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Releases

Releases

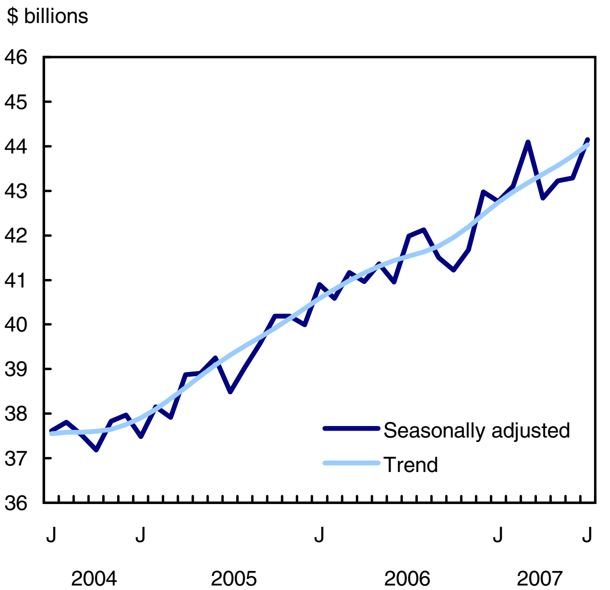
Wholesale trade

July 2007

Following a weak second quarter, wholesale sales rebounded in July, spurred on by a turnaround in automotive sales, as well as healthy demand for machinery, and personal and household goods.

Wholesalers sold an estimated $44.1 billion worth of goods in July, a 2.0% gain over June, surpassing the previous record high reached in March.

Wholesale sales set new record highs in July



The key automotive products sector led the way with a 4.9% gain on the back of strong demand for motor vehicles. July also proved to be a good month for wholesalers of personal and household goods (+4.0%), machinery and electronic equipment (+2.8%), and building materials (+1.3%). Sales excluding the automotive sector rose 1.3% in July.

The most significant decline came in the food, beverages and tobacco products sector, where sales fell (-0.8%) for the third consecutive month.

July's strong performance in the wholesale industry reversed some of the second quarter's weakness, when overall sales fell for the first time in almost four years, largely the result of weak automotive sales.

Sales in constant prices, which take price fluctuations into account, rose 2.5% in July.

Pickup in motor vehicle sales drives automotive products sector higher

The automotive products sector bounced back in July, as sales rose 4.9% to $8.3 billion following a 0.9% decline in June. Increased sales of motor vehicles (+6.2%) accounted for all of the rise, while sales of motor vehicle parts and accessories edged down (-0.3%).

Although still not back to the record level reached in March 2007, July's increase in motor vehicle sales marks a turnaround from the second quarter, when sales of motor vehicles fell 5.0%, the largest quarterly decline since the third quarter of 2004.

With imported vehicles accounting for over half of the sales made by wholesalers, July's increase also coincided with a turnaround in automotive imports. According to the latest Canadian international merchandise trade release, passenger car imports surged 26.4% in July. This represented the largest monthly increase since September 2003 and brought an end to a string of three consecutive monthly declines in passenger car imports.

The slight decline in the sale of motor vehicle parts and accessories in July continued a series of fairly lacklustre performances for this trade group, which has seen little or no growth over the past two years. Wholesalers in this industry sell mainly to retailers and dealers.

Demand for machinery and electronic equipment remains strong

Sales in the machinery and electronic equipment sector rose for the third consecutive month in July, up 2.8% to a record high of $9.5 billion.

Of the three trade groups making up this sector, wholesalers of machinery and equipment were the main beneficiaries of the rise, as sales in this trade group jumped 6.1% in July to $4.7 billion. The office and professional equipment trade group registered a more modest rise (+0.6%), while the computer and other electronic equipment trade group fared less well (-0.9%).

July's increase in the machinery and equipment trade group brought sales to a new high, eclipsing the previous peak reached in March 2007. Despite slackening demand for mining and oil and gas well machinery—sales of which have declined significantly since their peak in early 2006—demand for other types of machinery, notably construction and industrial machinery, remains strong.

