statistics Canada. ■

Stocks of frozen poultry meat

June 1, 2007 (preliminary)

Stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on June 1 totalled 61,454 metric tonnes, down 11.5% from the previous year.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0023 and 003-0024.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3425.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandra Gielfeldt (613-951-2505; sandy.gielfeldt@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Crude oil and natural gas production

April 2007 (preliminary)

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2198.

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

New products

Canadian Social Trends, no. 83
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Canadian Social Trends, no. 83
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The Consumer Price Index, May 2007, Vol. 86, no. 5
Catalogue number 62-001-XWE
(free).

The Consumer Price Index, May 2007, Vol. 86, no. 5
Catalogue number 62-001-XPE (\$12/\$111).

Canada's International Transactions in Securities,
Vol. 73, no. 4
Catalogue number 67-002-XWE
(free).

Perspectives on Labour and Income, Vol. 19, no. 2
Catalogue number 75-001-XPE (\$20/\$63).

**Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning
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Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.

Document 1 - 2006: 07/04/06 11:02:13 1524:0397-6:45



Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 14, 2007
For release at 8:30 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 six rides 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 and relatively weak wages in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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