

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, June 30, 1997

For release at 8:30 a.m.

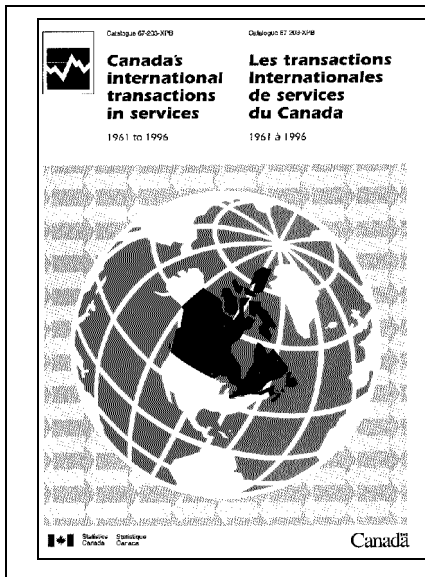
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- **Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry, April 1997** 3
Economic activity rose firmly in April when gross domestic product at factor cost (GDP) advanced 0.8%. Despite a drop in March, GDP has grown on average 0.5% a month during the first four months of 1997, compared to a monthly pace of 0.2% in 1996.
- **Canada's international transactions in services, 1961 to 1996** 7
Latest revised figures show Canada exported a record \$39 billion in travel, transportation, commercial and government services during 1996.

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Canada's international transactions in services 1961 to 1996

The publication *Canada's international transactions in services, 1961 to 1996* contains many breakouts updated to 1996 (the latest available year had been 1994), a dozen new breakouts added to commercial services and all data revised historically according to the international reporting standards introduced last year.

Latest figures show that Canadian services exporters raised their sales abroad in 1996 by 8% to \$39 billion; services imports grew more slowly, by 5%, but remained larger at \$49 billion.

Canada's international transactions in services, 1961 to 1996 (67-203-XPB, \$37) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Hugh Henderson (613-951-9049; Internet: hendhug@statcan.ca), Balance of Payments Division.



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The Daily, June 30, 1997

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MAJOR RELEASES

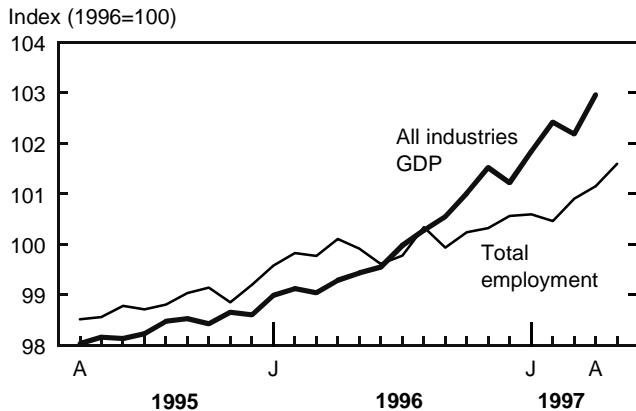
Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry

April 1997

Economic activity rose firmly in April when gross domestic product at factor cost (GDP) advanced 0.8%. Despite a drop in March, GDP has grown on average 0.5% a month during the first four months of 1997, compared with a monthly pace of 0.2% in 1996.

The improving economic situation was also reflected on the labour market. Growth in employment accelerated to 0.3% a month in the first two months of the second quarter after averaging 0.1% a month during the first quarter. As a result, employment in April and May averaged 0.7% higher than its first quarter level, indicating much stronger growth than recorded in the previous four quarters.

Economy advances firmly



In April, manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers, all of whom suffered losses in March, accounted for about 60% of the gain in production. Financial and related services and the mining sector also contributed significantly to the advance. Elsewhere, production rose in all major industry groups except government services and utility services.

Growth resumes in retail trade

Growth in retail sales resumed in April, advancing 1.1% after receding 0.8% in March. Despite the decline in March, retail sales have grown on average 0.7% a month since the beginning of the year. Sales of

Note to readers

GDP of an industry is the value added by labour and capital in transforming inputs purchased from other industries into output.

