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

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, March 19, 2008
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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Wholesalers shook off a disappointing December to start the New Year with a flourish, helped in part by a price driven surge in the sale of agricultural chemicals.

Study: Health care use among gay, lesbian and bisexual Canadians, 2003 and 2005 — 6

A new study published today in *Health Reports* provides the first national picture of health care use by sexual orientation. It shows that the use of health care services differs depending on self-identified sexual preference.

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Releases

Wholesale trade

January 2008

Wholesalers shook off a disappointing December to start the New Year with a flourish, helped in part by a price driven surge in the sale of agricultural chemicals.

Sales by Canadian wholesalers rose a healthy 2.6% in January to $44.1 billion, effectively offsetting the 2.6% drop recorded in December.

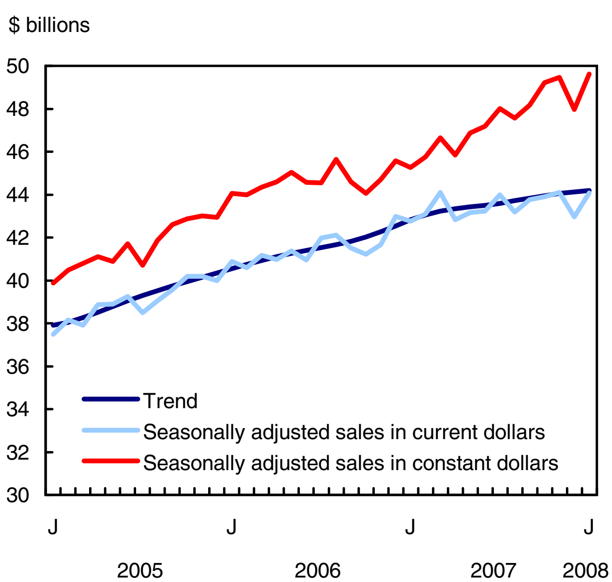
In January, six of the seven wholesale sectors reported higher sales, led by very strong growth in the "other products" sector (+11.4%). The growth in this sector was driven by higher sales of agricultural chemicals, which also benefited from sharply higher prices during the month.

Wholesalers of machinery and electronic equipment (+2.2%), food, beverage and tobacco products (+2.1%) and building materials (+1.7%) were the other major contributors to January's increase in sales.

The farm products sector, which consists primarily of livestock sales, was the only sector to register a decline (-4.6%) in January.

Sales in constant dollars, which remove the impact of price changes to provide an indicator of volume sales, increased by 3.5 % during the month.

Wholesale sales rebound in January



Sales of agricultural chemicals propel "other products" sector to record gain

The "other products" sector racked up its highest monthly gain on record (+11.4%) in January, thanks in large part to a significant increase in the sale of agricultural chemicals. These products account for roughly one-quarter of sales in this sector, which also includes wholesalers of recycled materials, paper products and non-agricultural chemicals.

A significant part of the increase in agricultural chemical sales was price-driven. January is typically the time of the year when many contracts are re-negotiated, and with global demand for agricultural inputs surging, prices for these products have risen significantly over the past year. According to the latest figures from the Industrial Product Price Index, overall fertilizer prices were 25% higher in January compared with the same month in 2007.

Much of this demand is coming from developing markets such as China, India and Brazil, which has in turn led to a large increase in exports over the past year. After registering a 21.6% increase in 2007, exports of fertilizers and fertilizer materials continued to move ahead in January, rising a further 26.4% according to the latest International Trade data.

Widespread gains in machinery and electronic equipment sector

Wholesalers of machinery and electronic equipment put a soft December (-1.3%) behind them as sales moved ahead by 2.2% in January to $9.5 billion. This was the fourth increase in five months for this sector.

All three trade groups that make up this sector reported higher sales in January: sales of computers and other electronic equipment rose 3.4%, office and professional equipment was up 3.0%, while sales of machinery and equipment posted a more modest rise of 1.2%.

With businesses continuing to take advantage of the strong Canadian dollar to invest in new machinery and equipment, prospects for this sector remain positive. According to the latest Survey of Private and Public Investment, overall investment in machinery and equipment is expected to increase for a sixth consecutive year in 2008, up a further 5.7%.

