



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, June 16, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Travel between Canada and other countries, April 1997** 2
In April, Canadians made an unprecedented number of trips overseas. Meanwhile, Americans made their greatest number of car excursions to Canada in 16 years.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Travel between Canada and other countries

April 1997

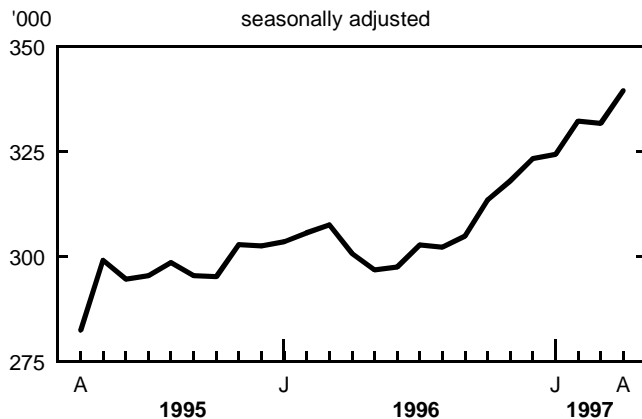
In April, Canadians made an unprecedented number of trips overseas. Meanwhile, Americans made their greatest number of car excursions to Canada in 16 years.

Overseas trips by Canadians continue to increase

Canadians travelled to countries other than the United States a record 340,000 times in April, up 2.4% from March.

The trend in Canadians' trips overseas has been upward since early 1991; however, the growth has accelerated recently. Canadians made 14.4% more trips in April 1997 than in May 1996.

Canadians made a record number of overseas trips in April



Note to readers

Unless otherwise specified, data mentioned in this release are seasonally adjusted, i.e., adjusted for variations that repeat annually and for variability caused by the different volumes of travellers associated with different days of the week.

Month-to-month comparisons use seasonally adjusted data. Year-over-year comparisons use unadjusted data (the actual traffic counts).

A tourist is a traveller who spends at least one night in a place visited. Excursions are same-day trips.

Nevertheless, Canadian travellers' most popular destination remained the United States. In April, Canadians headed to the United States 2.6% more often than in March, spending at least one night there on 1.3 million occasions.

Overnight trips by Canadians to the United States peaked at 1.8 million in December 1991, then decreased until mid-1994. They have generally fluctuated since.

Overall, Canadians made 1.6 million overnight trips abroad in April, up 2.5% from March.

Americans made more overnight trips to Canada

In April, American tourists took 4.9% more trips to Canada than in March, continuing the upward trend that started in mid-1992. The 1.1 million overnight trips they made in April was only slightly lower than the most recent high registered in February 1988, when the Winter Olympics were held in Calgary.

Meanwhile, residents of countries other than the United States made 392,000 trips of at least one night to Canada in April. This second decrease (-1.6%) following February's high contrasts with the long-term trend, which has been upward since mid-1992.

Number of trips of one or more nights to Canada by residents of selected overseas countries

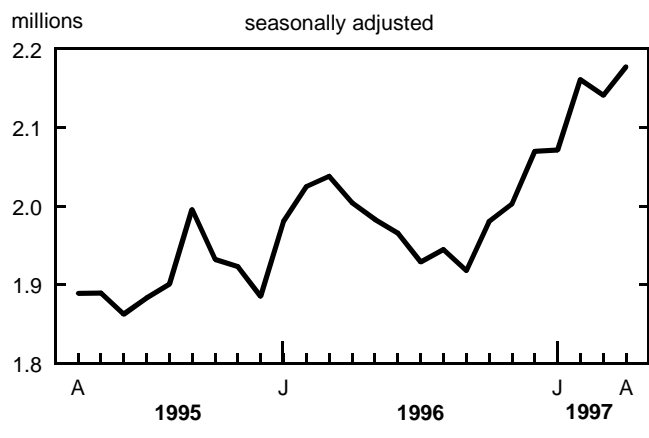
	April 1997 ^P	April 1996 to April 1997
	unadjusted	
	'000	% change
Europe	106	-4.9
France	19	-9.6
Germany	16	-14.5
United Kingdom	36	3.0
Other Europe	34	-5.0
Asia	99	7.0
Hong Kong	11	-13.3
Japan	37	-5.1
South Korea	9	0.6
Taiwan	11	45.5
Other Asia	30	27.5
Other countries	33	-4.0
Australia	8	-6.8
Other countries	25	-3.0

^P Preliminary figures.

