



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, May 9, 1997

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Labour Force Survey, April 1997**

In April, employment rose by an estimated 33,000 following a gain of 61,000 in March. A large increase in the labour force pushed the unemployment rate up by 0.3 percentage points to 9.6%.

3
- **Canada's international investment position, 1996**

At the end of 1996, Canada's net liability to foreigners had declined 1.1% to \$333 billion from \$337 billion in 1995.

8

OTHER RELEASES

- Apartment building construction price indexes, first quarter 1997 11
- Non-residential building construction price indexes, first quarter 1997 11

(continued on following page)

Catalogue no. 67-202-XPB
N^o 67-202-XPB au catalogue

Canada's international investment position
1926 to 1996

Bilan des investissements internationaux du Canada
1926 à 1996

Canada

Canada's international investment position

1926 to 1996

International investment, both in Canada and abroad, forms one of the cornerstones of Canada's economy. *Canada's international investment position* gives a detailed account of Canada's assets and liabilities abroad. This completely updated publication will help you understand today's economy and how it has evolved since 1926. Useful geographical comparisons, such as Canada's position in relation to European Union countries, are also featured.

Canada's international investment position, 1926 to 1996 (67-202-XPB, \$52), is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Christian Lajule (613-951-2062), Balance of Payments Division.

The Daily, May 9, 1997

OTHER RELEASES – concluded

Raw materials price indexes — early estimate, April 1997	12
Monthly farm product prices, January, February and March 1997	12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 13

RELEASE DATES: May 12-16 14

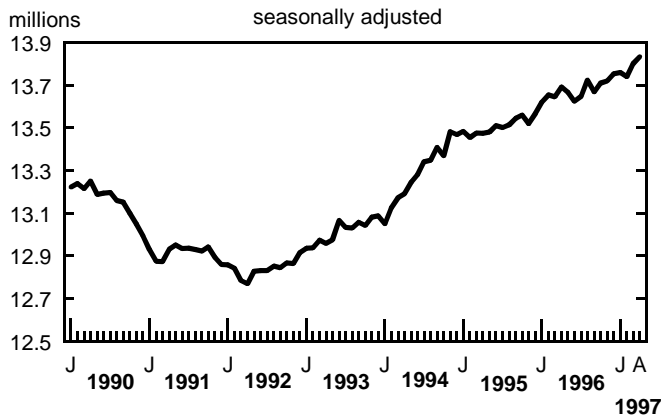
MAJOR RELEASES

Labour Force Survey

April 1997

In April, employment rose by an estimated 33,000 following a gain of 61,000 in March. Since last September, when employment growth resumed after a summer of little overall change, employment has increased by an estimated 166,000 (+1.2%).

Employment

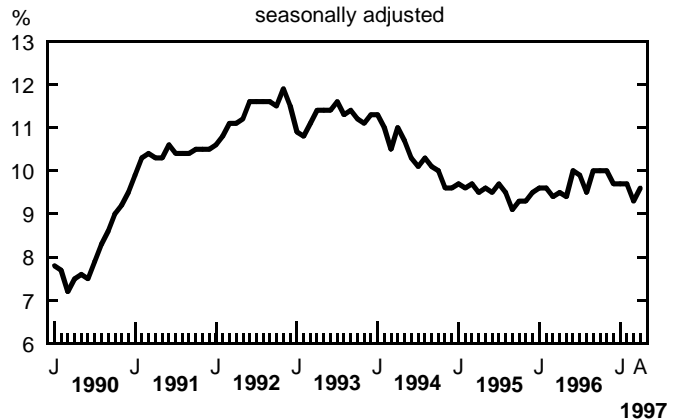


April's employment growth was accompanied by a large increase in the labour force (+79,000) which pushed the unemployment rate up by 0.3 percentage points to 9.6%.

Adults continue to gain jobs

Employment growth in April was all among adults aged 25 and over (+40,000). Adult women accounted for a significant share of the growth (+24,000) with nearly all of it in full-time employment. The trend since September 1996 shows a gain of 119,000 (+1.9%) for adult men and an increase of 69,000 (+1.3%) for adult women. Most of the employment gain over this period was full-time for men, but part-time for women.

