Catalogue 11-001-XIE (Français 11-001-XIF) ISSN 1205-9137

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 21, 2007
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

New products

Releases

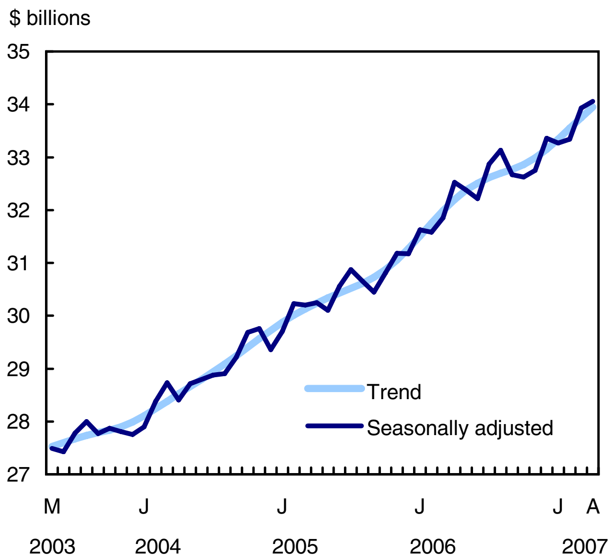
Retail trade

April 2007

Total retail sales increased moderately in April on the strength of new car dealers' sales. Excluding new, used and recreational vehicles and parts dealers, retail sales were flat.

Retail sales advanced 0.4% in April to an estimated $34.1 billion. This moderate growth was the third monthly increase in a row for Canadian retailers. Higher sales at new car dealers were the largest contributor to April's gains.

Sales advanced for the third month in a row in April on the strength of autos



The automotive sector saw sales gains of 1.6% in April, building on a strong 3.6% increase in March. Aside from the automotive sector, only two other sectors registered increases in April. Sales grew 1.1% in furniture, home furnishings and electronic stores, the sixth consecutive monthly gain. The food and beverage stores sector posted back-to-back gains of 0.8% in March and April after a strong increase of 1.5% in February.

Partially offsetting these increases were declines in the following sectors: building and outdoor home supplies stores (-2.7%), miscellaneous retailers (-2.1%), clothing and accessories stores (-1.0%), general merchandise stores (-0.8%) and pharmacies and personal care stores (-0.3%).

Price changes did not have a significant effect on overall retail sales in April as retail sales at constant prices increased 0.5%.

> ***Note to readers***
>
> *Retail estimates are normally revised every year. With the release of the April 2007 estimates, both the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted estimates in current and constant dollars have been revised. The unadjusted current and constant dollar series have been revised back to January 2005, while the seasonal factors and seasonally adjusted estimates in current and constant dollars have been revised back to January 2003.*
>
> *Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of respondent information, correction of information on data provided, the replacement of estimates with actual values (once available), the re-classification of companies within, into and out of the retail trade industry and updates to seasonal and trading day factors. The revised estimates are now available on CANSIM and by request, and will also appear in the April 2007 issue of* Retail Trade *(63-005-XWE).*
>
> *At the core of the methodology used to estimate retail sales at constant prices is a basket of commodities that are deflated using related consumer price indexes (excluding sales taxes). The basket of commodities is based on the results from the Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey.*
>
> *A detailed look at retail trade in 2006 using the revised numbers will be published on June 27, 2007.*

Sales at new car dealers keep retail sales up

New car dealers' sales rose 2.0% in April. This increase, combined with the 4.5% gain in March, almost offset the large declines posted in January and February. Amid these recent fluctuations, sales have been following an upward trend since the fall of 2005.

In April, sales at gasoline stations increased by 1.7%, pushing sales above the record level set in July 2006. Sales at gasoline stations had plummeted in September 2006, due to the largest gasoline price decrease ever recorded by the Consumer Price Index. Since that decrease, sales have been rising steadily, increasing in six out of the last seven months.

Within the food and beverage stores sector, supermarket sales rose 0.6% for a third consecutive monthly increase. Sales at beer, wine and liquor stores have increased each month so far in 2007. In April, these sales rose 2.3%.

Sales at home electronics and appliances stores, the largest trade group within the furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores sector, rose 1.2% in April for a 12th consecutive monthly gain. In 2006, sales grew 9.8%, the strongest annual increase since 2002.

