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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, March 11, 2008
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

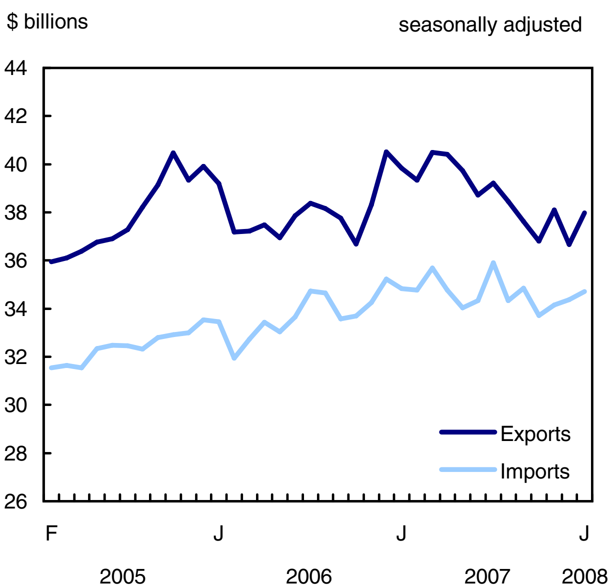
Releases

Canadian international merchandise trade

January 2008

Canada's merchandise trade surplus with the world expanded by about $1 billion in January, as exports increased at their fastest pace in more than a year.

Exports and imports



Canadian companies exported $38.0 billion worth of merchandise, a 3.6% increase from December. Exports were on a downward trend through most of 2007. In terms of constant dollars, a method used to isolate volume changes, export prices rose 4.2%, while volumes edged down 0.6% in January.

At the same time, the value of merchandise imports rose 1.0% to $34.7 billion, the third increase in a row. Prices increased 1.7%, while volumes slipped 0.7%.

As a result, the trade surplus with the world rebounded from a revised $2.3 billion in December, the lowest since November 1998, to $3.3 billion.

The trade surplus with the United States recovered some of its December decline, reaching $6.2 billion, as exports to the United States grew more sharply than imports.

At the same time, the deficit with countries other than the United States narrowed to $2.9 billion, primarily because exports to "all other countries" rose significantly. China, India and Russia were among the important trading partners in this country grouping.

Note to readers

Merchandise trade is one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services, investment income, transfers, capital and financial flows.

International merchandise trade data by country are available on both a balance of payments and a customs basis for the United States, Japan and the United Kingdom. Trade data for all other individual countries are available on a customs basis only. Balance of payments data are derived from customs data by making adjustments for items such as valuation, coverage, timing and residency. These adjustments are made to conform to the concepts and definitions of the Canadian System of National Accounts.

Constant dollars referred to in the text are calculated using the Paasche Price indices.

At the end of each quarter, The Daily *includes a section describing trends and topics of interest relating to Canadian international merchandise trade. This section typically discusses data presented on a customs basis and not seasonally adjusted.*

Revisions

In general, merchandise trade data are revised on an ongoing basis for each month of the current year. Current year revisions are reflected in both the customs and balance of payments based data.

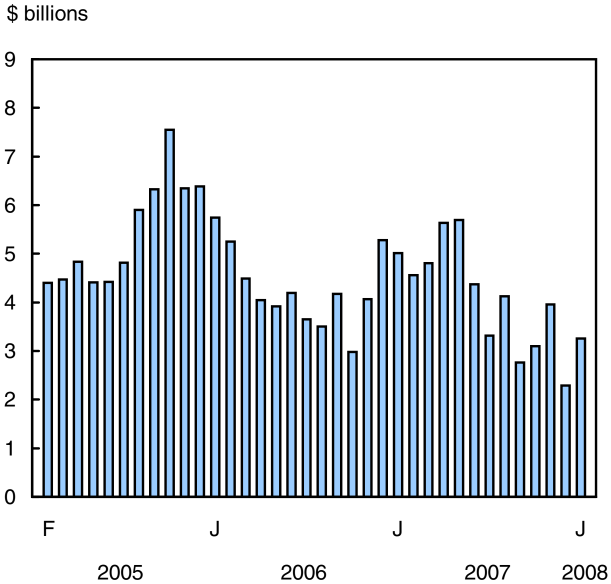
Beginning with the January 2008 reference month, released today, the previous year's customs and balance of payments data (i.e., 2007) will now be revised with the release of the January, February and March data months. Revisions to customs based data for the previous year will continue to be released on a quarterly basis.

