



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, February 27, 1997

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Employment, earnings and hours, December 1996** 2
Following a downward trend during the first nine months of the year, employment rebounded between October and December to close 1996 with 135,000 more employees than in January.
- **International travel account, 1996 and fourth quarter 1996** 6
For the first time in four years, the international travel account deficit was up in 1996. Driven by increased spending by Canadians in the United States, the deficit rose to \$3.2 billion, 6.0% higher than in 1995.

OTHER RELEASES

Employment insurance, December 1996	9
Mineral wool including glass insulation, January 1997	10
Steel primary forms, week ending February 22, 1997	10
Stocks of frozen meat products, February 1, 1997	10
Urban transit, second quarter 1996	10
Air charter statistics, second quarter 1996	10
Annual Survey of Manufactures, 1995	10

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED	12
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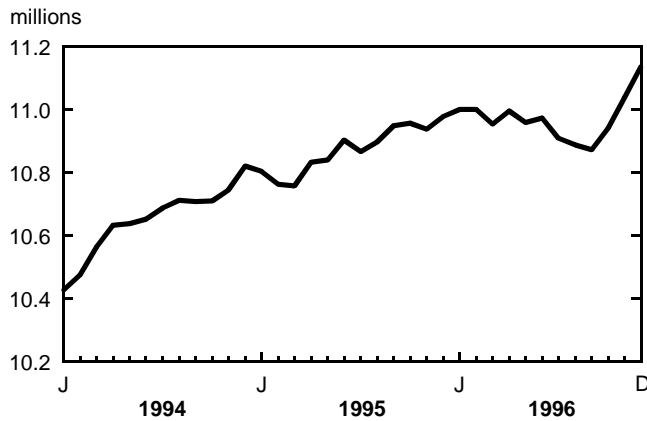
MAJOR RELEASES

Employment, earnings and hours

December 1996 (preliminary)

In December, the number of workers on business payrolls grew by 97,000 to reach 11,136,000. Increases were widespread as all industries, except public administration, registered advances. Quebec and Ontario registered the largest gains, although some growth was observed in virtually all provinces and territories.

Employees on business payrolls increased substantially in last quarter of 1996



Following a peak in January 1996, the number of payroll employees generally declined during the first nine months of the year. Since September, the number of employees on company payrolls rebounded between October and December, and now exceeds employment levels at the start of the year by 135,000. Employers have added nearly three-quarters of a million workers to company payrolls since the employment trough in October 1992.

For the year, businesses in Alberta added 50,000 employees, mainly in construction, business services, and the manufacturing sector, to lead all other provinces in payroll employment growth. Gains were also registered in 1996 by manufacturers in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia, as well as in business services in Ontario. This growth coincided favourably with the trends observed in other economic indicators such as building permits and manufacturing shipments.

Employees' average weekly earnings rose slightly in December, offsetting a similar decline the previous month. Compared with December 1995, earnings

Note to readers

The target population of the Survey of Employment, Earnings and Hours is all employers in Canada, except those in agriculture, fishing and trapping, private household services, religious organizations and defence services. This survey defines an employee as any person drawing pay for services rendered or for paid absences and for whom the employer must complete a Revenue Canada T-4 Supplementary Form.

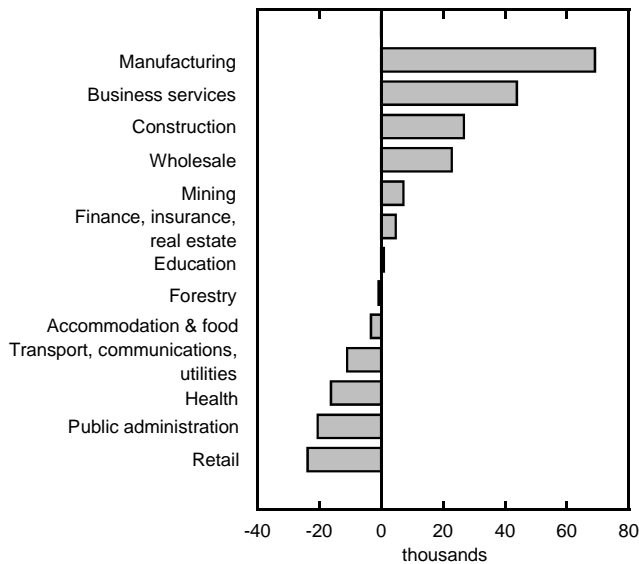
in December 1996 were 2.7% higher. The modest changes observed in November and December were preceded by strong earnings growth during October. The gain in December earnings was mainly due to growth in the manufacturing sector. Earnings continued to trend downward for employees in construction, health and social services and public administration.

