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Investment in non-residential building construction

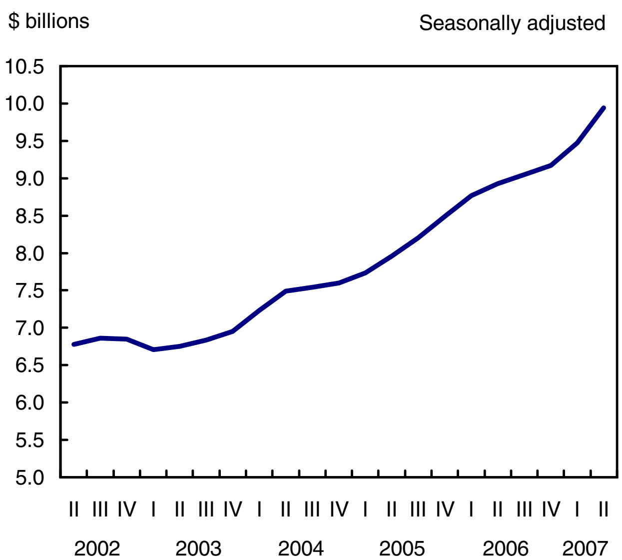
Second quarter 2007

Heavy spending on office buildings in Alberta and Ontario pushed investment in non-residential building construction to another record high between April and June 2007.

Second-quarter investment hit $9.9 billion, up 5.0% from the first quarter, and extended the upward trend in investment observed since the second quarter of 2003.

In constant dollars, investment in non-residential building construction rose 2.1% from the first quarter.

Investment in non residential building construction continues to grow



Nationally, all three components registered second-quarter gains. Investment in the commercial component led the way with a 6.3% increase to $5.9 billion. Investment in the institutional component rose 2.4% to $2.6 billion, while investment in the industrial component increased 4.3% to $1.5 billion.

Provincially, by far the biggest second-quarter increase (in dollars) occurred in Alberta, where investment rose 11.1% to $2.3 billion, the 16th straight quarterly gain.

In Ontario, which was a distant second, investment increased 4.1% to $3.6 billion. In both provinces, investment rose in all three components.

Western Canada's dynamic economy continued to spark the non-residential sector. Other contributing factors included a strong labour market, high profits recorded by Canadian corporations, strong consumer demand for durable goods and declining vacancy rates in large urban centres.

Locally, 18 of the 34 census metropolitan areas (CMAs) recorded gains; the strongest was in Calgary where investment rose 17.2% to $1.1 billion. In contrast, investment in Halifax fell sharply as a result of a big decline in all three components.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

Investments in non-residential building construction exclude engineering construction. This series is based on the Building Permits Survey of municipalities, which collects information on construction intentions.

Work put-in-place patterns are assigned to each type of structure (industrial, commercial and institutional). These work patterns are used to distribute the value of building permits according to project length. Work put-in-place patterns differ according to the value of the construction project; a project worth several million dollars will usually take longer to complete than will a project of a few hundred thousand dollars.

Additional data from the capital and repair expenditures surveys are used to create this investment series. Investment in non-residential building data is benchmarked to the National Income and Expenditure Accounts of non-residential building investment series.

For the purpose of this release, the census metropolitan area of Ottawa–Gatineau is divided into two areas: Ottawa–Gatineau (Quebec part) and Ottawa–Gatineau (Ontario part).

Investment in non-residential building construction, by census metropolitan area[1]

