



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, November 27, 1997

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Household facilities and equipment, 1997**

The proportion of households in Canada surfing the Internet has almost doubled during the past year from 7% to 13%. The cellular phone is also gaining in popularity and is now found in almost one in five homes.

3
  
  - **Charitable donors, 1996**

Canadians reported charitable donations of \$4 billion in 1996, up 11.5% over the previous year. Most of the increase appears to be due to the higher deduction limit allowed by Revenue Canada.

5
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## OTHER RELEASES

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Employment Insurance, September 1997	7
Crude oil and natural gas, September 1997	8
Electric power statistics, September 1997	8
Electric power capability and load, 1996	9
Railway carloadings, seven-day period ending November 14, 1997	9
Steel primary forms, week ending November 22, 1997	9

*(continued on following page)*

### Charitable donors

1996

The 1996 edition of the databank on charitable donors is now available. Today's release looks at the charitable donations reported by Canadians on their 1996 income tax returns.

Produced annually, these data are a unique source of information on small areas and are ideal for supporting target marketing and policy decisions. Data are available for provinces and territories, cities, towns, census metropolitan areas and census divisions, as well as forward sortation areas (the first three characters of postal codes) and letter carrier walks (groupings of postal codes).

Today's release will be of particular interest to fundraisers, marketers, researchers and policy planners.

For further information on *Charitable donors* (13C0014), contact Client Services (613-951-9720; fax 613-951-4745; Internet: [saadinfo@statcan.ca](mailto:saadinfo@statcan.ca)), Small Area and Administrative Data Division.

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**OTHER RELEASES – concluded**

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Stocks of frozen meat products, November 1997	9
Cancer, 1994	9

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**PUBLICATIONS RELEASED** 10

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Household facilities and equipment 1997

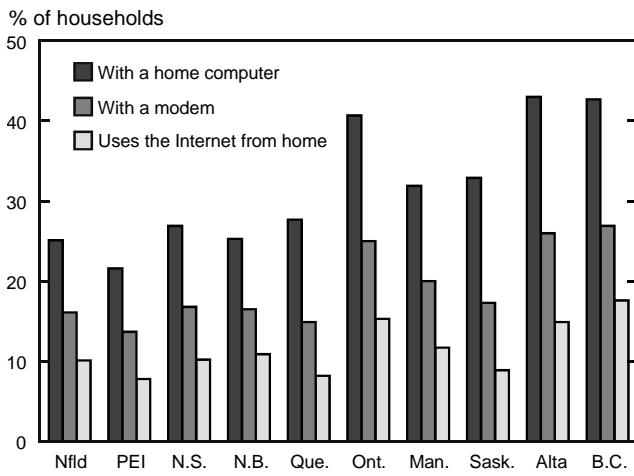
The proportion of households in Canada surfing the Internet has almost doubled during the past year. In 1997, an estimated 13% of households will use the Internet from their home computers, up from 7% in 1996.

Data from the Household Facilities and Equipment Survey, conducted in May 1997, show that 1.5 million households now have access to the Internet, compared with about 843,000 last year.

This sample survey of about 35,000 households represents 11.6 million private households in Canada. Data on Internet usage was collected for the first time in 1996. The survey covered only home access, and excluded Internet usage at work or in public places such as libraries or schools.

Internet use was highest in British Columbia, where 18% of households (about 269,000) had access, followed by Ontario and Alberta at about 15% each. Compared with British Columbia, rates of Internet usage were much lower in Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan.

#### Computer technology varies coast to coast, 1997



About 4.2 million households, or 36%, currently have a home computer, up from 3.6 million last year. Five years ago, 20% of households had a computer. Computer ownership is highest in British Columbia,

#### Note to readers

These data are from the Household Facilities and Equipment Survey, conducted in May 1997. This sample survey of approximately 35,000 households represents virtually all private households (11.6 million) in the 10 provinces.

Please note that estimates from the 1997 Household Facilities and Equipment Survey are now based on 1991 Census population benchmark data. Data for 1981 to 1994 have been reweighted to this base and all analysis in this report are based on the new estimates.