Unemployment rate



No improvement for youths in the labour market

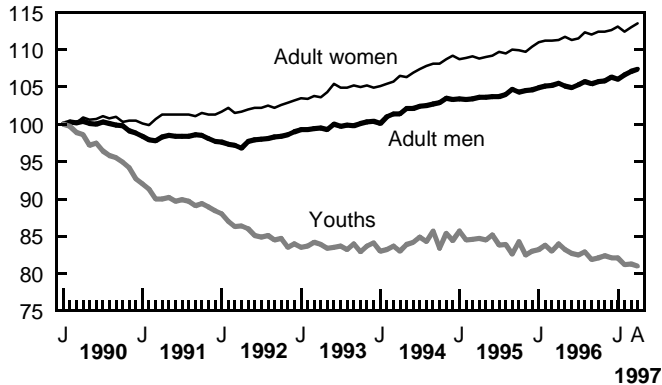
In April, youth employment was little changed. Despite a large decline in labour force participation during the 1990s, difficult labour market conditions for youths have kept their unemployment rate high. In April, the youth unemployment rate rose to 17.0% (+0.4 percentage points). For more information on youth labour market trends, see *Labour force update: Youths and the labour market*, (71-005-XPB).

More jobs in construction and transportation, storage and communication

Employment gains in April were mainly in construction and transportation, storage and communication. Construction employment rose by 17,000 in April — offsetting the decline in March and leaving gains since May 1996 at 61,000.

Index of employment growth

January 1990=100



Employment also increased in transportation, storage and communication, up 13,000. This brings gains since November to 43,000, reversing the downward trend noted since late 1995.

Employment gains hold in manufacturing and trade

Employment was little changed in April in manufacturing and trade, following significant gains during the previous month in both industries. Since February, job gains in manufacturing total 41,000 and returned employment in the industry to its recent peak of last September. Employment gains over the past two months in trade total 26,000. Largely offsetting movements over the past year leave employment only 20,000 above the level of a year ago.

Continued employment growth in the private sector

Private sector employment grew by 37,000 in April with the gain concentrated among the self-employed (+24,000). Also within the private sector, the large increase in the number of employees observed in March held firm in April as growth over the two months totals 70,000.

There was little change in public sector employment in April, but compared with a year ago, it is down 60,000.

Growth in hours worked

Since last September, hours worked have increased by 1.9%, outpacing the rate of growth for employment (+1.2%). The difference is most marked

in the goods sector where there was virtually no net employment growth (+0.1%), while hours worked grew by 1.0%. Growth in employment and work hours were more closely matched over this period in the service sector, with employment up 1.6% and hours worked up 1.8%.

Labour markets in the Atlantic provinces

In New Brunswick, employment rose by 7,000 in April, more than offsetting the decline in March. This month's increase returns employment to about the peak level observed last summer. Despite the job growth in April, the unemployment rate held steady at 13.6%, the result of an increase in the labour force.

In Nova Scotia, employment fell by 6,000, partially offsetting gains made in the previous four months. In April, the unemployment rate rose to 13.3%, an increase of 0.5 percentage points.

There was little overall change in labour market conditions in April in both Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island.

Recent employment gains hold in Quebec and Ontario

While there was no significant employment change in Quebec in April, job growth in the province totals 57,000 over the last five months. This growth offsets declines that occurred last year and returns employment to about the same level as February 1996. The size of the labour force grew by 17,000 in April, pushing the unemployment rate up 0.4 percentage points to 11.6%.

In Ontario, employment edged up slightly, bringing gains over the past two months to 60,000. This follows job losses of 39,000 in the three months prior to March. The unemployment rate in April edged up 0.2 percentage points to 9.0%, as employment growth was outpaced by labour force growth.

Labour markets in the western provinces

Among the western provinces, the only significant employment change in April occurred in Saskatchewan (+8,000). This month's increase brings job gains since year-end 1996 to an estimated 15,000. Employment growth in April was accompanied by an increase in labour force participation and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.2%.

There was little employment change in Manitoba, leaving gains since June 1996 at 18,000. In April, the level of unemployment edged down and the unemployment rate declined by 0.4 percentage points

to 6.6%. (Note: Labour Force Survey estimates were not affected by the flooding in Manitoba in April. Collection was completed prior to the disaster and response rates as well as data quality remain high).