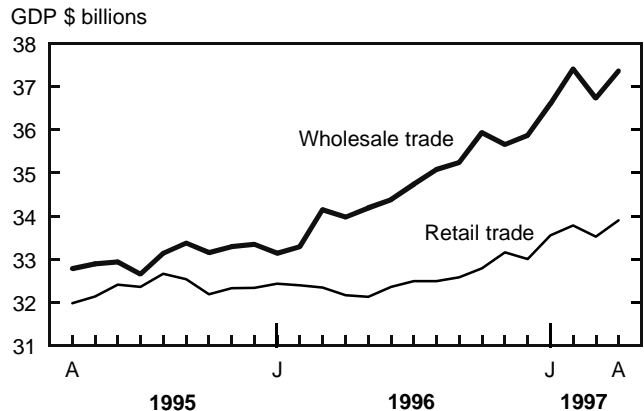
Monthly GDP by industry is valued at 1986 prices. The estimates presented here are seasonally adjusted at annual rates.

automotive products, notably by motor vehicle dealers, led the gain in April. Increases in sales of miscellaneous semi-durable goods such as books, hardware and toys as well as of miscellaneous durable goods such as sporting goods, jewellery and cameras were also sizeable.

Strong sales of consumer goods

Wholesaling activity rebounded 1.7% in April, in line with the pace recorded in January and February. Wholesalers of consumer goods enjoyed a good month. Sales of motor vehicles and parts, beverages, drug and tobacco products, as well as apparel and household goods all increased, and accounted for a large portion of the overall gain.

Strong demand for consumer goods



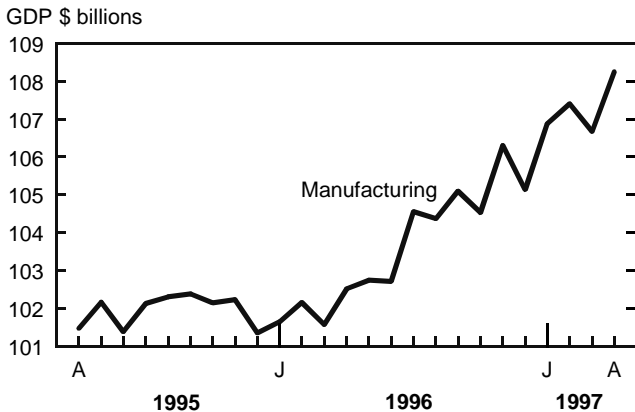
Sales of lumber and building materials continued to advance at a fast pace, but sales of machinery and equipment eased due to a second consecutive decline in computer and software packages sold. Purchases of farm machinery kept fluctuating, mirroring a similar pattern in imports and to a lesser extent in shipments

by Canadian manufacturers. Sales in April picked up sharply, extending a general upward trend.

Broad-based gain in manufacturing

Manufacturing production rose 1.5% in April, more than offsetting a 0.7% decline the month before. Manufacturers' shipments increased mainly in response to the strength of demand on domestic markets, as shipments abroad sagged in March and April. While output increased in 18 of the 21 major groups, a 1.9% gain in production of durable goods accounted for over 70% of the advance.

Manufacturing fuelled by domestic demand



Among durables, most of the growth ranged from 1.6% in primary metals and non-metallic mineral products to 4.6% in the case of furniture and fixtures. A 0.8% gain in output of electrical and electronic equipment was the only exception. Manufacturers of transportation equipment, metal products, primary metals and wood products contributed most to the advance.

Motor vehicle assembly rose 2.4% in April with some of the output accumulating in stocks. Production of vehicles was restrained by a shortage of parts due to a strike at an engine plant in the U.S. Exports of motor vehicles dropped for a third consecutive month in April after soaring in January. The number of vehicles sold in the United States moderated in April and May compared to the first three months of 1997, while in Canada sales were still improving for the same period. Manufacturers of motor vehicle parts raised output 1.5% during the month.

Manufacturers of fabricated metallic products raised output 3.3% in April. Output increased at a fast

pace in most industries but manufacturers of stamped metal products, and metallic structures (mainly destined to construction projects) were responsible for about half of the gain.

Production of primary metals advanced 1.6% after easing the previous two months. Higher activity in iron and steel mills, and by smelters and refiners of non-ferrous metals contributed the most. Shipments of iron and steel to manufacturers of fabricated metallic products, steel pipe and tube, wholesalers and the automobile industry all increased noticeably. Despite the gain, production of non-ferrous metallic products recovered only a portion of its loss the previous two months as exports, where a large portion of the production is destined, remained slack.

Manufacturers of wood products raised output 2.5%, a third increase over the last four months. Even though exports of lumber lost ground in March and April, sawmill operators increased production 2.7% during the month, helped by demand on domestic markets, notably in new home building. Increases in the production of construction materials were noticeable elsewhere in the wood products group and among non-metallic mineral industries.