As most of the machinery and equipment sold in Canada is imported, businesses have been able to take advantage of the strength of the Canadian dollar to purchase equipment at a lower price. Aggregate prices for machinery and equipment have dropped over 17% since 2002, largely the result of the appreciation of the Canadian dollar.

The strong demand for machinery and equipment has also helped boost profits for wholesalers in this sector. According to the latest Quarterly Survey of Financial Statistics for Enterprises, wholesalers of machinery and equipment recorded the strongest profit growth among all wholesale industries during the second quarter of 2007.

Widespread gains in the personal and household goods sector

The personal and household goods sector registered its biggest increase (+4.0%) in 2007, reaching $6.5 billion, more than offsetting June's decline (-1.7%).

All three trade groups in this sector contributed to the rise, led by a 5.5% increase from the pharmaceutical trade group. This was the largest monthly rise so far in 2007 for this trade group, which continues to benefit from high consumer demand.

Apparel wholesalers had another strong month, as sales rose 4.4% in July following a 5.9% increase in June. Prior to this, sales had fallen for five consecutive months after hitting a record high in December 2006.

After declining 3.7% in June, sales of household and personal goods resumed their upward momentum in July, rising 2.2%. This was the fifth increase in 2007 for this trade group.

Ontario and British Columbia lead the way

Ontario was the main beneficiary of the pickup in the automotive sector, as strong demand for motor vehicles helped the province post its biggest increase (+2.5%) of the year, reaching $22.0 billion, more than offsetting June's decline (-1.1%). Notable gains were also made by wholesalers in the machinery and electronic equipment, and personal and household goods sectors.

July's increase helped to offset some of the recent weakness in Ontario, where sales fell in the second quarter as a result of weaker demand for automotive products.

Wholesale sales in British Columbia continued their upward momentum in July, rising a further 2.2% to $4.7 billion. Higher sales of "other products", personal and household goods, and building materials were behind most of the rise in July. Sales in the province have risen almost continuously since the start of 2007.

After registering a substantial increase (+6.4%) in June—the first in three months—wholesale sales in Alberta rose at a more modest rate in July, up 0.9% to $5.5 billion. Higher sales in the "other products" and automotive products sectors were partially offset by weakness in the food, beverages and tobacco products sector, as well as the farm products sector.

In Manitoba, sales advanced 8.7% in July to $1.1 billion, all but reversing June's decline. Higher sales of "other products" and automotive products, both of which registered significant declines in June, were behind most of the increase.

The picture was less rosy in Saskatchewan, where sales fell for the fourth consecutive month in July, down 0.8% to $1.3 billion. Nevertheless, sales in the first seven months of 2007 were still up substantially over the same period in 2006, following a very strong first quarter.

In the Atlantic Provinces, only Newfoundland and Labrador registered stronger sales in July, up 7.4% to $293 million. Rising sales of food products, as well as machinery and electronic equipment were behind most of the increase, which was the third in a row for the province.

Also noteworthy in July was the large increase in Nunavut, where overall sales soared 238% to $10.0 million. This increase reflected the dramatic jump in investment in the region, which is currently experiencing an unprecedented boom in mining exploration and mine development. This investment has also spilled over into other areas of the economy, notably housing construction. According to the latest residential construction investment data, total investment in residential construction in Nunavut registered an almost sixfold increase in the first six months of 2007 compared with the same period in 2006.

Inventory-to-sales ratio falls to lowest level since March

Wholesale inventories increased 0.6% in July to $54.4 billion.

Of 15 trade groups, 8 reported higher inventory levels in July. The most notable increases were in the pharmaceutical (+2.8%), "other products" (+2.3%), motor vehicles (+1.4%) and motor vehicles parts and accessories (+1.9%) trade groups. These increases were partially offset by drops in metal products (-2.9%) and computer and electronic equipment (-1.4%) inventories.

With sales rising at an even faster pace in July, the inventory-to-sales ratio declined from 1.25 in June to 1.23 in July, its lowest level in four months. The pace of inventory accumulation has eased somewhat in recent months, largely the result of reductions in motor vehicles and metal products inventories.

