

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, July 30, 1997

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Homicide in Canada, 1996**

Canada's homicide rate increased in 1996, following four straight annual declines. Police reported 633 homicides, 45 more than in 1995.

2
- **Crime statistics, 1996**

Canada's overall crime rate — a measure of public safety — fell for the fifth consecutive year in 1996 after increasing steadily for almost three decades. The five-year decline put the crime rate at virtually the same level as it was in 1986.

4

OTHER RELEASES

- Employment Insurance, May 1997
7
- Electric lamps, June 1997
8
- Asphalt roofing, June 1997
8
- Sawmills and planing mills, May 1997
8
- Cereals and oilseeds review, May 1997
8

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

The labour market: Mid-year review

1997

Today, Statistics Canada releases *The labour market: Mid-year review*, which summarizes changes and trends in the labour market during the first six months of 1997. The article is available immediately by fax.

The increase in employment from December 1996 to June 1997 almost matched that of the first six months of 1994, which was the best year in the 1990s for overall employment growth. As well, the employment rate showed signs of revival, increasing from a low of 58.3% in February 1997 to 58.9% in June. Employment gains were posted mainly in self-employment, full-time work and among adults. Ontario and Quebec contributed most to the increase in employment, while New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and Quebec demonstrated impressive growth rates.

The Autumn 1997 issue of *Perspectives on labour and income*, which includes the article "The labour market: Mid-year review" (75-001-XPE, \$18/\$58), will be available in September. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Jeffrey Smith (613-951-6894). To order "The labour market: Mid-year review" by fax (\$40), contact Jeannine Usalcas (613-951-4628), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.



MAJOR RELEASES

Homicide in Canada

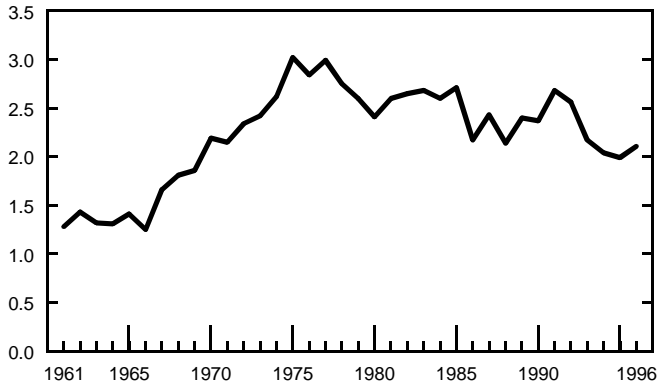
1996

Canada's homicide rate increased by 6% in 1996, following four straight annual declines. Police reported 633 homicides, 45 more than in 1995. Part of this increase was due to an increase in multiple-victim homicides.

The 1996 rate of 2.11 homicides per 100,000 people was still well below the peak of 3.02 in 1975. The homicide rate more than doubled between 1961 and 1975. Since then, despite annual fluctuations, the rate has gradually decreased.

Homicide rate

Rate per 100,000 population



According to preliminary 1996 data, the homicide rate in the United States was almost four times higher than Canada's. However, Canada's homicide rate is generally higher than that of many European nations.

Homicides increased in most provinces

Most provinces reported an increase in homicides in 1996, notably Manitoba, Quebec and Saskatchewan. The increases in these three provinces were primarily due to homicides involving acquaintances. The only decreases were reported in Alberta and New Brunswick.

Homicides

	1995		1996	
	Number ^r	Rate ¹	Number ^r	Rate ¹
Newfoundland	5	0.87	7	1.23
Prince Edward Island	1	0.74	1	0.73
Nova Scotia	17	1.81	18	1.91
New Brunswick	14	1.84	9	1.18
Quebec	135	1.84	153	2.07
Ontario	181	1.63	187	1.66
Manitoba	27	2.38	45	3.94
Saskatchewan	21	2.07	31	3.03
Alberta	60	2.18	53	1.90
British Columbia	120	3.19	125	3.24
Yukon	4	13.20	-	0.00
Northwest Territories	3	4.56	4	6.01
Canada	588	1.99	633	2.11

- Nil or zero.

^r Revised.

¹ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using updated postcensal estimates.

In general, homicide rates continue to be highest in the western provinces. Manitoba recorded the highest rate, followed by British Columbia and Saskatchewan. Prince Edward Island, with one homicide, recorded the lowest rate, followed by New Brunswick and Newfoundland.

Five of the nine largest CMAs reported a drop in homicides last year. Only Winnipeg and Québec showed large increases, with Québec's increase mainly due to an unusually low number of homicides reported in 1995.