Drilling activity jumps

Output in the mining sector increased 2.1% in April after remaining near the same level the previous two months. The gain in April reflected a jump mainly in drilling activity, which was not curtailed as much as normally by the spring breakup. Activity in drilling is expected to remain high for several months. According to the Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors, drilling activity should reach a new record in 1997. It is expected that work will extend to approximately 14,000 new wells, an increase of 13% compared to 1996.

Declines in the production of crude oil, non-ferrous metals and gold moderated the overall gain in the mining sector.

Housing resales pick up

Financial and related services rose 0.7% after retreating the previous two months. Housing resales, which fell rapidly during the first three months of 1997, picked up sharply in April. The gain reflected mainly higher sales in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario. The number of houses listed for sale also climbed in April. Activity in banks and other deposit institutions continued to advance at a good pace during the month. Demand for residential mortgage loans continued to

advance rapidly while demand for consumer loans accelerated markedly recently.

Other industries

Community, business and personal services advanced 0.4% in April, led by a gain in business services. Spending on accommodation and food services slipped however, after advancing at a good pace each of the previous four months.

Growth in construction, up 0.4% in April, moderated for a second month in a row. Activity on non-residential building projects picked up in April and continued its

generally flat trend. Construction of residential dwellings declined 0.2% in April, however, after soaring the previous two months.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4670-4674.

Order the April 1997 issue of *Gross domestic product by industry* (15-001-XPB, \$15/\$145), scheduled for release in July. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, contact Michel Girard (613-951-9145), Industry Measures and Analysis Division. □

Gross domestic product at factor cost by industry, at 1986 prices

	Nov. 1996 ^r	Dec. 1996 ^r	Jan. 1997 ^r	Feb. 1997 ^r	Mar. 1997 ^r	Apr. 1997 ^p	Mar. 1997 to Apr. 1997	April 1997	Apr. 1996 to Apr. 1997
seasonally adjusted									
	month-to-month % change						\$ change ¹	\$ level ¹	% change
Total economy	0.5	-0.3	0.6	0.6	-0.2	0.8	4,305	567,354	3.7
Goods-producing industries	0.9	-0.9	0.8	0.7	-0.0	1.2	2,257	194,912	4.8
Services-producing industries	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.5	-0.3	0.6	2,048	372,441	3.2
Business sector	0.6	-0.3	0.7	0.7	-0.3	0.9	4,411	478,136	4.7
Goods	0.9	-0.9	0.8	0.7	-0.0	1.2	2,259	193,999	4.8
Agriculture	-0.4	-0.2	-0.6	0.7	0.4	0.1	17	11,930	0.3
Fishing and trapping	0.7	-0.3	-0.4	0.3	0.5	0.8	6	775	-1.3
Logging	-0.1	-0.4	-0.9	-1.9	-5.6	4.4	109	2,558	-4.1
Mining, quarrying and oil quarries	-1.1	0.7	-1.7	1.2	0.1	2.1	519	25,195	7.0
Manufacturing	1.7	-1.1	1.7	0.5	-0.7	1.5	1,589	108,253	5.6
Construction	0.2	0.1	-0.3	2.9	0.7	0.4	103	27,909	4.8
Other utility industries	0.7	-4.3	2.1	-1.6	3.1	-0.5	-84	17,379	1.8
Services	0.5	0.1	0.7	0.7	-0.4	0.8	2,152	284,137	4.7
Transportation and storage	1.0	-0.5	-0.2	2.1	-0.2	0.8	211	25,304	5.7
Communications	0.3	0.1	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.2	53	25,877	8.2
Wholesale trade	-0.8	0.6	2.0	2.2	-1.8	1.7	630	37,360	9.9
Retail trade	1.1	-0.5	1.7	0.7	-0.8	1.1	378	33,905	5.4
Finance, insurance and real estate	0.8	-0.0	0.1	-0.2	-0.4	0.7	585	90,479	2.9
Community, business and personal services	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.5	-0.2	0.4	295	71,212	2.6
Non-business sector	-0.2	-0.2	0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	-106	89,217	-1.6
Goods	0.4	-0.5	1.7	-2.1	2.7	-0.3	-2	913	-2.9
Services	-0.2	-0.2	0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	-103	88,304	-1.5
Government services	-0.9	-0.1	-0.3	-0.2	0.0	-0.6	-170	30,707	-3.3
Community and personal services	0.2	-0.2	0.3	-0.0	-0.1	0.1	47	54,346	-0.6
Other services	0.8	-0.4	-0.2	-0.3	1.1	0.6	20	3,251	0.0
Other aggregations									
Industrial production	1.1	-1.2	1.1	0.3	-0.1	1.4	2,022	151,740	5.3
Non-durable manufacturing	-0.1	-0.6	1.0	1.2	-0.9	0.9	416	46,274	6.1
Durable manufacturing	3.1	-1.5	2.1	-0.1	-0.5	1.9	1,173	61,979	5.2