The average number of hours worked by employees paid by the hour (which represent 50.8% of total employment) maintained the peak of 31.1 hours reached in November. Increased average hours of work for manufacturing and trade employees offset declines in the remaining industries.

Manufacturing employment rebounded in November and December

While the level of employment among manufacturers remained virtually unchanged from November 1995 to October 1996, it jumped by 62,000 workers during November and December. The gains were led by metal products fabrication and plastic products industries. The expansion in employment occurred as unfilled orders rose sharply in December. Manufacturers in Quebec and Ontario accounted for most of the gains.

**Change in employment
January to December 1996**



For the third consecutive month, average weekly earnings for manufacturing employees rose sharply in December. This earnings growth was the result of an increase in the number of hours worked for hourly paid manufacturing employees. The average number of hours worked climbed during the last quarter of 1996 to stand at 39.1 hours. Manufacturing employees earned on average \$738.40 in December, a gain of 4.5% from December 1995.

Downward trend in transportation and storage comes to a halt

The declining trend that characterized the transportation and storage industry for the first nine months of 1996 ended as the number of employees increased for a third consecutive month. The number of employees in this industry expanded by 3.0% in December, bringing the gains since September to 27,000. Employment in the transportation and storage industries has returned to December 1995 levels. The gains were due in part to the privatization of air navigation services from Transport Canada, and employment growth in the trucking industry.

Employment growth resumes in business services

Employment in business services industries was marked by monthly fluctuations without any clear trend for most of 1996. During the last quarter of 1996, however, business services employment has registered strong gains, resuming the growth that characterized the industry between 1993 and 1995. As a result, business service establishments ended the year with 44,000 more workers than at the start of 1996.

The December gains were in employment agencies, personnel suppliers, and offices of architects, engineers and other scientific and technical services and were concentrated in Quebec. Ontario and Alberta also registering increases.

Average weekly earnings for business service employees increased slightly in December. Employees' earnings in business services have fluctuated since June without showing any discernable trend.

Employment rebound continues in construction industry

Following a resurgence in demand for new and existing housing, and growth in the value of building permits, the number of employees working in construction increased substantially during the last quarter of 1996. These gains more than offset the downward trend observed since the spring. Gains in December (+13,000 employees) were concentrated among trade contractors and construction companies in Alberta and Ontario.

The decrease of \$3.69 in average weekly earnings in December was due in part to a drop in both the average number of hours worked and hourly earnings for employees paid by the hour.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4285-4466, 9438-9452, 9639-9664 and 9899-9911.

Detailed industry data and other labour market indicators are available through standard tables in the monthly publication *Employment, earnings and hours* (72-002-XPB, \$31/\$310), the historical publication *Annual estimates of employment, earnings and hours 1983-1995* (diskette: 72F0002XDE, \$120) and by custom tabulations. See How to order publications.

For further information on this release, please contact Stephen Johnson (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; Internet: labour@statcan.ca), Labour Division. □

Number of employees

Industry group (1980 S.I.C.)	Oct. 1996	Nov. 1996 ^f	Dec. 1996 ^p	Oct. to Nov. 1996	Nov. to Dec. 1996
	seasonally adjusted				
	'000			% change	
Industrial aggregate	10,941	11,039	11,136	0.9	0.9
Logging and forestry	67	66	67	-1.5	1.5
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	134	134	137	0.0	2.2
Manufacturing	1,731	1,755	1,793	1.4	2.2
Construction	452	468	481	3.5	2.8
Transportation, communication and other utilities	827	836	853	1.1	2.0
Wholesale trade	669	683	695	2.1	1.8
Retail trade	1,370	1,381	1,391	0.8	0.7
Finance, insurance and real estate	674	678	687	0.6	1.3
Business services	688	696	709	1.2	1.9
Education-related services	938	940	940	0.2	0.0
Health and social services	1,189	1,196	1,202	0.6	0.5
Accommodation, food and beverage services	794	801	801	0.9	0.0
Public administration	688	683	682	-0.7	-0.1
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland	145	145	144	0.0	-0.7
Prince Edward Island	45	46	46	2.2	0.0
Nova Scotia	307	309	310	0.7	0.3
New Brunswick	247	247	249	0.0	0.8
Quebec	2,618	2,644	2,706	1.0	2.3
Ontario	4,282	4,320	4,348	0.9	0.6
Manitoba	419	423	426	1.0	0.7
Saskatchewan	323	324	326	0.3	0.6
Alberta	1,092	1,110	1,124	1.6	1.3
British Columbia	1,420	1,425	1,433	0.4	0.6
Yukon	14	14	14	0.0	0.0
Northwest Territories	25	25	25	0.0	0.0