	Second quarter 2006	First quarter 2007	Second quarter 2007	First quarter to second quarter 2007
	Seasonally adjusted			
	$ millions			% change
St. John's	44	44	47	6.1
Halifax	116	123	98	-20.5
Moncton	14	51	45	-11.7
Saint John	25	27	33	22.8
Saguenay	27	37	31	-16.8
Québec	176	184	189	3.0
Sherbrooke	39	43	43	1.2
Trois-Rivières	29	39	44	12.0
Montréal	732	766	816	6.5
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	425	421	433	2.9
Ottawa–Gatineau (Que. part)	56	43	43	0.8
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ont. part)	369	378	390	3.1
Kingston	26	46	50	10.7
Peterborough	11	16	14	-15.4
Oshawa	100	100	96	-3.5
Toronto	1,615	1,507	1,594	5.8
Hamilton	173	147	135	-7.6
St. Catharines–Niagara	74	77	72	-6.4
Kitchener	134	138	134	-2.3
Brantford	9	40	40	-0.3
Guelph	22	53	51	-3.7
London	118	111	120	8.0
Windsor	93	88	90	2.0
Barrie	24	70	61	-12.8
Greater Sudbury	29	45	59	30.0
Thunder Bay	38	24	25	2.4
Winnipeg	178	177	164	-7.3
Regina	60	63	60	-4.5
Saskatoon	92	104	101	-2.6
Calgary	589	978	1,146	17.2
Edmonton	410	429	459	7.2
Kelowna	19	47	50	6.5
Abbotsford	68	86	73	-15.5
Vancouver	716	797	849	6.5
Victoria	95	108	105	-2.6

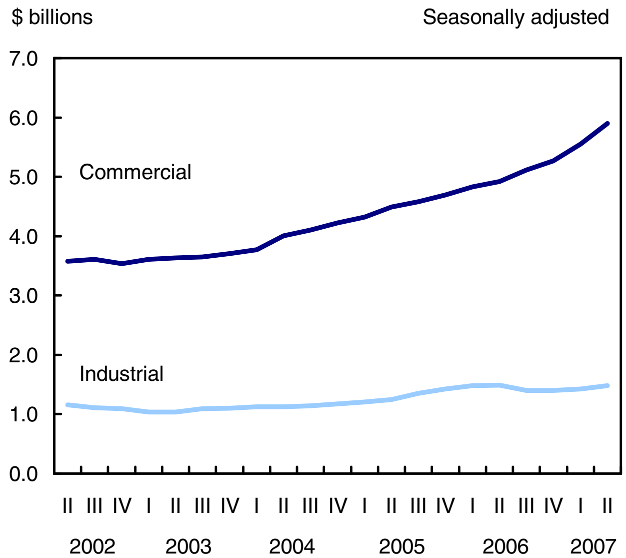
1. *Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.*

Commercial: Robust office activity in Alberta and Ontario

Investment in commercial building construction increased for the 18th quarter in a row, in the wake of robust activity in office building construction sites in Alberta and Ontario.

Overall, eight provinces showed increases in commercial investment in the second quarter. The largest contributions (in dollars) occurred in Alberta, where investment rose 15.0% to $1.5 billion, and in Ontario, where it increased 3.5% to $2.1 billion. Both were all-time highs.

Investment in commercial buildings reaches a new record high



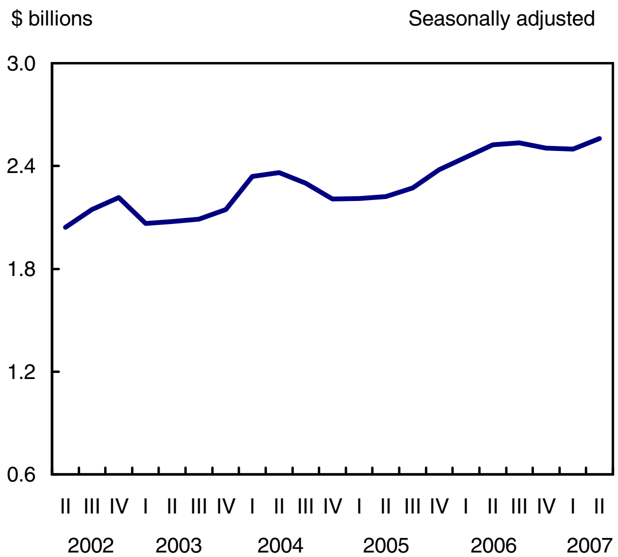
Among the 34 CMAs, 18 registered quarterly growth. Investment in Calgary increased 19.9%, the strongest investment growth, to a new record high of $806 million. In Nova Scotia, which experienced the largest decline, investment hit $80 million, down 14.1% after four consecutive quarterly gains.

