



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

Consumer Price Index, February 2008

3

Consumer prices increased by 1.8% in the 12-month period to February 2008, the slowest rate of growth in six months and a marked slowdown from the 12-month increase of 2.2% in January. Less upward pressure from gasoline prices along with falling car prices accounted for most of this deceleration.

(continued on page 2)

Perspectives on Labour and Income

Spring 2008

The Spring 2008 print edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income* contains six articles, all of which have appeared previously in the online edition.

"Work stress and job performance" investigates levels, sources and effects of work stress for various socio-demographic and occupational groups.

"Returning to the job after childbirth" examines both the short- and the long-term effects of childbirth on the employment, job mobility and earnings of Canadian mothers over the past two decades.

"Immigrants in the hinterlands" finds better economic integration of immigrants outside the larger urban centres, even after taking into consideration differences in education, ability in an official language, admission class and country of origin.

"The dynamics of housing affordability" provides a first-ever longitudinal review of housing affordability. It examines the likelihood of spending 30% or more of household income on shelter, how often this occurs and whether it is occasional or persistent.

"RRSP investments" examines the characteristics of families with registered retirement savings plans (RRSPs) and the allocation of assets within their RRSPs according to the level of predictability of the return on investment.

"Earnings in the last decade" examines the evolution of earnings in Canada from 1997 to 2007.

The regular "What's New?" section highlights recent studies of interest from Statistics Canada and other organizations.

The Spring 2008 issue of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 20, no. 1 (75-001-XPE, \$20/\$63) is now available. See *How to order products*.

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



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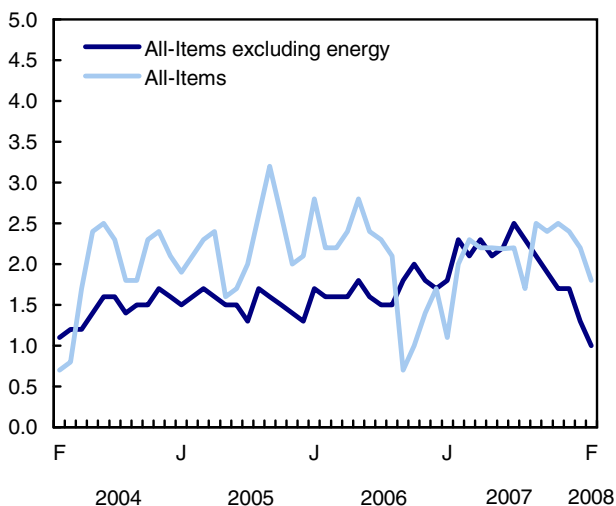
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Consumer Price Index

Consumer prices increased by 1.8% in the 12-month period to February 2008, the slowest rate of growth in six months and a marked slowdown from the 12-month increase of 2.2% in January. Less upward pressure from gasoline prices along with falling car prices accounted for most of this deceleration.

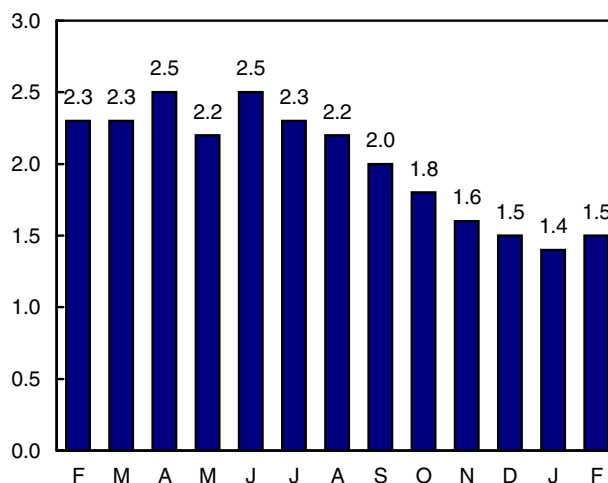
% change



The 12-month change in the Bank of Canada's core index, which is used to monitor the inflation control target, was 1.5% in February. This was a slight acceleration from the growth rate of 1.4% in January, which followed seven consecutive monthly slowdowns.