Home furnishing stores sales advanced 1.7% in April. These sales have risen at a generally strong pace since November 2006. Prior to that period, sales were relatively flat, maintaining the level achieved after tremendous growth in the first quarter of 2006. Computer and software stores sales, which are affected by perpetual price declines, still managed to increase 2.8%, rebounding from a 4.0% decline in March.

In the building and outdoor home supplies stores sector, sales at home centres and hardware stores fell 2.3% in April, offsetting increases observed since December 2006. Sales at specialized building material and garden stores, a smaller and more volatile component of this sector, fell 4.3% after four consecutive monthly increases. Poor weather may have been a factor influencing April sales in the sector as a whole.

General merchandise stores sales fell 0.8% in April after edging down 0.1% in March. Sales at these stores grew 6.3% in 2006.

Sales at sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores dropped 2.4% after four consecutive months of increases. Sales at miscellaneous store retailers registered a 1.7% decline in April after increasing 1.4% in March. Sales at these stores have been flat despite monthly fluctuations since the beginning of 2006.

Clothing stores experienced a sales decline of 1.1% in April. Recent sales fluctuations at these stores may have been influenced by more volatile monthly weather variations in 2007.

Gains registered in half the provinces

Sales gains were seen in half of the provinces in April. In Quebec, sales grew 1.5%, the strongest monthly increase for this province in nine months. Sales in this province may have been buoyed by the payout of a pay equity settlement to Quebec's public service sector. Sales were also up in British Columbia (+1.5%) for a fifth consecutive month. In contrast, sales in Ontario edged down by 0.3% after registering two strong increases in February (+1.0%) and March (+1.7%).

Sales in the Prairie Provinces edged down 0.2% after a strong increase of 3.4% in March. This lacklustre result was mainly due to the 0.5% sales decline in Alberta, the fourth decrease in eight months.

Each of the Atlantic Provinces registered sales declines except Newfoundland and Labrador (+0.9%). The three territories, however, all experienced strong sales growth in April, posting an overall increase of 2.2%.

Related indicators for May

Estimates from the Labour Force Survey showed that employment was little changed for a second consecutive month in May, with gains in full-time employment mostly offset by losses in part-time employment. The unemployment rate held steady for the fourth straight month at 6.1%, a 33-year low.

Based on preliminary sales data from the automotive industry, new motor vehicle sales in May remained essentially unchanged from April.

The seasonally adjusted annual rate of urban starts increased 9.9% to 196,800 in May compared to April. Urban multiple starts were up 16.3% to 110,100 units in May, while single starts rose 2.8% to 86,700 units, according to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0014 to 080-0017.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2406 and 2408.

The April 2007 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-XWE, free) will soon be available.

Data on retail trade for May will be released on July 24.

For more information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; *retailinfo@statcan.ca*). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lucy Chung (613-951-1903), Distributive Trades Division.

