

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Wholesale trade, January 1997**  
Sales by wholesalers increased 1.4% to \$22.1 billion in January. Monthly sales increased 10.5% over the last year, in contrast to a 2.8% decline in 1995.

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- **Income dynamics, 1989 to 1994**  
More than half of Canadians at the bottom of the income distribution in 1989 managed to better their relative income position by 1994. Of the top one-fifth of income recipients in 1989, 70% remained in the highest quintile in 1994.

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## OTHER RELEASES

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- Shipments of rolled steel, January 1997 8
- Industrial monitor, March 1997 8
- Average prices of selected farm inputs, February 1997 8

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### Longitudinal Administrative Databank

1982 to 1994

Data for 1994 have been added to the *Longitudinal Administrative Databank (LAD)*. The data in *Income dynamics, 1989 to 1994*, are extracted from a study conducted by the Small Area and Administrative Data Division using estimates from the LAD. The LAD is a 10% sample that follows the same individuals from 1982 to 1994. It is developed from personal income tax returns and contains demographic, income and other taxation information. Aggregated information for both individuals and families may be obtained. The adult (18 years and older) coverage of LAD has increased from 88% in the earlier years to 96% in 1994. The level of geography for which estimates can be produced depends on the sample size, subject to confidentiality rules.

Data from the LAD will be of particular interest to researchers, analysts and policy planners.

For further information on the LAD or for a copy of the study on income dynamics, please contact Client Services (613-951-9720; fax: 613-951-4745; Internet: saadinfo@statcan.ca), Small Area and Administrative Data Division.



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**OTHER RELEASES – concluded**

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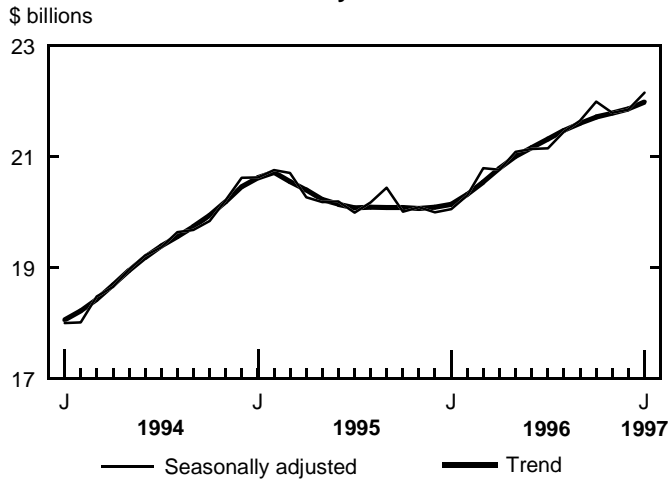
## MAJOR RELEASES

### Wholesale trade

January 1997 (preliminary)

Sales by wholesalers increased 1.4% to \$22.1 billion in January. Monthly sales increased 10.5% over the last year, in contrast to a 2.8% decline in 1995

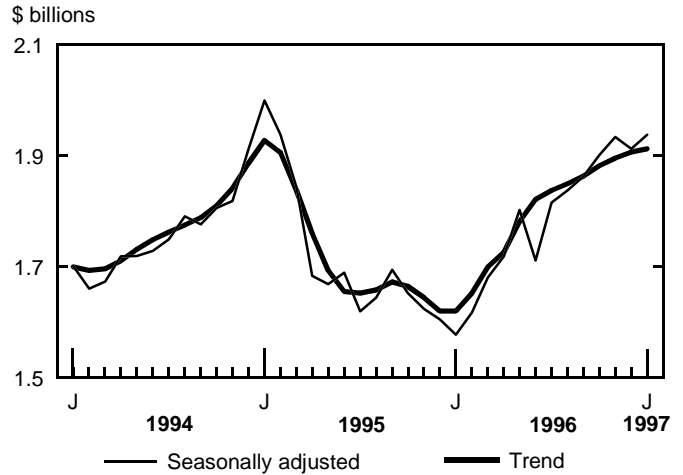
**Sales by wholesalers increased by 10.5% since January 1996**



### Sales up in most sectors

Seven of the eleven trade groups — representing 84% of all sales for January — showed increases. One of the most dynamic sectors in 1996 was the lumber and building materials industry, which increased by 23% over the year. After a year of decline in 1995, sales of lumber and building materials dropped on only three occasions in 1996. Continuing last year's upward trend, sales by wholesalers of lumber and building materials were up 1.3% in January, reflecting a stronger housing market. The number of housing starts reported by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation increased by 7.8% in January.