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

Available on CANSIM: tables 081-0007 to 081-0010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

The July 2007 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008-XWE, free) will soon be available.

Wholesale trade estimates for August will be released on October 17.

To obtain data or general information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; *wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marc Atkins (613-951-0291; *marc.atkins@statcan.ca*), Distributive Trades Division.

Wholesale merchants' inventories and inventory-to-sales ratio

	July 2006	April 2007[r]	May 2007[r]	June 2007[r]	July 2007[p]	June to July 2007	July 2006 to July 2007	June 2007[r]	July 2007[p]
	Wholesale inventories							Inventory-to-sales ratio	
	Seasonally adjusted								
	$ millions					% change			
Inventories	**52,216**	**54,605**	**54,185**	**54,127**	**54,444**	**0.6**	**4.3**	**1.25**	**1.23**
Farm products	191	183	191	199	197	-1.1	3.4	0.42	0.44
Food products	4,323	4,550	4,596	4,599	4,592	-0.1	6.2	0.64	0.64
Alcohol and tobacco	292	313	307	310	309	-0.4	5.9	0.47	0.49
Apparel	1,641	1,678	1,675	1,677	1,675	-0.1	2.1	2.23	2.13
Household and personal products	3,946	3,899	3,937	3,913	3,912	0.0	-0.9	1.44	1.41
Pharmaceuticals	3,175	3,499	3,490	3,544	3,645	2.8	14.8	1.26	1.22
Motor vehicles	4,761	4,651	4,503	4,560	4,622	1.4	-2.9	0.72	0.69
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,302	3,325	3,302	3,314	3,376	1.9	2.2	2.12	2.17
Building supplies	5,586	5,868	5,790	5,848	5,884	0.6	5.3	1.59	1.58
Metal products	2,875	3,036	3,024	2,990	2,904	-2.9	1.0	2.09	1.95
Lumber and millwork	1,028	1,139	1,113	1,108	1,111	0.2	8.0	0.98	1.00
Machinery and equipment	10,838	11,668	11,645	11,639	11,650	0.1	7.5	2.62	2.47
Computer and other electronic equipment	1,603	1,768	1,789	1,748	1,724	-1.4	7.6	0.63	0.63
Office and professional equipment	2,620	2,664	2,631	2,628	2,653	1.0	1.3	1.27	1.28
Other products	6,034	6,362	6,192	6,050	6,189	2.3	2.6	1.15	1.18