Sales of food, beverage and tobacco products recover from December drop

Wholesalers in the food, beverage and tobacco products sector recovered from a weak December (-3.0%) to register a 2.1% increase in sales in January to $7.9 billion.

The food products trade group was behind all of the gain in January, as sales rose 3.2% to $7.3 billion. This was in marked contrast to the alcohol and tobacco group, where sales fell 10.0% to $595 million.

Prairie provinces lead the way

Nearly all the provinces and territories recorded higher sales in January. Among the regions, the most notable gains were in the Prairie provinces.

Saskatchewan led the way with a 12.8% jump, its largest increase since February 2005. The gain was entirely attributable to the surge in the "other products" sector, which in this province consists almost entirely of wholesalers of agricultural chemicals. This sector was also a major factor behind the province's rapid sales growth throughout 2007.

Higher sales in the "other products" sector also accounted for much of the 8.9% increase in Manitoba. Other areas of strength were the automotive products and personal and household goods sectors.

After falling for the first time in seven months in December, sales in Alberta resumed their upward trajectory (+4.4%) in January. Higher sales of food, beverage and tobacco products, "other products" and machinery and electronic equipment were behind much of the gain.

In Quebec, widespread gains helped bring to an end a string of three consecutive monthly declines, with January sales up 3.3%. Increases were most apparent in the automotive products, building materials and machinery and equipment sectors.

In Ontario, weakness in the automotive products sector was offset by stronger sales of "other products" and machinery and equipment, leading to an overall gain of 1.1%.

All four Atlantic provinces registered higher sales in January. Nova Scotia recorded the largest increase (+7.4%) followed by Newfoundland and Labrador (+3.1%), while sales in New Brunswick (+0.7%) and Prince Edward Island (+0.2%) edged up slightly.

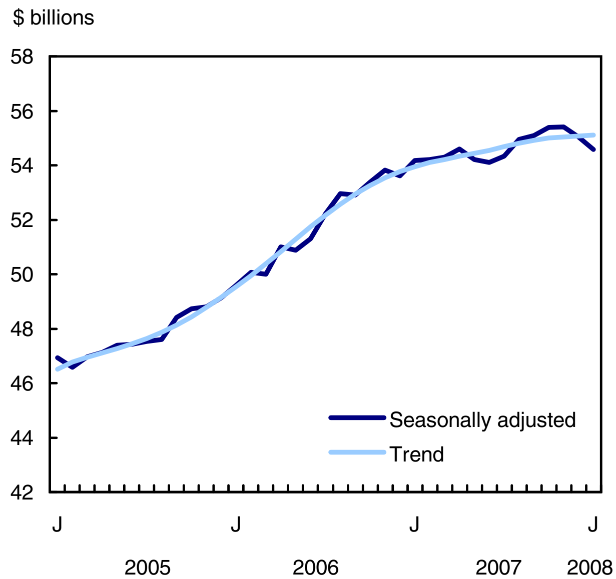
Inventories decline for a second consecutive month

Inventories fell for the second straight month in January, down 0.8% to $54.6 billion following a 0.7% decline in December.

Inventory levels fell in 10 of the 15 wholesale trade groups. Wholesalers of motor vehicles reported the largest decrease in inventories, down 3.6% to $4.5 billion. Inventories within this trade group have been on a generally downward trend since the end of 2006.

Some of the other trade groups reporting notable declines in inventories included "other products" (-2.0%), building supplies (-1.7%) and computers and electronic equipment (-2.3%).

Inventories decline for second consecutive month



Inventory-to-sale ratio hits lowest level in six months

January's big increase in sales, coupled with the drop in inventories, led to a significant drop in the inventory-to-sales ratio from 1.28 in December to 1.24 in January, its lowest level since July 2007.

Although the ratio has been somewhat volatile over the past year or so, the overall trend has seen a slight decline since hitting its last peak in September 2006.

The inventory-to sales ratio is a 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 January 2008 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008-XWE, free) will soon be available.

Wholesale trade estimates for February will be released on April 18.

