



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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Weaker sales of automotive products and machinery and electronic equipment pushed wholesale sales substantially lower in August, bringing to an end a string of three straight monthly increases.

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The national homicide rate dropped 10% in 2006, following increases in each of the previous two years. The number of homicides committed with a firearm fell for the first time in four years in 2006, according to a detailed analysis of homicide data.

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Releases

Wholesale trade

August 2007

Weaker sales of automotive products and machinery and electronic equipment pushed wholesale sales substantially lower in August, bringing to an end a string of three straight monthly increases.

Wholesale sales fell 2.0% to an estimated \$43.2 billion in August. The decline completely offset the gains of 1.8% in July and 0.3% in June.

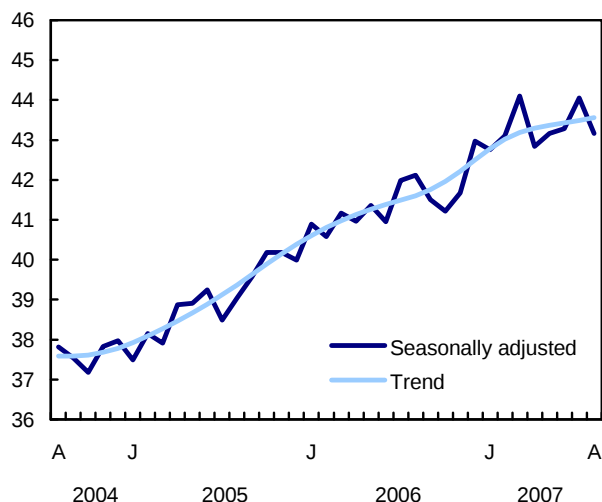
Around half of the decline in August was due to weaker sales of automotive products (-5.3%), more than offsetting last month's gain (+3.5%). The machinery and electronic equipment sector also had a slow month as sales fell 4.2%, but this followed three months of strong gains. The other notable decline came in the building materials sector (-2.2%), where lower lumber sales were a major contributing factor.

Wholesalers of food, beverage and tobacco products posted the only notable increase (+1.0%) in August, while sales of personal and household goods edged up slightly (+0.3%).

Sales in constant prices, which take price fluctuations into account, fell by 1.0% in August.

Weak sales of autos and machinery push sales lower

\$ billions



Automotive sales reverse course

The increasingly volatile automotive sector reversed course in August, as sales fell 5.3% to \$7.7 billion. This more than offset the 3.5% rise in July, and brought this sector's monthly sales to their lowest level since November 2006.

A sizeable drop in motor vehicle sales (-6.6%) was behind this month's decline. Meanwhile, sales of motor vehicle parts and accessories edged up slightly (+0.2%).

The drop in motor vehicle sales followed a 4.4% gain in July and was the fourth decline in five months for this trade group. Despite these recent downturns, motor vehicle sales in the first eight months of the year were still slightly ahead (+1.1%) of the same period last year.

Demand for machinery and electronic equipment falls after hitting record high in July

After hitting a record high in July, sales in the machinery and electronic equipment sector fell 4.2% to \$9.2 billion in August. This was only the second decline so far this year for this sector.

Around three-quarters of the drop was due to weaker demand in the machinery and equipment trade group, where sales tumbled 6.5% to \$4.4 billion. Although this was the largest monthly drop in four years for this trade group, it also followed three months of healthy gains.

The two other trade groups that make up this sector also reported weaker sales in August. The computer and other electronic equipment trade group fell for the third time in four months, dropping 2.4% to \$2.7 billion, while the office and professional equipment trade group registered a more modest drop (-1.4%) to \$2.1 billion.

Large decline in lumber sales drives building material sector lower

The building materials sector registered its first decline in four months in August, mostly because of weaker lumber sales. Overall sales in this sector declined 2.2% to \$6.2 billion after rising 1.4% in July.

The largest drop came in the lumber and millwork trade group, where sales fell 8.7% to \$1.0 billion on the back of a 3.2% decline in July. Around a third of the sales from this trade group consists of exports to the US, and lumber wholesalers continue to be buffeted by the slowdown in the US housing market (housing starts in the US hit their lowest level in more than a decade in August) along with weak lumber prices and a strong Canadian dollar.

After declining 11.6% in 2006, exports of lumber products fell a further 15.7% in the first eight months of the year, according to the latest international trade data.