[r] *revised*
[p] *preliminary*

Wholesale merchants' sales

	July 2006	April 2007r	May 2007r	June 2007r	July 2007p	June to July 2007	July 2006 to July 2007
	Seasonally adjusted						
	$ millions					% change	
Total, wholesale sales	**41,980**	**42,835**	**43,225**	**43,284**	**44,144**	**2.0**	**5.2**
Farm products	**422**	**483**	**445**	**470**	**453**	**-3.8**	**7.3**
Food, beverages and tobacco products	**7,578**	**7,887**	**7,828**	**7,823**	**7,760**	**-0.8**	**2.4**
Food products	6,940	7,271	7,176	7,160	7,125	-0.5	2.7
Alcohol and tobacco	638	616	652	663	635	-4.2	-0.5
Personal and household goods	**5,878**	**6,363**	**6,391**	**6,283**	**6,532**	**4.0**	**11.1**
Apparel	751	763	711	753	786	4.4	4.7
Household and personal products	2,487	2,744	2,815	2,710	2,769	2.2	11.3
Pharmaceuticals	2,641	2,856	2,865	2,820	2,977	5.5	12.7
Automotive products	**8,627**	**7,948**	**7,976**	**7,901**	**8,288**	**4.9**	**-3.9**
Motor vehicles	7,053	6,393	6,419	6,338	6,730	6.2	-4.6
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	1,574	1,555	1,557	1,564	1,559	-0.3	-0.9
Building materials	**5,732**	**6,165**	**6,215**	**6,239**	**6,323**	**1.3**	**10.3**
Building supplies	3,482	3,723	3,705	3,682	3,731	1.3	7.2
Metal products	1,285	1,378	1,396	1,428	1,485	4.0	15.6
Lumber and millwork	966	1,064	1,113	1,128	1,106	-1.9	14.6
Machinery and electronic equipment	**8,904**	**8,883**	**9,136**	**9,287**	**9,547**	**2.8**	**7.2**
Machinery and equipment	4,141	4,164	4,329	4,444	4,715	6.1	13.9
Computer and other electronic equipment	2,739	2,713	2,699	2,778	2,754	-0.9	0.5
Office and professional equipment	2,023	2,006	2,109	2,065	2,078	0.6	2.7
Other products	**4,840**	**5,107**	**5,233**	**5,280**	**5,242**	**-0.7**	**8.3**
Total, excluding automobiles	**33,353**	**34,887**	**35,249**	**35,382**	**35,855**	**1.3**	**7.5**
Sales, province and territory							
Newfoundland and Labrador	223	252	258	273	293	7.4	31.4
Prince Edward Island	31	43	43	41	37	-9.6	18.4
Nova Scotia	550	559	556	567	564	-0.4	2.6
New Brunswick	403	435	429	429	420	-2.1	4.3
Quebec	7,755	8,162	8,328	8,228	8,312	1.0	7.2
Ontario	21,668	21,490	21,668	21,428	21,965	2.5	1.4
Manitoba	959	1,058	1,082	990	1,077	8.7	12.3
Saskatchewan	1,098	1,325	1,294	1,261	1,251	-0.8	14.0
Alberta	5,119	5,162	5,103	5,430	5,480	0.9	7.0
British Columbia	4,146	4,319	4,421	4,600	4,703	2.2	13.4
Yukon	10	8	11	10	10	-1.1	-1.4
Northwest Territories	17	20	28	21	22	4.5	33.5
Nunavut	2	3	3	3	10	238.2	373.1

r *revised*
p *preliminary*

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Study: Why most university students are women

2003

Young men are far less likely to attend university than young women, and this gap is largely associated with differences in academic performance and study habits at the age of 15, as well as parental expectations, according to a new study.

In 2003, about one-quarter (26%) of 19-year-old men had attended university. In contrast, almost two in five (39%) 19-year-old women had done so.

College attendance rates were about the same for young men and women.

The study found that the gap in university attendance is largely associated with differences in academic performance and study habits at the age of 15, parental expectations, and other characteristics of men and women.

In fact, more than three-quarters (77%) of the gap was related to differences in the characteristics of young men and women that were available in the study.

Weaker academic performance among men accounted for almost one-half (45%) of the gap. Specifically, young men had lower overall school marks at age 15, and had poorer performance on a standardized reading test.

An additional 11% of the gap was related to the fact that boys spend less time on their homework than girls. About 9% was associated with the lower educational expectations placed upon boys by their parents. Other student characteristics played moderate roles, accounting for a further 12% of the gap collectively.

The study found that men and women have very different characteristics at age 15. For example, only about one-third (32%) of young men reported overall marks of 80% or higher at this age. In contrast, almost one-half (46%) of young girls fell in the same category.

Young men also fared more poorly on a standardized reading test, as only 20% of them scored in the top 25% on the test. In contrast, 30% of young women did so.

Young men and women are also quite different in terms of the amount of time they spend on homework. Only 30% of boys spent at least four hours per week on homework, compared with 41% of girls.

The study also found that young men had lower expectations placed upon them. Although as many as 60% had parents who expected them to complete a university degree, this was well behind the 70% of young women in the same situation.

All of these factors—overall school marks, performance on the standardized reading test, time spent doing homework, and parental expectations—were strongly associated with university attendance.

Other factors, such as motivation and preferences, were not taken into account in the study since they are difficult to measure.

Note: This study used data from the Youth in Transition Survey, cohort A. The survey followed boys and girls starting when they were 15 years old in 1999 to the age of 19 in 2003. The information collected when they were 15 includes overall school marks, time spent on homework, parental expectations, and so on. Information on their university participation was collected when they were 19.