□

Retail sales

	April 2006	January 2007[r]	February 2007[r]	March 2007[r]	April 2007[p]	March to April 2007	April 2006 to April 2007
	Seasonally adjusted						
	$ millions					% change	
Automotive	**11,307**	**11,315**	**11,247**	**11,650**	**11,832**	**1.6**	**4.6**
New car dealers	6,191	6,370	6,107	6,383	6,511	2.0	5.2
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,501	1,463	1,499	1,520	1,512	-0.5	0.8
Gasoline stations	3,615	3,482	3,641	3,747	3,809	1.7	5.3
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	**2,243**	**2,419**	**2,438**	**2,471**	**2,498**	**1.1**	**11.3**
Furniture stores	785	847	828	852	855	0.3	9.0
Home furnishings stores	434	472	496	489	498	1.7	14.6
Computer and software stores	121	124	126	121	125	2.8	2.8
Home electronics and appliance stores	903	975	986	1,007	1,020	1.2	12.9
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	**2,048**	**2,167**	**2,162**	**2,180**	**2,122**	**-2.7**	**3.6**
Home centres and hardware stores	1,669	1,749	1,742	1,756	1,715	-2.3	2.8
Specialized building materials and garden stores	379	418	420	424	406	-4.3	7.1
Food and beverage stores	**7,301**	**7,388**	**7,498**	**7,560**	**7,624**	**0.8**	**4.4**
Supermarkets	5,274	5,261	5,369	5,395	5,429	0.6	2.9
Convenience and specialty food stores	773	815	816	840	838	-0.3	8.5
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,254	1,312	1,313	1,325	1,356	2.3	8.2
Pharmacies and personal care stores	**2,128**	**2,310**	**2,326**	**2,337**	**2,331**	**-0.3**	**9.6**
Clothing and accessories stores	**1,908**	**1,978**	**1,945**	**1,981**	**1,961**	**-1.0**	**2.8**
Clothing stores	1,451	1,514	1,487	1,517	1,500	-1.1	3.4
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	457	464	459	463	461	-0.6	0.8
General merchandise stores	**3,886**	**3,967**	**3,996**	**3,992**	**3,961**	**-0.8**	**1.9**
Miscellaneous retailers	**1,699**	**1,727**	**1,731**	**1,762**	**1,726**	**-2.1**	**1.6**
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	833	859	874	894	872	-2.4	4.8
Miscellaneous store retailers	866	868	857	869	854	-1.7	-1.4
Total retail sales	**32,519**	**33,271**	**33,343**	**33,934**	**34,053**	**0.4**	**4.7**
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	**24,828**	**25,437**	**25,737**	**26,031**	**26,030**	**0.0**	**4.8**
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	508	533	539	541	545	0.9	7.5
Prince Edward Island	123	131	132	134	133	-0.5	7.9
Nova Scotia	937	957	960	965	960	-0.5	2.5
New Brunswick	741	756	759	755	749	-0.8	1.1
Quebec	7,232	7,398	7,383	7,437	7,549	1.5	4.4
Ontario	11,839	11,777	11,894	12,100	12,059	-0.3	1.9
Manitoba	1,070	1,129	1,130	1,157	1,159	0.2	8.3
Saskatchewan	944	1,013	991	1,051	1,059	0.8	12.2
Alberta	4,662	4,917	4,886	5,039	5,012	-0.5	7.5
British Columbia	4,355	4,543	4,550	4,638	4,707	1.5	8.1
Yukon	38	39	43	39	40	2.2	4.7
Northwest Territories	49	53	55	56	57	2.2	17.3
Nunavut	21	23	23	23	23	2.4	12.3

r *revised*
p *preliminary*

Retail sales

	April 2006	March 2007[r]	April 2007[p]	April 2006 to April 2007
	Unadjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Automotive	**11,962**	**11,956**	**12,789**	**6.9**
New car dealers	6,693	6,845	7,270	8.6
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,756	1,434	1,804	2.8
Gasoline stations	3,514	3,678	3,715	5.7
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	**1,987**	**2,333**	**2,202**	**10.8**
Furniture stores	742	810	802	8.0
Home furnishings stores	390	471	450	15.3
Computer and software stores	108	139	113	5.0
Home electronics and appliance stores	747	913	837	12.1
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	**2,000**	**1,765**	**2,124**	**6.2**
Home centres and hardware stores	1,628	1,413	1,726	6.1
Specialized building materials and garden stores	372	353	398	6.9
Food and beverage stores	**7,126**	**7,573**	**7,135**	**0.1**
Supermarkets	5,211	5,557	5,121	-1.7
Convenience and specialty food stores	776	801	824	6.2
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,140	1,215	1,190	4.4
Pharmacies and personal care stores	**2,037**	**2,348**	**2,247**	**10.3**
Clothing and accessories stores	**1,794**	**1,731**	**1,829**	**1.9**
Clothing stores	1,386	1,355	1,422	2.6
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	408	376	407	-0.4
General merchandise stores	**3,695**	**3,503**	**3,724**	**0.8**
Miscellaneous retailers	**1,554**	**1,584**	**1,584**	**1.9**
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	758	773	798	5.3
Miscellaneous store retailers	796	811	786	-1.3
Total retail sales	**32,155**	**32,793**	**33,635**	**4.6**
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	**23,707**	**24,514**	**24,560**	**3.6**
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland and Labrador	483	500	517	7.1
Prince Edward Island	116	119	125	7.7
Nova Scotia	901	915	922	2.3
New Brunswick	726	720	738	1.7
Quebec	7,455	7,195	7,767	4.2
Ontario	11,489	11,631	11,737	2.2
Manitoba	1,062	1,127	1,146	7.9
Saskatchewan	931	986	1,046	12.3
Alberta	4,633	4,917	4,954	6.9
British Columbia	4,255	4,561	4,566	7.3
Yukon	35	36	37	5.3
Northwest Territories	48	63	55	15.6
Nunavut	21	24	23	11.5