Sales of metal products fell for the first time in four months in August, down 2.5% to \$1.4 billion. Meanwhile, sales of building supplies remained essentially unchanged (-0.1%) in August following a 1.8% increase in July.

Ontario and British Columbia bear the brunt of August sales decline

Ontario and British Columbia bore the brunt of the decline this month.

Ontario was particularly hard hit by the drop in automotive sector, as overall sales in the province hit their lowest level of the year, falling 2.9% to \$21.2 billion.

Wholesale sales in British Columbia fell for only the second time this year, down 4.9% to \$4.5 billion. Declines were widespread, with the most significant drops coming in the personal and household goods, building materials, machinery and electronic equipment and "other products" sectors.

Sales in Saskatchewan headed down for the fifth consecutive month, falling a further 4.3% to \$1.2 billion. As in previous months, the largest drop was in the "other products" sector, which had seen a substantial run-up in sales during the first quarter of the year. Nevertheless, the province's overall sales in the first eight months of the year are still up substantially over the same period in 2006, bolstered by a very strong first quarter.

The Atlantic provinces presented a mixed picture in August, with drops in Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island offset by gains in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

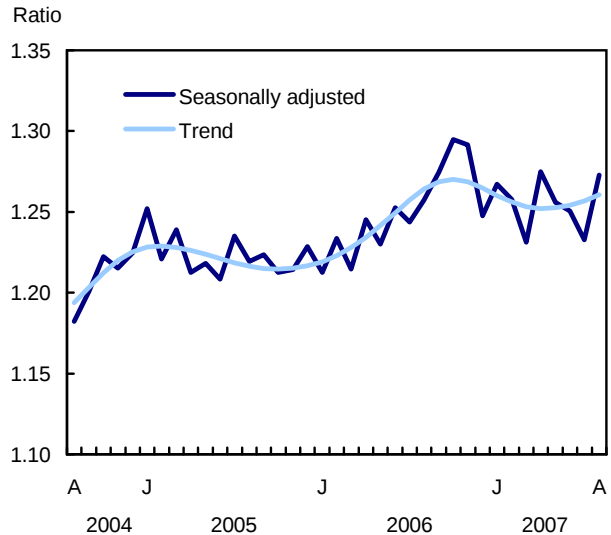
After registering a huge increase in July, sales in Nunavut returned to more normal levels in August. Nevertheless, sales in the first eight months of the year were still up substantially from the same period in 2006, thanks to a dramatic jump in investment in the mining sector.

Inventory-to-sales ratio matches its highest level of the year

Wholesale inventories rose for the sixth time in eight months in August, up 1.2% to \$54.9 billion.

The increase in inventories was widespread, with 13 of the 15 trade groups reporting higher inventory levels in August. Among the most notable movers in dollar terms were pharmaceuticals (+3.4%), motor vehicles (+2.2%), computer and other electronic equipment (+4.4%) and other products (+1.4%).

Drop in sales pushes inventory-to-sales ratio higher



Only the lumber and millwork (-2.0%) and metal products (-1.1%) trade groups reported lower inventory levels in August.

With sales falling substantially this month and inventories on the rise, the inventory-to-sales ratio matched its highest level of the year, jumping from 1.23 in July to 1.27 in August.

The inventory-to-sales ratio is a key measure of the time, in months, that would be required to exhaust existing 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 August 2007 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008-XWE, free) will soon be available.

Wholesale trade estimates for September will be released on November 19.

To obtain data or general information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca). For more information or 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