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

	January 2007	October 2007[r]	November 2007[r]	December 2007[r]	January 2008[p]	December 2007 to January 2008	January 2007 to January 2008	December 2007[r]	January 2008[p]
	Wholesale inventories							Inventory-to-sales ratio	
	Seasonally adjusted								
	$ millions					% change			
Inventories	**54,175**	**55,386**	**55,412**	**55,040**	**54,581**	**-0.8**	**0.7**	**1.28**	**1.24**
Farm products	183	218	178	168	166	-1.1	-9.0	0.37	0.39
Food products	4,329	4,741	4,696	4,654	4,703	1.0	8.6	0.66	0.65
Alcohol and tobacco	302	317	328	319	354	11.1	17.4	0.48	0.60
Apparel	1,685	1,819	1,838	1,821	1,802	-1.0	6.9	2.27	2.18
Household and personal products	3,954	4,013	4,159	4,068	4,022	-1.1	1.7	1.46	1.48
Pharmaceuticals	3,154	3,593	3,509	3,540	3,544	0.1	12.4	1.16	1.14
Motor vehicles	5,154	4,540	4,662	4,710	4,542	-3.6	-11.9	0.80	0.77
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,380	3,351	3,271	3,231	3,196	-1.1	-5.4	2.21	2.10
Building supplies	5,832	6,073	6,085	6,138	6,036	-1.7	3.5	1.64	1.60
Metal products	3,007	2,761	2,696	2,692	2,661	-1.1	-11.5	1.93	1.91
Lumber and millwork	1,207	1,116	1,171	1,120	1,147	2.4	-5.0	1.20	1.14
Machinery and equipment	11,581	11,785	11,787	11,688	11,709	0.2	1.1	2.57	2.54
Computer and other electronic equipment	1,637	1,719	1,757	1,659	1,620	-2.3	-1.1	0.62	0.58
Office and professional equipment	2,654	2,698	2,681	2,653	2,627	-1.0	-1.0	1.31	1.26
Other products	6,116	6,645	6,594	6,580	6,451	-2.0	5.5	1.21	1.06

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
Note: *Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.*

Wholesale merchants' sales

	January 2007	October 2007[r]	November 2007[r]	December 2007[r]	January 2008[p]	December 2007 to January 2008	January 2007 to January 2008
	Seasonally adjusted						
	$ millions					% change	
Total, wholesale sales	**42,757**	**43,894**	**44,110**	**42,959**	**44,080**	**2.6**	**3.1**
Farm products	**464**	**456**	**445**	**448**	**428**	**-4.6**	**-7.8**
Food, beverages and tobacco products	**7,573**	**7,989**	**7,953**	**7,712**	**7,870**	**2.1**	**3.9**
Food products	6,957	7,310	7,303	7,050	7,275	3.2	4.6
Alcohol and tobacco	616	680	650	662	595	-10.0	-3.4
Personal and household goods	**6,164**	**6,642**	**6,689**	**6,635**	**6,658**	**0.3**	**8.0**
Apparel	825	751	800	800	825	3.1	0.0
Household and personal products	2,621	2,894	2,901	2,780	2,717	-2.3	3.6
Pharmaceuticals	2,718	2,997	2,988	3,055	3,116	2.0	14.7
Automotive products	**7,995**	**7,725**	**8,028**	**7,368**	**7,396**	**0.4**	**-7.5**
Motor vehicles	6,447	6,146	6,470	5,907	5,876	-0.5	-8.9
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	1,548	1,579	1,559	1,461	1,520	4.1	-1.8
Building materials	**6,217**	**6,285**	**6,179**	**6,077**	**6,182**	**1.7**	**-0.6**
Building supplies	3,658	3,804	3,785	3,742	3,782	1.1	3.4
Metal products	1,385	1,410	1,339	1,398	1,393	-0.3	0.6
Lumber and millwork	1,174	1,072	1,055	937	1,006	7.4	-14.3
Machinery and electronic equipment	**8,936**	**9,281**	**9,390**	**9,265**	**9,473**	**2.2**	**6.0**
Machinery and equipment	4,229	4,597	4,632	4,554	4,609	1.2	9.0
Computer and other electronic equipment	2,717	2,648	2,697	2,680	2,772	3.4	2.0
Office and professional equipment	1,989	2,036	2,061	2,031	2,092	3.0	5.1
Other products	**5,408**	**5,516**	**5,425**	**5,454**	**6,074**	**11.4**	**12.3**
Total, excluding automobiles	**34,762**	**36,170**	**36,082**	**35,591**	**36,684**	**3.1**	**5.5**
Sales, province and territory							
Newfoundland and Labrador	252	255	260	248	256	3.1	1.5
Prince Edward Island	42	42	41	40	41	0.2	-3.6
Nova Scotia	577	593	583	548	588	7.4	1.9
New Brunswick	439	429	426	428	431	0.7	-1.9
Quebec	7,882	8,319	8,309	8,257	8,528	3.3	8.2
Ontario	21,460	21,617	21,821	21,442	21,688	1.1	1.1
Manitoba	1,066	1,183	1,121	1,056	1,150	8.9	7.9
Saskatchewan	1,279	1,331	1,343	1,305	1,473	12.8	15.2
Alberta	5,377	5,600	5,622	5,337	5,571	4.4	3.6
British Columbia	4,341	4,480	4,545	4,258	4,319	1.4	-0.5
Yukon	15	13	13	11	13	15.5	-14.0
Northwest Territories	25	24	21	25	21	-17.3	-17.0
Nunavut	2	10	4	3	4	5.4	103.4