Several economic factors were consistent with a fertile environment for the commercial sector. These included the vigorous retail sector and declining vacancy rates for office buildings in major Canadian urban centres, which provided added incentive for office building construction.

Institutional: Gains in health care facilities push investment to new record

Spending in the institutional component rebounded to a record high after two quarterly declines. Strong investments in health care facilities in eight provinces contributed to this gain.

Institutional investment fuelled by spending in health care facilities



At the provincial level, increases of 8.3% in Québec and 7.2% in Alberta contributed to the component's growth in the second quarter, the result of significant spending on the construction of health and day care facilities.

British Columbia recorded the most significant decline in dollars (-3.6% to $437 million), in the wake of a downturn in investment in health care facilities following a record high set in the previous quarter.

Among metropolitan areas, Calgary posted the highest growth in the second quarter, with investment rising 11.8% to $273 million. The gain was driven by substantial investments in health care facilities.

After a record high in the first quarter, Vancouver registered the most significant decline in dollars (-7.2%), with second-quarter institutional building investment falling to $201 million. Vancouver recorded a big drop in the construction of educational and health care facilities.

Of the 34 census metropolitan areas, 20 posted increases.

Industrial: Gains in manufacturing and utilities buildings

Strong spending on the construction of manufacturing plants and utilities buildings in nine provinces and two territories more than offset drops in the other industrial categories.

Investment in industrial building construction increased for the second straight quarter to $1.5 billion, up 4.3% from the first quarter.

Provincially, the largest contributions to the quarterly increase (in dollars) occurred in Ontario, where investment rose 10.2% to $540 million, and in British Columbia, where it was up 18.1% to $147 million.

Saskatchewan posted the largest decline as investment in maintenance buildings declined, after high spending in previous quarters.

Locally, 18 of the 34 CMAs recorded gains. The strongest (in dollars) was in Toronto, where investment rose 14.7% to $185 million, followed by Montréal, where it increased 18.4% to $129 million. The sharpest drop (-38.3%) occurred in Barrie, which had posted record investments in the first quarter.

In the second quarter, manufacturers continued to face increased production costs, stronger global competition and the appreciation of the Canadian dollar. On the other hand, the industrial capacity utilization rate among Canadian industries slightly increased in the first quarter of 2007.

According to the April 2007 Business Conditions Survey, manufacturers remained optimistic in their production outlooks as they planned to increase production in the second quarter.

Investment in non-residential building construction

	Second quarter 2006	First quarter 2007	Second quarter 2007	First quarter to second quarter 2007
	Seasonally adjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Canada	**8,929**	**9,470**	**9,939**	**5.0**
Newfoundland and Labrador	64	64	71	9.7
Prince Edward Island	41	30	31	3.2
Nova Scotia	218	208	186	-10.7
New Brunswick	162	151	152	0.6
Quebec	1,476	1,516	1,582	4.3
Ontario	3,585	3,453	3,595	4.1
Manitoba	242	245	242	-1.0
Saskatchewan	216	245	234	-4.5
Alberta	1,607	2,084	2,316	11.1
British Columbia	1,297	1,441	1,500	4.1
Yukon	12	19	18	-7.5
Northwest Territories	7	8	8	1.0
Nunavut	1	5	5	-6.2

Available on CANSIM: table 026-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5014.

More detailed data on investment in non-residential building construction are also available in free tables from the *Summary tables* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Michel Labonté (613-951-9690; *bdp_information@statcan.ca*), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

Households and the Environment Survey

2006 **(correction)**

Canadian households have responded to a number of environmental concerns, but still engage in many practices that can have a negative impact on the environment, according to new data from the Households and the Environment Survey.

The survey found that close to 6 in 10 households now use compact fluorescent bulbs, and over 4 in 10 have a programmable thermostat, up considerably in recent years. More households composted, and more also had water-saving showerheads and toilets.

Other aspects of household behaviour have not changed greatly since the survey was last conducted during the mid-1990s.