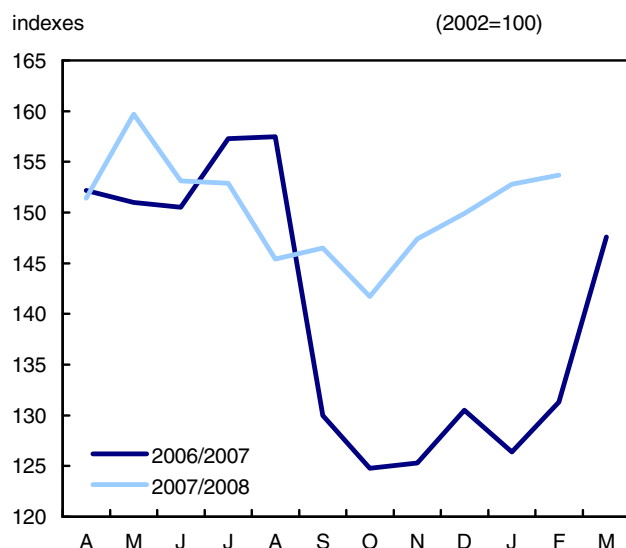
The core index rose by 0.5% between January and February 2008 following growth of 0.1% recorded in the previous period.

% change



The price of heating oil and other fuels also rose significantly (+23.9%) in the 12-month period to February 2008. This represents a slight slowdown from the 24.7% increase posted in January.

Evolution of the gasoline price index



Mortgage interest cost climbed 8.1% in February, up from the 7.6% increase posted in January. This represents the eighth consecutive monthly acceleration of this index. The gain was due more to an increase in new housing prices than to a rise in mortgage renewal rates. New housing costs climbed in virtually all parts of the country.

Homeowners' replacement cost, which represents the cost of maintaining a housing structure, was up 4.8% in February 2008 compared with the same month of the previous year. The 12-month change in this index has accelerated in the past two months after slowing in the previous five months. Builders reported higher labour costs, as well as increases in the cost of certain materials, such as concrete, roofing, exterior siding and heating equipment.

A slide in vehicle purchase and lease prices (-6.8%) was the main factor mitigating these upward pressures. It was the fastest decline since February 1956. This downturn was due in part to lower manufacturer's suggested retail prices, and an increase or continuation of discounts offered on 2008 models. Some manufacturers began offering higher discounts on 2008 models, ahead of the arrival of the 2009 models on the market. This seasonal pattern is normally observed later in the year.

The price of fresh vegetables fell 16.9% in the 12-month period prior to February 2008, the most significant drop since March 1996. The supply of fresh vegetables was reduced at this time in 2007 because

of a frost in California. Moreover, the Canadian dollar's appreciation between February 2007 and February 2008 also helped lower the cost of imported vegetables.

This factor also played a role in a 14.5% drop in fresh fruit prices. This decrease was driven mainly by lower prices for oranges (-36.2%), which had experienced a sharp 12-month change in February 2007 (+45.8%). The substantially lower price of grapes also contributed to the decline in fresh fruit costs. Cooler temperatures in Chile delayed the harvest expected in January, resulting in these products flooding the market in February and putting downward pressure on prices.

The downward trend in prices for computer equipment and supplies (-15.4%) continued in February. There was a particularly sharp drop in prices for laptops, central processing units for desktop computers, and some subcomponents. This movement was consistent with the long-term trend in this index, the result in part of technological advances and the effect of competition in this sector.

Women's clothing prices fell by 3.0% in February 2008 compared with February 2007, a slower drop than the 4.5% decline posted in January.

Particularly sharp slowdown in prices in Ontario

Ontario consumers experienced the fastest slowdown in consumer prices in the 12-month period to February 2008.

Consumer prices rose 1.5% on average in Ontario during this period, compared with 2.1% in January. A slower rise in gasoline prices was mainly responsible for this loss of momentum. Pump prices rose only 14.8% in February, compared with 26.0% in January.