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
Note: *Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.*

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Study: Health care use among gay, lesbian and bisexual Canadians

2003 and 2005

A new study published today in *Health Reports* provides the first national picture of health care use by sexual orientation. It shows that the use of health care services differs depending on self-identified sexual preference.

The study examined whether self-identified sexual preference was a factor in the use of various aspects of health care, such as consulting health care providers, having a regular doctor, and using preventive procedures, such as Pap tests.

The study was based on combined 2003 and 2005 data from the Canadian Community Health Survey for adults aged 18 to 59.

It found that gay men were much more likely than heterosexual men to have consulted a medical specialist or mental health service providers, such as social workers or counselors, in the year prior to the survey.

Among women, lesbians were less likely than heterosexual women to have seen a family doctor in the year prior to the survey or to have undergone a Pap test in the three previous years.

An estimated 346,000 adults identified themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual in the survey. These people represented 1.9% of the total population aged 18 to 59. Of this group, 130,000 were gay men, 59,000 bisexual men, 71,000 lesbians, and 85,000 bisexual women.

Use of health care services differs by sexual preference

The study suggests that the use of health care services differs by self-identified sexual preference, independent of other factors such as age, income, education and health status that are known to influence health care use.

About 29% of gay men consulted a medical specialist in the 12 months before the survey, compared with 19% of heterosexual men.

Similarly, 8% of gay men consulted a psychologist, nearly triple the proportion of 3% among their heterosexual counterparts. About 7% of gay men consulted social workers or counsellors, compared with 4% of heterosexual men.

There were no differences between bisexual and heterosexual men in consultations with doctors. However, bisexual men had more frequent contact with social workers or counsellors.

Among women, 77% of lesbians had seen a family doctor in the 12 months before the survey, compared with 83% of heterosexual women.

On the other hand, 10% of lesbians consulted a psychologist, as did 11% of bisexual women, well above the proportion of only 4% among heterosexual women.

Similarly, 7% of lesbians and 9% of bisexual women attended a self-help group, while only 3% of their heterosexual counterparts did so.

About 17% of bisexual women had contact with social workers or counsellors, nearly three times the proportion of 6% among heterosexual women.

Lesbians, bisexuals less likely to have a regular doctor

Statistically similar proportions of gay, bisexual and heterosexual men reported that they did not have a regular doctor.

Among women, 19% of lesbians and 24% of bisexuals did not have a regular doctor, as opposed to only 12% of heterosexuals.

Bisexual men and women were more likely than heterosexuals to report having had an unmet health care need in the year prior to the survey.

Preventive screening

Less than two-thirds of lesbians reported having had a Pap test within three years of the survey, well below the more than three-quarters of heterosexual and bisexual women who had done so.

