



The Daily

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Housing, homeownership and shelter costs

2006 Census

On June 4, 2008, Statistics Canada will release a detailed analysis of data on housing, homeownership and shelter costs from the 2006 Census.

This report will take an in-depth look at shelter in Canada, starting with homeownership rates, including the extent to which owners have mortgages. It will also explore how condominium ownership has become an important stage in housing for some households.

As well, it will look at shelter costs and housing affordability. Measuring housing affordability for the purposes of this report involves comparing out-of-pocket shelter costs to a household's ability to meet those costs. Those who spend 30% or more of their household income may do so by choice, or they may be at risk of experiencing problems related to housing affordability.

Finally, it will explore the situation of immigrants with respect to housing, and discuss housing and homeownership in the provinces, territories and selected census metropolitan areas.

The report *Changing Patterns in Canadian Homeownership and Shelter Costs, 2006 Census* will be available on our website on June 4, at 8.30 a.m.

For more information, contact Media Relations (613-951-4636), Communications and Library Services Division.

New products

10

Releases

International travel account

First quarter 2008 (preliminary)

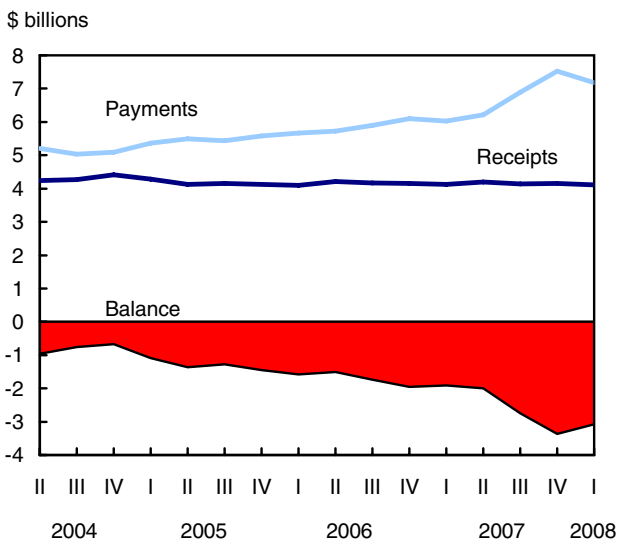
Canada's international travel deficit subsided in the first quarter of 2008, as a result of a significant drop in Canadian travel spending in the United States.

The deficit (the difference between spending by Canadian residents abroad and spending by foreigners in the country) fell to an estimated \$3.1 billion in the first quarter, down \$295 million from the record high set in the fourth quarter of 2007. The deficit increased by \$744 million in the third quarter and \$620 million in the fourth quarter of 2007, fuelled by a significant increase in cross-border shopping by Canadians in the United States. (Unless otherwise specified, quarterly data are seasonally adjusted.)

Canadians spent about \$7.2 billion outside the country in the first quarter of 2008, down 4.6% from the record high reached in the fourth quarter of 2007. The decline was the result of lower spending in the United States.

Inbound, foreign travellers spent an estimated \$4.1 billion in Canada in the first quarter, down 1.2% from the fourth quarter of 2007 and the lowest level in two years. A 10-year low in quarterly spending from United States residents contributed to the drop in inbound travel spending.

Drop in spending abroad lowers travel deficit



Note to readers

This international travel account analysis is based on preliminary quarterly data, seasonally adjusted unless otherwise stated. Amounts are in Canadian dollars and are not adjusted for inflation.

Receipts represent spending by foreigners travelling in Canada, including education spending and medical spending.
Payments represent spending by Canadian residents travelling abroad, including education spending and medical spending.

Overseas countries are those other than the United States.

Despite a significant downswing in travel from the United States in recent years, foreign travel spending in Canada has shown some resiliency, as an influx of travellers from overseas countries compensated for some of the losses.

In the first quarter of 2008, foreign travel spending in Canada was 6.8% lower than the high of \$4.4 billion reached in the fourth quarter of 2004. During that span, same-day car and overnight travel from the United States have fallen by 47.4% and 14.9%, respectively, while overnight travel from overseas countries has increased 8.5%.