Revisions to balance of payments based data for the three previous years will be available when the April reference month is released, on June 10, 2008.

Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs forms, replacement of estimates with actual figures, changes in classification of merchandise based on more current information, and changes to seasonal adjustment factors.

Revised data are available in the appropriate CANSIM tables.

Trade balance



Exports bounce back on gains in energy, industrial goods and materials

Exports partially recovered from December's decline, as gains in the majority of sectors outweighed declines in automotive products, machinery and equipment and other consumer goods.

Energy products gained ground for the third straight month, surging 11.9% to $9.2 billion on the strength of record high crude petroleum exports. An 11.5% gain in crude petroleum was due mostly to an increase in prices, which outweighed an increase in volume. Natural gas exports soared 13.6% to $2.5 billion, the second consecutive increase, as prices experienced a recent resurgence.

Exports of industrial goods and materials rebounded in January, jumping 10.7% to $8.7 billion. While gains were widespread across the sector, precious metals exports, which reached a record, accounted for nearly half the gain. Exports of gold were the driving force behind the increase as prices rose. Robust demand from India and Brazil boosted exports of fertilizers, while increased exports of uranium pushed up inorganic chemicals. Together, these goods drove exports of chemicals, plastics and fertilizers up 2.9% to $2.8 billion.

Agricultural and fishing products rose 7.7% to a record $3.0 billion, the result of widespread increases within the sector. Other agricultural and fishing products rose 7.9% to $2.6 billion, as exports of canola, which have nearly tripled since October, reached a record high. Canola's popularity continued to expand, partly due to China's increased demand for canola oil.

Exports of forestry products increased 1.1% to $2.1 billion, halting nine months of decline. Wood pulp and other wood products exports rose 8.0%, while newsprint and other paper and paperboard gained 3.9%. These gains outweighed a decline in exports of lumber and sawmill products.

Exports of machinery and equipment dropped for the second month in a row, slipping 1.3% to $7.5 billion, their lowest level since December 2004. This sector has been trending downward since August 2007. Industrial machinery led the decline as exports retreated 11.4% from December's record $2.0 billion. Offsetting the decline, television, telecommunications and related equipment surged 26.9%, the first increase since July 2007.

Automotive products struggled for a second straight month, falling 9.9% to $5.0 billion, as a result of continued widespread temporary plant shutdowns and production cutbacks. Exports of trucks and other motor vehicles plummeted 29.3% to their lowest level dating back to June 1991. Meanwhile, passenger autos declined 9.2% to $2.5 billion, the third drop in a row. Motor vehicle parts were also weak, sliding 1.3% to $1.8 billion.

Energy products fuel imports

The majority of import sectors recorded gains in January, fuelled by a surge in energy products, particularly crude petroleum.

Energy products climbed 9.8% to $3.9 billion, surpassing December's record high. Other energy products increased dramatically, as coal and other related products soared 26.7%, the second significant increase in a row. Crude petroleum rose for the third month in a row, gaining 6.7% to reach $2.3 billion, as imports from countries such as Algeria and Norway flowed into Canadian refineries.

Automotive products advanced 1.5% to $6.1 billion, on the strength of motor vehicle parts and passenger autos, yet remained well below the peak level of $7.2 billion set in July 2006. Motor vehicle parts increased 3.5% to $2.5 billion, ending three months of declines, while passenger autos rose 2.2%, remaining relatively flat since September 2007. Meanwhile, trucks and other motor vehicles fell 3.3% to $1.3 billion, its lowest level since September 2006.