For example, the use of chemical pesticides in 2006 was down only slightly from 1994 levels. The sole exception was Quebec, where the share of households applying lawn and garden pesticides plunged by one-half over this period. Household pesticide application was highest in the three Prairie Provinces.

Another finding was that the majority of Canadians commuted to work alone in a private car or truck.

The survey also examined behaviours with respect to drinking water. Almost 3 out of every 10 households drank bottled water predominantly in 2006, whether they had a municipal or private water supply.

The rest consumed water from the tap, but half of the households that did so treated the tap water in some way. While the majority treated their water to improve the taste or appearance, 40% did so to address concerns about possible bacterial contamination.

The survey also found that rates of household recycling have jumped. Data from this portion of the survey will be analyzed in a report to be released on Friday, July 13, 2007, in the inaugural issue of *EnviroStats*, Statistics Canada's new source of analysis on environmental issues.

Almost 3 in 10 households choose bottled water

Households with municipal water supply in New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador were the least likely to drink tap water and were the most likely to drink bottled water.

Among Canada's largest cities, the highest rate of households drinking bottled water primarily was found in the Kitchener area (46%) and in St. Catharines–Niagara (41%).

Note to readers

The Households and the Environment Survey (HES) measured households activities that have positive and negative impacts on the environment. Over 28,000 households were surveyed by telephone in early 2006.

The HES collected data on some of the same environmental variables that were investigated in the 1991 and 1994 surveys. The topics covered in this survey were the water quality concerns of households, the consumption and conservation of water, energy use, the use of pesticides and fertilizers, recycling, transportation decisions and the use of gasoline-powered equipment.

The HES was conducted under the umbrella of the Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators project, a joint initiative of Statistics Canada, Environment Canada and Health Canada.

The survey found that only 35% of households with a non-municipal water supply had their water tested by a laboratory in 2005. This suggests a reasonably high level of confidence in the quality of water, or a prior knowledge of its limitations for drinking.

Among the households with a non-municipal water supply, 85% of those who tested their water reported that the laboratory did not find any contaminants.

Households in Ontario were the least likely to report water quality problems after testing. Those in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta were the most likely to have problems.

Regardless of any tests, many households opted to treat their water supply. The survey found that 48% of all households that had a municipal water supply, and that consumed tap water, treated it in some way. This was a slightly higher proportion than those who had a non-municipal source.

Aside from drinking water issues, another important theme in the survey was water conservation. The survey found a big increase in the number of households with water-saving devices.

In 2006, 54% of Canadian households had a water-saving showerhead, compared with 42% in 1994. About 34% had a water-saving toilet, more than double the proportion of 15% in 1994.

Energy use: Turning down the power

Households are taking advantage of new power-saving devices, the survey showed. Between 1994 and 2006, the proportion using at least one compact fluorescent light bulb almost tripled from 19% to 56%.

Households in all provinces contributed to this rise. In 2006, British Columbia and Ontario had the highest percentage of households using compact fluorescent light bulbs, 60% or over in each province. In contrast, less than one-half of all households in Quebec and Manitoba used them.

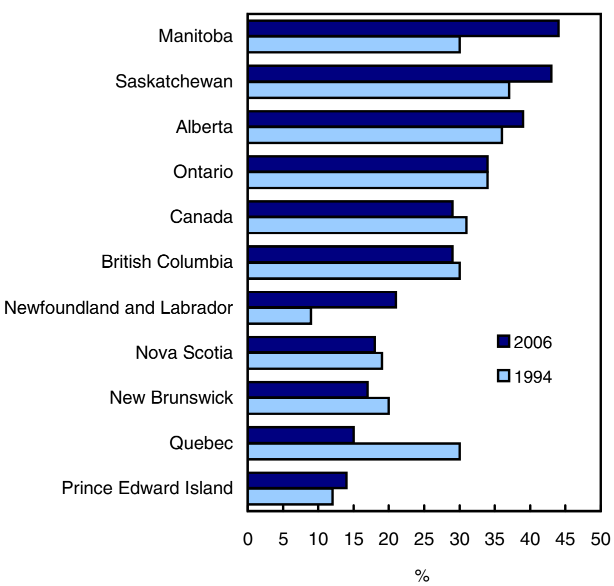
Programmable thermostats, which automatically adjust the temperature setting, have become increasingly popular. In 1994, 16% of households with a thermostat had one that was programmable. By 2006, this proportion had more than doubled to 40%. On the other hand, among households that had such a device, about 17% had not programmed it.