In April, employment was also little changed in both Alberta and British Columbia. Since last September, employment gains total 25,000 in Alberta and 24,000 in British Columbia.

Available on CANSIM: at 7 a.m. in matrices 3450-3471, 3483-3502 and table 00799999.

Available at 7 a.m. on the Internet at <http://www.statcan.ca> on the "Latest news from Statistics Canada" button.

For a summary, *Labour force information, for the week ending April 19, 1997* (71-001-PPB, \$11/\$103) is available today, as is a facsimile version (71-001-PFB, \$300 annually). See *How to order publications*.

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on June 6, 1997.

For further information on this release, contact Deborah Sunter (613-951-4740), or Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750), Household Surveys Division. □

Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	March 1997	April 1997	March 1997 to April 1997	March 1997	April 1997	March 1997 to April 1997
seasonally adjusted						
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	15,219.3	15,298.7	0.5	64.5	64.8	0.3
Newfoundland	234.3	234.2	-0.0	51.9	51.9	0.0
Prince Edward Island	71.9	71.7	-0.3	67.1	66.9	-0.2
Nova Scotia	449.3	445.0	-1.0	60.7	60.1	-0.6
New Brunswick	355.5	364.1	2.4	59.0	60.4	1.4
Quebec	3,658.5	3,675.3	0.5	61.9	62.1	0.2
Ontario	5,863.5	5,890.6	0.5	65.6	65.8	0.2
Manitoba	575.4	575.2	-0.0	66.9	66.8	-0.1
Saskatchewan	496.0	503.9	1.6	65.4	66.4	1.0
Alberta	1,529.7	1,533.6	0.3	71.5	71.5	0.0
British Columbia	1,985.2	2,005.0	1.0	64.5	65.0	0.5
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	13,801.0	13,834.3	0.2	58.5	58.6	0.1
Newfoundland	190.6	189.5	-0.6	42.2	42.0	-0.2
Prince Edward Island	60.4	60.3	-0.2	56.3	56.3	0.0
Nova Scotia	391.6	386.0	-1.4	52.9	52.1	-0.8
New Brunswick	307.1	314.5	2.4	51.0	52.2	1.2
Quebec	3,249.7	3,250.5	0.0	55.0	54.9	-0.1
Ontario	5,347.7	5,362.2	0.3	59.8	59.9	0.1
Manitoba	535.4	537.4	0.4	62.3	62.4	0.1
Saskatchewan	465.2	472.8	1.6	61.4	62.3	0.9
Alberta	1,434.6	1,437.7	0.2	67.0	67.0	0.0
British Columbia	1,818.7	1,823.5	0.3	59.1	59.1	0.0
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	1,418.3	1,464.4	3.3	9.3	9.6	0.3
Newfoundland	43.7	44.8	2.5	18.7	19.1	0.4
Prince Edward Island	11.5	11.5	0.0	16.0	16.0	0.0
Nova Scotia	57.7	59.0	2.3	12.8	13.3	0.5
New Brunswick	48.3	49.6	2.7	13.6	13.6	0.0
Quebec	408.8	424.8	3.9	11.2	11.6	0.4
Ontario	515.8	528.4	2.4	8.8	9.0	0.2
Manitoba	40.1	37.8	-5.7	7.0	6.6	-0.4
Saskatchewan	30.9	31.1	0.6	6.2	6.2	0.0
Alberta	95.1	95.9	0.8	6.2	6.3	0.1
British Columbia	166.5	181.5	9.0	8.4	9.1	0.7

Note: Provincial estimates may differ from the national totals due to independent seasonal adjustment.

Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

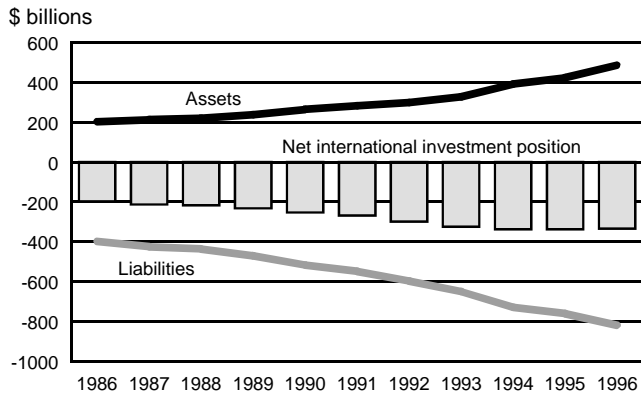
	April 1996	April 1997	April 1996 to April 1997	April 1996	April 1997	April 1996 to April 1997
unadjusted						
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	14,891.4	15,076.9	1.2	64.0	63.8	-0.2
Newfoundland	226.8	223.4	-1.5	50.0	49.5	-0.5
Prince Edward Island	67.8	69.0	1.8	64.0	64.4	0.4
Nova Scotia	433.1	434.4	0.3	59.0	58.7	-0.3
New Brunswick	339.5	349.4	2.9	56.6	58.0	1.4
Quebec	3,577.2	3,615.0	1.1	61.1	61.1	0.0
Ontario	5,749.0	5,814.7	1.1	65.2	65.0	-0.2
Manitoba	558.7	569.3	1.9	65.5	66.1	0.6
Saskatchewan	489.1	498.6	1.9	65.1	65.7	0.6
Alberta	1,501.1	1,511.2	0.7	71.6	70.4	-1.2
British Columbia	1,949.2	1,991.8	2.2	64.8	64.5	-0.3
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	13,431.9	13,583.5	1.1	57.7	57.5	-0.2
Newfoundland	177.7	176.0	-1.0	39.2	39.0	-0.2
Prince Edward Island	54.8	54.7	-0.2	51.7	51.0	-0.7
Nova Scotia	369.1	370.0	0.2	50.3	50.0	-0.3
New Brunswick	296.6	295.1	-0.5	49.5	49.0	-0.5
Quebec	3,158.8	3,185.3	0.8	53.9	53.8	-0.1
Ontario	5,232.6	5,291.5	1.1	59.3	59.1	-0.2
Manitoba	513.2	527.8	2.8	60.1	61.3	1.2
Saskatchewan	452.6	463.3	2.4	60.2	61.1	0.9
Alberta	1,394.0	1,413.3	1.4	66.5	65.9	-0.6
British Columbia	1,782.6	1,806.5	1.3	59.2	58.5	-0.7
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	1,459.5	1,493.3	2.3	9.8	9.9	0.1
Newfoundland	49.1	47.4	-3.5	21.6	21.2	-0.4
Prince Edward Island	13.0	14.3	10.0	19.2	20.7	1.5
Nova Scotia	64.0	64.4	0.6	14.8	14.8	0.0
New Brunswick	42.9	54.4	26.8	12.6	15.6	3.0
Quebec	418.4	429.7	2.7	11.7	11.9	0.2
Ontario	516.3	523.2	1.3	9.0	9.0	0.0
Manitoba	45.6	41.5	-9.0	8.2	7.3	-0.9
Saskatchewan	36.5	35.3	-3.3	7.5	7.1	-0.4
Alberta	107.1	97.9	-8.6	7.1	6.5	-0.6
British Columbia	166.5	185.4	11.4	8.5	9.3	0.8

Canada's international investment position

1996

At the end of 1996, Canada's net liability to foreigners had declined 1.1% to \$333 billion from \$337 billion in 1995.

International investment position



The total liability to foreigners stood at \$818 billion at year-end, while the total external assets were at \$485 billion.

As a share of gross domestic product, the net foreign liability declined to 42% from its peak of 45% in 1994. This proportion hovered around 37% in the 1980s.

The drop in net foreign borrowing during 1996 resulted from fluctuations in the value of the Canadian dollar against foreign currencies and a slower pace of borrowing from abroad for the third consecutive year.

Bonds accounted for the biggest foreign investment in Canada by a wide margin — 44% of total investment held by foreigners — largely representing debt of the various levels of government in Canada. Canadian holdings abroad are more diversified, with direct investment and portfolio stocks accounting for more than half of total assets.

American investors continued to be Canada's largest net creditors

American investors, Canada's largest net creditors, further increased their share of Canadian liabilities, holding 53% of Canada's net liability to non-residents at the end of 1996. The U.S. share has increased for five

Note to readers

The data in this release contain major changes in standards and classification along with revisions carried out as far back as 1950. The major changes are as follows:

1) New presentation of tables back to 1926, with the various accounts regrouped under three major headings: Direct investment, Portfolio investment and Other investment.