Agricultural and fishing products gained 1.9% to a record $2.2 billion, on the strength of cocoa, coffee and other preparations, and record imports of fodder and feed. Combined, they accounted for more than three-quarters of the increase. Record levels of fresh fruits and berries boosted imports of fruits and vegetables.

Industrial goods and materials fell 1.9% to $6.9 billion, despite record imports of metals and metal ores which have been on an upward trend since August. Precious metals and alloys rose for the third month in a row, as gold prices escalated. Chemicals and plastics dropped 11.8% to $2.2 billion, its lowest level since November 2004, due to a sharp decline in organic chemicals, in particular, active agents used in the production of medications. Chemicals and plastics have been moving downward since peaking in July 2007.

Machinery and equipment geared down 0.8% to $9.5 billion. Other communications and related equipment led the decline, dropping 6.1% to $1.4 billion. Aircraft and other transportation equipment edged down 0.5% as imports of aircraft, engines and parts declined for the third consecutive month. Imports of aircraft and other transportation equipment have levelled off since peaking in July. Imports of industrial and agricultural machinery inched up 0.3% following a strong showing throughout 2006 and 2007. Leading the way in January were imports of excavating machinery which jumped 9.8%.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001 to 228-0003, 228-0033, 228-0034, 228-0041 to 228-0043 and 228-0047 to 228-0055.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The publications *Exports by Country* (65-003), *Exports by Commodity* (65-004), *Imports by Country* (65-006) and *Imports by Commodity* (65-007) were terminated with the final issues published in February 2008. To obtain data in alternate formats, contact the Marketing and Client Services Section (*trade@statcan.ca*).

The January 2008 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 62, no. 1 (65-001-XIB, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. The publication includes tables by commodity and country on a customs basis. Current account data (which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, service transactions, investment income and transfers) are available quarterly in *Canada's Balance of International Payments* (67-001-XWE, free).

For more information on products and services, contact Sharon Nevins (toll-free 1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9798). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Deborah Sussman (613-951-0284), International Trade Division.

□

Merchandise trade

	December 2007[r]	January 2008	December 2007 to January 2008	January 2007 to January 2008	January to December 2006[r]	January to December 2007[r]	January–December 2006 to January–December 2007
	Seasonally adjusted, $ current						
	$ millions		% change		$ millions		% change
Principal trading partners							
Exports							
United States	28,031	28,722	2.5	-6.1	360,963	355,362	-1.6
Japan	765	777	1.6	-12.7	10,455	10,083	-3.6
European Union[1]	3,356	2,976	-11.3	-15.6	32,830	39,968	21.7
Other OECD countries[2]	1,376	1,600	16.3	-1.2	17,561	20,437	16.4
All other countries	3,141	3,902	24.2	20.7	33,887	39,549	16.7
Total	**36,668**	**37,978**	**3.6**	**-4.7**	**455,696**	**465,398**	**2.1**
Imports							
United States	22,024	22,515	2.2	-1.2	264,889	270,352	2.1
Japan	1,032	992	-3.9	-4.7	11,882	11,977	0.8
European Union[1]	3,400	3,488	2.6	7.1	42,038	42,428	0.9
Other OECD countries[2]	2,190	2,148	-1.9	0.6	23,683	25,037	5.7
All other countries	5,730	5,576	-2.7	-0.6	61,902	65,969	6.6
Total	**34,376**	**34,718**	**1.0**	**-0.3**	**404,395**	**415,764**	**2.8**
Balance							
United States	6,007	6,207	...	...	96,074	85,010	...
Japan	-267	-215	...	...	-1,427	-1,894	...
European Union[1]	-44	-512	...	...	-9,207	-2,460	...
Other OECD countries[2]	-814	-548	...	...	-6,123	-4,600	...
All other countries	-2,589	-1,674	...	...	-28,015	-26,421	...
Total	**2,292**	**3,260**	**...**	**...**	**51,302**	**49,635**	**...**
Principal commodity groupings							
Exports							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,828	3,045	7.7	4.4	31,327	34,444	2.3
Energy products	8,224	9,206	11.9	34.7	86,784	91,806	12.1
Forestry products	2,098	2,122	1.1	-23.2	33,262	28,944	-4.6
Industrial goods and materials	7,866	8,705	10.7	-1.4	93,959	104,319	8.7
Machinery and equipment	7,598	7,498	-1.3	-11.5	94,673	95,536	-0.3
Automotive products	5,542	4,993	-9.9	-29.9	82,539	77,448	-4.3
Other consumer goods	1,430	1,330	-7.0	-20.2	17,959	18,886	1.4
Special transactions trade[3]	646	596	-7.7	-20.1	8,732	8,176	-0.1
Other balance of payments adjustments	437	482	10.3	-3.8	6,462	5,840	-2.7
Imports							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,160	2,200	1.9	3.9	23,454	25,493	3.4
Energy products	3,572	3,922	9.8	33.5	34,578	36,564	15.5
Forestry products	248	240	-3.2	-6.6	3,083	2,995	-0.9
Industrial goods and materials	7,044	6,908	-1.9	-2.6	83,981	85,134	4.4
Machinery and equipment	9,556	9,477	-0.8	-4.1	114,638	116,742	2.0
Automotive products	6,001	6,089	1.5	-10.9	79,783	79,968	-0.4
Other consumer goods	4,556	4,583	0.6	-1.3	52,034	54,801	3.4
Special transactions trade[3]	455	585	28.6	78.9	4,765	5,188	-3.1
Other balance of payments adjustments	784	714	-8.9	-2.5	8,078	8,878	6.9