Significant drop in spending south of border lowers travel deficit with United States

Canada's travel deficit with the United States dropped to \$2.2 billion in the first quarter of 2008, down a significant \$377 million from the previous quarter. The deficit reached a high of \$2.6 billion in the fourth quarter of 2007.

Lower spending south of the border contributed to the decrease in the deficit, as Canadians spent \$4.1 billion in the United States in the first quarter, much less than the high of \$4.6 billion reported in the fourth quarter of 2007.

With the Canadian dollar inching towards (and eventually reaching) parity with the US greenback, the deficit increased significantly in the latter half of 2007, as more Canadian cross-border shoppers headed to the United States.

But with the loonie peaking in November 2007 and many Canadian businesses adjusting their prices, the cross-border shopping phenomena has somewhat slowed down in the first months of 2008. Also, the unusually high number of winter storms in certain parts of the country may have deterred Canadians from travelling to the United States.

As a result, Canadian travellers made 6.3 million same-day car trips to the United States in the first quarter

of 2008, down 5.1% from the fourth quarter of 2007. Overnight travel fell for the first time in over two years, slipping 1.8% to 4.9 million trips.

In the other direction, spending by US travellers in Canada dropped to its lowest level in a decade in the first quarter of 2008, falling 2.9% to \$1.9 billion.

The drop in spending was the result of lower same-day car and overnight travel from the United States. Same-day car travel fell 9.0% to 2.3 million trips, the lowest level since record keeping started in 1972. Overnight travel fell 5.6% to 3.2 million trips, the fewest since the fourth quarter of 1994.

Deficit with overseas countries at all-time high despite record travel to Canada

Canada's travel deficit with overseas countries climbed to a high of \$864 million in the first quarter of 2008, about \$82 million higher than the fourth quarter of 2007.

The increase in deficit occurred despite record overnight travel from overseas countries, which climbed to 1.1 million overnight trips in the first quarter, up 0.3% from the fourth quarter of 2007. Travel spending from overseas countries climbed to a high of \$2.2 billion, also up 0.3% from the previous quarter.

Canadians also set the pace with record travel to overseas countries, making almost 2.0 million trips to non-US destinations in the first quarter of 2008. Travel overseas, which moved up 1.7% compared with the previous quarter, increased for the 10th consecutive quarter. In that span, it has jumped 29.2%.

As a result, spending in overseas countries reached the \$3.0-billion mark in the first quarter of 2008, up 3.0% from the fourth quarter of 2007. Quarterly travel spending overseas has fallen only three times in the last five years.

International travel account receipts and payments

	First quarter 2007 ^r	Fourth quarter 2007	First quarter 2008 ^p	Fourth quarter 2007 to first quarter 2008
Seasonally adjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
United States				
Receipts	2,048	1,996	1,938	-2.9
Payments	3,322	4,582	4,148	-9.5
Balance	-1,274	-2,587	-2,210	
All other countries				
Receipts	2,079	2,165	2,171	0.3
Payments	2,710	2,948	3,035	3.0
Balance	-632	-783	-864	
Total				
Receipts	4,126	4,161	4,109	-1.2
Payments	6,032	7,530	7,184	-4.6
Balance	-1,906	-3,369	-3,074	

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note: Data may not add to totals due to rounding.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3152 and 5005.

The international travel account for the second quarter of 2008 will be released on August 27.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Eric Desjardins (613-951-1781; eric.desjardins@statcan.ca) or Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-9169; fax: 613-951-2909; tourism@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

Characteristics of international travellers

Annual 2007 and fourth quarter 2007 (preliminary)

Canadians set a new record for overnight trips abroad in 2007, surpassing the 25-million mark for the first time. In the opposite direction, however, Americans took fewer trips to Canada last year, and spent less as well.

In total, Canadians took an estimated 25.2 million overnight trips in 2007, spending a record \$22.5 billion in the process.

Of these trips, a record high 7.4 million, or 29%, were to destinations other than the United States. This was a 9.9% gain from 2006 and the fifth consecutive annual increase. Canadians spent a record \$10.9 billion on these trips.