2) Grossing up of external position of Canadian banks, which, for example, added as much as \$88 billion to both assets and liabilities at the end of 1996, as opposed to the previous presentation of netting the position.

3) Valuation of Canadian bonds is at book value of the issuers, inclusive of interest accruals. The latter, which was previously under Other liabilities, added almost \$10 billion to the valuation of bonds at the end of 1996. In addition, for the first time, the market value on Canadian bonds is provided as supplementary information to the book value.

4) Exchange rate effect is now identified separately.

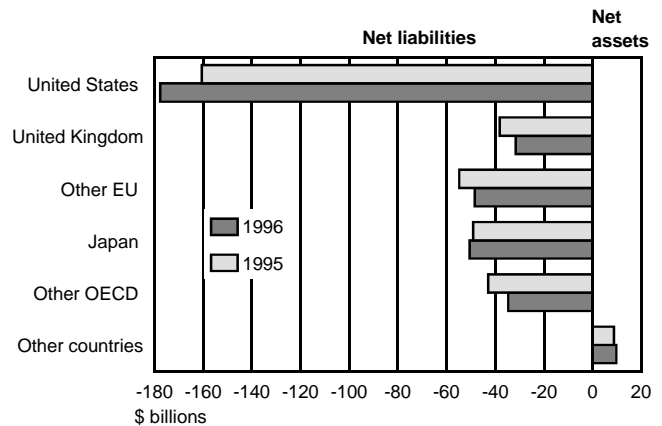
5) Repurchase agreements on securities are treated as Loans starting in 1995 and are no longer treated as securities trading.

6) Major revisions to the data were made to direct investment abroad, which now includes investment by insurance companies in their foreign branches (increase of \$8.0 billion at the end of 1996) to portfolio investment in foreign stocks asset, back to 1985 to reflect unrecorded capital flows and to loan liabilities to foreign banks, back to 1974 to reflect information from foreign banking sources.

The above modifications have been implemented according to the revised international standards of the International Monetary Fund.

straight years after declining steadily in the preceding years to reach a low of 34% at the end of 1991.

International investment position, by geographical area

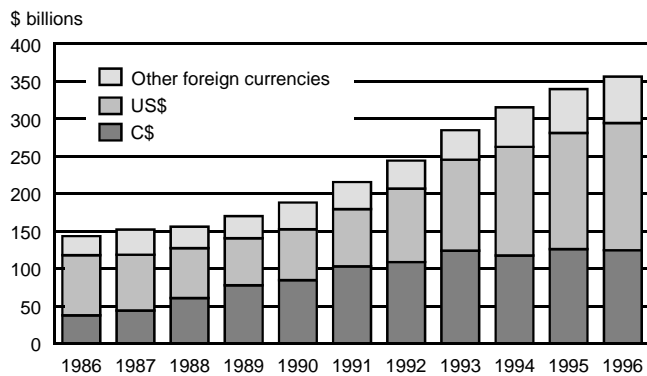


On the other hand, the share of Canada's net external liabilities held by countries of the European Union (including the United Kingdom) narrowed to 24% from a recent peak of 30% in 1993. Japan maintained its share at 15% after a steady decline from a record 23% at the end of 1989.

Lowest increase in seven years in foreign holdings of Canadian bonds

Foreign holdings of Canadian bonds increased by 5% from the end of 1995 to 1996, its lowest growth in seven years. During 1996, foreigners still purchased a substantial amount of Canadian bonds. There was, however, a \$3.6 billion decline in the Canadian dollar value of these holdings due to bonds denominated in overseas currencies.

Foreign portfolio investment in Canadian bonds, by currency of issue

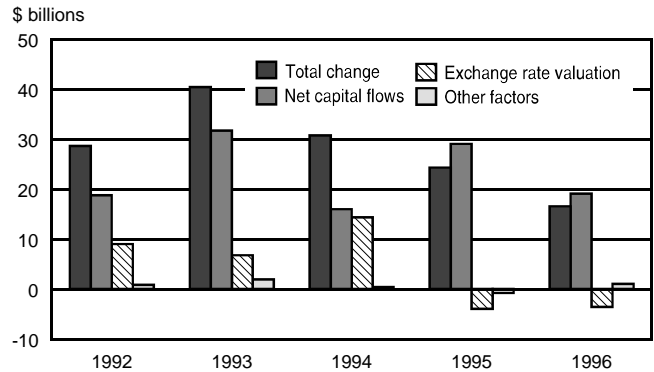


Canadian companies slowed their pace of direct investment abroad

After increasing their direct investment abroad by an average 13% over the preceding three years, Canadian companies slowed that pace to 6% in 1996. This brought to \$171 billion their total direct investment abroad by year-end.