In Ontario, 50% of households had a programmable thermostat, more than double the proportion of 24% in 1994. Households in the Atlantic Provinces were the least likely to have one.

Pesticides: Slight decline in use nationally, but big drop in Quebec

Nationwide, the proportion of households using pesticides on their lawn or garden dipped slightly from 31% in 1994 to 29% in 2006. However, in Quebec, where strict regulations on pesticide use were imposed in recent years, the proportion plunged from 30% to 15%.

Households that used pesticides on their lawn or garden, 1994 and 2006



Pesticide use was highest in the three Prairie Provinces and lowest in the Atlantic Provinces and Quebec.

In Manitoba, 44% of households used pesticides, the highest proportion in the nation, followed closely by Saskatchewan (43%). In the East, the proportion ranged from 14% in Prince Edward Island to 21% in Newfoundland and Labrador.

While the use of pesticides by households in the West was relatively high, households tended to apply them only as needed. However, those in Ontario and Quebec more often applied them as part of a regular maintenance program.

Composting and special wastes

Composting has grown in popularity. The survey found that 27% of households composted in 2006, up from 23% in 1994.

The increase was especially large in the Atlantic Provinces, some of which prohibit the disposal of organic materials in landfills or incinerators. The only province in which household participation in composting declined was British Columbia.

Some household wastes require special disposal procedures. About 29% of households had leftover paint to dispose of. Just over one-half (54%) of these households reported that they took it to a depot or returned it to the supplier.

Still, 38% replied that although they had leftover paint to dispose of, they still had it in their possession, and did not know what to do with it.

About one-quarter (24%) of households had unwanted or expired medications to dispose of. In all, 4 in 10 of these disposed of them in their regular garbage, flushed them down the toilet or put them down the drain. Just under one-third (31%) said they returned the products to suppliers.

Electronic waste, such as old computers, is a growing environmental problem. Almost one-quarter of households with old computers or other electronics disposed of them at special waste depots or returned them to the supplier. On the other hand, almost 1 in 5 put them in the garbage, and just over one-third said they did not know what to do with them.

Transportation: Most travelled to work alone in a motor vehicle

The transportation sector accounts for about 24% of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions and nearly 54% of these emissions are due to passenger transportation, according to federal government figures.

In 2006, 83% of Canadian households had at least one motor vehicle, according to the survey. Just over 1 in 10 had three or more vehicles.

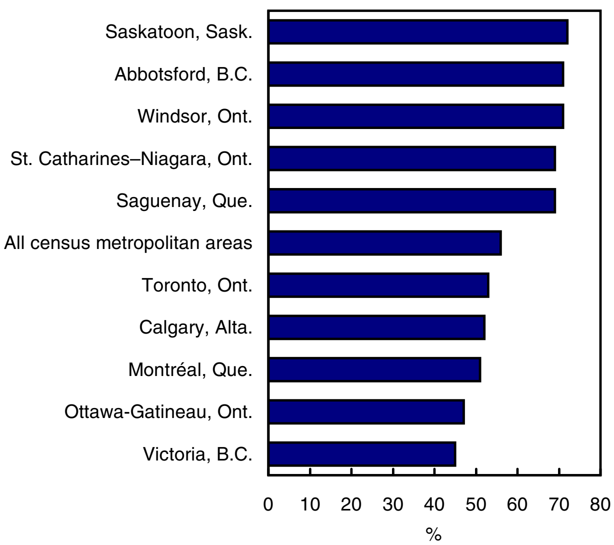
The majority (58%) of households in Canada travelled 20,000 kilometres or less in their motor vehicles in an average year, whereas 12% travelled more than 40,000 kilometres.

In Ontario and Alberta, 14% of households travelled more than 40,000 kilometres in a year. In Oshawa and Hamilton, the proportion exceeded 18%.

