



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

Building permits, June 2007

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Construction intentions maintained their sizzling pace this spring, as the value of building permits issued followed a record-breaking month in May with another strong showing in June. Municipalities issued \$6.9 billion worth of building permits, down only 0.4% from May.

Motion picture theatres, 2005

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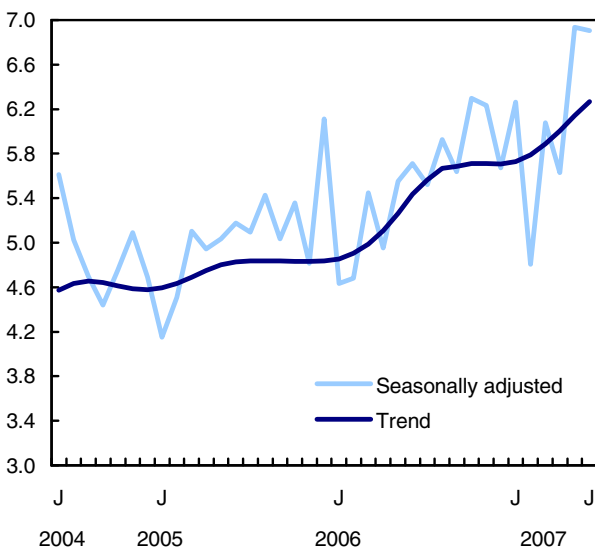
Building permits

June 2007

Construction intentions maintained their sizzling pace this spring, as the value of building permits issued followed a record-breaking month in May with another strong showing in June. The back-to-back performances point to very busy construction sites in the coming months.

Total value of permits remains very high

\$ billions



In total, municipalities issued \$6.9 billion worth of building permits in June, down only 0.4% from May. The figure for June was the second-highest on record, surpassed only by the peak in May.

Gains in the residential sector were offset by declines in non-residential construction intentions. Non-residential permits declined 10.0% to \$2.8 billion as all three components (industrial, commercial and institutional) of this sector fell. Again, this level was second only to the record-high performance in May.

In the residential sector, intentions climbed 7.4% to more than \$4.1 billion. This is only the second time residential permits have surpassed the \$4-billion mark, the first time having occurred in December 2005.

Note to readers

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

The Building Permits Survey covers 2,380 municipalities representing 95% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 5% of the population are very small, and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total.

The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (e.g., waterworks, sewers or culverts) and land.

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

The demand for new dwellings remained notably strong as a total of 21,515 new dwelling units were approved in June, a number surpassed only twice since 1990.

The second quarter of 2007 was the highest on record for the total value of building permits, with construction intentions reaching \$19.5 billion, up 13.6% from the first quarter of 2007. Strong quarterly growth was recorded in both the residential (+12.9%) and non-residential (+14.5%) sectors.

Housing sector: Multi-family permits provide boost

Municipalities approved multi-family permits valued at \$1.6 billion, a 14.2% increase from May and the second-highest level on record. The number of multi-family units approved rose 18.3% to 11,726, continuing the upward trend that started in January.

Single-family permits increased 3.3% to \$2.5 billion, the highest level on record. The number of single-family units authorized crept up 0.5% to 9,789. Single-family units approved have been trending upward since May following a decline that started in September 2006.

Strength in employment, growth in disposable income, tight apartment vacancy rates in several centres and attractive financing options continued to stimulate the demand for housing.

Residential permit values increased in only three provinces. The large gains in Alberta and Ontario were sufficient to set the stage for an overall increase in residential permit values despite declines in seven provinces.

Residential permits rose 46.4% in Alberta to a record \$983 million, propelled by a 166.3% increase in the value of multi-family permits. Several large projects for apartments/condominiums were behind this strong gain. Single-family permits also increased significantly.

In Ontario, residential permits were up 9.2% to \$1.3 billion, buoyed by a 25.0% jump in the value of multi-family permits.

Significant ground was ceded in British Columbia, where permit values dropped 12.6% to \$808 million, owing to a large drop in the value of multi-family permits. The decline in this component was due largely to a decrease in the average value of multi-family units approved.