The 12-month growth in consumer prices was especially strong in Alberta (+3.5%) and Saskatchewan (+3.4%). British Columbia consumers experienced the most modest price gain (+1.1%). This is mainly a reflection of the smallest 12-month rise in gasoline prices (+11.3%).

Monthly change: Seasonal increase in travel tours pushes up consumer prices

Consumer prices went from a decline of 0.2% between December 2007 and January 2008 to an increase of 0.4% between January and February 2008.

The 0.2% decline posted in January was partly the result of the reduction in the Goods and Services Tax. Strong upward pressure exerted by higher tour package costs also contributed to this reversal. After falling 10.3% in January, the price of tour packages rebounded 9.9%

in February. This was a movement frequently observed at this time of year.

Prices of non-alcoholic beverages, consisting of soft drinks and bottled water, rose 8.4% between January and February 2008. This upward movement was driven by a return to regular pricing from discounts offered the previous month.

In February, traveller accommodation jumped 5.0%. These prices rose most sharply in Quebec (+11.3%). Events such as Carnaval in Québec and Winterlude in Ottawa contributed to the upswing in the cost of overnight accommodation in these cities.

Men's clothing prices rose 4.9% between January and February. This increase reflects the return to regular pricing after discounts on a wide range of clothing in the previous month. Price increases are often seen at this time of the year.

A 1.8% decrease in vehicle purchase and lease prices helped mitigate the rise in consumer prices in February. This change was due to a drop in manufacturers suggested retail prices and an increase in manufacturer's incentives.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2301.

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

The February 2008 issue of the *Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 87, no. 2 (62-001-XWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. A paper copy is also available (62-001-XPE, \$12/\$111). A more detailed analysis of the CPI is available in this publication. See *How to order products*.

The March Consumer Price Index will be released on April 17.

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

□

Consumer Price Index and major components (2002=100)

	Relative importance ¹	February 2008	January 2008	February 2007	January to February 2008	February 2007 to February 2008
Unadjusted						
					% change	
All-items	100.00²	112.2	111.8	110.2	0.4	1.8
Food	17.04	112.8	112.4	112.6	0.4	0.2
Shelter	26.62	119.6	119.2	114.9	0.3	4.1
Household operations and furnishings	11.10	104.1	103.3	103.0	0.8	1.1
Clothing and footwear	5.36	94.1	92.2	95.4	2.1	-1.4
Transportation	19.88	117.0	117.6	114.2	-0.5	2.5
Health and personal care	4.73	107.7	107.5	106.5	0.2	1.1
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	100.8	99.6	100.2	1.2	0.6
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	126.8	126.4	124.2	0.3	2.1
All-items (1992=100)		133.6	133.0	131.2	0.5	1.8
Special aggregates						
Goods	48.78	107.4	107.3	107.4	0.1	0.0
Services	51.22	116.9	116.2	113.0	0.6	3.5
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	109.4	109.0	108.0	0.4	1.3
Energy	9.38	139.4	139.0	127.1	0.3	9.7
Core CPI ³	82.71	110.7	110.1	109.1	0.5	1.5

1. 2005 CPI basket weights at April 2007 prices, Canada : Effective May 2007. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 at (www.statcan.ca/english/sdds/index.htm).
2. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.
3. The measure of Core CPI excludes from the all-items CPI the effect of changes in indirect taxes and eight of the most volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada: fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuel; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies. For additional information on Core CPI, please consult the Bank of Canada website (www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm).

