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

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, April 16, 2008
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Releases

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

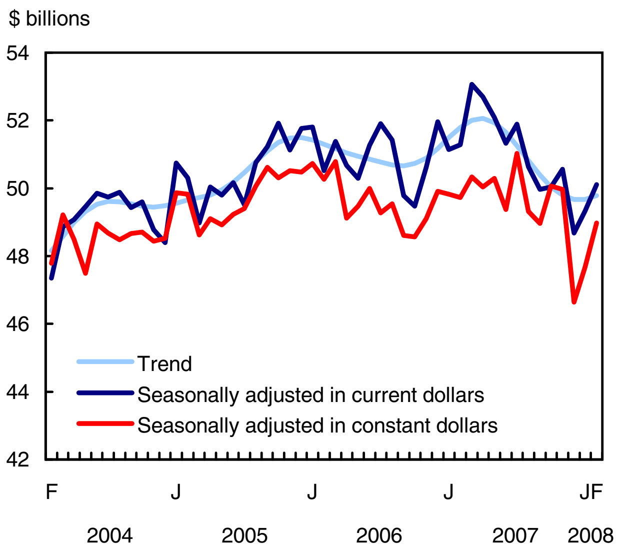
February 2008

Sales of goods manufactured rose 1.6% to $50.1 billion in February, due in part to a gradual bounce-back by Canada's motor vehicle industry.

This marked the second successive increase in manufacturing sales, as manufacturers continued to make up ground lost after a tough December (-3.7%).

The volume of goods manufactured also improved in February. At 2002 prices, manufacturing sales rose 2.7% to $49.0 billion, following a 2.2% increase in January. Again, contributing to the boost in volumes produced were several automotive manufacturers who continued to ramp up production during the month.

Manufacturers' sales improve for the second straight month



Despite the consecutive increases, manufacturing sales were well off levels of one year ago as the sector coped with an array of economic concerns. February's sales remained 2.3% below levels of the same month in 2007, and significantly below March 2007's peak of $53.1 billion (-5.6%).

Sales levels in recent months have proven tenuous for many manufacturers. The economy of Canada's largest trading partner, the United States, continued to slow due in part to their ongoing credit crunch and housing crisis. Meanwhile, input costs continued to rise, due in part to soaring energy prices, while the sustained strength of the Canadian dollar eroded manufacturers' abilities to be competitive in the global market.

As a result, manufacturers continued to layoff workers. According to the recent release of the Labour Force Survey for March, manufacturers have cut thousands of jobs from their payrolls, including 23,700 in February and another 9,400 in March.

Note to readers

Preliminary estimates are provided for the current reference month. Estimates, based on late responses, are revised for the three prior months.

Non-durable goods industries *include food, beverage and tobacco products, textile mills, textile product mills, clothing, leather and allied products, paper, printing and related support activities, petroleum and coal products, chemicals, and plastics and rubber products.*

Durable goods industries *include wood products, non-metallic mineral products, primary metals, fabricated metal products, machinery, computer and electronic products, electrical equipment, appliances and components, transportation equipment, furniture and related products and miscellaneous manufacturing.*

Unfilled orders *are a stock of orders that will contribute to future sales assuming that the orders are not cancelled.*

New orders *are those received whether sold in the current month or not. They are measured as the sum of sales for the current month plus the change in unfilled orders. Some people interpret new orders as orders that will lead to future demand. This is inappropriate since the "new orders" variable includes orders that have already been sold. Readers should note that the month-to-month change in new orders may be volatile. This will happen particularly if the previous month's change in unfilled orders is closely related to the current month's change.*

Not all orders will be translated into Canadian factory sales because portions of large contracts can be subcontracted out to manufacturers in other countries. Also, some orders may be cancelled.

Auto assembly plants ramp up production

The majority of manufacturing industries (13 of 21) posted higher sales in February, accounting for a healthy 84% of total sales.

While nondurable goods industries saw a 0.4% increase in sales, manufacturers of big-ticket, durable goods dominated with a 2.6% boost to $26.2 billion. This strength was due in large part to advances in motor vehicle manufacturing.

Following extensive production slowdowns and shutdowns in December and into January for the purposes of re-tooling and inventory control, manufacturing sales of motor vehicles jumped 11.7% to $4.3 billion in February. This followed a 3.9% gain in January, and a deep cut of 27.3% in December to close 2007.

Notwithstanding the scale of February's rebound, manufacturing sales of motor vehicles remained well off levels of one year ago (-20.5%). Recent reports of deteriorating car and light truck sales in the United States, where the bulk of Canadian-made vehicles are shipped, indicate uncertain times ahead for the industry.