The proportions of lesbian and heterosexual women aged 50 to 59 who had had a mammogram in the two years prior to the survey did not differ significantly. However, bisexual women were less likely to have had a mammogram in that period.

More self-reported health problems

An estimated 65% of gay men and 63% of lesbians reported their health as excellent or very good, virtually identical to rates among the heterosexual population.

However, 12% of bisexual men and 16% of bisexual women reported fair or poor health. These levels were significantly higher than the roughly 8% of men and women in the heterosexual population who reported the same health status.

The study found that gay men and bisexual women tended to report more chronic conditions than did the heterosexual population. They were also more likely to have had at least one disability day due to physical illness in the two weeks prior to the survey.

Bisexual men and women were more likely than heterosexual men and women to perceive their mental health as fair or poor.

All sexual minority groups reported levels of mood or anxiety disorders above those for the heterosexual population.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3226.

The article "Health care use among gay, lesbian and bisexual Canadians," is now available in the complete version of the latest issue of *Health Reports*, Vol. 19, no. 1 (82-003-XWE, free) from the *Publications* module of our website. A printed version (82-003-XPE, $24/$68) is also now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information about *Health Reports*, contact Christine Wright (613-951-1765; *christine.wright@statcan.ca*), Health Information and Research Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Michael Tjepkema (416-952-4620; *michael.tjepkema@statcan.ca*), Health Information and Research Division. ■

Study: An algorithm to differentiate diabetic respondents in the Canadian Community Health Survey

The article "An algorithm to differentiate diabetic respondents in the Canadian Community Health Survey," is released today in *Health Reports*.

The article explains a method of determining whether respondents to the Canadian Community Health Survey who report diabetes have type 1 or type 2, based on their answers to questions about age of onset, medication use, and timing of the initiation of insulin treatment.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3226.

The article "An algorithm to differentiate diabetic respondents in the Canadian Community Health Survey," is now available in the complete version of the latest issue of *Health Reports*, Vol. 19, no. 1 (82-003-XWE, free) from the *Publications* module of our website. A printed version (82-003-XPE, $24/$68) is also available. See *How to order products*.

For more information about *Health Reports*, contact Christine Wright (613-951-1765; *christine.wright@statcan.ca*), Health Information and Research Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Edward Ng (613-951-5308; *edward.ng@statcan.ca*), Health Information and Research Division. ■

Periodical publishing

2006

Revenue growth among the largest publishers drove the Canadian periodical publishing industry past the $2 billion mark in 2006.

The industry earned total operating revenues of $2.07 billion in 2006, a 5.3% increase from $1.97 billion in 2005. Profits and revenue growth were concentrated among the largest firms.

The 10 largest publishing companies accounted for just over half of industry operating revenues ($1.17 billion), representing 82% of industry profits and 68% of revenue growth in 2006. These companies recorded an operating profit margin of 15.9%, up from 11.4% in 2005. By comparison, the remaining companies posted a profit margin of 4.5% in 2006, down from 6.2% the previous year.

Firms in Ontario and Quebec combined accounted for the majority of the total national operating revenues. Ontario firms dominated Canadian periodical publishing, earning 57% of total operating revenues in 2006. Quebec firms accounted for 24%, while those on the Prairies represented 10%.

Operating expenses rose 3.2% from $1.79 billion to $1.85 billion. One-quarter of industry operating expenses were spent on salaries, wages and benefits, which rose 2.4% to $512 million. The industry as a whole posted an operating profit margin of 10.9% in 2006, up from 9.1% in 2005.

Atlantic Canada was the only region where the industry posted a loss, reporting an operating profit margin of -1.0%. Periodical publishers in British Columbia and the territories had a profit margin of 8.7% while publishers in other regions of the country had profit margins in double digits: Quebec with 12.4%, Ontario with 10.5%, and the Prairies with 13.7%.

Note: Starting this survey year (2006), Statistics Canada's Annual Survey of Periodical Publishers will alternate between releasing basic financial statistics in even survey years and more comprehensive data, including advertising and circulation revenues, in odd years.

