



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, April 11, 1997

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

OTHER RELEASES

Services indicators, fourth quarter 1996	3
Railway carloadings, ten-day period ending March 31, 1997	3
Steel wire and specified wire products, February 1997	3
Steel primary forms, February 1997	3

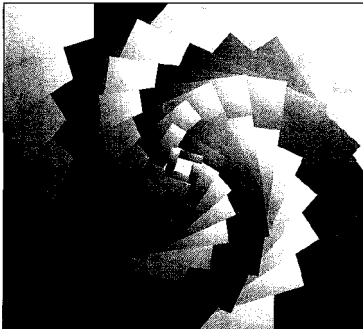
(continued on following page)

Catalogue No. 63-016-XPB
Services Indicators
 • Communications
 • Finance, insurance and real estate
 • Business services
 4th Quarter 1996

N°63-016-XPB au catalogue
Indicateurs des services
 • Communications
 • Finances, assurances et services immobiliers
 • Services aux entreprises
 4^e trimestre 1996

Feature article
 Research and Development in a Service Economy

Étude spéciale
 Recherche et développement dans une économie de services



Statistics Canada / Statistique Canada

Services indicators Fourth quarter 1996

The feature article in this issue of *Services indicators*, entitled "Research and development in a service economy," examines the economic structure of Canadian research and development (R&D) and identifies areas of growth in private sector industries. There has been a decline in the performance and funding of R&D by governments and institutions of higher education in the last five years. At the same time, there has been growth in both performance and funding of R&D in the business sector.

Within the business sector, services industries now account for one-third of R&D expenditures, up from one-quarter of spending a decade ago. Of total business R&D spending in Canada, the services industries' share is now among the highest in Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development countries. Leading areas of services sector R&D growth in Canada over the past 10 years have been the distributive services, wholesale trade in particular, and management consultants. The business services industry, however, remains the largest single R&D spending service industry.

The fourth quarter 1996 issue of *Services indicators* (63-016-XPB, \$35/\$116), which profiles the communications, finance, insurance and real estate, and business service sectors is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, contact George Sciadas (613-951-3177), Science and Technology Redesign Project.

OTHER RELEASES – concluded

Oils and fats, February 1997 4

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 5

RELEASE DATES: April 14-18 6

OTHER RELEASES

Services indicators

Fourth quarter 1996

Services employment, output, consumer spending, prices, exports and imports all increased in the fourth quarter of 1996.

Employment in the services sector grew at a reduced pace compared with the previous two quarters. The number of full-time jobs declined somewhat. However, the rates of growth of part-time jobs and self employment were stronger than the third quarter. Substantial job creation occurred in business services industries, whereas jobs were lost in the communications and the finance and insurance groups. Overall, the services sector's rate of employment growth (+0.7 %) was lower than that of the goods-producing industries (+ 2.9 %).

Services quarterly output increased by 1.1%, its highest rate since the first quarter of 1994. Growth was led by the finance, insurance and real estate industries, followed by the communications industry. Despite strong employment growth in the goods-producing industries, the 0.7% output growth this quarter was noticeably smaller than that of the services-producing industries.

Consumer spending on services increased by 1.2%, the same as the third quarter. This was only half the rate of increase of spending on goods.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for services increased marginally. Most of the change in the CPI, up by nearly a percentage point, is attributed to increases in goods prices.

Exports of services increased for the third straight quarter, and combined with a decline in imports, led to an improvement of the services trade deficit — below \$2 billion for the first time since 1994. The merchandise trade surplus continued but fell below its record high from the previous quarter. Most of the increase in services exports came from commercial services, as receipts from travel and transportation increased only marginally. The same was true for imports, where commercial services declined the most, even though travel payments and transportation also edged down in the fourth quarter.

The fourth quarter 1996 issue of *Services indicators* (63-016-XPB, \$35/\$116) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact George Sciadas (613-951-3177), Science and Technology Redesign Project. ■

Railway carloadings

Ten-day period ending March 31, 1997

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the 10-day period ending March 31, 1997, decreased 2.8% to 6.1 million tonnes from the same period of last year. The number of cars loaded decreased 4.2%.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totalled 470 000 tonnes, a 6.1% increase from the same period of last year. The year-to-date figures show an increase of 16.1%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) decreased 2.2% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 60.1 million tonnes, a 1.1% decrease 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: 613-951-0579), Surface Transport Unit, Transportation Division. ■

Steel wire and specified wire products

February 1997

Shipments of steel wire and specified wire products totalled 64 545 tonnes in February, up 10.0% from 58 679 tonnes in February 1996. Production and export market data for selected commodities are also available.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (series 19).

The February 1997 issue of *Steel wire and specified wire products* (41-006-XPB, \$7/\$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Doug Higgins (613-951-9837; Internet: higgdou@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Steel primary forms

February 1997

Steel primary forms production for February totalled 1 152 306 tonnes, an increase of 1.4% from 1 136 845 metric tonnes the previous year.

Year-to-date production reached 2 333 443 metric tonnes, up 0.3% from 2 325 409 tonnes a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 58 (level 2, series 3).

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

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

Oils and fats

February 1997

Production of all types of deodorized oils in February totalled 94 551 tonnes, a decrease of 0.3% from 94 807 tonnes in January 1997. At the end of February, year-to-date production totalled 189 358 tonnes, a 3.0% increase from 183 773 tonnes a year earlier.

In February, the domestic sales of deodorized margarine oil totalled 10 773 tonnes, deodorized shortening oil totalled 22 527 tonnes, and deodorized salad oil totalled 27 668 tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 185.

The February 1997 issue of *Oils and fats* (32-006-XPB, \$7/\$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511; Internet: zylstra@statcan.ca, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Infomat, a weekly review, April 11, 1997
Catalogue number 11-002E
 (Canada: \$4/\$140; United States: US\$5/US\$168; other countries: US\$5/US\$196).

Services indicators, Fourth quarter 1996
Catalogue number 63-016-XPB
 (Canada: \$35/\$116; United States: US\$35/US\$116; other countries: US\$35/US\$116).

Employment, earnings and hours, January 1997
Catalogue number 72-002-XPB
 (Canada: \$32/\$320; United States: US\$32/US\$320; other countries: US\$32/US\$320).

Service bulletin, science statistics, The provincial research organizations, 1995
Catalogue number 88-001-XPB
 (Canada: \$8/\$79; United States: US\$8/US\$79; other countries: US\$8/US\$79).

How to order publications

Simplify your data search with *Statistics Canada Catalogue*, 1994 (11-204E, \$15; United States: US\$18; other countries: US\$21). Its keyword index will guide you to statistics on Canada's social and economic activity.

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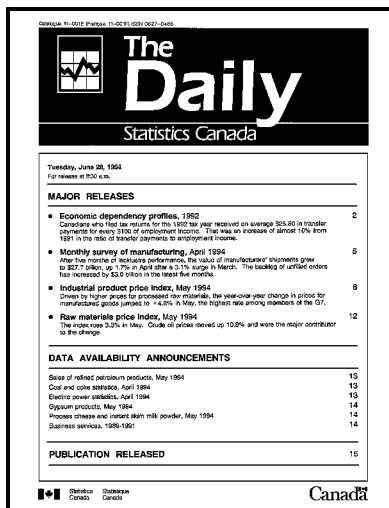
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RELEASE DATES

April 14-18

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
15	Population and dwelling counts	Census 1996
16	Monthly survey of manufacturing	February 1997
16	Travel between Canada and other countries	February 1997
17	Canadian economic observer	April 1997
17	Canadian international trade	February 1997
17	National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth-School Component	1994-1995