The share directed to the United States remained at 54%, the all-time low reached in 1993. The remainder of Canadian direct investment was well diversified geographically, with 9% invested in the Pacific Rim region.

Annual change in foreign portfolio investment in Canadian bonds



Canadians continued to invest heavily in portfolio foreign stocks

Through pension and mutual funds, Canadians channelled large amounts of portfolio funds into foreign securities, notably foreign stocks.

As much as one-fifth of Canada's external assets are now invested in portfolio foreign investment, virtually double the share prevailing 10 years ago.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 4180-4190 and 4194.

Canada's international investment position, 1926 to 1996 (67-202-XPB, \$52) is now available. See How to order publications.

For further information on this release, contact Christian Lajule (613-951-2062), Balance of Payments Division. □

Canada's international investment position at year-end

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
	\$ billions					
Assets						
Canadian direct investment abroad	109.1	111.7	122.5	143.0	160.5	170.8
Portfolio investment						
Foreign bonds	11.3	12.9	17.5	18.3	18.8	21.3
Foreign stocks	39.3	44.7	52.9	62.2	63.4	78.6
Other investment						
Loans	32.7	36.5	39.2	41.1	44.8	48.8
Allowances	-11.6	-11.9	-12.2	-12.0	-11.8	-11.5
Deposits	54.1	57.0	49.1	73.1	78.4	98.3
Official international reserves	19.5	15.1	16.9	17.5	20.8	28.2
Other assets	27.6	32.4	40.4	48.3	48.6	50.6
Total assets	281.9	298.5	326.3	391.6	423.5	485.1
Liabilities						
Foreign direct investment in Canada	135.2	137.9	141.4	153.7	168.0	180.4
Portfolio investment						
Canadian bonds	215.6	244.2	284.6	315.3	339.6	356.1
Canadian stocks	17.6	17.9	23.4	30.8	36.3	41.7
Canadian money market	30.5	36.1	45.9	47.5	46.4	39.5
Other investment						
Loans	42.4	48.3	47.5	45.0	43.0	55.3
Deposits	93.0	96.5	91.4	117.9	108.9	126.5
Other liabilities	14.9	15.7	16.1	17.8	18.1	18.7
Total liabilities	549.3	596.6	650.2	728.0	760.3	818.2
Net international investment position	-267.4	-298.1	-323.8	-336.4	-336.8	-333.1



OTHER RELEASES

Apartment building construction price indexes

First quarter 1997

The composite price index for apartment building construction rose to 126.1 (1986=100) in the first quarter of 1997, 0.6% over the previous quarter and 1.7% over the first quarter of 1996.

Edmonton registered the highest quarterly change at 0.7%, followed by Montréal, Calgary and Vancouver, all at 0.6%. Halifax and Toronto increased by 0.5% and Ottawa by 0.4%.

On an annual basis, Toronto increased by 1.9%, followed by Vancouver at 1.8%. Montréal and Ottawa showed identical annual movements of 1.5% each. Edmonton increased by 1.3%, while Halifax (+1.1%) and Calgary (+1.0%) also rose over the same period.

The apartment building construction price indexes provide an indication of new construction cost changes in seven major urban areas across Canada (Halifax, Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver).

Apartment building construction price indexes (1986 = 100)

First quarter 1997

	First quarter 1997	First quarter 1996 to first quarter 1997	Fourth quarter 1996 to first quarter 1997
	% change		
Composite	126.1	1.7	0.6
Halifax	116.7	1.1	0.5
Montreal	118.6	1.5	0.6
Ottawa	133.8	1.5	0.4
Toronto	130.2	1.9	0.5
Calgary	128.7	1.0	0.6
Edmonton	126.7	1.3	0.7
Vancouver	131.7	1.8	0.6

In addition to the city indexes and seven city composites, there are further breakdowns of cost changes by trade groups within the building category — structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical. These price indexes are derived from surveys of general and special trade group contractors who report on the categories of costs (material, labour, equipment, taxes, overhead and profits) relevant to the detailed construction specifications included in the surveys.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 2046.