^f Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

Average weekly earnings for all employees

Industry group (1980 S.I.C.)	Dec. 1995	Nov. 1996 ^r	Dec. 1996 ^p	Nov. to Dec. 1996	Dec. 1995 to Dec. 1996
	\$			% change	
Industrial aggregate	578.43	592.65	593.82	0.2	2.7
Logging and forestry	742.63	783.85	794.75	1.4	7.0
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	1,001.64	1,045.34	1,042.39	-0.3	4.1
Manufacturing	706.83	731.86	738.40	0.9	4.5
Construction	689.32	694.92	691.23	-0.5	0.3
Transportation, communication and other utilities	726.68	741.75	741.55	0.0	2.0
Wholesale trade	630.77	626.27	627.16	0.1	-0.6
Retail trade	339.59	352.14	353.25	0.3	4.0
Finance, insurance and real estate	677.38	715.46	716.66	0.2	5.8
Business services	637.50	665.90	667.83	0.3	4.8
Education-related services	671.26	676.81	675.65	-0.2	0.7
Health and social services	503.36	517.39	509.18	-1.6	1.2
Accommodation, food and beverage services	229.74	237.10	238.16	0.4	3.7
Public administration	750.39	744.77	742.98	-0.2	-1.0
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland	528.66	538.60	541.74	0.6	2.5
Prince Edward Island	466.18	492.46	489.39	-0.6	5.0
Nova Scotia	492.43	500.35	504.30	0.8	2.4
New Brunswick	512.68	517.97	515.26	-0.5	0.5
Quebec	550.17	556.94	560.99	0.7	2.0
Ontario	620.06	633.14	634.18	0.2	2.3
Manitoba	512.23	520.25	520.25	0.0	1.6
Saskatchewan	494.70	519.05	523.23	0.8	5.8
Alberta	551.23	590.94	592.77	0.3	7.5
British Columbia	596.90	615.58	613.01	-0.4	2.7
Yukon	684.30	726.03	702.60	-3.2	2.7
Northwest Territories	707.20	727.53	727.75	0.0	2.9

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

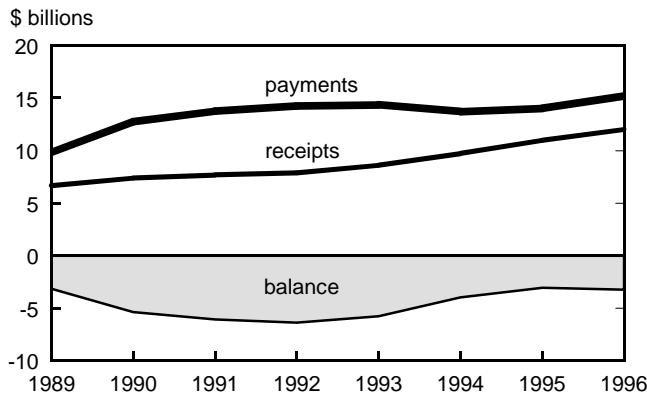


International travel account

1996 and fourth quarter 1996 (preliminary)

For the first time in four years, the international travel account deficit was up in 1996. Driven by increased spending by Canadians in the United States, the deficit rose to \$3.2 billion, 6.0% higher than in 1995.

Canada's international travel account deficit up for the first time in four years



The international travel account deficit peaked at \$6.4 billion in 1992, when the Canadian dollar averaged US\$0.83 (it was a dime less in 1996). At the time, that amount represented 25% of the current account deficit. It dropped to 20% in 1993 and 18% in 1994. But in 1995 (the most recent year for which the current account is available), that proportion jumped to 27%, as the current account deficit was halved to \$11 billion, from \$22 billion in 1994.