Overnight travel to the United States, which comprised the remaining 71% of trips abroad, rose to its highest level since 1992.

In the opposite direction, Americans took fewer trips to Canada in 2007 and spent less as well. Travel from overseas nations, however, increased for the fourth consecutive year.

Travel increased to every overseas region in 2007, except South America and Oceania, which recorded negligible declines.

On a regional basis, European countries were still the most popular destinations, accounting for over 4.2 million overnight country visits in 2007. The Caribbean countries were second, with more than 1.8 million.

On a nation-by-nation basis, Canadian tourists took over 1 million overnight visits to Mexico, up 20.9% from 2006. This was the second straight year that Mexico was the most visited overseas country by Canadian tourists.

Travel to the United Kingdom rose 22.2% with Canadians making an estimated 951,000 overnight visits. This follows a 13.3% decline during 2006, which coincided with the major security threat at London's Heathrow Airport in August 2006.

Mexico and the United Kingdom were followed by France, Cuba and the Dominican Republic in that order.

Visits to the Dominican Republic jumped 28.6%, the fastest increase among the top 10 overseas countries visited by Canadians. All 10 recorded increases in Canadian travel in 2007 compared with the previous year.

Top 10 overseas countries visited by Canadian residents

	2006 ^r	2007 ^p	2006 to 2007
	overnight visits (thousands)		% change
Mexico	841	1,017	20.9
United Kingdom	778	951	22.2
France	645	746	15.7
Cuba	638	723	13.3
Dominican Republic	536	690	28.6
Germany	334	371	11.3
Italy	315	327	3.7
Netherlands	239	259	8.1
China	250	257	2.6
Spain	182	189	4.0

^r revised

^p preliminary

Travel to the United States highest in 15 years

Overnight travel by Canadians to the United States rose 11.1% to 17.8 million trips in 2007, the highest level since 1992. In doing so, Canadians spent an estimated \$11.6 billion, up 13.1% from 2006.

New York State remained the most popular overnight destination for Canadians, who made nearly 3 million visits to the state, up 14.4%. They spent an estimated \$919 million, a 19.6% increase.

However, Canadians continued to spend more in Florida than in any other state, about \$2.8 billion in 2007, up 18.6% from 2006. Florida was also the second most popular state, as Canadians took about 2.5 million overnight visits there in 2007.

North Dakota witnessed a significant increase in overnight visits by Canadian residents (+25.9%), as well as in expenditures while on these trips (+51.1%). The majority of this increase occurred in the fourth quarter when the Canadian dollar averaged above parity with its US counterpart.

Overnight travel to the United States rose in every major trip purpose and transportation category in 2007. Travel for pleasure remained the most popular reason for overnight travel by Canadians to the United States with 10.1 million trips, up 12.3%. Travel by car, still the most popular mode for overnight travel, accounted for 59.7% of all trips. It was up 14.1% from 2006.

Fewer Americans heading north

In contrast, Americans took fewer trips to Canada and spent less as well. Overnight travel from the United States to Canada fell 3.5% to only 13.4 million trips. US tourists spent about \$7.1 billion, down 3.0%.

Among the top 10 states of origin, 7 recorded declines in overnight trips to Canada. The largest occurred in travel from California (-11.2%), Minnesota (-8.9%) and Michigan (-7.8%).

New York, Michigan and Washington remained the top three states of origin for overnight visitors to Canada, although travel from each declined. The number of trips taken by Illinois residents to Canada in 2007 rose 12.1%, the largest percentage gain among the top 10 states of origin. The number of trips taken by Illinois residents to Canada had declined 10.8% in 2006.

Overnight travel from the United States by automobile fell 4.3% in 2007, while overnight air travel dropped 2.7%.

US residents took almost 2.6 million trips to Canada to visit friends and relatives, down 5.8% from 2006. The largest category, pleasure trips, also declined 2.2% to 7.8 million trips. Business travel to Canada edged up 0.2%.

The Canadian dollar averaged 93.1 US cents in 2007 compared with 88.2 US cents in 2006, a 5.6% increase.