On a quarterly basis, residential permit values increased in seven provinces in the second quarter. Nationally, permit values for both single-family (+3.8% to \$7.1 billion) and multi-family (+31.4% to \$4.5 billion) units posted new record quarterly values, boosting the total value of residential permits 12.9% over the first quarter to \$11.6 billion.

of non-residential permits issued in June was the second-highest level on record.

When Alberta is excluded from the national figures, the value of non-residential permits increased 13.4% in June.

Significant gains were recorded in five provinces. Ontario recorded the most significant increase (in dollars) among the provinces, as a jump in commercial permits more than offset decreases in the industrial and institutional components.

For both British Columbia and Nova Scotia, the level in June was the second-highest on record, thanks to advances in all three non-residential components. In Quebec, the large increase in institutional permits led the value of non-residential permits to its highest level since March 1998.

In Saskatchewan, the level reached in June was the highest in nearly 18 years, thanks to commercial permits.

Construction intentions in the commercial component reached \$1.8 billion in June, the second-highest level on record, after peaking at \$2.1 billion in May. Several large projects spread across a wide variety of buildings, such as recreation buildings, office buildings, hotels, retail and warehouse buildings, contributed to the strong showing.

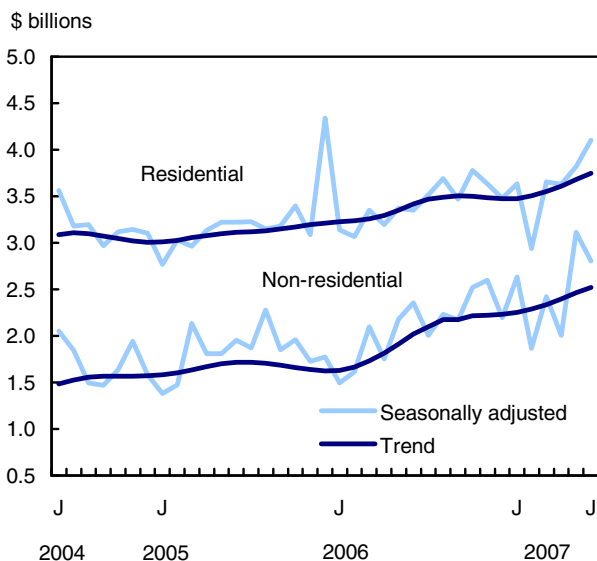
The value of commercial permits has been on an upward trend since the end of 2005, and the recent strength in the results is largely consistent with the very dynamic retail sector, the declining vacancy rates for offices as well as the strong corporate profits.

Following a 78.6% jump in May, the value of institutional permits decreased 4.8% in June to \$592 million. Despite the decline, this level remained 11.4% higher than the average monthly level observed since the beginning of 2007. A gain in the value of permits for schools failed to offset the declines in projects for medical buildings and nursing homes.

In the industrial component, the value of permits declined 7.4% to \$403 million, after a 26.1% gain in May. The decline came from fewer investment projects for manufacturing buildings. The value of industrial permits has been on a declining trend since the end of 2006. This result is consistent with the challenge that manufacturers face with the appreciation of the Canadian dollar.

On a quarterly basis, the value of commercial permits jumped to its highest quarterly level on record (\$5.2 billion) in the second quarter, increasing 32.9% from the first quarter. The quarterly values of industrial (-15.2% to \$1.2 billion) and institutional

The value of residential permits surpasses the \$4-billion mark



Non-residential construction intentions remain very high

The value of non-residential permits declined in June from an exceptionally high level, as demand for office space in Calgary had inflated the results in May. Despite a 10.0% decline, the \$2.8 billion worth

(-4.0% to \$1.6 billion) permits declined over the same period.

Metropolitan areas: Value of permits in Calgary remains high

Among the 34 metropolitan areas, 19 recorded declines in their total value of building permits. The largest declines occurred in Calgary, after the value of permits in this area had surpassed the \$1-billion mark in May. With a total of \$697 million in permits issued, June's level was the second-highest on record.