Production of aerospace products and parts surged 11.6% to $1.5 billion in February, the first increase since November. A backlog of orders for both civilian and defence aircraft and parts should contribute to some strong months ahead.

Excluding the transportation equipment sector, which includes motor vehicles and aerospace industries, manufacturing sales rose a more moderate 0.4% over the month.

Fuelled by robust global demand and prices, manufacturing sales of primary metals advanced 1.4% to $4.3 billion, the third increase in four months.

A 4.9% decline in the electrical equipment, appliance and components industry slightly counterbalanced the overall rise in total manufacturing sales. This small but diversified industry manufactures such commodities as kitchen appliances and lighting fixtures, to communication and energy wire, and cables.

Sales increase in seven provinces

Manufacturing sales increased in seven provinces during February, with Ontario, New Brunswick and Quebec accounting for the bulk of the rise.

Total manufacturing sales improved 2.4% to $23.5 billion in Ontario, following a 2.2% gain in January. The increase was due to a continuing recovery in the motor vehicles industry, which had experienced a sharp decline in December.

Nondurable goods industries contributed to a 10.0% gain in New Brunswick's manufacturing sales to $1.5 billion.

In Quebec, manufacturing sales rose for the second month in a row, up 0.6% to $12.4 billion. Quebec's manufacturing sector is currently in line with the value of sales produced a year ago.

Alberta was the main offsetting province in February, as sales declined by 0.4% to $5.6 billion. The decline was partly due to maintenance shutdowns in the petroleum products industry.

Manufacturing sales, provinces and territories

	January 2008[r]	February 2008[p]	January to February 2008
	Seasonally adjusted		
	$ millions		% change
Canada	**49,325**	**50,102**	**1.6**
Newfoundland and Labrador	517	501	-3.2
Prince Edward Island	117	124	5.7
Nova Scotia	876	897	2.4
New Brunswick	1,362	1,499	10.0
Quebec	12,282	12,355	0.6
Ontario	22,969	23,531	2.4
Manitoba	1,306	1,329	1.8
Saskatchewan	951	953	0.2
Alberta	5,589	5,564	-0.4
British Columbia	3,349	3,342	-0.2
Yukon	3	2	-3.6
Northwest Territories including Nunavut	3	4	1.2

r *revised*
p *preliminary*

Inventories decline slightly

Manufacturers posted a modest 0.3% drop in total inventories to $65.6 billion in February. The decrease was concentrated in the primary metals (-2.8%) and aerospace products (-3.1%) industries, which were partly offset by a rise in inventories of petroleum products (+7.8%) and food (+1.4%).

Manufacturers slightly reduce inventory levels

Inventories in the petroleum and coal products industry jumped 7.8% to $4.7 billion in February, following a 9.4% increase in January, as refineries tried to keep pace with strong demand. Excluding the petroleum products industry, total manufacturing inventories fell by 0.8%.

By stage of fabrication, inventories of raw materials expanded by 0.5%, while goods in process and finished products declined by 0.6% and 1.0% respectively.

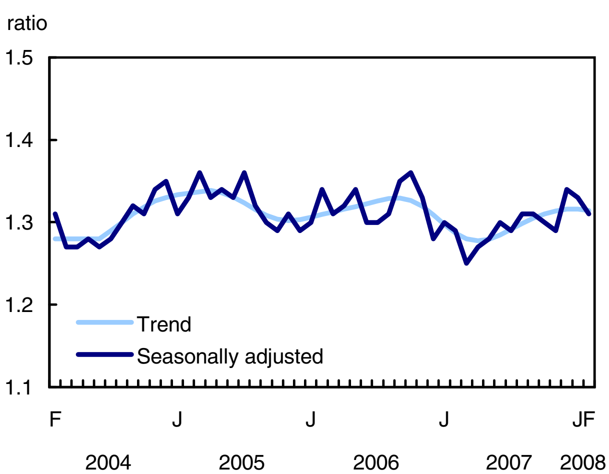
Strong sales pull down the inventory-to-sales ratio from a recent high

February's healthy increase in manufacturing sales, coupled with the slight drop in inventory levels, caused the inventory-to-sales ratio to edge lower for the second consecutive month.

The ratio fell back to 1.31 from January's 1.33, and was down from its most recent high of 1.34 in December. December's spike was attributable to the widespread slowdown of the manufacturing sector at the close of 2007.

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.