The study, "Why Are Most University Students Women? Evidence Based on Academic Performance, Study Habits and Parental Influences", is now available as part of the *Analytical Studies Branch Research Paper Series* (11F0019MIE2007303, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

Related studies from the Business and Labour Market Analysis Division can be found in the publication, *Update on Analytical Studies Research* (11-015-XIE, 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 Marc Frenette (613-951-4228), Business and Labour Market Analysis Division. ■

Travel between Canada and other countries

July 2007

After four consecutive months of growth, overnight travel from the United States fell to its lowest level in over four years in July.

Americans made only 1.1 million overnight trips to Canada in July, about 81,000 fewer than in June. This was equivalent to a 7.1% decline, which was the fastest in over four years.

The level was the lowest since the height of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) crisis in May 2003, and the second lowest level in over a decade. (Unless otherwise specified, monthly data are seasonally adjusted.)

In fact, overnight travel from the United States was down across the board. Declines in overnight border crossings were recorded in all regions of Canada. Also, overnight car travel dropped 6.4% to its lowest level in over 22 years, while travel by plane fell 5.5%.

American residents made 959,000 same-day car trips to Canada in July, 3.9% less than in June.

Same-day car travel from the United States had increased during the previous four months.

Overall, travel from the United States dropped to 2.1 million trips, down 5.2% from the previous month and the second lowest level since record-keeping started in 1972.

Turmoil within the mortgage and credit sectors in the United States may have kept Americans from travelling to Canada in July. Another factor may have been the Canadian dollar, which has been gaining ground against its US counterpart. The loonie increased for a sixth consecutive month, hitting a 30-year high of 95 US cents in July.

Travel from countries other than the United States also fell, but to a lesser extent. Travellers from overseas countries made 376,000 overnight trips to Canada, down 1.4% from June.

The major security breach at Glasgow Airport in Scotland on June 30 does not seem to have deterred residents of the United Kingdom from travelling to Canada in July. Travel from the UK, Canada's most important overseas market, reached 76,000 trips, up 0.5%.

Among Canada's top 12 overseas markets, travel from Mexico recorded the largest decline (-12.1%), while travel from Hong Kong had the largest gain (+8.4%).

Also, travel to the United States showed a slight increase, with Canadian residents taking 3.4 million trips south of the border, up 0.2% from June.

The increase was the result of a 0.6% gain in overnight travel by car and a 2.0% increase by plane. Overall, overnight travel to the United States moved up 0.7% to 1.4 million trips.

Same-day car travel to the United States slipped 0.1% to 2.0 million trips in July.

Travel to overseas countries remained stable in July, with Canadians taking 605,000 trips to non-US destinations.

Note: Revisions have been made to some non-seasonally adjusted series for each month of the fourth quarter of 2006 and the first quarter of 2007.

Available on CANSIM: tables 427-0001 to 427-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5005.

The July 2007 issue of *International Travel, Advance Information*, Vol. 23, no. 7 (66-001-PWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For general information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-9169; fax: 613-951-2909; *tourism@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Eric Desjardins (613-951-1781; *eric.desjardins@statcan.ca*), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. □