The ground lost in Calgary was compensated for by rises in Toronto and Edmonton, thanks to gains in both the residential and non-residential components for each area. Significant increases also occurred in Montreal and Regina.

The values of permits in Edmonton and Regina both reached new record highs in June.

Available on CANSIM: tables 026-0001 to 026-0008, 026-0010 and 026-0015.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The June 2007 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001-XWE, free) will be available soon.

The July building permit estimates will be released on September 6.

To order data, contact Jasmine Gaudreault (toll-free 1-800-579-8533; 613-951-6321; bdp_information@statcan.ca). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Haaris Jafri (613-951-0040), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

□

Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area¹

	May 2007 ^r	June 2007 ^p	May to June 2007	January to June 2006	January to June 2007	January-June 2006 to January-June 2007
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
St. John's	29.0	28.1	-3.0	154.0	154.2	0.1
Halifax	43.1	71.2	65.2	328.9	292.6	-11.0
Moncton	31.7	32.1	1.0	104.1	125.8	20.9
Saint John	20.2	15.7	-22.3	79.4	131.9	66.0
Saguenay	25.9	35.0	35.3	92.1	96.4	4.7
Québec	109.9	145.0	32.0	572.6	695.9	21.5
Sherbrooke	22.6	29.3	29.5	184.3	149.4	-18.9
Trois-Rivières	37.5	30.7	-18.1	101.2	144.2	42.6
Montréal	541.7	611.3	12.8	2,872.6	3,181.9	10.8
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	196.1	183.8	-6.3	1,072.0	1,247.1	16.3
Ottawa-Gatineau (Quebec part)	67.9	62.8	-7.5	229.9	306.1	33.2
Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario part)	128.2	121.0	-5.6	842.1	940.9	11.7
Kingston	17.3	45.1	161.2	139.5	126.7	-9.2
Peterborough	12.0	9.8	-18.4	79.9	49.6	-37.9
Oshawa	62.4	52.2	-16.3	446.2	356.2	-20.2
Toronto	936.6	1,231.8	31.5	5,032.9	6,207.8	23.3
Hamilton	124.9	71.6	-42.7	407.2	558.8	37.2
St. Catharines-Niagara	46.1	41.9	-9.0	242.6	218.4	-10.0
Kitchener	101.8	77.0	-24.4	518.3	425.6	-17.9
Brantford	22.0	15.7	-28.5	88.5	96.7	9.3
Guelph	30.6	24.0	-21.5	198.7	146.8	-26.1
London	92.6	115.4	24.6	474.3	478.4	0.9
Windsor	39.6	41.8	5.5	279.5	169.2	-39.5
Barrie	41.5	61.9	49.2	277.2	193.2	-30.3
Greater Sudbury	33.9	25.0	-26.1	89.4	206.7	131.1
Thunder Bay	11.3	4.3	-61.6	37.8	44.6	18.1
Winnipeg	83.6	79.2	-5.3	408.4	452.5	10.8
Regina	30.4	88.9	191.9	145.0	203.0	40.0
Saskatoon	60.7	54.9	-9.4	224.3	305.4	36.1
Calgary	1,065.4	697.2	-34.6	2,429.2	3,511.5	44.6
Edmonton	292.6	402.8	37.6	1,570.4	2,039.1	29.8
Kelowna	72.2	95.5	32.3	273.8	430.3	57.1
Abbotsford	28.5	16.0	-43.8	228.9	158.0	-31.0
Vancouver	831.4	791.7	-4.8	2,996.6	3,828.3	27.8
Victoria	93.1	100.2	7.7	345.3	565.0	63.6

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Note: Data may not add up to totals as a result of rounding.