Improved manufacturing sales contributes to a drop in the inventory-to-sales ratio



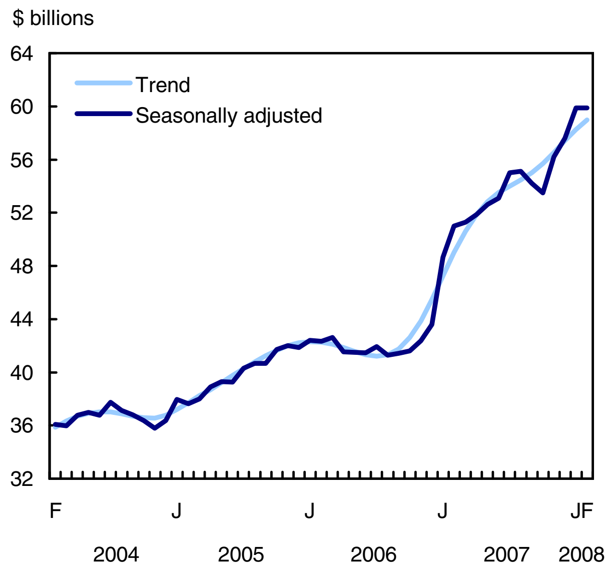
Unfilled orders inch higher

Manufacturers' backlog of unfilled orders edged 0.1% higher to $59.9 billion in February, the fourth increase in a row.

Over the last 18 months, unfilled orders have been on a steady climb, due in large part to strong demand for aerospace products and parts. Overall, February's orders were up a substantial 17.5% (+$8.9 billion) compared with February 2007.

Among the key movers, healthy increases in unfilled orders for furniture (+7.4%) and fabricated metal products (+0.9%) were largely offset by a substantial decline in the primary metals industry (-6.0%).

Continued gains in unfilled orders



Recent volatility in new orders

Manufacturers gave back much of January's 3.2% gain as new orders fell 2.9% to $50.1 billion in February. A steep decline in new orders of aerospace products and parts and computers and electronic products were the primary contributors. This followed sizeable increases in new contracts received by both industries in January.

In general, the level of new orders has gradually weakened over the last year, which currently stand 6.5% below February 2007's level.

Available on CANSIM: tables 304-0014, 304-0015 and 377-0008.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2101.

For a more detailed synopsis of the trends and indicators that affected manufacturers in 2007, the "Annual review of manufacturing" will soon be released in *Analysis in Brief* (11-621-MWE, free).

Data from the March Monthly Survey of Manufacturing will be released on May 15.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; fax: 613-951-3877; *manufact@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of the release, contact Russell Kowaluk (613-951-0600, *russell.kowaluk@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Sales, inventories and orders in all manufacturing industries

	Sales		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders		Inventory-to-sales ratio
	Seasonally adjusted								
	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	
February 2007	51,290	0.3	66,172	-0.7	50,987	4.8	53,617	-4.6	1.29
March 2007	53,059	3.5	66,154	0.0	51,287	0.6	53,359	-0.5	1.25
April 2007	52,703	-0.7	66,781	0.9	51,848	1.1	53,264	-0.2	1.27
May 2007	52,087	-1.2	66,533	-0.4	52,628	1.5	52,868	-0.7	1.28
June 2007	51,326	-1.5	66,570	0.1	53,135	1.0	51,869	-1.9	1.30
July 2007	51,886	1.1	66,789	0.3	55,007	3.5	53,758	3.6	1.29
August 2007	50,630	-2.4	66,354	-0.7	55,112	0.2	50,736	-5.6	1.31
September 2007	49,970	-1.3	65,359	-1.5	54,242	-1.6	49,099	-3.2	1.31
October 2007	50,042	0.1	65,073	-0.4	53,542	-1.3	49,342	0.5	1.30
November 2007	50,560	1.0	65,245	0.3	56,183	4.9	53,201	7.8	1.29
December 2007	48,678	-3.7	65,134	-0.2	57,550	2.4	50,045	-5.9	1.34
January 2008	49,325	1.3	65,771	1.0	59,871	4.0	51,646	3.2	1.33
February 2008	50,102	1.6	65,591	-0.3	59,920	0.1	50,151	-2.9	1.31