	August 2006	May 2007 ^r	June 2007 ^r	July 2007 ^r	August 2007 ^p	July to August 2007	August 2006 to August 2007	July 2007 ^r	August 2007 ^p
	Wholesale inventories					Inventory-to-sales ratio			
	Seasonally adjusted								
	\$ millions					% change			
Inventories	52,966	54,217	54,131	54,306	54,931	1.2	3.7	1.23	1.27
Farm products	196	191	199	195	204	4.5	4.2	0.43	0.46
Food products	4,382	4,601	4,606	4,594	4,653	1.3	6.2	0.64	0.65
Alcohol and tobacco	287	306	310	304	317	4.3	10.2	0.47	0.48
Apparel	1,675	1,676	1,679	1,684	1,708	1.4	2.0	2.14	2.18
Household and personal products	3,918	3,937	3,911	3,913	3,941	0.7	0.6	1.40	1.40
Pharmaceuticals	3,137	3,482	3,520	3,430	3,545	3.4	13.0	1.15	1.20
Motor vehicles	4,994	4,509	4,579	4,666	4,771	2.2	-4.5	0.71	0.78
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,335	3,305	3,321	3,393	3,399	0.2	1.9	2.17	2.16
Building supplies	5,637	5,794	5,856	5,904	5,971	1.1	5.9	1.57	1.59
Metal products	2,975	3,023	2,987	2,901	2,868	-1.1	-3.6	1.96	1.99
Lumber and millwork	1,040	1,114	1,110	1,125	1,103	-2.0	6.0	1.03	1.11
Machinery and equipment	11,045	11,629	11,620	11,591	11,629	0.3	5.3	2.46	2.64
Computer and other electronic equipment	1,605	1,791	1,751	1,725	1,801	4.4	12.2	0.63	0.67
Office and professional equipment	2,661	2,658	2,629	2,655	2,711	2.1	1.9	1.26	1.31
Other products	6,078	6,201	6,053	6,226	6,312	1.4	3.8	1.19	1.21

^r revised

^p preliminary

Wholesale merchants' sales

	August 2006	May 2007 ^r	June 2007 ^r	July 2007 ^r	August 2007 ^p	July to August 2007	August 2006 to August 2007
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
Total, wholesale sales	42,123	43,168	43,287	44,055	43,161	-2.0	2.5
Farm products	450	446	470	453	447	-1.3	-0.6
Food, beverages and tobacco products	7,794	7,831	7,826	7,771	7,848	1.0	0.7
Food products	7,122	7,179	7,163	7,131	7,193	0.9	1.0
Alcohol and tobacco	672	652	663	640	655	2.4	-2.5
Personal and household goods	6,143	6,393	6,288	6,549	6,567	0.3	6.9
Apparel	737	711	753	787	784	-0.3	6.4
Household and personal products	2,692	2,817	2,712	2,787	2,821	1.2	4.8
Pharmaceuticals	2,713	2,864	2,822	2,975	2,962	-0.4	9.2
Automotive products	7,892	7,950	7,865	8,142	7,709	-5.3	-2.3
Motor vehicles	6,293	6,392	6,299	6,575	6,139	-6.6	-2.5
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	1,598	1,558	1,566	1,567	1,570	0.2	-1.8
Building materials	5,808	6,212	6,237	6,325	6,187	-2.2	6.5
Building supplies	3,553	3,708	3,685	3,750	3,745	-0.1	5.4
Metal products	1,281	1,393	1,422	1,482	1,444	-2.5	12.8
Lumber and millwork	974	1,111	1,129	1,093	998	-8.7	2.4
Machinery and electronic equipment	8,895	9,098	9,318	9,570	9,166	-4.2	3.0
Machinery and equipment	4,158	4,295	4,476	4,711	4,403	-6.5	5.9
Computer and other electronic equipment	2,664	2,698	2,775	2,757	2,691	-2.4	1.0
Office and professional equipment	2,074	2,105	2,067	2,103	2,072	-1.4	-0.1
Other products	5,141	5,237	5,283	5,245	5,236	-0.2	1.8
Total, excluding automobiles	34,231	35,217	35,422	35,913	35,452	-1.3	3.6
Sales, province and territory							
Newfoundland and Labrador	232	256	271	285	271	-5.0	16.6
Prince Edward Island	34	43	41	36	36	-1.5	3.9
Nova Scotia	563	557	570	570	575	0.9	2.1
New Brunswick	412	429	431	422	436	3.3	5.9
Quebec	7,899	8,323	8,239	8,297	8,306	0.1	5.1
Ontario	21,038	21,647	21,433	21,826	21,199	-2.9	0.8
Manitoba	1,001	1,083	991	1,081	1,086	0.5	8.6
Saskatchewan	1,215	1,283	1,248	1,241	1,187	-4.3	-2.3
Alberta	5,203	5,095	5,439	5,523	5,524	0.0	6.2
British Columbia	4,490	4,410	4,590	4,731	4,501	-4.9	0.3
Yukon	11	11	10	10	12	21.1	14.5
Northwest Territories	22	28	21	22	25	10.9	14.5
Nunavut	3	3	3	10	3	-64.8	28.7