r *revised*
p *preliminary*

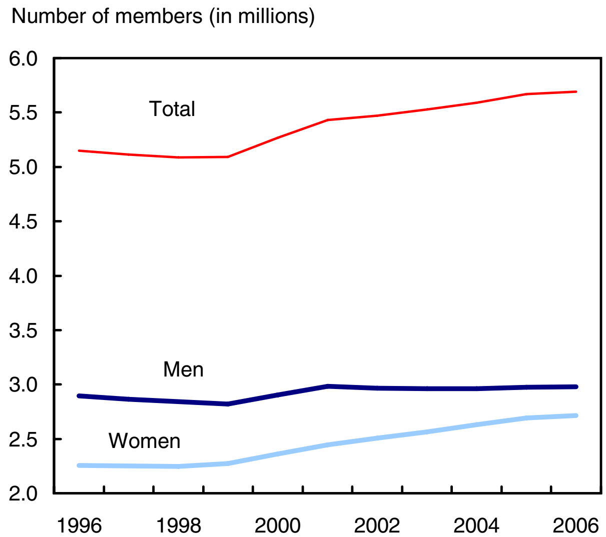
■

Pension plans in Canada

As of January 1, 2006

After several years of growth, membership in Canada's 15,130 active registered pension plans (RPP) remained virtually unchanged in 2005, according to new data from an annual census of these employer-sponsored plans.

Female membership grows faster than male membership



As of January 1, 2006, active RPPs covered just under 5.7 million members, up only 0.4%, or about 20,000, from the year before. This pace of growth was substantially slower than the annual rates recorded since the turn of the millennium.

Data from the Survey of Pension Plans in Canada show that more and more women in the paid workforce are being covered by RPPs. In fact, women accounted for the net increase in the total membership during 2005.

The number of men belonging to an RPP remained unchanged at 2.98 million, while the number of women increased 0.7% to just over 2.71 million.

As of January 1, 2000, men accounted for 55.1% of all members, and women 44.9%. By January 1, 2006, the proportion of men had declined to 52.3%, while the share of women had increased to 47.7%.

RPPs are retirement benefit programs that are provided voluntarily by employers or by unions in both the public and private sectors. As of January 1, 2006, about 4 out of every 10 paid workers were participating in an RPP.

Note to readers

Registered pension plans (RPPs) are established by employers or unions for employees. These data come from the Pension Plans in Canada Survey at January 1, 2006, which provides information on terms and conditions, membership and contributions.

Membership is defined as active members of the pension plan currently making contributions to the pension plan or for whom contributions are being made. Active membership also includes persons who have temporarily left their employment (e.g., those on maternity leave or temporary lay off) but who are expected to return. Vested former members entitled to deferred pensions and retired persons are excluded.

There are two main types of RPPs: defined contribution plans and defined benefit plans. A defined contribution plan is an RPP that specifies the contributions made by the employee, if the plan is contributory, as well as by the employer. Pension benefits paid are a function of accumulated contributions and investment returns.

In contrast, a defined benefit plan is an RPP that defines the benefits to be paid according to a formula stipulated in the plan text. The employer's contributions are not predetermined, but are a function of the cost of providing the promised pension.

An analysis of the funding situation of defined benefit RPPs will be released this fall.

Upcoming revisions

Additional, more accurate information has been received for 2006 pertaining to a large registered pension plan included in the Pension Plans in Canada estimates. This new information affects the number of members by area of employment, primarily in the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut, while there is a minor impact across all provinces. The information has been incorporated in the current 2006 release and revisions to previously published estimates from 2003 to 2005 will be available soon. For more information, contact Bruno Pépin (613-951-4023; fax: 613-951-4296; bruno.pepin@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division.

Continued growth in public sector membership; decline in private sector

While the overall number of active members of RPPs remained relatively stable, the public sector added 37,000 members in 2005.

As of January 1, 2006, membership in public sector plans amounted to just under 2.7 million, up 1.4% from the previous year. At the same time, private sector plans had just under 3.0 million members, a 0.5% decline.