r *revised*
... *not applicable*
1. *Includes Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom .*
2. *Other countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation (OECD) include Australia, Canada, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Switzerland and Turkey.*
3. *These are mainly low valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.*

■

New Housing Price Index

January 2008

The cost of new housing accelerated for the second month in a row in January, the result of a strengthening housing market in the Atlantic and Prairie provinces.

Nationally, contractors' selling prices rose 6.5% between January 2007 and January 2008, a faster pace than the year-over-year increase of 6.2% in December. These back-to-back increases followed 16 months in which the gains in new housing prices had been decelerating.

On a monthly basis, prices rose 0.6% between December and January, resulting in a New Housing Price Index of 157.6 (1997=100).

Regionally, prices again rose at the fastest pace in Saskatoon, which led the nation with an annual price increase of 51.7%. On a month-over-month basis, housing prices rose 4.5% between December and January. This increase was due to a number of factors, including increased costs for material and labour, as well as strong market conditions and increased demand for land.

In Regina, the year-over-year increase was 25.9%, unchanged from December. Prices were also unchanged in January from December 2007.

In Calgary, prices rose 5.6% between January 2007 and January 2008, slightly slower than the 6.0% year-over-year increase the month before. On a monthly basis, new housing prices in Calgary were up 0.3%. Some builders reported increased costs for material and labour, although these were moderated by other builders who reduced their prices to stimulate sales. Some developers increased their lot prices to be more in line with current market conditions.

In Edmonton, the year-over-year increase was 19.0%, while prices fell 0.5% from December 2007 due to slower market conditions.

In the Atlantic region, buyers in Halifax saw prices rise 11.4% from January 2007. This was due to higher costs for materials and labour, increased demand and higher lot prices.

Homebuyers in St. John's saw a 9.1% gain on a 12-month basis. The principal factors were higher material and labour costs.

On the West Coast, the 12-month increase for Vancouver was 6.5%, while in Victoria, the year-over-year increase in contractors' selling prices was 1.6%, unchanged from December.

Windsor recorded year-over-year deflation for the 16th month straight, with prices falling 0.9% from January 2007. Contractors' selling prices for January rose 0.2% from the previous month.

Elsewhere in Ontario, contractors' selling prices were 4.2% higher than in January 2007 in Toronto, and 2.0% higher in Ottawa–Gatineau.

In Montréal, the 12-month growth rate rose to 4.6%, while in Québec, prices increased 6.3%. Increases in both cities were due to a competitive market and higher material and labour costs.