**Sales of lumber and building materials continued to increase in January**



### Inventories continue to rise at a moderate pace

Wholesalers' inventories rose 0.2% in January to reach \$32.2 billion. Overall, inventories remained relatively flat in 1996, after declining the first part of the year and increasing during the last six months.

Because the growth in total sales by wholesalers outpaced the growth in inventories, the inventories-to-sales ratio declined from 1.47 in December to 1.45 in January. The ratio seems to have stabilized over the last few months after almost a year of decline. In 1995, wholesalers were caught with a large surplus of inventories due to weaker-than-expected domestic demand. Consequently, the ratio grew from 1.44 (January) to 1.59 (December) in 1995.

### Increasing inventories in computers, packaged software and other electronic products

Wholesalers of computers, packaged software and other electronic products continued to increase inventories in January (+1.4%), from December. They have been accumulating stocks since the middle of 1995 to keep pace with the high sales growth in this sector. Since May 1995, the value of sales has increased 37% while inventories increased 30%. Thus, the inventories-to-sales ratio for computers, packaged software and other electronic products dropped from 1.01 in May 1995 to 0.96 in January 1997.

**Note:** The following section, originally in the February 19th *Daily*, should have been accompanied by the table entitled "Sales by province".

### Provincial wholesale patterns vary

Since 1992, provincial sales patterns have varied across the country. Wholesalers in the western provinces tended to emerge from the recession first and with annual growth rates stronger than the national average until 1994. In 1995, both Alberta and British Columbia experienced a considerable slowdown in sales (sales actually declined in British Columbia), yet sales picked up in 1996. In 1995, Saskatchewan (+13.2%) and Manitoba (+7.0%) reported stronger sales growth than the national average (largely influenced by farm machinery and equipment sales). Manitoba wholesalers built upon this momentum in 1996 (sales soared 13.9%) whereas sales in Saskatchewan only increased about 1% (reflecting less demand for potash). (Note: these annual figures do not include sales by wholesalers of grain and petroleum.)

Wholesalers in Quebec and Ontario had annual sales that paralleled the national average. Ontario wholesalers, however, consistently exhibited stronger annual growth rates than those in Quebec.

Wholesalers in the Atlantic provinces seemed to feel the effects of the recession longer than the rest of the country. Sales did not pick up until 1993 or 1994. Wholesalers in Nova Scotia experienced strong sales growth from 1993 to 1996. The Hibernia project helped Newfoundland wholesalers maintain steady, though unspectacular, sales since the recession.

### Sales by province

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
\$ millions in current dollars					
<b>Canada</b>	<b>190,148</b>	<b>204,882</b>	<b>230,603</b>	<b>243,348</b>	<b>253,568</b>
Newfoundland	1,992	2,090	2,186	2,233	2,239
Prince Edward Island	523	472	553	528	566
Nova Scotia	4,204	4,492	4,975	5,372	5,808
New Brunswick	2,897	2,840	3,164	3,462	3,578
Quebec	47,056	48,786	52,517	54,529	55,547
Ontario	78,990	84,939	97,273	105,909	110,630
Manitoba	6,557	7,017	7,625	8,156	9,284
Saskatchewan	5,674	6,316	7,171	8,121	8,192
Alberta	17,212	19,129	22,211	22,729	24,338
British Columbia	24,792	28,540	32,671	32,015	33,090
Yukon	128	115	111	126	133
Northwest Territories	122	144	148	167	164
	1991 to 1992	1992 to 1993	1993 to 1994	1994 to 1995	1995 to 1996
% change					
<b>Canada</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>4.3</b>
Newfoundland	2.1	4.9	4.6	2.1	0.3
Prince Edward Island	21.9	-9.6	17.0	-4.4	7.0
Nova Scotia	-0.2	6.8	10.8	7.9	8.1
New Brunswick	0.3	-2.0	11.4	9.4	3.3
Quebec	7.8	3.7	7.6	3.8	2.1
Ontario	8.4	7.5	14.5	8.9	4.5
Manitoba	12.7	7.0	8.7	7.0	13.9
Saskatchewan	-1.1	11.3	13.5	13.2	0.9
Alberta	4.5	11.1	16.1	2.3	7.1
British Columbia	12.6	15.1	14.5	-2.0	3.4
Yukon	8.1	-10.5	-3.7	14.8	6.0
Northwest Territories	33.3	18.6	2.7	12.1	-1.9