Overseas travel to Canada continues to rise

Travel from overseas nations into Canada rose for the fourth straight year.

The number of overnight trips to Canada from countries other than the United States increased 2.9% to almost 4.4 million. Overseas tourists also spent an estimated \$6.0 billion on these trips, up 3.9% from 2006.

The United Kingdom retained its status as the most important overseas market for Canada in 2007 with 891,000 trips, up 5.9%.

Only 4 of the top 12 overseas markets recorded declines in the number of trips to Canada, with travel from Japan recording the largest decline (-14.7%). This was the lowest level for the Japanese market since 2003, which coincided with the height of the SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) crisis.

Australia recorded the largest increase among Canada's top 12 overseas markets (+16.7%) as 208,000 Australians came to Canada on overnight trips.

Fourth quarter 2007: Record Canadian travel overseas

On a quarterly basis, Canadian residents took 1.5 million overnight trips to overseas countries in the fourth quarter of 2007, a record for the last three months of any year. This was up 11.5% from the fourth quarter of 2006. It was also the sixth consecutive year in which a fourth-quarter record was set.

Overseas residents took 820,000 overnight trips to Canada, a 3.8% increase from the same quarter in 2006. They spent an estimated \$1.1 billion here, up 7.3%.

American residents took 2.4 million overnight trips to Canada, a 2.8% decrease. Their spending also declined 4.7% to \$1.1 billion.

Canadians took nearly 4.2 million overnight trips to the United States in the final three months of 2007, up 22.9%. They also spent an estimated \$2.6 billion, a 21.3% gain.

While the Canadian dollar had an annual value of 93.1 US cents in 2007, during the fourth quarter, the Canadian dollar had an average value of US \$1.02, slightly above parity.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3152.

This release summarises data now available from the International Travel Survey. Tables, various statistical profiles and micro-data files of characteristics of international travellers using revised third quarter 2007 data, as well as the preliminary fourth quarter 2007 and preliminary full year 2007 data, are now available on request.

Data on characteristics of international travellers for the first quarter 2008 will be released on August 27.

To obtain one or more of these products, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-9169; fax: 613-951-2909; tourism@statcan.ca). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Frances Kremarik (613-951-4240; fax: 613-951-2909; frances.kremarik@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

□

Top US states visited by Canadian residents

	Overnight visits			Expenditures		
	2006 ^r	2007 ^p	2006 to 2007	2006 ^r	2007 ^p	2006 to 2007
	thousands		% change	\$ millions		% change
New York	2,596	2,969	14.4	769	919	19.6
Florida	2,098	2,482	18.3	2,372	2,815	18.6
Washington	1,775	1,994	12.3	363	432	19.1
Michigan	1,323	1,411	6.6	273	305	11.8
California	1,037	1,149	10.8	874	1,007	15.2
Nevada	902	937	3.9	799	827	3.5
Maine	746	888	19.0	200	262	30.8
Pennsylvania	696	766	10.1	133	143	7.6
Vermont	642	766	19.3	131	159	21.9
North Dakota	496	624	25.9	108	163	51.1

^r revised
^p preliminary

Overnight travel between Canada and other countries

	Trips				Expenditures			
	Fourth quarter 2006 ^r	Third quarter 2007 ^r	Fourth quarter 2007 ^p	Fourth quarter 2006 to fourth quarter 2007	Fourth quarter 2006 ^r	Third quarter 2007 ^r	Fourth quarter 2007 ^p	Fourth quarter 2006 to fourth quarter 2007
	thousands			% change	\$ millions			% change
Canadian trips abroad	4,765	7,518	5,700	19.6	4,289	5,677	4,906	14.4
To the United States	3,391	5,805	4,169	22.9	2,121	2,808	2,574	21.3
To other countries	1,374	1,713	1,531	11.5	2,168	2,869	2,333	7.6
Travel to Canada	3,249	7,361	3,209	-1.2	2,189	5,467	2,206	0.7
From the United States	2,459	5,601	2,389	-2.8	1,198	3,075	1,142	-4.7
From other countries	790	1,760	820	3.8	992	2,393	1,064	7.3

