



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, April 18, 1997  
For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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There are no major releases today.

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## OTHER RELEASES

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Sales of natural gas, February 1997	2
Construction Union Wage Rate Index, March 1997	2
Deliveries of major grains, March 1997	2
Selected financial indexes, March 1997	3
Telephone statistics, February 1997	3
Electric lamps, February 1997	3

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<b>PUBLICATIONS RELEASED</b>	<b>4</b>
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<b>RELEASE DATES: April 21-25</b>	<b>5</b>
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## OTHER RELEASES

### Sales of natural gas February 1997 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales totalled 7 295 543 thousand cubic metres in February, down 0.3% from the same period a year earlier. Warmer than normal weather throughout most of the country resulted in lower sales to the residential (-3.2%) and commercial (-2.8%) sectors. The gain in sales to the industrial sector (including direct sales) was due to higher demand for natural gas by electric utilities and the chemical industry.

Year-to-date sales declined 1.5% from the same period in 1996. Sales to the residential (-3.1%) and commercial (-4.3%) sectors decreased due to milder winter weather patterns in the early part of 1997. Sales to the industrial sector (including direct sales) maintained modest growth, posting a 1.3% increase from the same period last year.

### Sales of natural gas

	Feb.1997 <sup>P</sup>	Feb. 1996	Feb. 1996 to Feb. 1997 % change
	'000 cubic metres		
<b>Natural gas sales</b>	<b>7 295 543</b>	<b>7 315 234</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Residential	2 350 725	2 429 346	-3.2
Commercial	1 659 424	1 706 721	-2.8
Industrial	2 094 549	2 114 798	3.3
Direct	1 190 845	1 064 369	

	1997 <sup>P</sup>	1996	1996 to 1997 % change
	'000 cubic metres		
<b>Natural gas sales</b>	<b>15 808 686</b>	<b>16 047 392</b>	<b>-1.5</b>
Residential	5 229 843	5 395 278	-3.1
Commercial	3 634 407	3 796 404	-4.3
Industrial	4 432 082	4 585 092	1.3
Direct	2 512 354	2 270 618	

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

### Available on CANSIM: matrices 1052-1055.

The February 1997 issue of *Gas utilities* (55-002-XPB, \$17/\$165) will be available in May 1997. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Gary Smallridge (613-951-3567; Internet: [smalldry@statcan.ca](mailto:smalldry@statcan.ca)), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### Construction Union Wage Rate Index March 1997

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in March 1997 from February's level of 138.3. On a year-over-year basis, the Index increased 0.3% to 138.3 in March from 137.9 a year earlier.

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes (1986=100) are estimated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

### Available on CANSIM: matrices 956, 958 and 2033-2038.

The first quarter 1997 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in June 1997. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Paul-Roméo Danis (613-951-3350; Internet: [danipau@statcan.ca](mailto:danipau@statcan.ca); fax: 613-951-2848), Client Services Unit, Prices Division. ■

### Deliveries of major grains March 1997

Data on March grain deliveries are now available.

### Available on CANSIM: matrices 976-981.

The delivery data in the March issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XPB, \$15/\$144), will be available in May. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Jeannine L. Fleury (613-951-3859) or Karen Gray (204-983-2856), Grain Marketing Unit, Agriculture Division. ■

### Selected financial indexes

March 1997

March 1997 figures are now available for the selected financial indexes (1986=100).

#### Available on CANSIM: matrix 2031.

The first quarter 1997 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79), will be available in June 1997. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Paul-Roméo Danis (613-951-3350; Internet: [danipau@statcan.ca](mailto:danipau@statcan.ca); fax: 613-951-2848), Client Services Unit, Prices Division. ■

### Telephone statistics

February 1997

Canada's 15 major telephone systems reported monthly revenues of \$1,342.4 million in February, down 0.4% from the previous month.

Operating expenses were \$1,050.8 million, up 2.3% from the previous month. Net operating revenue totalled \$291.6 million, a 8.9% decrease from the previous month.

#### Available on CANSIM: matrix 355.

The February 1997 issue of *Telephone statistics* (56-002-XPB, \$10/\$93) will be released shortly. See *How to order publications*.

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

### Electric lamps

February 1997

Light bulb and tube manufacturers sold 26.0 million light bulbs and tubes in February 1997, a decrease of 0.8% from the 26.2 million a year earlier.

Year-to-date sales at the end of February totalled 53.8 million light bulbs and tubes, a decrease of 1.8% from the 54.8 million a year earlier.

The February 1997 issue of *Electric lamps* (43-009-XPB, \$7/\$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Laurie Vincent (613-951-3523; Internet: [vincwil@statcan.ca](mailto:vincwil@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Infomat: A weekly review**, April 18, 1997  
**Catalogue number 11-002E**  
 (Canada: \$4/\$140; United States: US\$5/US\$168; other countries: US\$5/US\$196).

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**The Daily**  
 Statistics Canada

Tuesday, June 26, 1994  
 212 pages in 202 cm.

**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Economic dependency profiles, 1992** 2  
 Canadians who find less leisure for the 1992-93 year received an average \$15.83 in transfer payments for every \$100 of employment income. That was an increase of almost 10% from 1991 in the rate of transfer payments to employment income.
- **Monthly survey of manufacturing, April 1994** 6  
 After five months of lackluster performance, the index of manufacturers' shipments grew to \$27.7 billion, up 1.7% in April after a 2.1% surge in March. The backlog of unfilled orders has increased by \$4.2 billion in the latest 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 manufacturing goods jumped to +4.3% in May, the highest rate among members of the C17.
- **Raw materials price index, May 1994** 12  
 The index rose 3.2% in May. Crude oil prices rose up 10.2% and were the major contributor to the change.

**DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Share of refined petroleum products, May 1994** 13
- **Cash and credit extensions, April 1994** 13
- **Electric power statistics, April 1994** 14
- **Oyster products, May 1994** 14
- **Process cheese and instant skim milk powder, May 1994** 14
- **Business services, 1995-1991** 14

**PUBLICATION RELEASED** 15

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### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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## RELEASE DATES

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**April 21-25**

(Release dates are subject to change.)

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<b>Release date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference period</b>
21	<b>Wholesale trade</b>	February 1997
22	<b>Retail trade</b>	February 1997
22	<b>Consumer Price Index</b>	March 1997
23	<b>Canada's international transactions in securities</b>	February 1997
23	<b>Composite Index</b>	March 1997
24	<b>Employment, earnings and hours</b>	February 1997
25	<b>Industrial Product Price Index</b>	March 1997
25	<b>Raw Materials Price Index</b>	March 1997

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