Americans' car excursions to Canada at a 16-year high

Americans made 2.2 million car excursions into Canada in April, the highest level since May 1981. The April 1997 level was 50% higher than in January 1994, when the upward trend in this type of travel started.

The number of car excursions to Canada by Americans reached a 16-year high in April



The number of same-day car trips made by Americans entering Canada via the Rainbow and Whirlpool bridges in Niagara Falls increased by 65% from April 1996 (unadjusted data). A casino located near these two bridges in Ontario opened its doors in early December 1996.

In April, Canadians made 3.0 million same-day car trips to the United States, up 1.5% from the previous month. After peaking at 5.4 million in November 1991, when the Canadian dollar was worth US\$0.88 (compared with US\$0.72 in April 1997), the number of these trips steadily decreased until early 1994. It has fluctuated around 3.0 million since.

Same-day cross-border car trips

	Americans to Canada		Canadians to the United States	
	April 1997 ^P	April 1996 to April 1997	April 1997 ^P	April 1996 to April 1997
	unadjusted			
	'000	% change	'000	% change
Canada	1,873	6.6	2,814	-6.6
New Brunswick	117	3.1	433	3.9
Quebec	82	-2.2	221	-14.2
Ontario	1,465	8.5	1,277	-6.3
Manitoba	14	-30.8	42	-18.8
Saskatchewan	5	5.7	17	-10.9
Alberta	6	-3.2	11	-17.5
British Columbia	182	3.0	811	-8.9
Yukon	2	13.5	2	-21.9

^P Preliminary figures.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2661-2697, 5780-6046 and 8200-8328.

The April 1997 issue of *International travel, advance information* (66-001-PPB, \$8/\$73) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Luc Dubois (613-951-1674; fax: 613-951-2909; Internet: duboluc@statcan.ca), International Travel Section, Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. □

Travel between Canada and other countries

	Feb. 1997 ^r	March 1997 ^r	April 1997 ^p	March 1997 to April 1997
seasonally adjusted				
	'000			% change
Canadian trips abroad				
Car trips to the United States				
Same-day	3,055	2,930	2,975	1.5
One or more nights	795	785	786	0.1
Total trips, one or more nights				
United States ¹	1,306	1,261	1,293	2.6
Other countries	332	332	340	2.4
Travel to Canada				
Car trips from the United States				
Same-day	2,161	2,141	2,177	1.7
One or more nights	717	695	709	2.1
Total trips, one or more nights				
United States ¹	1,140	1,087	1,141	4.9
Other countries ²	410	399	392	-1.6
	April 1997 ^p	April 1996 to April 1997	Jan.- April ^p 1997	Jan.-April 1996 to Jan.- April 1997
unadjusted				
	'000	% change	'000	% change
Canadian trips abroad				
Car trips to the United States				
Same-day	2,814	-6.6	10,570	-3.8
One or more nights	702	-9.9	2,434	-4.5
Total trips, one or more nights				
United States ¹	1,262	-3.3	4,636	-1.4
Other countries	341	14.3	1,661	8.4
Travel to Canada				
Car trips from the United States				
Same-day	1,873	6.6	6,890	7.0
One or more nights	398	-10.3	1,411	--
Total trips, one or more nights				
United States ¹	695	-5.6	2,385	1.9
Other countries ²	237	-0.2	814	9.6

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

¹ Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.

² Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.



PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Farm Input Price Index, First quarter 1997
Catalogue number 62-004-XPB
 (Canada: \$25/\$83; outside Canada: US\$25/US\$83).

Employment, earnings and hours, March 1997
Catalogue number 72-002-XPB
 (Canada: \$32/\$320; outside Canada: US\$32/US\$320).

Department store sales and stocks, April 1997
Catalogue number 63-002-XPB
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Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, 44.1% of Canadians took an average of about 2.5 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

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- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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