Value of building permits, by province and territory

	May 2007 ^r	June 2007 ^p	May to June 2007	January to June 2006	January to June 2007	January-June 2006 to January-June 2007
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
Canada	6,935.9	6,906.4	-0.4	30,975.8	36,619.8	18.2
Residential	3,820.7	4,102.2	7.4	19,481.3	21,778.1	11.8
Non-residential	3,115.2	2,804.2	-10.0	11,494.5	14,841.7	29.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	46.8	45.8	-2.2	224.8	257.7	14.6
Residential	32.0	31.1	-2.9	164.5	173.0	5.2
Non-residential	14.7	14.6	-0.6	60.2	84.6	40.5
Prince Edward Island	13.5	11.9	-12.0	102.5	76.5	-25.4
Residential	10.1	8.8	-12.9	63.7	58.5	-8.2
Non-residential	3.3	3.0	-9.2	38.8	18.0	-53.6
Nova Scotia	108.3	123.8	14.3	632.5	597.2	-5.6
Residential	67.4	57.0	-15.5	437.2	383.8	-12.2
Non-residential	40.9	66.8	63.4	195.3	213.4	9.3
New Brunswick	96.4	80.5	-16.6	446.9	469.7	5.1
Residential	45.5	55.7	22.4	259.0	256.0	-1.2
Non-residential	51.0	24.8	-51.4	187.9	213.7	13.7
Quebec	1,140.8	1,175.3	3.0	5,548.5	6,254.6	12.7
Residential	704.2	682.4	-3.1	3,656.0	3,944.2	7.9
Non-residential	436.6	492.8	12.9	1,892.5	2,310.4	22.1
Ontario	2,103.5	2,316.8	10.1	11,134.5	12,805.2	15.0
Residential	1,212.8	1,324.7	9.2	6,903.7	7,080.8	2.6
Non-residential	890.7	992.1	11.4	4,230.8	5,724.4	35.3
Manitoba	153.1	122.2	-20.2	640.0	749.1	17.0
Residential	81.3	80.0	-1.7	407.4	468.7	15.0
Non-residential	71.8	42.2	-41.2	232.6	280.4	20.5
Saskatchewan	119.1	177.0	48.6	510.2	704.5	38.1
Residential	67.1	65.5	-2.3	216.4	387.1	78.9
Non-residential	52.1	111.5	114.1	293.7	317.4	8.0
Alberta	1,790.5	1,522.8	-15.0	6,252.3	7,979.3	27.6
Residential	671.4	982.6	46.4	3,798.0	4,601.0	21.1
Non-residential	1,119.1	540.1	-51.7	2,454.3	3,378.3	37.7
British Columbia	1,343.9	1,305.5	-2.9	5,386.5	6,593.7	22.4
Residential	923.8	807.6	-12.6	3,531.3	4,359.6	23.5
Non-residential	420.1	497.9	18.5	1,855.2	2,234.1	20.4
Yukon	9.6	3.5	-63.1	58.4	42.9	-26.6
Residential	3.1	2.1	-31.9	21.2	16.6	-21.7
Non-residential	6.5	1.5	-77.7	37.2	26.3	-29.4
Northwest Territories	9.5	14.6	52.8	13.8	40.1	190.3
Residential	1.1	3.9	239.7	7.7	6.8	-11.5
Non-residential	8.4	10.7	27.4	6.1	33.2	446.6
Nunavut	0.9	6.8	638.7	25.1	49.4	97.2
Residential	0.9	0.7	-20.6	15.2	41.9	175.9
Non-residential	0.0	6.1	...	9.9	7.5	-24.1

^r revised

^p preliminary

... not applicable

Note: Data may not add up to totals as a result of rounding.

Motion picture theatres

2005

The silver screen lost much of its lustre for Canadian movie-goers in 2005 as attendance at cinemas slid, putting a profitability squeeze on the motion picture theatre industry, according to data from the Motion Picture Theatres Survey.

The analysis in this release uses survey data that are based on establishments whose combined revenues account for about 95% of the industry's total revenues.

Cinemas, including indoor theatres, drive-ins and film festivals, sold just under 105.2 million tickets in 2005, a sharp 7.8% decline from 2004. The decrease came on the heels of a modest 2.2% gain in 2004.