The survey asked respondents about their daily commuting habits. Nationally, in the warmer months of the year, 57% of all people who worked outside of the home usually travelled to work alone in a motor vehicle. In the colder months, this proportion increased to 64%.

Among Canada's urban centres in the summer time, Saskatoon, Abbotsford and Windsor had the highest proportion of people travelling alone in a motor vehicle to work. Victoria and Ottawa–Gatineau had the lowest proportion.

People employed outside the home commuting in their private vehicle during the warmer months, by selected census metropolitan areas (top five and lowest five), 2006



The size of a community has a big impact on commuting patterns. In the largest cities, relatively fewer people travelled to work in 2006 by motor vehicle (alone or with a passenger), while more used public transportation.

Toronto, Montréal, Vancouver and Ottawa–Gatineau all had a relatively low incidence of motor vehicle commuting compared with smaller urban centres. Yet, a motor vehicle was still the dominant form of commuting in these large cities.

However, while the rate of motor vehicle commuting was lower in Canada's major urban centres, when people did use their motor vehicle they tended to travel further. In both Toronto and Ottawa–Gatineau, nearly one-third of those travelling to work by motor vehicle travelled over 20 kilometres each way.

People who used public transit took longer, on average, to get to work than people who used private motor vehicles. Nationally, almost two-thirds of public transit users needed 30 minutes or more to get to work, while only one-quarter of those using motor vehicles took this long.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3881.

The report, *The Households and the Environment Survey*, 2006 (11-526-XIE, free), is now available online. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *Free internet publications*, choose *Environment*.

Also available today are selected revised tables from the November 15, 2006, release. These tables can be found in the *Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators socio-economic information*, revised (16-253-XWE, free), 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 the information officer (613-951-0297; fax: 613-951-0634; *environ@statcan.ca*), Environment Accounts and Statistics Division. ■

Commercial Software Price Index

May 2007

The Commercial Software Price Index (CSPI) is a monthly series measuring the change in the purchase price of pre-packaged software typically bought by businesses and governments. The CSPI for May was 66.2 (2001=100), down 1.6% from April.

This index is available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: table 331-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5068.

For more information on these indexes, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; *prices-prix@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Neil Killips (613-951-5722; *neil.killips@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. ■

Cement

May 2007

Data on cement are now available for May.

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. ■

2011 Census Content Consultation Guide

As is the case in advance of each census, content consultations are being held with data users. The *2011 Census Content Consultation Guide* gives you the opportunity to provide input.

The *2011 Census Content Consultation Guide* (92-136-GWE, free) is available on our website. From the *Census* module, click on the *2011 Census consultation* link, then *2011 Census Content Consultation Guide*. This guide is also available free of charge in the online catalogue from the *Publications* module.

For more information, or to enquire about this guide, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; fax: 613-951-1134; *censusconsultation@statcan.ca*), Census Operations Division. ■

New products

Households and the Environment, 2006
Catalogue number 11-526-XIE
(free).

Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators: Socio-economic Information (revised), 2006
Catalogue number 16-253-XWE
(free).

Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire, April 2007, Vol. 3, no. 4
Catalogue number 41-019-XWE
(free).

2011 Census Content Consultation Guide, Census year 2011
Catalogue number 92-136-GWE
(free).

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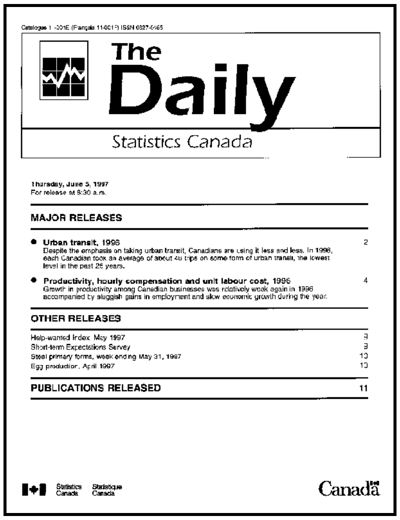
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The Daily

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 45 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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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED — 11

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