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

	February 2008	January 2008	February 2007	January to February 2008	February 2007 to February 2008
Unadjusted					
				% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador	112.4	111.9	110.1	0.4	2.1
Prince Edward Island	114.6	114.2	111.9	0.4	2.4
Nova Scotia	113.9	113.5	111.0	0.4	2.6
New Brunswick	111.7	111.7	109.6	0.0	1.9
Québec	111.4	111.0	109.6	0.4	1.6
Ontario	111.4	110.9	109.7	0.5	1.5
Manitoba	111.2	110.8	109.4	0.4	1.6
Saskatchewan	113.6	113.0	109.9	0.5	3.4
Alberta	119.0	118.8	115.0	0.2	3.5
British Columbia	110.3	109.9	109.1	0.4	1.1
Whitehorse	110.1	110.4	107.3	-0.3	2.6
Yellowknife ²	112.3	111.3	109.1	0.9	2.9
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	108.4	108.2	106.5	0.2	1.8

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

Study: Hours polarization revisited 1997 to 2006

Fewer full-time Canadian workers are putting in long hours on the job, but the decline has occurred mostly among men and older workers, according to a new study.

The study, published today in *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, showed that in 2006, full-time workers put in 40.8 hours on the job on average, down from 41.5 hours in 1997.

The decline in overall usual hours worked continues the downward trend seen between 1976 and 1996 during which the average workweek slipped by 1.6 hours. The bulk of that 20-year decline was due mostly to a growth in part-time employment, that is, jobs of under 30 hours a week.

Between 1997 and 2006, the average number of working hours continued to fall even though more full-time workers entered the labour market. The study, based on Labour Force Survey data, found that the decline during this decade was the result of shifts in the distribution of hours during the workweek.

More people were putting in a workweek of between 30 and 48 hours, especially 30 to 40 hours, as fewer people were working very long hours (49 or more) or very short hours (under 15).

The study also found that not only are women more likely to be employed now, their workweek has also increased. In 2006, women worked an average of 33.1 hours a week, up 0.6 hours from 1997. During this period, women shifted from working short- or part-time hours to working 30 to 40 hours.

On the other hand, the workweek for men declined. Instead of working extremely long or extremely short shifts, they have been opting toward 15 to 48 hours. In 1997, about 16.7% of men of all ages worked 49 hours or more; by 2006, this proportion had declined to 13.8%.

Older workers also had a shift away from working very long hours and the largest growth in working between 15 and 39 hours. This brought their standard workweek down 0.5 hours to 36.3 in 2006.

Canada's strong labour market in the last 10 years also influenced the length of the workweek. It attracted more women, mothers with dependent children, youth and older workers into the labour force — groups that generally prefer varied hours.

The shift toward service-related jobs in the last decade also had a big impact on average hours. The service-producing sector accounted for 76% of employment in 2006, and 85% of all new jobs since 1997. Workers in this sector tend to work short or standard hours, whereas those in the goods-producing sector tend to work standard to long hours.

Workers with postsecondary education were also less likely to be working long schedules than they

were 10 years earlier, especially men with a university education. Whereas 27.1% of men with a university degree worked 41 hours or more in 1997, only 21.5% did so in 2006.

The study found that Quebec workers, part- and full-time combined, had the shortest average workweek among the provinces in 2006, at 35.5 hours. This was down 0.8 hours from 1997, which was the biggest decline among the provinces. The national average was 36.5 hours.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, workers put in 38.9 hours a week on average in 2006, up almost one hour from 1997 and the highest average in the country.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.

The article "Hours polarization revisited" is now available in the March 2008 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, vol. 9, no. 3 (75-001-XWE, free), from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this article, contact Jeannine Usalcas (613-951-4720; jeannine.usalcas@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division. ■

Canadian passenger bus and urban transit industries

2006 (preliminary)

Canadian passenger bus and urban transit industries saw their combined financial performance reach record heights in 2006.

For the year, total revenue for the bus-related industries rose 12.3% to a record \$9.5 billion. Expenses increased at a slower pace, rising 7.4% to \$7.7 billion. As a result of the strong growth in revenues, net income for the industries rose 40.1% to \$1.8 billion.

Within the bus industries, the urban transit industry accounted for the majority of the revenue generated in 2006. The industry also experienced the largest year-over-year growth in revenues, with revenues from urban transit services and other bus activities rising 14.5% to \$6.6 billion. The school and employee bus industry followed with a 12.4% rise to \$1.7 billion.

The strong financial performance of the industries is the by-product of increased operating and capital contributions from each level of government, rising fares, and a growing number of urban transit passenger trips on buses, commuter trains, streetcars and subways.