According to the Cineplex Galaxy Income Fund 2005 annual report, there were few major blockbuster films released during the important summer months of 2005. This may have dampened interest and accounted for some of the decline in attendance. Other factors may include ticket prices and the growing popularity of cheaper home entertainment equipment, such as DVD players.

The motion picture theatre industry recorded total operating revenues of about \$1.2 billion, down 5.3% from 2004, while operating expenses edged up 1.3%. Salaries and wages increased by 1.9% from 2004 to 2005.

As a result, operating profits totalled just \$29 million, a substantial decline from \$110 million in 2004. The industry posted an operating profit margin of 2.5% in 2005 compared with 8.9% in 2004.

Theatres in Ontario and Quebec accounted for about two-thirds of the total national operating revenue. Ontario theatres dominated the country, earning 40% of total operating revenues in 2005. Quebec theatres accounted for 20%, while those in Alberta and British Columbia each represented 14%.

Ontario theatres posted an operating profit margin of 4.8%, above the national average. However, Quebec theatres posted a negative profit margin (-12.6%).

Large chains dominate motion picture industry

The top five chain-operated theatres, ranked on the basis of operating revenues, dominate the industry in terms of revenues, expenses and profits, but also in terms of attendance and concession receipts.

These top five companies accounted for about four-fifths of total attendance in 2005. However, these theatres saw a decline in attendance of 9.0% during the year, compared with a marginal drop of 0.5% for the smaller theatres.

These top five companies also represented 81.4% of the total national operating revenue in 2005, down slightly from 82.5% in 2004.

Note to readers

Data for 2005 should not be compared with previously published data for the Motion Picture Theatres Survey since significant changes were made to the survey. Some key trends can still be determined as this release includes data for the two previous survey years, 2003 and 2004, using the 2005 methodology.

The data are now collected using a sample and represent 95% of total revenue earned by the motion picture theatre industry. Administrative data are used to account for the other 5%, but only selected financial statistics are available for these small companies. The survey frame is based on a central Statistics Canada database of businesses that have been classified through the use of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

In this release, data for Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Yukon and the Northwest Territories have been suppressed, due to Statistics Canada's requirement to ensure the confidentiality of respondent data.

The motion picture theatre industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in exhibiting motion pictures. This industry-based classification replaces the activity-based classification used in the past by the Culture Statistics Program. Some activity that had previously been excluded from the survey is now included, such as film festivals.

In addition, in the NAICS structure, data for drive-in theatres are no longer provided separately from data for indoor theatres. To facilitate the presentation of characteristics in this release, references to motion picture theatres include indoor theatres, drive-ins and film festivals.

In this release, the term "smaller theatres" refers to all theatres across Canada, except for the largest five chain-operated theatres.

Operating revenues for these large companies declined 6.7% in 2005, compared with an average decline of 5.3% for the industry as a whole.

At the same time, operating expenses edged up 0.3% for the large chains, well short of the industry average of 1.3%.

As a result, despite the nominal increase in expenses, large theatres saw their profits plunge by 77.5% from 2004 to 2005, a slightly larger decline than the industry average of 73.5%.

The smaller companies in the motion picture theatre industry experienced a decrease in their profits as well, but for different reasons than their large-chain counterparts.

Operating revenues for these smaller companies actually increased by 0.8% in 2005, compared with the average 5.3% decline for the industry as a whole.

However, operating expenses of these smaller companies rose 5.7% in 2005, outpacing the 1.3% increase for the industry. This resulted in a 53.2% drop in their profits between 2004 and 2005.

In 2004, the top five companies represented 83.6% of total industry operating profits. By 2005, this had dropped to 71.1%. At the same time, the rest of the

motion picture theatre industry saw their share of the total profits increase from 16.4% to 28.9%.

Revenues derived from the sale of food and beverages followed a similar pattern. In total, revenues from these concessions fell 3.3% to \$334.2 million over the same time period.

The top five companies saw a 4.1% decline in concession receipts, whereas smaller theatres recorded a 4.5% increase.