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 59, 61, 648 and 649.**

The January 1997 issue of *Wholesale trade* (63-008-XPB, \$18/\$180) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Paul Gratton (613-951-3541) or Sylvie Ouellette (613-951-3552), Wholesale Trade Section, Distributive Trades Division. □

Wholesale merchants' sales and inventories

	Jan. 1996	Oct. 1996 <sup>r</sup>	Nov. 1996 <sup>r</sup>	Dec. 1996 <sup>r</sup>	Jan. 1997 <sup>p</sup>	Dec. 1996 to Jan. 1997	Jan. 1996 to Jan. 1997
seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
<b>Sales, all trade groups</b>	<b>20,046</b>	<b>21,979</b>	<b>21,778</b>	<b>21,837</b>	<b>22,142</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>10.5</b>
Food products	3,569	3,807	3,752	3,726	3,812	2.3	6.8
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	1,303	1,331	1,288	1,310	1,327	1.3	1.8
Apparel and dry goods	420	458	463	465	458	-1.6	9.0
Household goods	636	692	670	710	706	-0.6	11.1
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	2,214	2,442	2,387	2,391	2,462	3.0	11.2
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	1,545	1,708	1,658	1,674	1,664	-0.6	7.7
Lumber and building materials	1,577	1,900	1,933	1,912	1,937	1.3	22.9
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	580	672	708	691	664	-3.9	14.4
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies	3,059	3,216	3,261	3,279	3,323	1.3	8.6
Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery	1,768	2,300	2,115	2,140	2,197	2.6	24.2
Other products	3,376	3,453	3,544	3,539	3,592	1.5	6.4
Newfoundland	178	184	184	184	190	3.0	6.3
Prince Edward Island	48	49	47	46	45	-2.1	-7.3
Nova Scotia	447	494	491	494	495	0.1	10.6
New Brunswick	286	305	290	286	301	5.3	5.3
Quebec	4,527	4,764	4,691	4,723	4,768	1.0	5.3
Ontario	8,709	9,525	9,521	9,561	9,641	0.8	10.7
Manitoba	758	826	802	834	817	-2.0	7.8
Saskatchewan	597	740	763	750	732	-2.4	22.5
Alberta	1,806	2,152	2,127	2,194	2,233	1.8	23.6
British Columbia	2,664	2,917	2,839	2,741	2,896	5.7	8.7
Yukon	8	11	11	10	10	0.1	27.3
Northwest Territories	16	12	13	13	15	13.1	-4.4
<b>Inventories, all trade groups</b>	<b>31,754</b>	<b>31,578</b>	<b>31,809</b>	<b>32,125</b>	<b>32,203</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Food products	2,374	2,415	2,429	2,471	2,484	0.5	4.6
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	1,572	1,624	1,625	1,646	1,665	1.2	5.9
Apparel and dry goods	1,047	1,031	1,038	1,042	1,040	-0.2	-0.7
Household goods	1,486	1,416	1,389	1,364	1,355	-0.7	-8.8
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	4,152	3,876	3,823	3,852	3,859	0.2	-7.1
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	2,789	2,709	2,654	2,752	2,714	-1.4	-2.7
Lumber and building materials	3,096	3,008	3,114	3,088	3,003	-2.7	-3.0
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	1,622	1,622	1,707	1,774	1,746	-1.6	7.6
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies	7,023	7,095	7,200	7,213	7,306	1.3	4.0
Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery	1,840	1,966	2,013	2,078	2,106	1.4	14.5
Other products	4,751	4,814	4,817	4,845	4,925	1.7	3.6

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.