^r revised
^p preliminary

Overnight travel between Canada and other countries

	Trips			Expenditures		
	2006 ^r	2007 ^p	2006 to 2007	2006 ^r	2007 ^p	2006 to 2007
	thousands		% change	\$ millions		% change
Canadian trips abroad	22,731	25,165	10.7	20,165	22,490	11.5
To the United States	15,992	17,761	11.1	10,229	11,572	13.1
To other countries	6,739	7,404	9.9	9,937	10,917	9.9
Travel to Canada	18,128	17,768	-2.0	13,008	13,010	0.0
From the United States	13,856	13,371	-3.5	7,275	7,056	-3.0
From other countries	4,272	4,397	2.9	5,732	5,953	3.9

^r revised
^p preliminary

Food available for consumption

2007

Canadian food preferences continue to change according to the 2007 snapshot of food available for consumption. The Canadian diet includes more fresh fruits, yogurts, cheeses, creams, red meats, exotic juices, low fat milk, wine and spirits. Canadians also prefer less cereal and sugar, and fewer oils, fats and eggs in their diet.

Estimates on food availability have been adjusted to account for losses in cooking, storage and waste that occur from homes, restaurants and institutions while preparing and processing food.

Total fresh fruits available, including citrus, set a new record in 2007, reaching 38.2 kilograms (kg) per person. The popularity of guavas and mangoes has increased 88% from a decade ago. The Canadian diet includes 37.7% more processed fruits than 20 years ago.

Compared with 20 years ago, Canadians now have 10.9% more vegetables, excluding potatoes, in their diet; four times more garlic; more than twice as much asparagus and close to twice as many cucumbers. Exotic vegetables such as manioc, eggplant, kohlrabi and okra are also on the rise.

The use of standard and 2% milk has declined and has been replaced partly by an increase of 1% and skim milk in the diet. However, Canadians are eating more fat from cheese and cream products. On average, they had 6.2 litres of cream and 10.1 kg of cheeses in 2007.

In 2007, Canadians on average had 24.5 kg of red meats, which include beef, pork, mutton and veal; an increase of 0.7 kg from the previous year. There appears to be a shift in the type of fish preferred by Canadians. Shellfish products have decreased by almost 30% in the past seven years, while, in 2007, the Canadian diet included almost 50% more freshwater fish than a decade ago.

Total cereals available from the food supply declined to 56.9 kg per person in 2007, mostly influenced by a decrease in the availability of wheat flour. Rice, on the other hand increased to 5.2 kg per person.

The popularity of wine in 2007 climbed to a new record at 14.6 litres per person for Canadians aged 15 years and older. This represents an increase of almost 46% compared with a decade ago. On the other hand, beer levels have remained fairly stable over the same period.

Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0010, 002-0011, 002-0019, 003-0035 to 003-0037 and 003-0080.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3403, 3404, 3407, 3423, 3430, 3460 and 3475.

The 2007 issue of *Food Statistics* (21-020-XWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. Under *Free Internet publications*, choose *Agriculture*.

The *Canada Food Stats* CD-ROM (23F0001XCB, \$81) will be available soon. This is an easy-to-use system that provides access to a broad spectrum of data, preformatted reports and articles on food and the food industry. The same application can be downloaded free of charge.

The *Canada Food Stats* (23F0001XBB, free), which can be downloaded directly from our website to your desktop, will be available at the end of June.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release contact Patricia Chandler (613-951-2506; pat.chandler@statcan.ca; toll-free 1-800-465-1991), Agriculture Division. ■

Railway carloadings

March 2008 and first quarter 2008

The Canadian railway industry continued to push full steam ahead in the first three months of 2008, particularly during the month of March. These positive results were achieved despite being up against one of the worst winters in years.

During both the month and quarter, the industry faced unusually cold weather, high winds and record snow falls that led to delays, derailments, and even outright stoppages.

Railways loaded 22.9 million metric tonnes of freight in March, a 6.8% gain over February's loadings.