In 1996, spending by Canadians travelling abroad was fuelled by an increase in overnight trips. Spending jumped 8.6% from the previous year, to an unprecedented \$15.2 billion.

Foreign travellers made a record number of trips to Canada in 1996 and spent \$12.0 billion, up 9.3% from 1995.

Record surplus in travel account between Canada and overseas countries

Receipts from overseas visitors exceeded payments by Canadians in overseas countries again in 1996. This surplus in the travel account between Canada and countries other than the United States reached a new high of \$271 million.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, quarterly data in this release are seasonally adjusted. Amounts are in Canadian dollars and not adjusted for inflation.

Receipts represent spending by foreigners travelling in Canada, including education-related and medical-related spending. Payments represent spending by Canadians travelling abroad, including education-related and medical-related spending.

Overseas countries are countries other than the United States.

Residents of overseas countries spent a record \$5.5 billion in Canada in 1996, 11.1% more than in 1995. It was the third consecutive double-digit annual increase in receipts from overseas.

Overseas visitors have increasingly benefited the Canadian economy. Spending by overseas visitors to Canada has more than doubled since 1989, when it represented 38% of Canada's international travel receipts, to reach 46% in 1996.

Meanwhile, Canadians are increasingly travelling to countries other than the United States. The amount spent overseas by Canadian travellers in 1996 (\$5.3 billion) was the highest on record.

Gap between payments to the United States and receipts from Americans grows

In 1996, Canadians travelling in the United States continued to outspend Americans visiting Canada. Spending by Canadian travellers in the United States jumped 9.6% from 1995 while spending by American travellers in Canada rose 7.8%.

The net result was a larger gap between receipts from American visitors (\$6.5 billion) and payments by Canadians travellers to the United States (\$10.0 billion). Canada's travel account deficit with the United States was up 12.9%, to \$3.5 billion.

Fourth quarter of 1996

In the fourth quarter of 1996, receipts in the international travel account rose to a new high of \$3.1 billion. Meanwhile, spending abroad by Canadians was down slightly (-0.7%) to \$3.8 billion. The resulting \$728 million difference between receipts and payments — the international travel account deficit — was 17.5% smaller than the deficit during the previous quarter.

Spending by American visitors to Canada was up marginally in the fourth quarter (+0.7%), to \$1.6 billion, while Canadian travellers reduced their spending in the United States by 1.5% to \$2.5 billion. This brought the

travel account deficit with the United States down to \$887 million, a 5.3% improvement from the previous quarter.

Meanwhile, for the third consecutive quarter, overseas visitors spent more in Canada than Canadians travelling in countries other than the United States. The receipts of \$1.5 billion were 8.4% higher than the previous quarter and the payments of \$1.3 billion, 0.8% higher. This surplus in the travel

account between Canada and overseas countries rose to a new high of \$159 million in the fourth quarter of 1996.

For further information on this release, contact Luc Dubois (613-951-1674; fax: 613-951-2909; Internet: duboluc@statcan.ca); International Travel Section, Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. □

OTHER RELEASES

Employment insurance

December 1996 (preliminary)

In 1996, Canadians were paid \$13.1 billion (unadjusted) in employment insurance payments, including regular and special benefits, down 5% from 1995. Benefit payments have declined 32.3% since 1992, when a record \$19.3 billion was paid. Regular benefit payments declined 13.2% in December after remaining flat for the previous six months. This decline was led by Ontario (-17.9 %) and Quebec (-12.2%).

The number of Canadians who received regular employment insurance benefits declined by 3.1% in December, the third consecutive monthly decline. Declines were recorded in all provinces and territories except New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. During the past year the number of beneficiaries has trended downward, reaching levels not seen since the early 1980s.

Beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	Dec. 1996	Nov. to Dec. 1996
	seasonally adjusted	
		% change
Canada	659,640	-3.1
Newfoundland	37,990	-0.4
Prince Edward Island	9,940	2.3
Nova Scotia	34,970	-0.7
New Brunswick	41,110	0.1
Quebec	225,490	-3.2
Ontario	170,630	-3.0
Manitoba	15,500	-6.9
Saskatchewan	11,120	-12.5
Alberta	36,940	-7.9
British Columbia	72,330	-4.1
Yukon	1,070	-9.0
Northwest Territories	1,260	-5.7

Individuals who applied for employment insurance benefits in December declined 7.7% to 220,000, led by Ontario (-15.5 %). From May 1994 to April 1996, a slow but consistently increasing trend in claims was recorded. Since then claims have fallen. On an unadjusted basis, 3.0 million people submitted claims in 1996, a 3.8% decline from 1995.

