



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, March 13, 1997  
For release at 8:30 a.m.

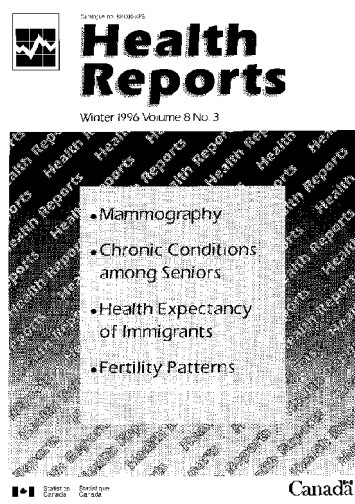
## MAJOR RELEASES

- **Trends in mammography, 1981 to 1994** 2  
Since the mid-1980s, the use of mammography for early detection of breast cancer has increased substantially. In 1994, Canadian women had 1.4 million mammograms, more than five times the level a decade earlier.

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### Health reports Winter 1996

The Winter 1996 issue of *Health reports* contains articles entitled "Chronic conditions, physical limitations and dependency among seniors living in the community," "Trends in mammography utilization, 1981 to 1994," "Health expectancy by immigrants status, 1986 to 1991," and "Changing fertility patterns, 1974 to 1994."

*Health reports* provides comprehensive and timely analysis of national and provincial health information and vital statistics derived from surveys or administrative databases. It is designed for a broad audience that includes health professionals, researchers, policy makers, educators and students.

The Winter 1996 issue of *Health reports*, Vol. 8, no. 3 (82-003-XPB, \$34/\$112) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Jane Gentleman (613-951-8553) or Client Custom Services (613-951-1746), Health Statistics Division.



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## MAJOR RELEASES

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### Trends in mammography

1981 to 1994

Since the mid-1980s, the use of mammography for early detection of breast cancer has increased substantially. In 1994, Canadian women had 1.4 million mammograms, more than five times the level a decade earlier.

The annual number of mammograms performed in Canada rose slowly between 1981 and 1985, from 162,000 to 250,000, then climbed to 1.3 million in 1991. At that point, the rate of increase stabilized.

By 1994, about three of every five women aged 40 and over reported having had a mammogram at some time in their lives.

Mammography was first used primarily as a diagnostic tool to evaluate women with symptoms or signs of breast disease. As the ability of mammograms to detect early breast cancers became apparent, screening of asymptomatic women was started.

Although breast screening programs account for a growing share of mammograms provided in Canada, most mammography is conducted through the fee-for-service system. However, about 80% of fee-for-service mammograms are done for screening purposes, rather than for diagnostic assessment.

Breast cancer ranks second only to lung cancer as the leading cause of cancer death among women. Since 1984, the incidence of breast cancer among women aged 50 and over has increased significantly. At the same time, there has been a slight decline in breast cancer mortality, particularly in women aged 40 to 69.

#### **Mammography increasingly targeted to women aged 50 to 69**

In Canada, mammographic screening is increasingly targeted toward women aged 50 to 69, the age range in which mammography has been found to be most effective for the early detection of breast cancer. The goal is to screen 70% of women in this age group every two years.

Age breakdowns of mammography data from administrative sources are available for five provinces — British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec — which together include 87% of Canadian women aged 40 and over.

In 1993, the mammography rate in the five provinces was highest for women aged 50 to 59. Three of every ten women (32%) in that age group

#### **Note to readers**

*This release is based on an article in the Winter issue of Health reports, released today.*

*The report, Statistics Canada's first to document national trends in mammography use in Canada, is based on administrative data supplied by provincial/territorial departments of health and by breast screening programs. Data were also provided by Statistics Canada's 1994/95 National Population Health Survey, which measured the health status of the Canadian population.*

*A mammogram is a safe, low-dose x-ray of the breast, used to detect tumours at an early stage.*

*Breast screening program mammography is offered through government-sponsored programs. Referral from a physician is not necessary.*

*Fee-for-service mammography refers to mammographic examinations that require a referral by a physician.*

had a mammogram that year. The percentage was somewhat lower (26%) for women aged 60 to 69. Rates among younger women and older women were considerably lower. In 1993, 18% of women in their 40s had had a mammogram; similarly, 16% of women in their 70s had had one.

Rates for each 10-year age group were highest in British Columbia and Saskatchewan, the two provinces with the greatest percentages of mammograms conducted by breast screening programs.

Stabilization of the overall mammography rate in the early 1990s may be a sign that rates are approaching a saturation level for the targeted 50-to-69 age group.

By 1993, it appeared that close to 30% of women in their 50s and 60s had a mammogram that year. If another 30% of women in that age range had mammograms in an alternate year, this would indicate that the goal of having 70% of women screened every two years is close to being achieved.

#### **Majority of women have had at least one mammogram**

As the increase in the annual number of mammograms indicates, a growing number of Canadian women have had the procedure at least once.