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

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

Non-residential building construction price indexes

First quarter 1997

The composite price index for non-residential building construction (1986=100) for the first quarter of 1997 rose to 132.2, a 0.5% increase over the previous quarter and 2.0% higher than the same quarter in 1996.

Between the fourth quarter of 1996 and the first quarter of 1997, the index for Vancouver increased by 0.7%, followed by Toronto (+0.6%), Montréal, Calgary and Edmonton (+0.5%), Ottawa (+0.4%) and Halifax (+0.3%).

Non-residential building construction price indexes provide an indication of changes in construction cost in seven major urban areas across Canada (Halifax, Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver). Three construction categories — industrial, commercial and institutional buildings — are represented by selected models (a light factory building, an office building, a warehouse, a shopping centre and a school).

Besides the city indexes and seven city composites, further breakdown of the changes in costs are available by trade group — structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical — within the building types. These price indexes are derived from surveys of general and special trade group contractors. They report data on various categories of costs (material, labour, equipment, taxes, overhead and profit) relevant to the detailed construction specifications included in the surveys.

Non-residential building construction price indexes (1986=100)

First quarter 1997

	First quarter 1997	First quarter 1996 to first quarter 1997	Fourth quarter 1996 to first quarter 1997
	% change		
Composite	132.2	2.0	0.5
Halifax	116.4	0.5	0.3
Montréal	119.5	1.4	0.5
Ottawa	135.4	1.6	0.4
Toronto	136.8	2.0	0.6
Calgary	133.6	2.0	0.5
Edmonton	135.8	1.9	0.5
Vancouver	131.8	2.6	0.7

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2042-2043.

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

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

Raw materials price indexes — early estimate

April 1997

The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) is estimated to have decreased 1.6% in April compared with March 1997 (excluding mineral fuels, the drop would have been 0.9%). The decline was caused by drops in mineral fuels (-3.5%) metals (-2.1%) and wood (-1.7%). The only component that increased was vegetable and animal products (+0.2%).

This is an early estimate of the April 1997 movement of the Raw Materials Price Index. These numbers are based on partial returns and other indicators. The regular index will be published at the end of this month.

For further information, contact Paul-Roméo Danis (613-951-3350; Internet: danipau@statcan.ca; fax: 613-951-2848), Client Service Unit, Prices Division. ■

Monthly farm product prices

January, February and March 1997

Monthly farm product prices for January, February and March 1997 are now available.

For further information on this release, contact Bernie Rosien (613-951-2441; fax: 613-951-3868), Farm Income and Prices Section, Agriculture Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Infomat: a weekly review, May 9, 1997
Catalogue number 11-002-XPE
(Canada: \$4/\$145; outside Canada: US\$ 4/US\$145).

Gross domestic product by industry, February 1997
Catalogue number 15-001-XPB
(Canada: \$15/\$145; outside Canada: US\$ 15/US\$145).

Livestock statistics, May 1997
Catalogue number 23-603-XPE
(Canada: \$93/\$93; outside Canada: US\$ 93/US\$93).

Exports by commodity, February 1997 (microfiche version)
Catalogue number 65-004-XMB
(Canada: \$37/\$361; outside Canada: US\$ 37/US\$361).

Exports by commodity, February 1997 (paper version)
Catalogue number 65-004-XPB
(Canada: \$78/\$773; outside Canada: US\$ 78/US\$773).

Canada's international investment position, 1926 to 1996
Catalogue number 67-202-XPB
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All prices exclude sales tax.

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RELEASE DATES

May 12-16

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
12	New Housing Price Index	March 1997
13	New motor vehicle sales	March 1997
13	Field crop reporting series: March 31 grain stocks	
14	Census of Agriculture	1996
15	Travel between Canada and other countries	March 1997
15	Consumer Price Index	April 1997
16	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	March 1997
16	Provincial gross domestic product	1996