Employment insurance statistics

	Nov. 1996	Dec. 1996	Nov. to Dec. 1996
	seasonally adjusted		
			% change
Reg. beneficiaries ('000)	681 ^P	660 ^P	-3.1
Reg. payments (\$ millions)	780.0	677.2	-13.2
Claims ('000)	238	220	-7.7
	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1996	Dec. to Dec. 1996
	unadjusted		
			% change
All beneficiaries ('000)	1,012	892 ^P	-11.8
Reg. beneficiaries ('000)	776	691 ^P	-10.9
Claims ('000)	306	276	-9.9
Payments (\$ millions)	1,121.7	940.4	-16.2
	Year-to-date (January to December)		
	1995	1996	1995 to 1996
			% change
Claims ('000)	3,089	2,973	-3.8
Payments (\$ millions)	13,748.2	13,070.0	-4.9

^P Preliminary figures.

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

Note: Some of the discrepancy between the number of regular beneficiaries and regular payments series can be explained by the difference in their time frames. The number of beneficiaries is a one-week census of the month (the week containing the 15th day of the month), whereas the benefit payments is the total amount of money received by individuals for the entire month.

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

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

Mineral wool including glass insulation

January 1997

Manufacturers shipped 1 518 348 square metres of R12 factor (RSI 2.1) mineral wool batts in January, down 14.2% from a year ago (1 769 130 square metres, revised), and down 56.0% from a month earlier (3 447 705 square metres).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 40 and 122 (series 32-33).

The January 1997 issue of *Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation* (44-004-XPB, \$6/\$60) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, contact Roland Joubert (613-951-3527; Internet: rjoubert@statcan.ca) Industry Division. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending February 22, 1997 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending February 22, 1997 totalled 280 777 tonnes, down 0.07% from the week earlier (280 976 tonnes) and down 6.8% from a year ago (301 403 tonnes).

The cumulative total at the end of the week was 2 049 418 tonnes, a 0.4% increase from the same period in 1996 (2 041 988 tonnes).

For further information, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-9827; Internet: milsomg@statcan.ca), Industry Division. ■

Stocks of frozen meat products

February 1, 1997 (preliminary)

Estimates of frozen meat in cold storage as of February 1, 1997, amounted to 37,476 tonnes, compared with 34,357 tonnes a month earlier and 36,884 tonnes a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 87 and 9517-9525.

Available free on the Internet: <http://www.statcan.ca/Documents/English/FrozenMeat/frozen.htm> or by clicking on Stocks.

For further information on this release, contact Ian Callaway at (613-951-5022) or e-mail,

callian@statcan.ca, Livestock and Animal Products Section, Agriculture Division. ■

Urban transit

Second quarter 1996

In the second quarter of 1996, the urban transit industry generated operating revenues of \$403 million by providing over 356 million passenger trips. This represents a 5% increase in revenues and over a 2% rise in passenger trips from the same period last year.

For further information on this release, please contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; Internet: larocque@statcan.ca) Transportation Division. ■

Air charter statistics

Second quarter 1996 (preliminary)

Preliminary air charter data for the second quarter of 1996 are now available.

The February issue of the Aviation statistics centre service bulletin (51-004-XPB, \$11.00/\$105.00) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Francesca Thibeault (819-997-6173), Aviation Statistics Centre, Transportation Division. ■

Annual Survey of Manufactures

1995

The Annual Survey of Manufactures provides information on over 200 industries. Principal statistics for each industry will be released as they become available. Data for the industries listed in the table are now available.

As of today, principal statistics, at the national level, are available for 90 industries.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5414, 5416, 5417, 5422, 5440, 5441, 5443, 5477, 5488, 5491, 5525, 5531, 6851, 6860 and 6868.