Travel between Canada and other countries

	June 2007[r]	July 2007[p]	June to July 2007	July 2007[p]	July 2006 to July 2007
	Seasonally adjusted			Unadjusted	
	thousands		% change[1]	thousands	% change[1]
Canadian trips abroad[2]	**4,040**	**4,048**	**0.2**	**4,847**	**3.1**
to the United States	3,435	3,442	0.2	4,314	2.9
to other countries	605	605	0.0	534	4.7
Same-day car trips to the United States	1,970	1,969	-0.1	2,289	0.4
Total trips, one or more nights	2,013	2,023	0.5	2,514	5.9
United States[3]	1,408	1,418	0.7	1,980	6.3
Car	828	833	0.6	1,428	6.9
Plane	475	484	2.0	385	5.5
Other modes of transportation	105	100	-4.2	168	3.2
Other countries[4]	605	605	0.0	534	4.7
Travel to Canada[2]	**2,620**	**2,497**	**-4.7**	**4,371**	**-9.1**
from the United States	2,229	2,113	-5.2	3,676	-11.2
from other countries	391	385	-1.6	695	4.0
Same-day car trips from the United States	998	959	-3.9	1,363	-17.2
Total trips, one or more nights	1,521	1,435	-5.7	2,812	-4.5
United States[3]	1,140	1,059	-7.1	2,136	-6.9
Car	673	630	-6.4	1,336	-8.0
Plane	316	299	-5.5	485	-3.7
Other modes of transportation	151	130	-13.6	315	-7.3
Other countries[4]	381	376	-1.4	676	4.1
Travel to Canada: Top overseas markets, by country of origin[5]					
United Kingdom	76	76	0.5	127	5.9
France	32	32	-0.7	59	0.7
Japan	27	28	3.4	38	-15.0
Germany	27	26	-3.4	48	4.1
Mexico	21	18	-12.1	47	10.1
Australia	19	18	-3.9	25	6.7
South Korea	17	17	4.1	33	5.4
China	14	14	3.2	22	7.4
Hong Kong	10	10	8.4	21	8.9
Netherlands	11	10	-8.9	24	0.2
India	10	9	-7.1	13	24.8
Italy	8	8	-1.8	16	9.5

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
1. *Percentage change is based on unrounded data.*
2. *Totals exceed the sum of "same-day car trips" and "total trips, one or more nights" because they include all of the same-day trips.*
3. *Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other modes of transportation.*
4. *Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States .*
5. *Includes same-day and overnight trips.*

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Construction Union Wage Rate Index

August 2007

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in August compared with the July level of 140.1 (1992=100). The composite index increased 1.0% compared with the August 2006 index (138.7).

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 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 third quarter 2007 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XWE, free) will be available in January 2008.

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. ■

Stocks of frozen poultry meat

September 1, 2007 (preliminary)

Stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on September 1 totalled 70 905 metric tonnes, down 2.4% from a year ago.

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. ■

Control and sale of alcoholic beverages

Fiscal year ending March 31, 2005 (correction)

Please note that corrections have been made to data on beer and wine sales, by volume, for Nova Scotia, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2005.

Corrected data show that sales of beer on a per-capita basis in Nova Scotia (for people aged 15 and over) declined from 81.6 litres in 2004 to 80.9 litres in 2005. For wine, sales increased from 8.6 litres to 9.0 litres.

This also had an impact on Canada data. National sales of beer on a per-capita basis, also for people aged 15 and over, declined from 86.3 litres in 2004 to 84.6 litres in 2005. For wine, sales increased from 13.3 litres to 13.6 litres.

For the purposes of data quality assurance, information on the control and sale of alcoholic beverages for Canada and the provinces and territories for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006 will not be released until early October.

Available on CANSIM: tables 183-0006 and 183-0015 to 183-0020.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1726.

The 2005 issue of *The Control and Sale of Alcoholic Beverages in Canada* (63-202-XWE, free) is now available. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *Free Internet publications*, choose *Government*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Catherine Boies (613-951-3520; *catherine.boies@statcan.ca*), Public Institutions Division. ■

New products

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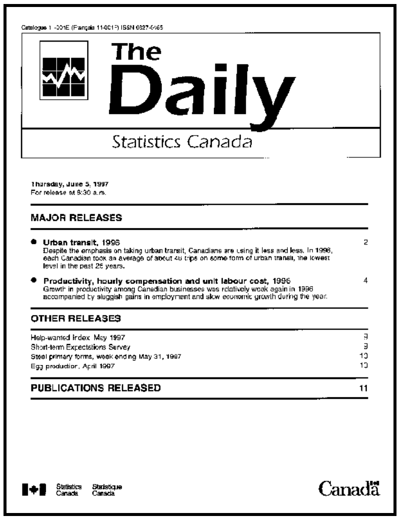
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- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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