



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, April 3, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index, March 1997	2
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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Travel-log Spring 1997

The Spring 1997 issue of *Travel-log*, Statistics Canada's quarterly tourism newsletter, features the article *The Canada-U.S. open skies agreement: Are Canadian carriers doing well?* This article focuses on the effect of the pact on the market share of American and Canadian companies after a year of open skies. The possible impact of the agreement on various stakeholders is also examined.

Each quarter, *Travel-log* examines trends in the travel price index and features the latest travel indicators, travellers's characteristics, and the international travel account. *Travel-log* also features a summary page on indicators of tourism demand in Canada and the employment generated by the industry.

The Spring 1997 (Vol. 16, no.2) issue of *Travel-log* (87-003-XPB, \$13/\$42) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Monique Beyrouiti (613-951-1673; fax: 613-951-2909; Internet: beyrmon@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.



OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index

March 1997

The index that measures the number of help-wanted newspaper advertisements rose 3% to 100 in March (1991=100). This continued the upward trend that began in September 1996. The increases were observed in all provinces except New Brunswick and Manitoba. The index for Canada is 15% higher than the same period in 1996. The rise in the index reflects some of the recent improvement in other economic indicators.

Provincially, the index for Ontario advanced 3% to 106. This is the highest it has been since February 1995.

Led by gains in Alberta (+5%), the index for the Prairie provinces reached 117 — a level not seen since January 1991.

The growth in the index for British Columbia has been slow and steady since July 1995. The March increase of 4% was the largest since July 1995.

The index in Quebec rose 1% to 88, where it has been in the 84 to 90 band since March 1996.

Prince Edward Island led the Atlantic provinces by posting a 10% increase in March. Coupled with the 9% growth in Newfoundland, these gains offset the 5% decline observed in New Brunswick.

Note: The Help-wanted Index is compiled from the number of help-wanted ads published in 22 newspapers in 20 major metropolitan areas. The index is a measure of companies' intentions to hire new workers. These indices have been seasonally adjusted and smoothed to ease month-to-month comparisons.

Help-wanted Index (1991=100)

	March 1997	Feb. 1997	March 1996 to March 1997	Feb. 1997 to March 1997
seasonally adjusted				
% change				
Canada	100	97	15	3
Atlantic provinces	108	108	4	0
Newfoundland	88	81	14	9
Prince Edward Island	158	143	-2	10
Nova Scotia	106	104	10	2
New Brunswick	106	111	-12	-5
Quebec	88	87	-2	1
Ontario	106	103	18	3
Prairies provinces	117	113	33	4
Manitoba	126	127	22	-1
Saskatchewan	113	111	26	2
Alberta	113	108	41	5
British Columbia	75	72	12	4

Available on CANSIM: matrix 105 (levels 8, 9 and 10).

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

Department store sales and stocks

February 1997

Seasonally adjusted department store sales jumped 2.0% from January, reaching \$1,275.9 million. Department store sales have generally followed an upward trend since the end of 1993 except for a pause in the last half of 1995.

Year-over-year, seasonally adjusted sales were up 7.7% from February 1996. This follows a 6.5% year-over-year increase in January.

On an unadjusted basis, the year-over-year sales increase was spread among most regions, with the strongest gains registered in Saskatchewan (+8.1%) and Ontario (+7.0%). The gain in Saskatchewan follows a similar year-over-year increase in January, and strong sales growth in 1996 that yielded a 6.4% annual gain from 1995 (the largest annual sales increase of all

provinces). New Brunswick experienced a year-over-year decline in February (-1.3%).

Among the census metropolitan areas (CMAs), Calgary recorded the strongest increase, up 9.8% from February 1996. On the other hand, the Québec City CMA reported a sharp 9.4% decline. There were two fewer stores operating in the Québec CMA compared with February 1996.

Department store sales including concessions

	Feb. 1997	Feb. 1996 to Feb. 1997
	unadjusted	
	\$ millions	% change
Canada	846.5	5.2
Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island	14.4	3.0
Nova Scotia	24.8	5.7
New Brunswick	17.4	-1.3
Quebec	152.0	1.2
Ontario	357.4	7.0
Manitoba	36.0	5.6
Saskatchewan	27.8	8.1
Alberta	95.2	6.7
British Columbia, Yukon and Northwest Territories	121.4	4.5

Data on department store sales by department and total inventories are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 111-113.

The February 1997 issue of *Department store sales and stocks* (63-002-XPB, \$17/\$165) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For analytical information, contact Mary Beth Garneau (613-951-9824), Retail Trade, Distributive Trades Division.

For further information on this release, contact Louise Généreux (613-951-3549). ■

Telephone statistics

January 1997

Canada's 15 major telephone systems reported monthly revenues of \$1,347.8 million in January, down 3.0% from the previous month. Operating expenses were \$1,027.6 million, down 10.2% from December 1996. Net operating revenue totalled \$320.1 million, a 30.2% increase from the previous month.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 355.

The January 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. ■

Urban transit

Third quarter 1996

In the third quarter of 1996, the urban transit industry generated operating revenues of \$404 million by providing over 340 million passenger trips. This represents a 7% increase in revenues and over a 6% rise in passenger trips from the same period last year.

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

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Fabricated metal products industries, 1994

Catalogue number 41-251-XPB

(Canada: \$40; United States: US\$40; other countries: US\$40).

Service Bulletin: Aviation, Vol. 29, no. 3

Catalogue number 51-004-XPB

(Canada: \$11/US\$105; United States: US\$13/US\$126; other countries: US\$15/US\$147).

Gas utilities, December 1996

Catalogue number 55-002-XPB

(Canada: \$17/US\$165; United States: US\$17/US\$165; other countries: US\$17/US\$165).

Travel-log Spring 1997, Vol. 16, no. 2.

Catalogue number 87-003-XPB

(Canada: \$13/US\$42; United States: US\$13/US\$42; other countries: US\$13/US\$42).

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11-001E (11-001E) Bulletin 11-001E (11-001E) 11-001E

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Tuesday, June 28, 1994
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Economic dependency profiles, 1992** 2
Canadians who filed tax returns for the 1992 tax year received an average \$55.40 in transfer payments for every \$100 of employment income. This 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 two months of lackluster performance, the value 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 \$2.2 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 manufactured goods jumped to +4.0% 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 10.9% and were the major contributor to the change.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sales of refined petroleum products, May 1994 13
- Coal and coke shipments, April 1994 13
- Electric power statistics, April 1994 14
- Cigarette production, May 1994 14
- Process cheese and instant skim milk powder, May 1994 14
- Business services, 1993-1991 14

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