## Income dynamics

1989 to 1994

More than half of Canadians at the bottom of the income distribution in 1989 managed to better their relative income position by 1994. Of the top one-fifth income recipients in 1989, 70% remained in the highest quintile in 1994.

Overall, 29% of Canadians receiving income in 1989 were in a better relative income position in 1994. On the other hand, 17% moved to a lower position in the income distribution. A large proportion of the 1989 income recipients (44%) were in the same quintile in both years.

Some income recipients in 1989 did not receive any income in 1994. This group includes people who died, those living outside the country temporarily or permanently, and those who (for whatever reason) did not file a tax return in 1994. Of the income recipients in 1989, 10% were not recipients in 1994.

Income recipients in either 1989 or 1994, but not in both years, were more likely to be at the bottom of the income distribution. More than half the income recipients in 1989 who were no longer receiving income in 1994 were in the bottom two quintiles in 1989. Income recipients in 1994, who were not recipients in 1989, comprised 80% of the bottom two quintiles in 1994. Most people in this group became income recipients by entering the labour force for the first time between 1989 and 1994.

Much of the improvement in relative income position can be explained by aging (1989 income recipients were five years older in 1994). Earnings — the largest component of income for most Canadians — usually increases as individuals age through their younger and middle years and then decreases in later life.

Women were more likely than men to improve their relative income position. Just over a third of all female income recipients in 1989 moved up a quintile by 1994, while only a quarter of males advanced. More than half (58%) of the women receiving income in 1989 remained in the same quintile or dropped to a lower one, while 64% of the male income recipients were in the same relative income position or moved down.

### Note to readers

*Income refers to the total dollars received from any source including employment, investments and government transfers. This information is derived from individual tax returns.*

*Relative income position refers to an individual's rank in the distribution of income among all Canadians. For simplicity, five groups, called "quintiles" are used. The bottom quintile consists of people with the lowest income. The next one-fifth form the second quintile and so on. Individuals who move from a lower to a higher quintile between 1989 and 1994 are considered to have improved their relative income position. People in the same quintile in both years have experienced no change in their relative income position. Finally, persons in a lower quintile in 1994 than in 1989 have moved down in income position.*

*The income dynamics of Canadians from 1989 to 1994 are further described in the study Income dynamics 1989-1994 (not catalogued). Analysis of the change in relative income position by age group is included. The percentage change in income experienced by Canadians from 1989 to 1994 is also examined.*

The tendency for women to move up the income distribution more often than men may simply reflect where women are to begin with — in the lower quintiles. In both 1989 and 1994, there was a larger proportion of women in the lowest quintile. On the other hand, a higher proportion of men were in the highest quintile in both years. There was a shift, however, in these proportions from 1989 to 1994. The proportion of women in the lowest quintile decreased from 69% in 1989 to 66% in 1994. In the top quintile, the proportion of women increased from 22% to 28%.

Some of the change in relative income position is certainly influenced by the recent recession and recovery. Although a different six-year period could yield different findings, the trend towards moving up the income distribution rather than down would likely prevail due to the aging effect.

For further information on the Longitudinal Administrative Databank, or for a copy of the study on income dynamics, please contact Client Services (613-951-9720; fax: 613-951-4745; Internet: saadinfo@statcan.ca), Small Area and Administrative Data Division. □

**Change in relative income position  
1989 to 1994**

	Number of persons thousands	% of total
moved up to higher quintile	5 381	29
moved down to lower quintile	3 077	17
no change in quintile	8 111	44
no income in 1994	1 749	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>18 318</b>	<b>100</b>

**Income quintiles**

	1989	1994
	current dollars	
First	\$7,100 or less	less than \$7,600
Second	\$7,101 - \$13,800	\$7,601 - \$14,200
Third	\$13,801 - \$22,500	\$14,201 - \$23,900
Fourth	\$22,501 - \$35,100	\$23,901 - \$38,200
Fifth	\$35,101+	\$38,201 +

**Change in relative income position by sex  
1989 to 1994**

	Men	Women
	%	
moved up to higher quintile	25	34
moved down to lower quintile	18	16
no change in quintile	46	42
no income in 1994	11	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>



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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Inter-corporate ownership

First quarter 1997

Today, Statistics Canada releases *Inter-corporate ownership on CD-ROM*, which is based on data collected under the Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act (CALURA). CALURA was passed by Parliament in April 1962 and is administered by the Chief Statistician of Canada under the authority of the Ministry of Industry. The information is based on non-confidential returns filed under CALURA.