The number of passenger trips is of particular importance to the urban transit industry as it provides a strong indication of both usage and viability. For the

year, passenger trips rose 2.2% to 1.6 billion trips. The increase is the result of rising demand factors. These include a growing urban population, traffic congestion caused from road motor vehicles, and the affordability of travel that urban transit provides over private vehicles.

From a provincial perspective, the majority of the operating revenues for the bus industries in 2006 were generated from activities in Ontario and Quebec. Ontario accounted for 43.8% of the operating revenues, while Quebec accounted for 26.2%.

In terms of employment, the bus industries employed more than 93,000 people in 2006, with the urban transit and school and employee bus industries accounting for 48.6% and 39.7% of the workforce respectively. Employment expenses, at 58.9%, also continued to be the main expenditure incurred by the industries, as the average expenditure per employee rose to \$48,601 from \$47,754 in 2005.

Energy consumption, another major expenditure within the industries, increased as well in 2006 with diesel fuel once again continuing to be the primary source of energy used. For the year, diesel fuel increased 4.0% to 797.7 million litres.

The industries also made significant capital related investments in 2006. Specifically, the industries

spent \$1 billion on the acquisition of buses and other rolling stock, while more than doubling their spending to \$1.1 billion on other capital expenditures. The urban transit industry continued to make the largest capital investments, spending \$1.9 billion — a 39% increase over 2005 levels.

The increase in capital is the result of larger capital subsidies from various levels of government, which rose 43.2% to \$1.7 billion in 2006.

Available on CANSIM: tables 408-0005 to 408-0012.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2798.

Additional information surrounding the industries will soon be made available in the *Surface and Marine Transport Service Bulletin* (50-002-XIE, free).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Dissemination Unit (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 613-951-0009; transportationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division.

Passenger bus and urban transit industries in 2006

North American Industrial Classification System Industry	Total revenue	Total expenditure	Net income
	\$ thousands		
Urban transit	6,637,980	5,109,354	1,528,626
Interurban and rural	589,358	569,576	19,781
School and employee	1,663,149	1,497,922	165,227
Charter	400,846	360,131	40,714
Other transit and shuttle	168,629	160,149	8,479
Total	9,459,960	7,697,133	1,762,827

Sound recording and music publishing 2006 (correction)

Canada's sound recording and music publishing industries maintained profitability for the second consecutive year in 2006, but not without a struggle.

Operating revenues exceeded operating expenditures for each of the three major segments of Canada's music industry (record production, music publishing and sound recording studios), but music publishing was the only industry able to achieve true revenue growth in 2006.

Operating revenues for the music publishing industry rose 4.8% from 2005 to \$124.2 million. At the same time, its operating expenses increased more than twice as fast (+11.8%), reaching \$111.7 million. As a

result, its operating profit margin dropped from 15.7% in 2005 to 10.1% in 2006.

In contrast, total sales and overall profitability both declined in the record production industry, the largest of the three. Operating revenues went from \$765 million to \$712 million in 2006, dropping by 6.9%. The cost-cutting measures implemented by many firms during the previous year were not as significant in 2006. National operating expenses fell by only 3.0% to \$644 million, noticeably less than the 14.9% reduction in 2005.

As a result, the profit margin for the record production industry fell from 13.1% to 9.5%. The industry posted an operating profit of \$67.9 million, roughly one-third lower than the \$100.6 million it made in 2005.

(Correction: The majority of record production industry revenues, roughly 79%, continued to be generated by foreign-controlled companies.

However, Canadian-controlled record labels remained consistent and focused in responding to the economic and competitive challenges facing them in 2006. Total operating revenues for Canadian-controlled firms climbed 6.6% to \$144.8 million in 2006. As a result, their share of national industry revenues increased from 18% in 2005 to 21% in 2006.