Data from the survey are linked to Labour Force Survey data and household income data from the Survey of Consumer Finances, conducted in April 1997 on the same sample of households. These data by household type, age of head and other categories will be released in early 1998 in Household facilities by income and other characteristics (13-218-XPB, \$37).

This is the last issue of Household facilities and equipment (64-202-XPB, \$31). Beginning in 1998, a new annual Survey of Household Spending will collect information about household facilities and equipment, as well as expenditures and income. Although data collection will take place during the first three months of 1998, information on expenditures and income will be for the 1997 reference year and information concerning household facilities and equipment will be as of December 1997.

This change from a Labour Force Survey supplement to the Survey of Household Spending will mean there will be two sets of data for 1997; one from the Labour Force Survey supplement and the other from the Survey of Household Spending.

If you have concerns about these changes or would like more information, contact the Dissemination Unit (613-951-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; Internet: [expenditures@statcan.ca](mailto:expenditures@statcan.ca)).

Alberta and Ontario, where more than four in 10 households reported having a computer. Computers used solely for business were excluded.

#### Almost one fifth of households have a cellular phone

The cellular phone is becoming an even more popular communications device for Canadians. About 19% of households currently have a cellular phone, compared with 14% in 1996, when data were first collected.

Decreasing prices and increased targeting of the home market have likely contributed to this increase. Provincially, the proportion of households with a cellular phone ranges from 26% in Alberta to 8% in Newfoundland.

Virtually every household now has at least one telephone, with 37% of households having three or more phones, more than four times the rate (8%) 15 years ago.

**Phenomenal increase in home entertainment equipment**

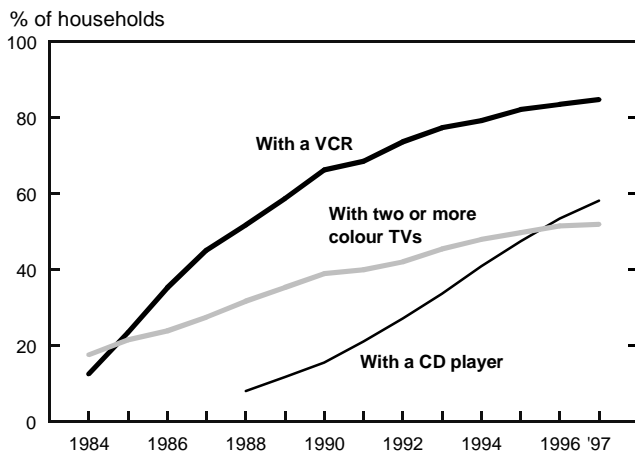
Ownership of video cassette recorders has increased phenomenally in the last decade and a half. Since 1983, when data were first collected, the percentage of households with a VCR has soared from 6% to 85%. In fact, one in five homes currently report having two or more VCRs.

Compact disc players are becoming the standard in audio equipment. Between 1988, when data were first collected, and 1997, the proportion of households with a CD player increased more than seven times, from 8% to 58%.

In 1997, the popularity of CD players in Alberta and British Columbia is considerably above the national average. Two-thirds (66%) of households have CD players in Alberta as do 63% in British Columbia.

Almost every household currently has a colour television set and 52% of households have two or more. On the other hand, black and white sets have become scarce. In 1982, 43% of households had a black and white set. This year the proportion had tumbled to 12%.

**Rapid changes in audio-visual gadgets**



**Canadian drivers leaning more to trucks and vans**

While the proportion of households with a vehicle remained unchanged over the last 10 years the real change occurred in the type of vehicle Canadians were driving.

In 1987, 78% of households reported having an automobile and only 23% had a van or truck. By 1997, automobile ownership had dipped slightly to 72%, while van or truck ownership had increased to 33%.

The minivan popularity of the early 1990s and the more recent appeal of four-wheel drive vehicles may explain this shift. New motor vehicle sales data show that, on a seasonally adjusted basis, sales of trucks, vans, and buses increased 21% between May 1996 and May 1997.