*Inter-corporate ownership on CD-ROM* shows who owns and controls which corporations in the nation. This latest edition covers more than 70,000 corporations, and provides data on top-ranked firms and family groups that dominate the top Canadian-controlled and foreign-controlled enterprises.

The first quarter 1997 version of *Inter-corporate ownership on CD-ROM* (61-517-XCB, annual subscription with quarterly updates: \$3,000; single issue: \$1,750) is now available. A paper version of the directory *Inter-corporate ownership, 1996* (61-517-XPB, \$350) is also available. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, or to order these products, contact Ron Vanasse (613-951-3469) or Randy Smadella (613-951-3472), Industrial Organization and Finance Division. ■

### Shipments of rolled steel

January 1997

Rolled steel shipments for January 1997 totalled 1 199 380 tonnes, up 16.7% from 1 027 590 tonnes in December 1996 and up 2.0% from 1 176 431 tonnes in January 1996.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 58 and 122 (series 22-25).**

The January 1997 issue of *Primary iron and steel* (41-001-XPB, \$6/\$60) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For more detailed information on this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-9827; Internet: [milsomg@statcan.ca](mailto:milsomg@statcan.ca)) Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### Industrial monitor

March 1997

The March 1997 paper edition of *Industrial monitor* is now available. Its features up-to-date statistics on 165 manufacturing industries in 22 sectors.

You can purchase the full 22-sector package, or each industrial sector separately, or only the manufacturing industries summary. The annual subscription for the manufacturing industries summary (15F0017XPE) costs \$50. The annual cost per individual sector is \$200. The annual subscription to the full 22-sector package (15F0015XPE) costs \$3,000. See *How to order publications*.

**Note:** As of April 1, 1997, the *Industrial monitor* hard copy products (15F0015XPE to 15F0038XPE) will no longer be offered as standard Statistics Canada products. This information may be purchased in electronic format or "by special request" in paper format directly from Industry Measures and Analysis Division.

For further information on this release, contact the client services representative (613-951-9060), Industry Measures and Analysis Division. ■

### Average prices of selected farm inputs

February 1997

Average prices for selected farm inputs for February 1997 are now available by geographic regions.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 550-582.**

For further information contact Sandra Shadlock (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-2848; Internet: [shadsan@statcan.ca](mailto:shadsan@statcan.ca)), Prices Division. ■

### Stocks of frozen poultry meat

March 1, 1997

Preliminary March 1, 1997 data on stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage are now available.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 5675-5677.**



For further information on this release, contact Sandra Jarrett (613-951-3842; Internet: jarrsan@statcan.ca), Livestock and Animal Products Section, Agriculture Division. ■

### Estimates of trustee pension funds

Third quarter 1996

Data from the Quarterly Survey of Trustee Pension Funds (third quarter, 1996) as well as revised data for the six previous quarters, are now available. Estimates of the income, expenditures and investment portfolio (book and market value) for all trustee pension funds are derived from this survey of the largest funds.

The assets of trustee pension funds (\$389 billion at market value at the end of the third quarter of 1996) represent one of the largest pools of capital in Canada (second only to the financial assets of chartered banks) and hold close to two-thirds of the assets of all employer-sponsored pension plans.