Public sector membership accounted for 47.3% of the total membership in RPPs as of January 1, 2006, up from 46.1% as of January 1, 2000.

Since 2001, the public sector has added about 170,000 members, more than three times the 50,000 additional members in the private sector. Growth in female membership accounted for 80% of this increase.

The decline in private sector membership in 2005 was the first since 2001.

The biggest gain in 2005 occurred in the finance, insurance and real estate industries, where membership rose by 12,910. Construction industries followed, adding 13,170 members. However, these increases were more than offset by a loss of 28,000 members in the manufacturing sector.

The manufacturing sector continues to suffer from employment losses in the textile, wood, paper, primary metals and electrical equipment industries.

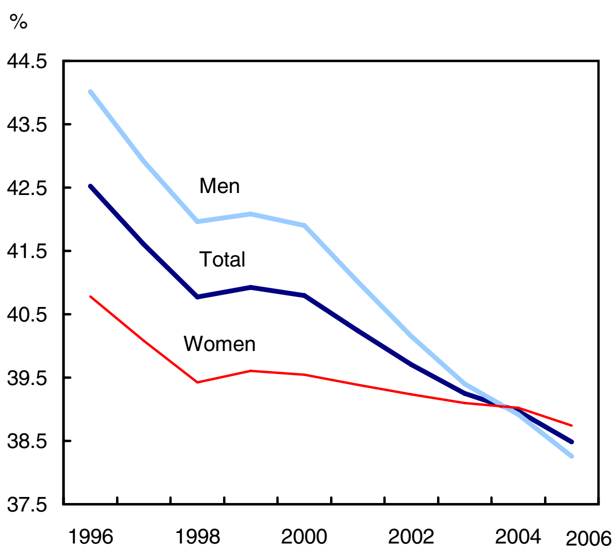
Since 2000, RPP membership in the manufacturing sector has declined by more than 80,000. However, the construction, finance and community business industries showed substantial increases over the same period.

Pension coverage continues to edge down

The proportion of paid workers with a registered pension plan continued to decline in 2005, falling half a percentage point to 38.5%. Despite favourable labour market conditions, RPP membership grew at a slower pace than employment.

Both men and women had lower coverage rates in 2005, but coverage rates among men declined at a faster pace. For the second year in a row, coverage rates for women were higher than men.

Proportion of paid workers with a registered pension plan continues to drop



In 2005, 38.7% of female paid workers had a registered pension plan, compared to 38.3% of male paid workers.

The decline in coverage rates for women has not been as sharp because their employment is concentrated more in industries where registered pension plans are offered. These include health care and social assistance, educational services and public administration.

Both the public and private sectors experienced declines in the proportion of the paid workforce covered by an RPP. In 2005, the coverage rate for the public sector was 84.0%, about one percentage point lower than in the previous year, while the coverage rate in the private sector declined by half a point to 25.9%.

The vast majority of workers belong to "defined benefit plans"

The vast majority of RPP members belong to "defined benefit plans". These are RPPs that define the benefits to be paid according to a formula stipulated in the plan text.

As of January 1, 2006, about 4.6 million workers were members of a defined benefit plan, virtually unchanged from the previous year. This level has increased by only 30,700 since 2000.

An increase of about 159,700 in female membership was mostly offset by a decline of 129,000 in male membership. Defined benefit plans still remain the most important type, accounting for more than 80% of overall membership.

A second type of RPP is the defined contribution plan, which specifies the employee's contributions, if the plan is contributory, as well as the employer's contributions. The vast majority (82.5%) of members of these plans were working in the private sector.

As of January 1, 2006, defined contribution plans had 893,400 members, up 0.9% from the previous year. This gradual upward trend has been observed for a number of years. The number of members with a defined contribution plan now accounts for 15.7% of the total RPP membership, up from 14.6% in 2001.

Alberta leads growth in number of members

Four provinces registered gains in RPP membership in 2005. The strongest occurred in Alberta, where membership grew by 22,700, or 4.4%, to just below 536,300. This increase consisted of 12,000 men and 10,700 women.

As of January 1, 2006, 426,200 Alberta members had a defined benefit pension plan, up 5.0% from the previous year. The strong performance of Alberta's economy over the last few years has been an important factor contributing to the growth in membership since 2000.