**Time-saving facilities find favour in the home**

Increasing demands on work and family time have prompted the rapid acceptance of appliances that offer convenience and time-saving features. According to Statistics Canada's Survey of Consumer Finances, both spouses worked in 61% of husband-wife families in 1995, compared with 54% in 1982.

The microwave oven is one such time-saving appliance. Between 1982 and 1997, the proportion of homes with a microwave oven increased more than eight times, from 10% to 86%. Dishwashers also grew in popularity. In 1982, one in three of households had a dishwasher, compared with almost one in two today. This year, 54% of households have a gas barbecue, more than 2.5 times the proportion in 1984, when data were first collected.

National and provincial estimates of household equipment and housing characteristics are presented in *Household facilities and equipment, 1997* (64-202-XPB, \$31), which is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, on revised estimates and on the availability of custom tabulations, contact the Dissemination Unit (613-951-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; Internet: [expenditures@statcan.ca](mailto:expenditures@statcan.ca)). ■

## Charitable donors

1996

Canadians reported charitable donations of \$4 billion in 1996, up 11.5% over the previous year. Most of the increase appears to be due to the higher deduction limit allowed by Revenue Canada. (All dollar amounts have been adjusted for inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index.)

In 1996, the number of taxfilers reporting donations edged up 0.7% from 1995 to about 5.5 million. This number remains lower than in the early 1990s.

The median donation in 1996 was \$150, unchanged from the previous year. The median is the middle point at which half the donations are higher and half lower.

Some individuals who did not claim a tax credit might actually have made charitable donations. (Taxfilers are permitted to claim both their donations and those made by their spouse as long as the spouse does not claim them.) Therefore, it is possible that some donations were reported by the higher-income spouse to get the maximum tax benefit. It was also possible that donations claimed in 1996 were actually made in previous years but not claimed because they surpassed the 20% limit in effect at that time.

### Donations by age group for Canada

1996

	Number of donors	Proportion of taxfilers	Total donations
	#	%	(\$'000)
<b>Age group</b>			
Less than 35	1,000,640	15	364,181
35-44	1,313,460	28	803,620
45-54	1,155,270	33	874,433
55-64	756,720	34	659,853
65 and over	1,225,770	38	1,267,084
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,451,860</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>3,969,171</b>

### Older Canadians again donated the most

Overall, 27% of all taxfilers reported charitable donations in 1996. This proportion varied through the

#### Note to readers

A charitable donor is a taxfiler who claimed a tax credit for amounts given to charities and other approved organizations and for which official tax receipts were provided.

It is possible to carry donations forward for up to five years after the year in which they were made. Therefore, donations reported for the 1996 taxation year could include donations made in any year since 1991.

The maximum amount a taxfiler could claim in 1996 was 50% of his/her net income plus 50% of taxable capital gains on donations (net of deductions claimed for those gains). The previous limit was 20% of a taxfiler's net income.

age groups, increasing from 15% for taxfilers less than 35 years of age to 38% for those 65 and over.

Typically, Canadians 65 and over donate the most. In 1996, they accounted for 22% of donors and reported 32% of total donations. Of the total increase in deductible charitable donations between 1995 and 1996, 40% was attributable to that age group alone.

### Newfoundland had the highest median donation

Manitoba and Prince Edward Island had the highest proportion of taxfilers who reported donations to charity, at 30%. Saskatchewan and Ontario were close behind with 29%.

Among those who reported donations, Newfoundland again led all provinces and territories in 1996 with the highest median charitable donation (\$260), unchanged from 1995. This was true despite the fact that these donors had the lowest median total income.

Newfoundland was followed closely by Saskatchewan, with a median donation of \$240, also well above the Canadian median donation of \$150.