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Millions of dollars at annual rate.

Canada's international transactions in services

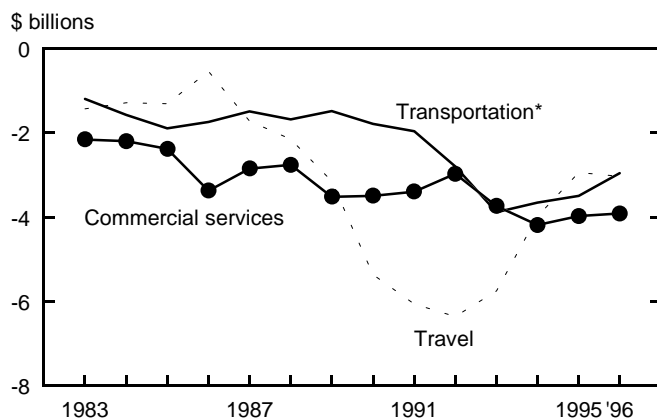
1961 to 1996

Latest revised figures show Canada exported a record \$39 billion in travel, transportation, commercial and government services during 1996.

Imports of \$49 billion were also at record levels, but increased less rapidly than exports.

This led to a drop of \$0.5 billion in the services deficit to \$9.9 billion. This was the first time in the 1990s that this deficit fell below the \$10 billion mark, and was the third annual drop in a row.

Major sources of services deficit



* With a small element of government services.

Transportation services lead the way

In 1996, the deficit for moving goods and travellers in and out of Canada shrank for the second consecutive year, falling to \$3.1 billion. The drop of \$0.6 billion reflected lower deficits for air and waterborne transport, and higher earnings in the US by Canadian-domiciled truckers.

Deficit on commercial services narrows marginally

Canada contained the deficit on commercial services at its \$4.0 billion level of 1995. This was the product of relatively small and offsetting transactions over a range of sub-categories during 1996.

Travel deficit edges up

Spending by incoming and outgoing travellers each grew by over \$1 billion in 1996. The gains led to new

highs, but to only a small rise in the deficit which reached \$3.0 billion. The travel deficit has more than halved in the three years following its peak of \$6.4 billion in 1992.

Further highlights

Spending from abroad on post-secondary education brought \$1 billion into Canada in the form of tuition fees and living expenses. At the same time, spending by Canadian residents at universities and colleges abroad amounted to over \$600 million. The statistics are part of Canada's travel account.

Sales abroad of legal services by law firms in Canada have been newly measured, and amount to over \$260 million including registration of patents and trademarks. The purchase of legal services from abroad approached \$210 million.

International management consulting produced some \$215 million in revenues for Canadian providers. The new estimate includes work funded by CIDA, but excludes software and related consulting, dealings with affiliated parties and services of property management.

Over the last five years, a number of individual services categories outpaced the 13% average annual rate of increase for the export of commercial services as a whole.

Leading commercial services exports

	Compound growth 1991-96	Exports
	%	\$ millions
Financial services other than insurance	22	1,290
Architectural and engineering services	21	1,553
Life reinsurance	20	2,068
Royalties and licence fees	20	505
Research and development	18	1,724
Computer and information services	15	1,263
All commercial services	13	17,971

All 1996 levels were new records.

Canada's international transactions in services, 1961 to 1996 (67-203-XPB, \$37) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Hugh Henderson (613-951-9049; Internet: hendhug@statcan.ca), Balance of Payments Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Asphalt roofing

May 1997

Production of asphalt shingles totalled 4 218 205 metric bundles in May, a 20.1% increase from 3 511 178 metric bundles a year earlier.