Manufacturing industries except motor vehicle, parts and accessories

	Sales		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders	
	Seasonally adjusted							
	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change
February 2007	43,471	0.0	63,160	-0.6	49,933	5.1	45,876	-5.5
March 2007	44,529	2.4	63,169	0.0	50,335	0.8	44,931	-2.1
April 2007	45,033	1.1	63,785	1.0	50,835	1.0	45,533	1.3
May 2007	44,658	-0.8	63,574	-0.3	51,579	1.5	45,402	-0.3
June 2007	44,421	-0.5	63,567	0.0	52,093	1.0	44,972	-0.9
July 2007	43,887	-1.2	63,766	0.3	53,962	3.6	45,756	1.7
August 2007	43,765	-0.3	63,364	-0.6	54,167	0.4	43,970	-3.9
September 2007	42,341	-3.3	62,528	-1.3	53,381	-1.5	41,555	-5.5
October 2007	42,939	1.4	62,294	-0.4	52,687	-1.3	42,245	1.7
November 2007	43,312	0.9	62,564	0.4	55,365	5.1	45,990	8.9
December 2007	42,988	-0.7	62,557	0.0	56,676	2.4	44,299	-3.7
January 2008	43,455	1.1	63,078	0.8	58,939	4.0	45,718	3.2
February 2008	43,802	0.8	62,912	-0.3	58,869	-0.1	43,732	-4.3

■

Study: Changes in the prevalence of asthma among Canadian children

1994/1995 to 2000/2001

Asthma, one of the most common chronic conditions in childhood, afflicted more and more children during the late 1990s, but actual asthma attacks became less common, according to a new study.

In 1994/1995, about 11% of children aged 11 and under, or nearly 520,000, had been diagnosed with asthma. By 2000/2001, the rate had risen to more than 13%, an increase of nearly 70,000 children.

The study, "Changes in the prevalence of asthma among Canadian children," published today in *Health Reports*, showed that the increase was statistically significant only for children aged 5 or younger, and for those aged 10 and 11.

On the other hand, the prevalence of asthma attacks declined during this period. In 1994/1995, just over half of children with asthma were reported to have had an attack in the previous year; by 2000/2001, this proportion had dropped to 39%.

The data, which came from the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, also showed that the proportion of children with high-severity asthma symptoms also declined during this period.

Among children with asthma, the proportion with high-severity symptoms dropped from 41% in 1994/1995 to 36% in 2000/2001.

The likelihood of having had an asthma attack depended on the severity of the disease. For example, in 2000/2001, 70% of children with high-severity asthma were reported to have had an attack in the past year, compared with fewer than 10% of those with low-severity asthma.

Boys more likely to be diagnosed with asthma

Boys were significantly more likely than girls to have been diagnosed with asthma. In 2000/2001, 16% of boys were reported to have asthma, compared with around 11% of girls.

The prevalence of asthma among boys rose significantly, from just under 14% in 1994/1995 to 16% in 2000/2001. However, the percentage of boys with asthma who had had an attack in the past year fell from 52% to 41%. Girls also saw an increase in prevalence from around 8% to more than 10%, and a decrease in past-year attacks among those who had asthma from close to 50% to 37%.

Asthma rates highest in Atlantic provinces

Childhood asthma rates in Canada differed by region, with the highest rates in the four Atlantic provinces: Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

Other research has shown that even when environmental conditions such as ozone, temperature, and relative humidity were taken into account, children in the Atlantic provinces continued to show higher rates of asthma.

Children in British Columbia and the three Prairie provinces had the lowest asthma rates.

Risk of asthma higher among children in smoking households

Children living in households where either parent was a daily smoker were significantly more likely than children in non-smoking households to have been diagnosed with asthma or to have asthma-like symptoms.

Childhood asthma not related to income or urban/rural residence

While low income generally tends to be associated with poor health, and high income with good health, the relationship between household income and childhood asthma did not follow this pattern.

In 2000/2001, the prevalence of childhood asthma did not differ significantly by household income. Similarly, among those with asthma, the likelihood of having had an attack in the past year was not related to household income.

As well, the prevalence of asthma did not differ significantly between children living in rural areas compared with those in urban areas.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4450.

The article, "Changes in the prevalence of asthma among Canadian children," which is part of today's *Health Reports*, Vol. 19, no. 2 (82-003-XWE, free) online release, 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 Rochelle Garner (613-951-3977; *rochelle.garner@statcan.ca*) or Dafna Kohen (613-951-3346; *dafna.kohen@statcan.ca*), Health Information and Research Division.

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

Study: Community belonging and self-reported health

2005

People with a strong sense of community belonging are more likely to report being in good physical and mental health, according to a new study.

The study, "Community belonging and self-perceived health," published today in *Health Reports*, used data from the 2005 Canadian Community Health Survey to examine the relationship between a sense of community belonging and self-reported health. The findings build on evidence that a person's social relationships have a bearing on their health.