For further information on the release of data for *Charitable donors* (13C0014), contact Client Services (613-951-9720; fax 613-951-4745; Internet: [saadinfo@statcan.ca](mailto:saadinfo@statcan.ca)), Small Area and Administrative Data Division. □

**Characteristics of charitable donors  
1996**

	Proportion of taxfilers	Average age	Median donation	Median total income	Average donation	Average total income
	%				\$	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>35,200</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>44,400</b>
Newfoundland	22	49	260	27,700	600	34,600
Prince Edward Island	30	49	230	28,000	640	33,500
Nova Scotia	26	51	200	32,000	630	38,100
New Brunswick	25	51	230	30,900	750	37,500
Quebec	25	50	100	34,000	370	42,500
Ontario	29	50	180	37,400	810	47,100
Manitoba	30	51	190	31,200	810	37,400
Saskatchewan	29	53	240	30,600	840	37,000
Alberta	27	48	170	35,700	970	47,400
British Columbia	24	51	180	36,500	940	46,100
Yukon	18	45	160	47,200	760	49,800
Northwest Territories	15	42	190	57,300	790	56,700



## OTHER RELEASES

### Employment Insurance

September 1997 (preliminary)

The estimated number of Canadians who received regular Employment Insurance benefits in September increased by 1.8% to 593,220. Six provinces and the Northwest Territories recorded increases in September. Regular benefit payments increased 2.0% in September to \$681.3 million. Seven provinces and the Yukon recorded increases.

In comparison with September 1996, both the number of beneficiaries and benefits paid showed large declines. The number of regular beneficiaries stood 14.8% lower and regular benefit payments were 12.6% less than the same month last year.

#### Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	Sept. 1997	Aug. 1997 to Sept. 1997
	seasonally adjusted	
		% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>593,220</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Newfoundland	31,480	-2.7
Prince Edward Island	8,970	-2.0
Nova Scotia	30,780	-0.9
New Brunswick	36,900	1.5
Quebec	208,660	0.4
Ontario	144,590	1.1
Manitoba	14,330	-1.5
Saskatchewan	11,240	4.6
Alberta	31,160	7.2
British Columbia	68,500	1.0
Yukon	1,330	-0.2
Northwest Territories	1,120	2.2

The number of individuals who applied for Employment Insurance benefits in September declined 2.6% to 222,000. Led by New Brunswick (-9.1%), applications declined in seven provinces. Since March 1996, the number of people who have applied for Employment Insurance benefits has generally declined.

### Employment Insurance statistics

	Aug. 1997	Sept. 1997	Aug. 1997 to Sept. 1997
	seasonally adjusted		
			% change
Reg. beneficiaries ('000)	583 <sup>P</sup>	593 <sup>P</sup>	1.8
Reg. payments (\$ millions)	668.3	681.3	2.0
Claims ('000)	228	222	-2.6
	Sept. 1996	Sept. 1997	Sept. 1996 to Sept. 1997
	unadjusted		
			% change
All beneficiaries ('000)	694	584 <sup>P</sup>	-15.8
Reg. beneficiaries ('000)	510	412 <sup>P</sup>	-19.3
Claims ('000)	215	210	-2.2
Payments (\$ millions)	833.1	859.8	3.2
	Year-to-date (January to September)		
	1996	1997	1996 to 1997
			% change
Claims ('000)	2,103	1,923	-8.6
Payments (\$ millions)	10,397.8	9,391.3	-9.7

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

**Note:** "All beneficiaries" includes all claimants paid regular benefits (e.g., due to layoff) or special benefits (e.g., due to illness).

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 26 (series 1.6), 5700-5717 and 5735-5736.**

For further information on this release, contact Michael Scrim (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; Internet: [labour@statcan.ca](mailto:labour@statcan.ca)), Labour Division. ■

## Crude oil and natural gas

September 1997

In September, natural gas production increased 4.1% over September 1996, primarily the result of increased domestic demand. This was the 17th consecutive monthly year-over-year advance in natural gas production. Warmer than normal weather in the United States during September resulted in a slight decrease (-0.2%) in natural gas exports, compared with the same month a year earlier. Year-to-date exports of natural gas were up 2.0% over the same period in 1996.