Alberta accounted for 9.4% of all membership in 2005, up from 9.1% in the previous year. This was also reflected in the province's coverage rate, which was up by almost one percentage point to 33.1%.

The largest decline occurred in Ontario, where membership fell by 5,020 members to just under 2.2 million. The decline occurred mainly among men, and was concentrated in the manufacturing and trade industries.

Contributions hit another record high

Total employee and employer contributions to RPPs reached another record high of $37.4 billion in 2005, up $2.9 billion from the previous year. This was the sixth consecutive annual gain and the second year in a row that contributions exceeded $30 billion.

Employer contributions accounted for about 70% of the total contributions in 2005 compared to 64% in 2001.

Employee contributions have also continued to grow, reaching a peak of $11.2 billion in 2005, about $1.1 billion more than in the previous year.

Employer contributions for current service increased 3.1% in 2005 to $18.6 billion, while special payments for unfunded liabilities and solvency deficiencies amounted to $7.6 billion.

Employers continued to inject funds into defined benefit pension plans to ensure adequate financing after previous disappointing returns on investment in 2001 and 2002 and a low interest rate environment. Since 2003, special payments have reached $19.8 billion.

Available on CANSIM: tables 280-0008 to 280-0026.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2609.

To obtain statistical tables providing key information, custom tabulations (74C0002, various prices) or more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; *income@statcan.ca*), Income Statistics Division. ■

Construction Union Wage Rate Index
May 2007

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada increased 0.6% in May from the April level of 138.1 (1992=100). The composite index rose 0.8% from the revised May 2006 index (137.8).

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes on a 1992=100 time base are calculated for these metropolitan areas and are published for those areas where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0003 and 327-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2307.

The second quarter 2007 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XWE, free) will be available in September.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; *prices-prix@statcan.ca*) or Louise Chainé (613-951-3393), Prices Division. ■

Cereals and oilseeds review
April 2007

Data from the April 2007 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* are now available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3401, 3403, 3404, 3443, 3464 and 3476.

The publication *Cereals and Oilseeds Review*, Vol. 30, no. 4 (22-007-XIB, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. The April issue contains an overview of May's market conditions.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; *agriculture@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Crushing statistics
May 2007

Oilseed processors crushed 296,695 metric tonnes of canola in May. Oil production in May totalled 129,550 tonnes, while meal production amounted to 174,409 tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: table 001-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3404.

The May 2007 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007-XIB, free) will be available in July.

For general information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; *agriculture@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Deliveries of major grains
May 2007

Data on May major grain deliveries are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 001-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3403, 3404 and 3443.

The May 2007 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007-XIB, free) will be available in July.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; *agriculture@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

New products

Canadian Economic Observer, June 2007, Vol. 20, no. 6
Catalogue number 11-010-XPB ($25/$243).

Collected Articles of Kishori Lal
Catalogue number 13-598-XIE
(free).

Cereals and Oilseeds Review, April 2007, Vol. 30, no. 4
Catalogue number 22-007-XIB
(free).

Wholesale Trade, April 2007, Vol. 70, no. 4
Catalogue number 63-008-XWE
(free).

Interim List of Changes to Municipal Boundaries, Status, and Names (Geography Products: Geographic Reference Products), January 2, 2001 to January 1, 2006
Catalogue number 92F0009XWE
(free).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

Catalogue numbers with an -XWE, -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette; -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc; -XVB or -XVE are electronic versions on DVD and -XBB or -XBE a database.

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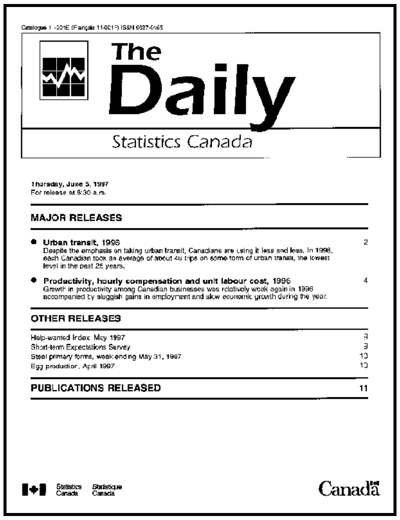

Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit,** 1996 — 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost,** 1996 — 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

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