Close to two-thirds of those who felt a very strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging reported excellent or very good general health. By contrast, just 51% of those with a very weak sense of belonging viewed their general health favourably.

Similarly, 81% of those with a very strong sense of community reported excellent or very good mental health, compared with 64% of those whose sense of community belonging was very weak.

In 2005, 64% of Canadians reported a strong sense of community belonging; this included 17% who described their sense of belonging as very strong, and 47% who reported it as "somewhat strong." Just over a quarter (26%) reported a "somewhat weak" sense of community belonging, and 10%, "very weak."

Residents of the Atlantic provinces showed the highest levels of community belonging, with people from Newfoundland and Labrador having the highest rate among all provinces at 79%. Between 2000/2001 and 2005, significant increases in community belonging occurred in all provinces except Newfoundland and Labrador. The sharpest upturn was in New Brunswick, where the rate rose from 62% to 73%.

Community belonging was related to home language. Among people who spoke mostly English at home, 68% reported a strong sense of community belonging, compared with 55% of those whose home language was French. For those who spoke some other language at home, 60% reported a strong sense of belonging.

While the proportions of men and women who reported a strong sense of community belonging did not differ, rates did vary by age group. More than three-quarters (77%) of youth aged 12 to 17 reported a strong sense of belonging, but among young adults aged 18 to 29, the figure was 55%. The rate increased steadily from 62% of those aged 30 to 44 to 72% among seniors (65 or older).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3226.

The article, "Community belonging and self-perceived health," which is part of today's *Health Reports*, Vol. 19, no. 2 (82-003-XWE, free) online release, 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 Margot Shields (613-951-4177; *margot.shields@statcan.ca*), Health Information and Research Division.

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

Monthly Survey of Large Retailers

February 2008

Data for the monthly survey of large retailers are now available for February.

Note: Monthly Survey of Large Retailers estimates are normally revised every year. With this release of February 2008 estimates, the unadjusted series have been revised back to January 2006. Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of respondent information, correction of information on data provided, etc. The revised estimates are now available on CANSIM and by request.

Available on CANSIM: table 080-0009.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5027.

A data table is also available from the *Summary tables* module of our website.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; *retailinfo@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Abdulelah Mohammed (613-951-7719), Distributive Trades Division. ■

Steel wire and specified wire products

February 2008

Data on steel wire and specified wire products production are now available for February.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0047.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2106.

The February 2008 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-XWE, free) will soon be available.

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; *manufact@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Steel pipe and tubing

February 2008

Data on production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing are now available for February.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2105.

The February 2008 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-XWE, free) will soon be available.

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; *manufact@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

New products

The Immigrant Labour Force Analysis Series: "The Canadian Immigrant Labour Market in 2006: Analysis by Region or Country of Birth", no. 2 (Complete HTML version)
Catalogue number 71-606-XWE2008002
(free).

Health Reports, Vol. 19, no. 2
Catalogue number 82-003-XWE
(free).

Thematic Maps, Census year 2006 (update)
Catalogue number 92-173-XIE
(free).

Profile of Ethnic Origin and Visible Minorities for Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Divisions, Census Subdivisions and Dissemination Areas, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-580-XCB2006002
(various prices).

Profile of Ethnic Origin and Visible Minorities for Canada, Provinces, Territories and Forward Sortation Areas, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-580-XCB2006003
(various prices).

Profile of Ethnic Origin and Visible Minorities for Census Metropolitan Areas, Census Agglomerations and Census Subdivisions, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-580-XCB2006006
(various prices).

Profile of Ethnic Origin and Visible Minorities for Designated Places, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-580-XCB2006008
(various prices).

Profile of Ethnic Origin and Visible Minorities for Urban Areas, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-580-XCB2006009
(various prices).

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

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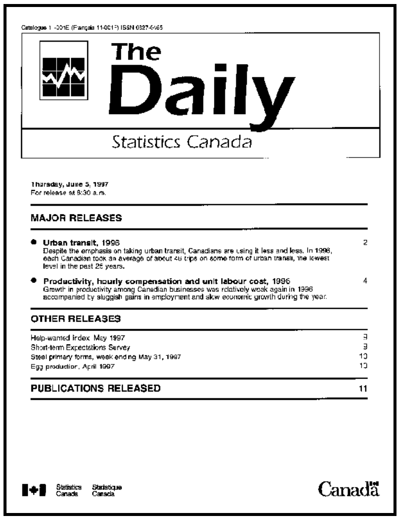

The Daily

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.

OTHER RELEASES

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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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