### Crude oil and natural gas

	Sept. 1996	Sept. 1997	Sept. 1996 to Sept. 1997
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
<b>Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons<sup>1</sup></b>			
Production	9 685.6	9 973.8	3.0
Exports	4 834.8	6 144.8	27.1
Imports <sup>2</sup>	3 182.6	3 403.1	6.9
Refinery receipts	7 684.3	7 761.8	1.0
	millions of cubic metres		% change
<b>Natural gas<sup>3</sup></b>			
Marketable production	11 951.3	12 441.4	4.1
Exports	6 544.0	6 528.9	-0.2
Canadian sales <sup>4</sup>	3 783.4	3 875.0	2.4

	Jan. 1996 to Sept. 1996	Jan. 1997 to Sept. 1997	Jan.-Sept. 1996 to Jan.-Sept. 1997
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
<b>Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons<sup>1</sup></b>			
Production	86 933.0	89 250.9	2.7
Exports	47 388.0	51 698.3	9.1
Imports <sup>2</sup>	29 919.8	32 324.5	8.0
Refinery receipts	69 523.2	71 016.5	2.1
	millions of cubic metres		% change
<b>Natural gas<sup>3</sup></b>			
Marketable production	112 906.8	115 687.0	2.5
Exports	59 052.5	60 247.8	2.0
Canadian sales <sup>4</sup>	47 649.6	49 038.0	2.9

<sup>1</sup> Disposition may differ from production due to inventory change, industry own-use, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Crude oil received by Canadian refineries from foreign countries for processing. Data may differ from International Trade Division (ITD) estimates due to timing differences and the inclusion of crude oil landed in Canada for future re-export in the ITD data.

<sup>3</sup> Disposition may differ from production due to inventory change, usage as pipeline fuel, pipeline losses, line-pack fluctuations, etc.

<sup>4</sup> Includes direct sales.

Crude oil production increased by 3.0% over September 1996 levels, following several months of relatively stagnant growth. Strong growth (+22.1% in September 1997 compared with September 1996) was experienced by synthetic crude and crude bitumen (which account for approximately 30% of total crude oil production). Concurrently, robust demand in the United States for Canadian crude oil led to a 27.1% increase in exports. Year-to-date exports of crude oil increased 9.1% over the same period in 1996.

Imports of crude oil rose 6.9% from the September 1996 level. For the first nine months of 1997, imports were up strongly (+8.0% compared with the same period in 1996), partly to meet the needs of Ontario refineries. Increased demand for crude oil imports (primarily light crude oil) is largely attributable to the declining domestic production of the higher quality light crude oil over the past several months.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 530 and 539.**

The September 1997 issue of *Crude petroleum and natural gas production* (26-006-XPB, \$19/\$186) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Gérard O'Connor (613-951-3562; Internet: [oconger@statcan.ca](mailto:oconger@statcan.ca)), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## Electric power statistics

September 1997

Net generation of electricity decreased to 40 357 gigawatt hours (GW·h), down 1.8% from September 1996. Exports increased 4.8% to 3 980 GW·h and imports advanced from 371 GW·h to 793 GW·h.

The main cause for the drop was the 5.1% decline in hydro electricity generation to 24 278 GW·h. Continuing low reservoir levels in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia account for most of the decrease. The temporary closing of seven nuclear reactors at Ontario Hydro's Pickering and Bruce plants led to a 9.6% decline in nuclear generation to 5 567 GW·h. Thermal conventional generation was up 12.1% to 10 511 GW·h, mainly to compensate for the loss of nuclear generating capability in Ontario.

Year-to-date net generation at the end of September 1997 totalled 404 706 GW·h, down 0.4% from the previous year. Year-to-date exports (33 548 GW·h) rose 0.1% and year-to-date imports (5 667 GW·h) rose 45% from 1996.



**Available on CANSIM: matrices 3987-3999.**

The September 1997 issue of *Electric power statistics* (57-001-XPB, \$12/\$114) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact André Lefebvre (613-951-3560; Internet: [alefeba@statcan.ca](mailto:alefeba@statcan.ca)), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

**Electric power capability and load**  
1996

Total net generating capability of electric power in Canada increased by 0.5% in 1996/97 to a record 106,954 megawatts. Electric power utilities predict a compound growth rate of 0.6% (or 3,900 megawatts) in net generating capability over the next 10 years.