The periodical publishing industry consists of magazine or periodical publishers whose main activities include gathering, writing, soliciting and editing articles, and preparing and selling advertisements. Periodicals with little or no editorial content such as shoppers and real estate guides are included in this survey. Periodicals are published at regular intervals, typically on a weekly, monthly or quarterly basis.

Beginning in 2004, survey estimates are produced for the industry as defined by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Periodical publishing industry estimates of 2004 and beyond should not be compared with survey results prior to 2004 due to significant differences in definitions of the survey populations.

Available on CANSIM: table 361-0010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5091.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Les Reid (613-951-2246; *les.reid@statcan.ca*; fax: 613-951-6696), Service Industries Division. □

Summary statistics for the periodical publishing industry, by province and region[1]

	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia and the territories	Canada
	$ thousands					
Operating revenues[2]						
2006	37,425	496,964	1,173,523	200,748	164,088	2,072,748
2005[r]	37,490	485,338	1,104,693	181,667	159,530	1,968,718
2004[r]	37,754	466,241	1,023,519	171,028	148,573	1,847,115
Operating expenses[3]						
2006	37,804	435,397	1,050,173	173,189	149,816	1,846,379
2005[r]	36,311	448,440	993,239	169,089	142,400	1,789,480
2004[r]	35,523	415,625	890,199	150,795	128,011	1,620,153
Salaries, wages and benefits						
2006	13,281	88,988	297,331	62,123	50,303	512,026
2005[r]	12,163	91,385	298,839	51,714	45,715	499,817
2004[r]	11,586	82,378	277,471	52,140	43,021	466,597
	%					
Operating profit margin						
2006	-1.0	12.4	10.5	13.7	8.7	10.9
2005[r]	3.1	7.6	10.1	6.9	10.7	9.1
2004[r]	5.9	10.9	13.0	11.8	13.8	12.3

1. *Estimates for the most recent year are preliminary. Preliminary data are subject to revision.*
2. *Operating revenues exclude investment income, capital gains, extraordinary gains and other non-recurring items.*
3. *Operating expenses exclude write-offs, capital losses, extraordinary losses, interest on borrowing and other non-recurring items.*

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

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Natural gas sales

January 2008 (preliminary)

With colder than normal temperatures in all Western provinces, residential natural gas sales were up in January.

Natural gas sales totalled 9 072 million cubic metres, up 3.8% from January 2007.

Sales volume to the residential sector increased 5.6% while industrial and direct sales gained 4.7%. Sales in the commercial sector edged down 0.7%.

Natural gas sales

	January 2008[p]	January 2007	January 2007 to January 2008
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total sales	**9 071 591**	**8 740 176**	**3.8**
Residential	2 810 727	2 662 400	5.6
Commercial	1 878 892	1 892 017	-0.7
Industrial and direct	4 381 972	4 185 759	4.7

[p] *preliminary*

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.

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. ■

Stocks of frozen poultry meat

March 1, 2008 (preliminary)

Stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on March 1 totalled 65 409 metric tonnes, up 22.7% from a year earlier.

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. ■

New products

Environment Accounts and Statistics Product Catalogue, 2008
Catalogue number 16-257-XWE
(free).

Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire, January 2008, Vol. 4, no. 1
Catalogue number 41-019-XWE
(free).

Health Reports, Vol. 19, no. 1
Catalogue number 82-003-XWE
(free).

Health Reports, Vol. 19, no. 1
Catalogue number 82-003-XPE ($24/$68).

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

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

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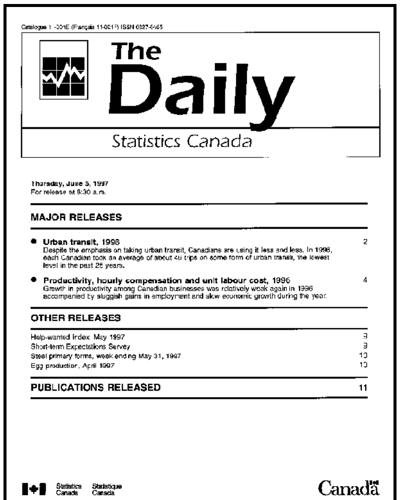
Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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

MAJOR RELEASES

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

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Egg production, April 1997	10

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Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

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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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