Non-intermodal loadings of coal, potash, wheat, colza seeds (canola), and sulphur accounted for the vast majority of the increase, as a result of their rising demand inside and outside of Canada. The strength of these commodities caused overall non-intermodal loadings to climb 7.3% to 20.6 million metric tonnes.

Intermodal loadings also rose in March, rising 2.5% to 2.3 million metric tonnes. The rise was almost entirely attributable to increased containerized cargo shipments.

Rail freight traffic coming from the United States increased as well in March, rising 6.2% to about 2.9 million metric tonnes.

On a year-over-year basis, March's non-intermodal loadings were down slightly, while intermodal loadings were down 7.8%. Traffic received from the United States increased 5.5%, an all-time high for the month of March.

On a quarterly basis, loadings in the first quarter of 2008 fell 5.9% to about 67.1 million metric tonnes compared with loadings from the fourth quarter of 2007. This decline is typical for the time period. Compared with the first quarter of 2007, however, loadings in the first quarter of 2008 were up almost 1%.

Among the factors behind the decline between the first and fourth quarters were reduced loadings within the agriculture, forestry and manufacturing sectors.

Available on CANSIM: table 404-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2732.

The March 2008 issue of *Monthly Railway Carloadings*, Vol. 85, no. 3 (52-001-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 the Dissemination Unit (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 613-951-0009; transportationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Poultry and eggs

2007

The value of poultry products totalled \$2.8 billion in 2007, a 10.6% increase from 2006. Sales of poultry meat, including turkey, showed an increase of 13.3% with a total value of \$2.1 billion. The value of egg sales increased 3.9% from 2006 to \$762.5 million.

Canadian farmers produced 1.2 million metric tonnes of poultry meat in 2007, virtually unchanged from 2006. Chicken, including stewing hens, accounts for 86% of all poultry meat produced. It increased 3.3%

from year-ago levels. Turkey production stood at 169 000 metric tonnes in 2007, an increase of 3.4% from 2006.

Egg production in 2007, at 577.4 million dozen, was down 0.5% from 2006. The central region produces over half of the eggs in Canada. Ontario alone produced 227 million dozen eggs in 2007 while Quebec, with 101.5 million dozen, produced 17.6% of the Canadian total.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0017 to 003-0020, 003-0022 to 003-0024, 003-0038 and 003-0039.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3425 and 5039.

The January to March 2008 issue of *Poultry and Eggs Statistics*, Vol. 5, no. 1 (23-015-XWE, free) is now available online from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bernadette Alain (902-893-7251; bernadette.alain@statcan.ca), or call the Agriculture Division information line (toll-free 1-800-465-1991). ■

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation

April 2008

Data on mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation are now available for April.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2110.

Data are available upon request only. 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 and Energy Division. ■

New products

Interprovincial Trade Flows, 2004
Catalogue number 15F0002XDB
(various prices).

Input-output Model Simulations (National Model), 2004
Catalogue number 15F0004XDB
(various prices).

Input-output Model Simulations (Interprovincial Model), 2004
Catalogue number 15F0009XDB
(various prices).

National Input-output Tables, 2004
Catalogue number 15F0041XDB
(various prices).

Interprovincial Input-output Tables, 2004
Catalogue number 15F0042XDB
(various prices).

National and Provincial Multipliers, 2004
Catalogue number 15F0046XDB
(various prices).

National Symmetric Input- output Tables: Aggregation Level S, 2004
Catalogue number 15-207-XCB (\$250).

National Symmetric Input- output Tables: Aggregation Level L, 2004
Catalogue number 15-208-XCB (\$535).

Food Statistics, 2007
Catalogue number 21-020-XWE
(free).

Poultry and Egg Statistics, January to March 2008, Vol. 5, no. 1
Catalogue number 23-015-XWE
(free).

Monthly Railway Carloadings, March 2008, Vol. 85, no. 3
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Statistics Canada

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



MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six rides 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 and industry work force in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- Map-based Index: May 1997 3
- Short-term Expectations Survey 9
- Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 12
- Egg production: Apr 8, 1997 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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

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