Note: With the goal of continually improving the quality and accuracy of the New Housing Price Index, Statistics Canada has introduced new quality adjustment methods for the cities of Toronto and Vancouver beginning with the reference month of January 2008. These new methods will enhance the treatment of quality change of new houses by taking into account their characteristics and corresponding prices. Future applications of these methods will be extended to other cities where possible.

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.

The third quarter 2007 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XWE, free) is now 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 our Client Services Section (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; *prices-prix@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. □

New housing price indexes

	January 2008	January 2007 to January 2008	December 2007 to January 2008
	(1997=100)	% change	
Canada total	**157.6**	**6.5**	**0.6**
House only	**167.6**	**6.2**	**0.6**
Land only	**137.9**	**6.9**	**0.4**
St. John's	144.3	9.1	1.1
Halifax	146.4	11.4	0.9
Charlottetown	120.6	2.4	1.3
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton	115.9	2.0	0.7
Québec	151.7	6.3	0.3
Montréal	157.9	4.6	0.9
Ottawa–Gatineau	164.2	2.0	1.2
Toronto and Oshawa	144.9	4.2	0.9
Hamilton	150.7	3.5	0.9
St. Catharines–Niagara	152.3	3.5	0.5
Kitchener	141.3	2.4	1.3
London	140.4	3.5	0.6
Windsor	103.3	-0.9	0.2
Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay	109.2	6.7	0.4
Winnipeg	172.5	15.2	0.6
Regina	204.4	25.9	0.0
Saskatoon	225.9	51.7	4.5
Calgary	252.2	5.6	0.3
Edmonton	248.0	19.0	-0.5
Vancouver	123.6	6.5	0.1
Victoria	119.3	1.6	0.3

Note: *View the census subdivisions that comprise the metropolitan areas online.*

■

Profile of Canadian exporters

1996 to 2006

The number of Canadian establishments that export merchandise fell for the second consecutive year in 2006, but the total value of their exports rose to a record high, according to the latest version of the Exporter Register.

In 2006, 45,641 establishments exported merchandise, down 5.0% from 2005. However, this amount was 19% higher than it was in 1996 and slightly higher than in 2000.

These establishments exported a record $404.4 billion of merchandise in 2006, a marginal gain of 0.7% from 2005. This was the third consecutive annual increase, following three years of declining exports that began in 2001.

In the manufacturing sector, the number of exporters declined 2.9% to about 21,000. This sector accounted for about one-quarter of the overall decline in the number of exporters.

Even so, the value of exports from the manufacturing sector remained steady at $248.4 billion, which represented 61% of total merchandise exports in 2006.

In the wholesale trade industry, the number of exporters fell 5.2% to 10,297. This industry accounted for just under one-quarter (23%) of the overall decline in number of exporters. However, wholesalers represented 58% of the total increase in the value of exports between 2005 and 2006.

The number of exporters fell in every province. Ontario represented 40% of the national decline, followed by British Columbia, which accounted for 27% and Quebec, 16%.

Establishments that export more than $25 million annually continued to account for the majority of merchandise exports.

The largest 4% of exporting establishments accounted for 84% of the total value of merchandise exports in 2006. Those exporting less than $1 million a year represented 72% of all establishments, but only 1.5% of the total value.

Establishments with fewer than 50 employees accounted for 73% of all exporting establishments, but only 31% of the total value.

Conversely, only 6% of all exporters employed more than 200 people. However, they represented 43% of the total value.

Note: The current Canadian Exporter Register incorporates the same main aggregates as the previous versions. These main aggregates consist of the number of establishments whose merchandise exports exceeded $30,000 in at least one year between 1996 and 2006, classified by industry grouping, exporter size, province or territory of residence of the exporter, destination of export and employment size (for 2006 only). This follow-up set of tables includes data for 2006, as well as revisions from 1996 to 2005. Data for 1993 to 1995 are available on request.

Available on CANSIM: (613-951-6755),

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2201.