Nevertheless, Canadian-controlled firms had a lower operating profit margin than their foreign counterparts (4.2% compared with 11.2%). They spent more on primary expense items, such as cost of goods sold, salaries, wages, benefits and outsourcing. Combined, these three expenditures accounted for only 40% of total operating expenses for foreign-controlled firms, but 60% for firms under Canadian ownership.)

In the sound recording studio industry, the smallest of the three, total operating revenues dropped 10.4% to \$82.9 million in 2006, while operating expense fell 11.7% to \$72.5 million.

As a result, these firms posted an operating profit margin of 12.5%, up slightly from 11.2% the year before.

Note: The annual Survey of Sound Recording and Music Publishing measures the financial performance of record producers, integrated record production companies, music publishers and sound recording studios. Commencing with reference year 2005 and every two years thereafter, the survey also collects detailed information on characteristics specific to these industries, such as sales by source of revenue, sales by Canadian artists, new releases by musical category, sales and number of recordings by format as well as selected expenditure information.

Data for 2006 should not be compared with data published prior to 2005 since significant changes were made to the survey at that time.

Data for record production and integrated record production have been combined in this analysis. To facilitate the presentation of characteristics in this release, references to "record producers", "labels" or "record production companies" include firms classified to the record production and integrated record production industries.

Available on CANSIM: table 361-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3115.

Selected information from the 2006 Survey of Service Industries: Sound Recording and Music will be available soon in the publication *Sound Recording and Music Publishing: Data Tables* (87F0008XWE, free). 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 Heather Archibald (613-951-0403; fax: 613-951-6696; heather.archibald@statcan.ca), Service Industries Division. ■

Postsecondary Student Information System

2001 to 2004

Information from a new database of postsecondary students in Atlantic Canada is now available.

A longitudinal database which includes one record for each postsecondary student who studied in Atlantic Canada at some point during the years 2001 through to 2004 has been created, using the Postsecondary Student Information System.

Custom tabulations from this database are available on a fee-for-service basis.

For more information, to order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-4441; educationstats@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

Coal mining

2006

Data on coal mining are now available for 2006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2177.

For more information, to order data, 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; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

New products

The Consumer Price Index, February 2008, Vol. 87, no. 2
Catalogue number 62-001-XPE (\$12/\$111).

The Consumer Price Index, February 2008, Vol. 87, no. 2
Catalogue number 62-001-XWE
(free).

New Motor Vehicle Sales, January 2008, Vol. 80, no. 1
Catalogue number 63-007-XWE
(free).

Perspectives on Labour and Income, March 2008, Vol. 9, no. 3
Catalogue number 75-001-XWE
(free).

Perspectives on Labour and Income, Spring 2008, Vol. 20, no. 1
Catalogue number 75-001-XPE (\$20/\$63).

Profile of Labour Market Activity, Industry, Occupation, Education, Language of Work, Place of Work and Mode of Transportation for Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Divisions, Census Subdivisions and Dissemination Areas, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-579-XCB2006002
(various prices).

Profile of Labour Market Activity, Industry, Occupation, Education, Language of Work, Place of Work and Mode of Transportation for Canada, Provinces, Territories and Forward Sortation Areas, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-579-XCB2006003
(various prices).

Profile of Labour Market Activity, Industry, Occupation, Education, Language of Work, Place of Work and Mode of Transportation for Census Metropolitan Areas, Census Agglomerations and Census Subdivisions, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-579-XCB2006006
(various prices).

Profile of Labour Market Activity, Industry, Occupation, Education, Language of Work, Place of Work and Mode of Transportation for Designated Places, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-579-XCB2006008
(various prices).

Profile of Labour Market Activity, Industry, Occupation, Education, Language of Work, Place of Work and Mode of Transportation for Urban Areas, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-579-XCB2006009
(various prices).

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Catalogue 11-001-XIE (F) (single 11-001-XIE 001-001)



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are taking it less and less. In 1996, about 10.5 billion trips were taken 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

- **Harvested Index May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 8
- **Steel primary forms, steel ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, April 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

11



Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications and library Services Division, Statistics Canada, 10G, R.H. Coats Building, 100 Tunney's Pasture Driveway, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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