According to the National Population Health Survey (NPHS), by 1994/95, 64% of women aged 40 and over had had at least one mammogram. The highest rate (74%) was among women in their 50s, followed by

those in their 60s (71%). The figure for women aged 70 and over was 54%.

Data from the NPHS also indicate that a large majority of mammograms are performed for screening as opposed to diagnostic purposes. Four out of five women aged 40 to 79 who had had a mammogram at least once reported that their last one was for a "check-up". Just 17% of the women in that age group mentioned that they had the mammogram because of a "breast problem".

About 84% of women aged 50 to 69 reported that their mammogram was conducted as a check-up. On

the other hand, 25% of women in their 40s had the procedure to "investigate a breast problem". This is not surprising because, in most provinces, women in their 40s would receive proportionately more diagnostic mammograms, as they are not targeted for screening.

*Health reports*, Vol. 8, no. 3, (82-003-XPB, \$34/\$112) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Judy Lee (613-951-1775), Health Statistics Division. ■

## OTHER RELEASES

### Department store sales and stocks

January 1997

Seasonally adjusted department stores sales increased a slight 0.5% from December. January sales reached \$1,246.6 million. Sales have followed an upward trend since the end of 1993.

Consumers spent more in department stores in January 1997 than in January 1996; year-over-year sales increased 6.1%. Since April 1995, monthly comparisons of year-over-year sales show continual increases.

All regions contributed to January's year-over-year growth. Gains between 7% and 10% (unadjusted) were registered in all regions, except the Atlantic region, where sales increased 4.3%. Department stores in Ottawa-Hull and Calgary recorded the largest increases among the census metropolitan areas, up 14.1% and 12.0% respectively.

### Department store sales including concessions

	Jan. 1997	Jan. 1996 to Jan. 1997
	unadjusted	
	\$ millions	% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>822.8</b>	<b>7.9</b>
Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island	14.0	5.6
Nova Scotia	23.1	4.8
New Brunswick	17.3	2.6
Quebec	155.5	6.9
Ontario	343.8	7.9
Manitoba	34.5	8.1
Saskatchewan	26.4	9.5
Alberta	90.3	10.1
British Columbia, Yukon and Northwest Territories	118.0	8.5

Data are now available on department store sales by department and total inventories. However, starting with this release, total sales by type of department store (major and discount) and inventories by department are no longer available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 111-113.

The January 1997 issue of *Department store sales and stocks* (63-002-XPB, \$16/\$160) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Louise Génereux (613-951-3549). For analytical information, contact Sylvain Tremblay (613-951-4166), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division. ■

### Steel primary forms

Week ending March 8, 1997 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending March 8 totalled 297 296 tonnes, up 0.8% from the week-earlier 294 870 tonnes and up 3.4% from the year-earlier 287 647 tonnes.

The cumulative total at the end of the week was 2 641 584 tonnes, a 0.6% increase from 2 625 642 tonnes for the same period in 1996.

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

### Dairy statistics

January and February 1997 (preliminary)

Monthly dairy statistics are now available for January and February.

These data will be included in the January-March 1997 issue of *The dairy review* (23-001QXPB, \$36/\$119), which will be available in May. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Debbie Dupuis (1 800 465-1991; fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division. ■

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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**Oils and fats**, January 1997

**Catalogue number 32-006-XPB**

(Canada: \$6/\$60; United States: US\$8/US\$72; other countries: US\$9/US\$84).

**Paper and allied products industries**, 1994, revised copy

**Catalogue number 36-250-XPB**

(Canada: \$38; United States: US\$46; other countries: US\$54).

**Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing**, January 1997

**Catalogue number 41-011-XPB**

(Canada: \$6/\$60; United States: US\$8/US\$72; other countries: US\$9/US\$84).

**Financial and taxation statistics for enterprises**, 1995

**Catalogue number 61-219-XPB**

(Canada: \$55; United States: US\$66; other countries: US\$77).

**Exports by country**, January–December 1996, microfiche version

**Catalogue number 65-003-XMP**

(Canada: \$60/\$200; United States: US\$72/US\$240; other countries: US\$84/US\$280).

**Exports by country**, January–December 1996, paper version

**Catalogue number 65-003-XPB**

(Canada: \$120/\$400; United States: US\$145/US\$480; other countries: US\$168/US\$560).

**Imports by country**, January–December 1996, microfiche version

**Catalogue number 65-006-XMB**

(Canada: \$60/\$200; United States: US\$72/US\$240; other countries: US\$84/US\$280).

**Imports by country**, January–December 1996, paper version

**Catalogue number 65-006-XPB**

(Canada: \$120/\$400; United States: US\$145/US\$480; other countries: US\$168/US\$560).

**Health reports**, Winter 1996, Vol. 8, no. 3

**Catalogue number 82-003-XPB**

(Canada: \$34/\$112; United States: US\$41/US\$135; other countries: US\$48/US\$157).

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