

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

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

OTHER RELEASES

North American Industry Classification System

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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North American Industry Classification System

Today, Statistics Canada releases the final structure, titles and codes for the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

The NAICS is a common industry classification system developed by Statistics Canada and statistical agencies in Mexico and the United States. It will replace the existing systems of all three countries within the next few years.

When the new system is implemented, data on industries covered by NAICS will be comparable among the NAFTA countries. In Canada, NAICS-Canada will replace the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification. Statistics Canada will adopt the new classification in its annual economic statistics program for reference year 1997.

Descriptions of all sectors are available on the Internet at www. statcan.ca under the heading "Concepts, methods and definitions". Documentation is available from Kim Farrall (613-951-4245; fax: 613-951-8578; Internet: nijhsha@statcan.ca).

For further information, contact Shaila Nijhowne, Standards Division (613-951-8577; fax: 613-951-8578; Internet: nijhsha@statcan.ca).



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When the new system is implemented in the three countries, data on industries covered by NAICS will be comparable among the NAFTA countries. In Canada, NAICS-Canada will replace the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification (1980 SIC). Statistics Canada will adopt the new classification in its annual economic statistics program for reference year 1997.

The NAICS has a hierarchical structure, much like the existing 1980 SIC, and uses a six-digit numbering system. The first two digits designate the sector, the third digit represents the subsector, the fourth indicates the industry group, the fifth represents the NAICS industries (for most sectors, this is the level at which comparable data will be available for Canada, Mexico, and the United States), and the sixth digit designates national industries.

In contrast, the 1980 SIC uses a letter to identify a division, or what is known in NAICS as a "sector". The 1980 SIC uses a four-digit coding system. The first two digits designate a major group (NAICS "subsector"), the third digit represents the industry group, and the fourth indicates the industry.

NAICS-Canada has 20 sectors and 920 industries. In the 1980 SIC, there are 18 divisions and 860 industries. The "Sector and subsector codes and titles" and the "Full structure with class titles and codes"

for NAICS and for NAICS-Canada can be viewed on screen or printed.

NAICS was developed using a supply-based or production-oriented concept. By grouping businesses that use similar production processes, data classified according to NAICS will be more suitable for the study of competitiveness, industrial performance, productivity and unit labour costs than previous industry classifications. To ensure the usefulness and relevance of economic and financial data compiled according to NAICS, every effort was made to reflect changes that have occurred in the economy.

The NAICS recognizes new, emerging and advanced technology industries and significantly expands the number of services-producing industries. Of the 20 sectors into which the economy is divided, 15 are composed entirely of services-producing industries.

Among the newly created sectors are Information; Arts, entertainment and recreation; Professional, scientific and technical services; and Health care and social assistance. Class descriptions for these sectors and short descriptions of all sectors are available on the Internet from Statistics Canada's site: www.statcan.ca under the heading "Concepts, methods and definitions".

Additional documentation on NAICS and NAICS-Canada, including a concordance between the 1980 SIC and NAICS and counts of class differences between the 1980 SIC and NAICS-Canada, are also available on *www.statcan.ca*. For clients interested in seeing NAICS-U.S., a direct hyperlink to the Economic Classification Policy Committee's web site in the United States is also provided.

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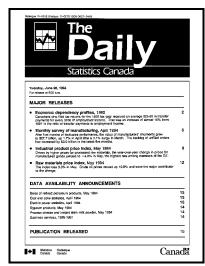
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