*Quarterly estimates of trustee pension funds, third quarter, 1996 (74-001-XPB)* will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

**Available on CANSIM: matrice 5749.**

For more detailed information, contact Thomas Dufour (613-951-2088) or Johanne Pineau (613-951-4034), Pensions Section, Labour Division (fax: 613-951-4087; Internet: dufotho@statcan.ca). ■

### Annual Survey of Manufactures

1995

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

As of today, principal statistics, at the national level, are available for 132 industries.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 5415, 5445, 5455, 5457, 5481, 5507, 5560, 5561, 6857, 6862, 6873, 6877 and 6894.**

Data for the industries listed in the table will appear in *Rubber and plastic products industries (33-250-XPB, \$38)*, *Clothing industries (34-252-XPB, \$38)*, *Furniture and fixture industries (35-251-XPB, \$38)*, *Primary metal industries (41-250-XPB, \$38)*, *Transportation equipment industries (42-251-XPB, \$38)*, *Non-metallic mineral products industries (44-250-XPB, \$38)*, *Chemical and chemical products industries (46-250-XPB, \$38)* and *Other manufacturing industries (47-250-XPB, \$38)*. The publications will be released at a later date. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, look under contact in the following table (fax: 613-951-9499; Internet: desrosi@statcan.ca). □

**Value of shipments**

	1994	1995	1994 to 1995	Catalogue number	Contact (613)	
	\$ millions		% change			
<b>Industry (SIC)</b>						
Plastic pipe and pipe fittings (1621)	587.9	622.5	5.9	33-250-XPB	B. Meyer	951-3528
Women's coat and jacket (2441)	202.5	190.5	-5.9	34-252-XPB	N. Charron	951-3510
Fur Goods (2495)	87.5	88.6	1.2	34-252-XPB	N. Charron	951-3510
Other clothing and apparel, n.e.c. (2499)	491.2	481.2	-2.0	34-252-XPB	N. Charron	951-3510
Other furniture and fixture, n.e.c. (2699)	467.7	537.9	15.0	35-251-XPB	D. Higgins	951-9837
Other primary steel (2919)	N/A	10,182.4	N/A	41-250-XPB	A. Shinnan	951-3515
Plastic parts and accessories for motor vehicles (3256)	1,726.6	1,874.0	8.5	42-251-XPB	A. Shinnan	951-3515
Motor vehicle fabric accessories (3257)	2,019.3	2,115.2	4.7	42-251-XPB	A. Shinnan	951-3515
Glass products (except glass containers) (3562)	702.2	777.5	10.7	44-250-XPB	S. O'Brien	951-3514
Gypsum products (3593)	414.2	440.1	6.2	44-250-XPB	S. O'Brien	951-3514
Button, buckle and clothes fastener (3992)	87.7	89.9	2.5	47-250-XPB	S. O'Brien	951-3514
Mixed fertilizer (3722)	484.5	629.2	29.9	46-250-XPB	B. Meyer	951-3528
Paint and varnish (3751)	1,610.0	1,581.3	-1.8	46-250-XPB	B. Meyer	951-3528

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Pulpwood and wood residue statistics,**  
January 1997  
**Catalogue number 25-001-XPB**  
(Canada: \$7/\$70; United States: US\$9/US\$84; other  
countries: US\$10/US\$98).

**Touriscope, International travel,** advance  
information, Vol. 13, no. 1  
**Catalogue number 66-001-PPB**  
(Canada: \$7/\$70; United States: US\$9/US\$84; other  
countries: US\$10/US\$98).

**Average prices of selected farm inputs,**  
January 1997  
**Catalogue number 62-012-XPB**  
(Canada: \$9/\$48; United States: US\$11/US\$58; other  
countries: US\$13/US\$68).

**Canada's balance of international payments,**  
Fourth quarter 1996  
**Catalogue number 67-001-XPB**  
(Canada: \$36/\$120; United States: US\$44/US\$144;  
other countries: US\$51/US\$168).

### How to order publications

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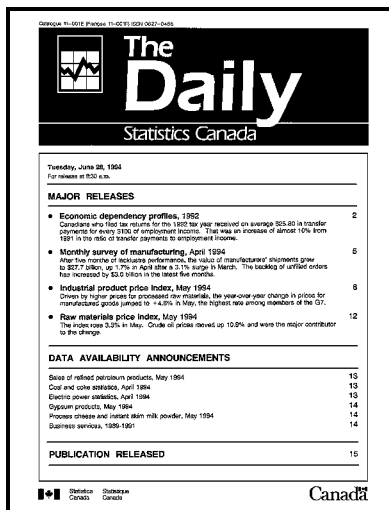
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