Between January and May 1997, production amounted to 20 120 716 metric bundles, a 35.2% increase from 14 887 034 (revised) metric bundles, produced during the same period in 1996.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 32 and 122 (series 27).

The May 1997 issue of *Asphalt Roofing* (45-001-XPB, \$7/\$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Liisa Pent (613-951-3531; Internet pentlii@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Electric power

April 1997

Net generation of electricity increased to 44 362 gigawatt-hours (GW-h), up 1.9% from April 1996. The increase was mainly in response to higher domestic demand for electricity. Exports increased 9.7% to 3 568 GW-h, and imports increased from 341 GW-h to 519 GW-h.

Generation of hydro-electricity increased 0.7% to 28 190 GW-h. Thermal conventional generation was up 4.2% to 8 440 GW-h, while production from nuclear sources was up 4.0% to 7 733 GW-h.

Year-to-date net generation at the end of April 1997 totalled 195 943 GW-h, down 0.1% from the previous year. Year-to-date exports (13 147 GW-h) rose 7.2% and year-to-date imports (2 762 GW-h) rose 43.4% from the previous year.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3987-3999.

The April 1997 issue of *Electric Power Statistics* (57-001-XPB, \$12/\$114) will be available the first week of July 1997. See *How to Order Publications*.

For detailed information on this release, contact André Lefebvre (613-951-3560; Internet: alefeba@statcan.ca, Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Civil aviation operating statistics

April 1997

Both Air Canada and Canadian Airlines International Ltd. (CAI) reported decreases in passenger-kilometres flown (seasonally adjusted data) on their international (scheduled and charter) routes in April 1997. Air Canada's production decreased by 3% compared with March, while CAI's was down 1%.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 385.

Civil aviation data (operational) for Air Canada and CAI for April 1997 will be published in the July issue of the *Aviation service bulletin* (51-004-XPB, \$11/\$109). See *How to Order Publications*.

For more information on this release, please contact Robert Lund (819-997-6188), Aviation Statistics Centre, Transportation Division. ■

Electric power annual statistics

1995

Electric power producers earned operating revenues of \$34.6 billion, up 2.9% from 1994. Net income totalled \$2.2 billion, down 11.5 per cent from 1994. Net electricity generation rose 0.7% during the same period to total 543.5 terawatt-hours.

The 1995 issue of *Electric Power Annual Statistics* (57-202-XPB, \$30) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, contact André Lefebvre (613-951-3560; Internet: alefeba@statcan.ca, Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Gas Utilities, March 1997
Catalogue number 55-002-XPB
(Canada: \$17/\$165; outside Canada: US\$17/US\$165).

Canada's international transactions in services, 1961 to 1996
Catalogue number 67-203-XPB
(Canada: \$37; outside Canada: US\$37).

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The Daily
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 511 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 modest weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during FY 1996.

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Statistics Canada / Statistique Canada

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To receive *The Daily* from the Internet, send an E-mail message to listproc@statcan.ca. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Editor: Heinz Pilz (613-951-1103)

Head of Official Release: Chantal Prévost (613-951-1088)

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RELEASE DATES: JULY 1997

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
July 1997		
7	Travel-log	Summer 1997
7	Building permits	May 1997
7	Survey of labour and income dynamics	1994
8	Economic dependency profiles	
9	Homeowner repair and renovation expenditure	1996
10	New motor vehicle sales	May 1997
11	Labour force survey	June 1997
11	Labour force update "hours of work"	1976-1997
15	Neighbourhood income and demographics	
16	Travel between Canada and other countries	May 1997
16	Monthly survey of manufacturing	May 1997
17	Consumer price index	June 1997
18	Canadian international trade	June 1997
18	Wholesale trade	May 1997
21	Retail trade	May 1997
23	Private and public investment in Canada	1997
23	Composite index	June 1997
24	Canadian economic observer, annual historical supplement	May 1997
24	Canadian economic observer	July 1997
24	Canada's international transactions in securities	May 1997
25	Life expectancy	1978-1995
25	Seasonal patterns of death	1974-1995
25	Employment, earnings and hours	May 1997
28	Breast cancer mortality and mammography	1990 - 1995
29	Industrial product price index	June 1997
29	Raw materials price index	June 1997
29	Age and sex (100% data)	Census 1996
30	Crime statistics	
30	Homicide in Canada	
31	Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry	May 1997
31	Families	1995

Use the command "DATES" to retrieve this calendar from CANSIM.