Data for the industries listed in the table will appear in *Rubber and plastic products industries* (33-250-XPB, \$38), *Leather and allied products industries* (33-251-XPB, \$38), *Clothing industries* (34-252-XPB, \$38), *Furniture and fixture industries* (35-251-XPB, \$38), *Paper and allied products industries* (36-250-XPB, \$38), *Fabricated metal products industries* (41-251-XPB, \$38), *Non-metallic*

mineral products industries (44-250-XPB, \$38) and Refined petroleum and coal products industries (45-250-XPB, \$38). These publications will be released shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, see contacts below (fax: 613-951-9499 ; Internet: desrosi@statcan.ca).

Value of shipments

	1994	1995	1994 to 1995 %	Publication catalogue number	Contact (613)	
	\$ millions		change			
Industry (SIC)						
Foamed and expanded plastics products (1611)	584.8	650.6	11.2	33-250-XPB	B. Meyer	951-3528
Plastic film and sheeting (1631)	949.0	1,216.9	28.2	33-250-XPB	B. Meyer	951-3528
Plastic bag (1691)	875.1	1,018.8	16.4	33-250-XPB	B. Meyer	951-3528
Luggage, purse and handbag (1713)	70.4	71.6	1.7	33-251-XPB	N. Charron	951-3510
Men's and boys' coat (2431)	160.3	182.3	13.7	34-252-XPB	N. Charron	951-3510
Men's and boys' suit and jacket (2432)	553.0	581.6	5.2	34-252-XPB	N. Charron	951-3510
Men's and boys' shirt and underwear (2434)	598.9	634.0	5.9	34-252-XPB	N. Charron	951-3510
Metal office furniture (2641)	622.2	734.3	18.0	35-251-XPB	D. Higgins	951-9837
Asphalt roofing (2721)	381.2	398.0	4.4	36-250-XPB	B. Pépin	951-3516
Paper bag (2733)	238.1	250.8	5.3	36-250-XPB	B. Pépin	951-3516
Metal closure and container (3042)	1,373.6	1,349.8	-1.7	41-251-XPB	D. Higgins	951-9837
Basic hardware (3061)	478.6	472.9	-1.2	41-251-XPB	D. Higgins	951-9837
Cement (3521)	895.4	919.5	2.7	44-250-XPB	S. O'Brien	951-3514
Refractories (3591)	207.1	301.8	45.8	44-250-XPB	S. O'Brien	951-3514
Other petroleum and coal products (3699)	340.7	385.0	13.0	45-250-XPB	B. Meyer	951-3528



PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Farm cash receipts, January - December 1996
Catalogue number 21-001-XPB
 (Canada: \$19/\$62; United States: US\$23/US\$75; other countries: US\$27/US\$87).

Pulpwood and wood residue statistics, December 1996
Catalogue number 25-001-XPB
 (Canada: \$7/\$70; United States: US\$9/US\$84; other countries: US\$10/US\$98).

Crude petroleum and natural gas production, November 1996
Catalogue number 26-006-XPB
 (Canada: \$18/\$180; United States: US\$22/US\$216; other countries: US\$26/US\$252).

Department store sales and stocks, December 1996
Catalogue number 63-002-XPB
 (Canada: \$16/\$160; United States: US\$20/US\$192; other countries: US\$23/US\$224).

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MAJOR RELEASES

- Economic dependency profiles, 1992 2
Canadians who had tax returns for the 1992 tax year received an average \$25.80 in transfer payments for every \$100 of employment income. This was an increase of almost 10% from 1991. In the case of transfer payments to employment income.
- Monthly survey of manufacturing, April 1994 5
After two months of increasing performance, the value of manufacturers' shipments grew to \$27.7 billion, up 1.7% from the \$27.2 billion in March. The backlog of unfilled orders has increased by \$2.5 billion in the last five months.
- Industrial product price index, May 1994 8
Driven by higher prices for processed raw materials, the year-over-year change in prices for manufactured goods jumped to +4.2% in May, the highest rate among members of the G7.
- Raw materials price index, May 1994 12
The index rose 3.2% in May. Crude oil prices climbed up 10.2% and were the major contributor to the change.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sales of refined petroleum products, May 1994 13
- Coal and coke statistics, April 1994 13
- Electric power statistics, April 1994 13
- Cigarette production, May 1994 14
- Process cheese and instant skim milk powder, May 1994 14
- Business services, 1990-1991 14

PUBLICATION RELEASED 15

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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