For more information on products and services, contact Nadine Lacroix (toll-free 1-800-294-5583; 613-951-5047). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Philip Armstrong International Trade Division.

Number of exporters by industry grouping

Industry grouping (North American Industry Classification System)	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	number of exporters (establishments)										
Agriculture, forestry, fishing hunting	2,024	2,116	2,237	2,239	2,445	2,496	2,523	2,307	2,263	2,145	1,954
Mining, oil and gas extraction	404	424	405	418	461	509	476	515	489	514	513
Utilities	53	58	57	61	69	64	69	59	66	68	68
Construction	829	901	945	1,132	1,209	1,286	1,356	1,365	1,425	1,401	1,282
Manufacturing (total)	**17,847**	**18,746**	**19,342**	**19,998**	**20,596**	**20,884**	**21,450**	**21,647**	**21,685**	**21,640**	**21,004**
Wholesale trade	9,555	10,008	10,050	10,337	10,454	10,640	10,785	10,938	10,938	10,865	10,297
Retail trade	1,639	1,625	1,807	2,153	2,241	2,372	2,585	2,326	2,358	2,252	1,961
Transportation and warehousing	1,182	1,229	1,452	1,437	1,549	1,544	1,533	1,468	1,644	1,641	1,514
Information and cultural industries	522	543	545	567	601	591	568	576	600	596	511
Finance and insurance	893	935	984	1,054	1,128	1,167	1,144	1,157	1,257	1,286	1,215
Business service	2,499	2,795	2,910	3,088	3,278	3,427	3,516	3,656	3,812	3,883	3,683
Other[1]	998	1,076	1,130	1,285	1,372	1,456	1,493	1,559	1,721	1,776	1,639
Exporter registry total	**38,445**	**40,456**	**41,864**	**43,769**	**45,403**	**46,436**	**47,498**	**47,573**	**48,258**	**48,067**	**45,641**

1. *Includes service industries such as government and education.*

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Coal and coke statistics
December 2007

Data on coal and coke are now available for December.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2003 and 2147.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *energ@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Export and import price indexes
January 2008

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (2002=100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 2002 to January 2008 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted US price indexes (2002=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 2002 to January 2008. Included with the US commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and US-only Standard International Trade Classification section indexes.

Indexes on a customs basis for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups are also available now upon request.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001 to 228-0003, 228-0033, 228-0034, 228-0041 to 228-0043 and 228-0047 to 228-0055.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The January 2008 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 62, no. 1 (65-001-XIB, free) is now 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 Marketing and Client Services Section (toll-free 1-800-294-5583), International Trade Division. ■

Chain Fisher real export and import values

January 2008

The monthly chain Fisher real dollar values (reference year 2002) for Canadian international merchandise trade for January are now available.

This series is not offered in CANSIM.

To order data, contact the Marketing and Client Services Section (toll-free 1-800-294-5583). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bernard Lupien (613-951-6872), International Trade Division. ■

New products

Canadian International Merchandise Trade, January 2008, Vol. 62, no. 1
Catalogue number 65-001-XIB
(free).

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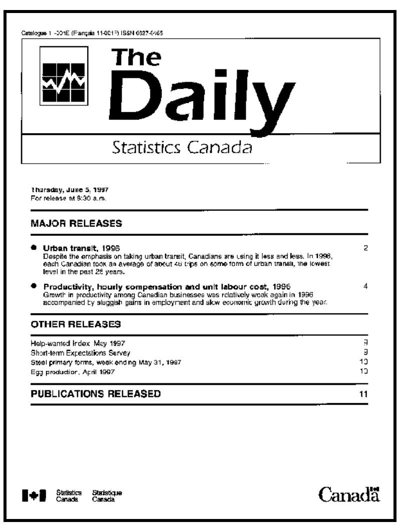
Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

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 45 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost**, 1996 — 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index, May 1997	9
Short-term Expectations Survey	9
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Egg production, April 1997	10

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED — 11

Statistics Canada / Statistique Canada — Canada

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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