The 1996 issue of *Electric power capability and load* (57-204-XPB, \$29) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Serge Grenier (613-951-3566; Internet: [greanser@statcan.ca](mailto:greanser@statcan.ca)), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

**Railway carloadings**

Seven-day period ending November 14, 1997

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending November 14, 1997, increased 5.4% to 4.9 million tonnes from the same period of last year. The number of cars loaded increased 4.8%.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totalled 330 000 tonnes, down 8.3% from the same period of last year. The year-to-date figures show an advance of 9.0%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) increased 4.4% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 230 million tonnes, up 6.6% from the previous year.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For further information on this release, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2528; fax: 613-951-0009), Railway Transport Unit, Transportation Division. ■

**Steel primary forms**

Week ending November 22, 1997 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending November 22, 1997, totalled 267 817 metric tonnes,

down 2.5% from the week-earlier 274 641 metric tonnes and down 7.8% from the year-earlier 290 475 metric tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 13 854 394 metric tonnes, a 7.1% increase compared with 12 930 634 metric tonnes for the same period in 1996.

For further information on this release, contact Huguette Montcalm (613-951-9827; Internet: [monthug@statcan.ca](mailto:monthug@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

**Stocks of frozen meat products**  
November 1997

Frozen meat in cold storage at the opening of the first business day of November totalled 38,978 tonnes compared with 39,063 tonnes last month and 29,593 tonnes a year ago.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 87 and 9517-9525.**

Available free on the Internet at <http://www.statcan.ca> under Products and services, Downloadable publications, Index of downloadable publications.

For further information on this release, contact Sandra Jarrett (613-951-3847; Internet: [jarrsan@statcan.ca](mailto:jarrsan@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

**Cancer**

1994 (preliminary)

Cancer incidence data for 1994 are now available. The 1994 data include information on new cases of cancer diagnosed in Canada in 1994 as reported by nine provincial and two territorial cancer registries. Data from Quebec are not yet available.

In 1994, 87,950 new cases of cancer were diagnosed excluding Quebec, an advance of less than 1% over the 87,649 cases diagnosed in 1993.

For further information on this release, contact Judy Lee (613-951-1775), or the Client Custom Services Unit (613-951-1746), Health Statistics Division. ■

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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**Pulpwood and wood residue statistics,**  
September 1997  
**Catalogue number 25-001-XPB**  
(Canada: \$8/\$73; outside Canada: US\$8/US\$73).

**Crude petroleum and natural gas production,**  
August 1997  
**Catalogue number 26-006-XPB**  
(Canada: \$19/\$186; outside Canada: US\$19/US\$186).

**Production and disposition of tobacco products,**  
October 1997, Vol. 26, No.10  
**Catalogue number 32-022-XPB**  
(Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

**Restaurant, caterer and tavern statistics,** May to  
December 1995, Vol. 28, no. 5 to 12  
**Catalogue number 63-011-XPB**  
(Canada: \$8/\$73; outside Canada: US\$8/US\$73).

**Restaurant, caterer and tavern statistics,** January  
to December 1996, Vol. 29, nos. 1 to 12  
**Catalogue number 63-011-XPB**  
(Canada: \$8/\$73; outside Canada: US\$8/US\$73).

**Household facilities and equipment 1997**  
**Catalogue number 64-202-XPB**  
(Canada: \$31; outside Canada: US\$31).

**Imports by commodity,** September 1997 (microfiche  
version)  
**Catalogue number 65-007-XPB**  
(Canada: \$37/\$361; outside Canada: US\$37/US\$361).

**Imports by commodity,** September 1997 (paper  
version)  
**Catalogue number 65-007-XPB**  
(Canada: \$78/\$773; outside Canada: US\$78/US\$773).

### All prices exclude sales tax.

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