^r revised

^p preliminary

Homicides

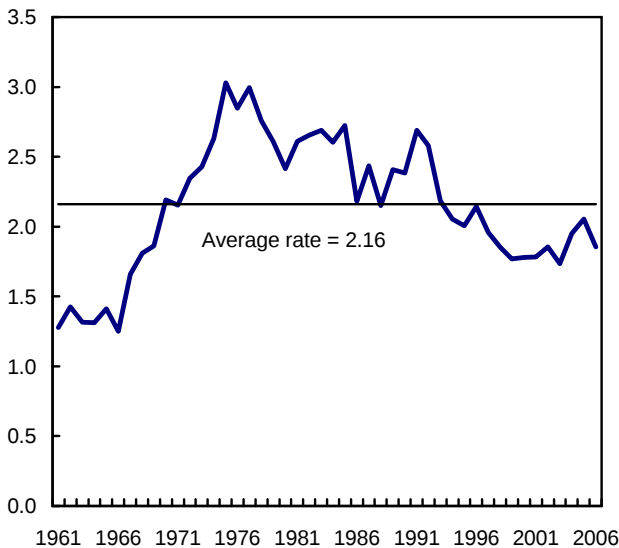
2006

The national homicide rate dropped 10% in 2006, following increases in each of the previous two years. The number of homicides committed with a firearm fell for the first time in four years in 2006, according to a detailed analysis of homicide data.

Canada's police services reported 605 homicides in 2006, 58 fewer than the previous year. As a result, the national homicide rate fell to 1.85 homicides per 100,000 population. However, increases were seen in other serious violent crimes, such as attempted murder, serious assaults and robberies, in both 2005 and 2006.

Homicide rate, Canada, 1961 to 2006

Rate per 100,000 population



The homicide rate has been on a general decline since it peaked in the mid-1970s at just over 3 homicides per 100,000 population. It had reached a 35-year low of 1.73 in 2003.

Of the 605 homicides, 190 were committed with a firearm, 33 fewer than in 2005. This resulted in a 16% drop in the rate of firearm homicides. Both the rate of handguns and rifles/shotguns decreased in 2006, while the rate of sawed-off rifles and shotguns doubled from 2005.

The large majority of homicide victims were killed by someone they knew. About one-third of victims were killed by an acquaintance, 17% by a spouse, 19% by a family member other than a spouse and 12% by

Note to readers

Aggregate statistics on homicide in Canada for 2006 were first released in The Daily on July 18, 2007, as part of a wide-ranging report on crime. This report represents a more detailed analysis of the homicide data.

The Criminal Code classifies homicide as first degree murder, second degree murder, manslaughter or infanticide. Deaths caused by criminal negligence, suicide, and accidental or justifiable homicide are not included.

someone known through criminal activities. Strangers accounted for the remaining 17%, similar to previous years.

The rate of youth aged 12 to 17 accused of homicide was at its highest point since 1961. A total of 84 young people were accused of homicide in 2006, 12 more than in 2005. However, the number of victims killed by a youth remained virtually unchanged.

Shooting deaths down after three consecutive years of increases

Last year's decline in shooting deaths halted three consecutive years of increases. It also meant that stabbing deaths outnumbered homicides involving firearms. Some 210 victims, just over one-third of the total, were killed by stabbings, 20 more than the number killed by shootings.

Over the past 20 years, shootings and stabbings have each accounted for about one-third of all homicides. Prior to 1985, shootings were much more common than stabbings.

Among Canada's largest cities, Toronto experienced the most shooting deaths, with 34 in 2006. However, taking population into account, Toronto's firearm homicide rate was less than half that of Edmonton, the city with the highest rate.

The longer-term trend has been a decline since the mid-1970s in the rate of firearms used to commit homicide. However, trends differ depending on the type of firearm.