However, concession receipts from these smaller companies accounted for only 6.1% of the overall industry total.

Albertans most avid movie-goers

On a per capita basis, each Canadian made 3.2 visits to the movies on average in 2005, based on population projections for the year and the number of paid admissions to movie theatres from the survey.

Per capita attendance in only three provinces (Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan) exceeded this national average.

Alberta residents are the nation's most avid movie-goers, with an average attendance of 5.2 visits each year. This keen interest in Alberta may be the result of high per capita income and a younger population. The 2005 General Social Survey confirmed the ongoing trend that young people aged 15 to 24 are the greatest cinephiles.

Albertans were followed by residents of British Columbia, who went to the movies about 3.6 times in 2005. Saskatchewan residents went 3.3 times.

According to the Survey of Household Spending, households in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan increased their spending on movie theatres from 2004 to 2005. At the same time, spending by residents in provinces in Central and Eastern Canada fell.

Alberta households spent an average of \$126 on movie theatres, compared with \$70 spent by households in New Brunswick.

Households in Quebec and New Brunswick decreased their spending by more than 10% on movie theatres, followed by households in Nova Scotia (-7%) and Ontario (-6%).

Canadian movie-goers spent an average of \$3.18 on concessions, up 5% from 2004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2416.

Selected information from the 2005 Survey of Service Industries: Motion Picture Theatres are accessible in the publication *Motion Picture Theatres and Drive-ins: Data Tables* (87F0009XWE, free), now available from the *Publications* module of our website. These tables include breakdowns of data by province.

For more information about the survey, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Conrad Ogrodnik (613-951-3496; fax: 613-951-6696; conrad.ogrodnik@statcan.ca), Service Industries Division, or Norman Verma (613-951-6863; fax: 613-951-6863; norman.verma@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

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Selected statistics with backcasted¹ data for the motion picture theatre industry

	2005	2004	2003
	Backcasted ¹ data		
	\$ thousands		
Industry estimates²			
Total operating revenue	1,217,669	1,286,478	1,235,270
Total operating expenses	1,186,357	1,171,340	1,172,110
Salaries and wages and benefits	181,127	177,812	168,555
	%		
Operating profit margin	2.6	8.9	5.1
	\$ thousands		
Surveyed portion²			
Total admission receipts	757,898	829,094	808,619
Sales of food and beverages	334,238	345,709	333,658
All other operating revenue	77,697	61,137	44,465
Total operating revenue	1,169,833	1,235,940	1,186,742
Salaries and wages and benefits	171,515	168,376	159,610
Film rental and royalty payment expenses	379,320	417,741	412,920
Cost of goods sold	74,978	70,823	65,683
All other operating expenses	515,045	469,477	488,944
Total operating expenses	1,140,858	1,126,417	1,127,157
Operating profit	28,975	109,522	59,585
	number		
Theatre operations			
Paid admissions (attendance)	105,190,134	114,050,875	111,639,269
Screens	2,826	2,779	2,745
	%		
Operating profit margin	2.5	8.9	5.0

1. Backcasted data have been created in order to be able to compare the data from 2003 to 2005. This is necessary because of the major changes to the survey including the use of a new frame, a new definition of the motion picture theatres industry and the use of a sample survey.

2. Industry estimates are based on the surveyed portion and are augmented by administrative data for establishments that were too small to be eligible for sampling. The surveyed portion includes only data for surveyed establishments weighted to represent other establishments that were eligible for sampling but were not selected. The surveyed portion represents approximately 95% of total industry revenue.

Note: Due to rounding, components may not add up to total.



New products

Canadian Foreign Post Indexes, August 2007
Catalogue number 62-013-XIE
(free).

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

Movie Theatres and Drive-ins: Data Tables, 2005
Catalogue number 87F0009XWE
(free).

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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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 7, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.



MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 251 km 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 unit labour cost in 1995 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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Release date	Title	Reference period
9	New Housing Price Index	June 2007
10	Labour Force Survey	July 2007