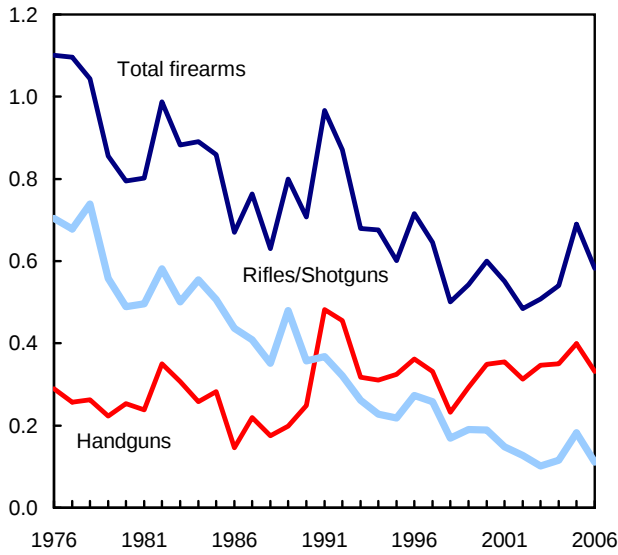
Prior to 1990, rifles/shotguns were used far more frequently than handguns. However, since the late 1970s, the use of rifles/shotguns began to decrease, while the use of handguns remained relatively stable. By 1991, the number of handgun homicides surpassed that of rifles/shotguns, and the gap has continued to grow since.

In 2006, handguns accounted for 108, or over half, of the 190 victims killed by a firearm. A further 36 victims were killed by a rifle/shotgun, 24 by a sawed-off

rifle/shotgun and 22 by another or unknown type of firearm.

Rate of firearm homicides, Canada, 1976 to 2006

Rate per 100,000 population



Majority of recovered firearms were not registered

Of the 48 recovered firearms in 2006 where the registration status was known, police reported that the majority, 30, were not registered with the Canadian Firearms Centre, while 18 were registered.

Of the 45 recovered firearms where ownership could be determined, police reported that 26 were owned by the accused and 2 by the victim. The remaining 17 firearms were owned by someone other than the accused or victim, of which 10 were reported to have been stolen.

Slight increase in spousal homicides

Police reported 78 spousal homicides, 4 more than in 2005 and the first increase in the last five years. The spousal homicide rate has generally been declining since the mid-1970s. Spousal homicides are those that involve people who are married, separated or divorced, and people in common-law relationships, including same-sex spouses.

The increase in spousal homicides was due to an increase in the number of men killed by their wives, up from 12 in 2005 to 21 in 2006. The large majority of spousal homicides against men were committed by their common-law spouse.

However, women are still much more likely than men to be victims of spousal homicide. In 2006, a total of 56 women were killed by their husband, 6 fewer than in 2005 and the fifth consecutive annual decline. One-quarter of these were committed by a separated or divorced spouse.

Rate of youth accused of homicide highest since data first collected

The rate of youth accused of homicide was at its highest since data were first collected in 1961. The increase in the youth homicide rate in 2006 parallels the increase in the rate of youth crime overall between 2005 and 2006, including a 3% increase in total youth violent crime.

While the rate of youth accused reached an all-time high in 2006, 5 years ago the rate was at a 30-year low. Youth accused of homicide can vary greatly from year to year, due to the relatively small number of youth who commit homicide.

With 18 youths accused of homicide in 2006, Manitoba reported the highest rate of youth homicide in the country, more than double that of the next highest province. Manitoba and Alberta each reported that youths accounted for about 1 in 4 persons accused of homicide, the highest proportion among the provinces.

Gang involvement was more prevalent in homicides where youth were implicated. Police reported evidence of gang involvement among 22% of homicide incidents where at least one youth was accused, compared to 9% of incidents committed by adults.

One in six homicides were gang-related

In total, police reported 104 gang-related homicides in 2006, including both youths and adults. Gang-related homicides accounted for about 1 in every 6 homicides, similar to the previous year.

Half of these homicides occurred in the census metropolitan areas (CMAs) of Montreal, Toronto, Edmonton and Vancouver. The province of Quebec reported the highest proportion of homicides involving gangs, at just over 1 in 4.

Three-quarters of gang-related homicides in 2006 were committed with a firearm, usually a handgun, compared with less than one-quarter of non-gang-related homicides.

Homicide rates highest in the West

Historically, homicide rates have generally been higher in the Western provinces than in the East.

In 2006, the four Western provinces—Saskatchewan, followed by Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia—recorded the highest rates among the provinces.

Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick recorded the lowest rates among the provinces. Quebec recorded its lowest homicide rate in 40 years.

With 9 homicides in 2006, Regina reported the highest rate (3.97 homicides per 100,000 population) among Canadian CMAs, followed by Edmonton (3.68). Toronto, Canada's largest CMA, reported a rate almost identical to the national average (1.83).

Bucking the national downward trend was the Ottawa – Gatineau area, which reported an unusually high number of homicides (25) in 2006. The rate of 3.10 in Gatineau was the highest in almost 20 years, and Ottawa's rate of 1.81 was the highest in over a decade.

Available on CANSIM: tables 253-0001 to 253-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3315.

The *Juristat*: "Homicide in Canada, 2006," Vol. 27, no. 8 (85-002-XIE, free), is now available from our website. From the *Publications* module, under *Free Internet publications*, choose *Crime and justice*, then *Juristat*. A paper version (85-002-XPE, \$11/\$100) is also available. See *How to order our products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Homicides by province/territory

Province/territory	2006		2005 ^r		Average 1996 to 2005	
	Number of victims	Rate ¹	Number of victims	Rate ¹	Number of victims	Rate ¹
Canada	605	1.85	663	2.05	583	1.88
Newfoundland and Labrador	7	1.37	11	2.14	5	0.94
Prince Edward Island	1	0.72	0	0.00	1	0.73
Nova Scotia	16	1.71	20	2.14	15	1.65
New Brunswick	7	0.93	9	1.20	8	1.09
Quebec	93	1.22	100	1.32	128	1.73
Ontario	196	1.54	219	1.74	177	1.50
Manitoba	39	3.31	49	4.17	38	3.28
Saskatchewan	40	4.06	43	4.34	31	3.04
Alberta	96	2.84	108	3.30	70	2.30
British Columbia	108	2.51	101	2.37	104	2.57
Yukon	0	0.00	1	3.21	2	5.51
Northwest Territories	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	6.08
Nunavut ²	2	6.50	2	6.66	3	9.50

^r revised

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

2. The average in Nunavut is calculated from 1999 to 2005.

Homicides by accused-victim relationship, 2006

Victim killed by	Number of victims	% of solved homicides
Total homicides	605	...
Current spouse (includes common-law)	62	14
Ex-spouse (includes separated and divorced)	16	4
Parent	31	7
Child	15	3
Other family	41	9
Boyfriend/girlfriend (current or former)	15	3
Close friend or neighbour	42	9
Casual acquaintance	91	20
Business relationship - Legal	7	2
Criminal relationship	54	12
Stranger	75	17
Unknown	3	1
Solved homicides	452	100
Unsolved homicides	153	...

... not applicable

Homicides committed with a firearm by census metropolitan area, greater than 500,000 population, 2006

Census metropolitan area (CMA)	Total homicides		Firearm homicides	
	Number of victims	Rate ¹	Number of victims	Rate ¹
Toronto	99	1.83	34	0.63
Vancouver	55	2.52	15	0.69
Montréal	52	1.40	25	0.67
Edmonton	39	3.68	15	1.42
Calgary	26	2.34	6	0.54
Winnipeg	22	3.03	7	0.96
Ottawa ²	16	1.81	8	0.90
Hamilton	7	1.00	3	0.43
Québec	7	0.96	0	0.00

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

2. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.



Steel pipe and tubing

August 2007

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

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2105.

The August 2007 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-XWE) 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. ■

Energy consumption by manufacturers

2006 (preliminary) and 2005 (final)

Data on energy consumption by manufacturing industries are now available for 2006.

Available on CANSIM: tables 128-0005 and 128-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5047.

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. ■

Crime statistics

2006

Customized data tables on criminal incidents, victims and accused persons from the incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey for 2006 are now available upon request. These data include information on the presence of firearms in violent crimes, victim-accused relationships, and the age and sex of both victims and accused persons.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3302.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Information and Client Services (toll-free 1-800-387-2231), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. ■

New products

Juristat, Vol. 27, no. 8
Catalogue number 85-002-XIE
(free).

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

Juristat, Vol. 27, no. 8
Catalogue number 85-002-XPE (\$11/\$100).

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 11-001-XIE (1 page) 11-001-XIE 11-001-XIE 11-001-XIE



Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Changes in the number of people taking urban transit in 1995, compared with 1994, show that in 1995, urban transit use was up by an average of about 10% on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow moderate growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Flag production, April 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

 Statistics 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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