Homicides by census metropolitan area

Population of 500,000 and over	1995		1996	
	Number ^r	Rate ¹	Number ^r	Rate ¹
Toronto	74	1.70	79	1.79
Montréal	77	2.31	71	2.11
Vancouver	64	3.50	56	2.97
Ottawa-Hull	28	2.74	17	1.64
Ontario	24	3.11	11	1.41
Québec	4	1.59	6	2.32
Edmonton	19	2.15	20	2.25
Calgary	18	2.16	12	1.41
Québec	4	0.58	15	2.15
Winnipeg	16	2.36	28	4.12
Hamilton	17	2.64	10	1.52
Total	317	2.22	308	2.13

^r Revised.

¹ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using updated postcensal estimates.

Winnipeg reported the highest rate among the nine largest CMAs, followed by Vancouver and Edmonton.

The lowest rates were in Calgary and Hamilton. Montréal's rate (2.11 per 100,000 population) was its lowest since 1981, when CMA data were first collected. The nation's largest city, Toronto, continued to report a homicide rate well below the national average.

Homicides involving firearms increased in 1996

In 1996, 211 homicides were committed with a firearm, 35 more than in 1995. Firearms have accounted for about one-third of all homicides since 1979. Homicides, however, account for a relatively small portion of firearm deaths. The latest figures available (1995) show that about 80% of all firearm deaths were due to suicide.

The use of handguns in all homicides has increased over the past decade (from 7% to 17%) while the use of rifles/shotguns has decreased (from 20% to 13%). In 1996, a further 31% of homicide victims were stabbed and 22% were beaten.

Rate of youths accused of homicide remained stable

The youth homicide rate has remained relatively stable in the last decade. From 1986 to 1995, an average of 49 youths were charged with homicide each year, representing 9% of all those accused of homicide. In 1996, 51 youths were charged with homicide, down from 68 in 1995, accounting for 8% of all accused persons.

Violence against children is a major concern to Canadians. In 1996, 53 children under the age of 12 were killed (the same as in 1995) compared with an average of 56 each year since 1985. Of these 53 children, about three-quarters were killed by family members, and 18 of the victims were under 1 year of age.

Almost 9 in 10 victims knew their attacker

Homicides are more likely to be committed by someone known to the victim than by a stranger. Where

an accused was identified, almost half (49%) of victims were killed by an acquaintance, more than a third (37%) by a spouse or other family member, and the remaining 14% by a stranger. Of the incidents involving strangers, 87% of the victims were male.

Four in ten female victims killed by (ex) spouse/boyfriend

Spousal homicides continue to account for one out of every six solved homicides. Over the past decade, an average of 97 persons were killed by a spouse each year, with women representing three-quarters of these victims. In 1996, 80 persons were killed by either a current or former spouse — 62 women and 18 men.

In addition, 19 females were killed by a boyfriend or ex-boyfriend. In all, about 4 in 10 female victims were killed by someone with whom they had an intimate relationship at some point in time.

Males have consistently comprised the majority of homicide victims as well as those accused of committing homicide. In 1996, 69% of homicide victims were male, as were 89% of accused.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 314-317 and 319 will be available shortly. Tables 00160401 to 001604005 are now available.

"Homicide in Canada, 1996" which appears in *Juristat*, Vol. 17, no. 9 (85-002-XPE, \$10/\$93), is now available. See *How to order publications*.

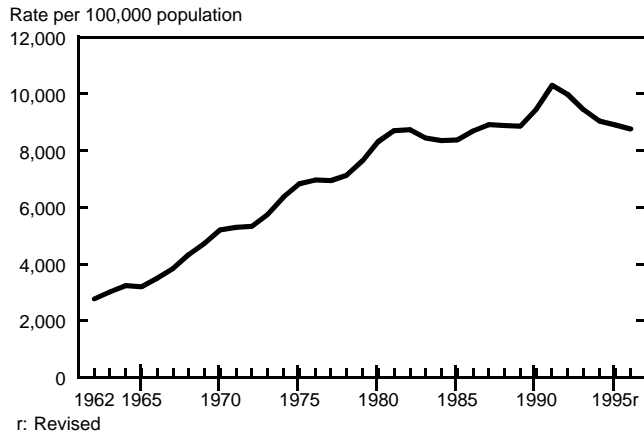
For further information on this release, contact Information and Client Services (613-951-9023 or 1 800 387-2231), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. ■

Crime statistics

1996

Canada's crime rate — a measure of public safety — fell for the fifth consecutive year (down 2.0% in 1996). These decreases follow almost three decades of steady increases.

Crime rate



The five-year decline put the crime rate — the incidence of crime per 100,000 people — at virtually the same level as it was in 1986.

Police reported 2.6 million Criminal Code incidents last year, 11% of which were violent crimes and 59% property crimes. The remaining incidents were other criminal offences such as mischief, prostitution, arson and bail violations.

The violent crime rate fell by 2% for the fourth consecutive year, following 15 years of steady growth. Much of that growth was due to a large increase in common assaults, the least serious and most prevalent of the violent offences.

The property crime rate decreased slightly last year (-1%), continuing the general decline since 1991.

The crime rate refers to Criminal Code incidents, excluding traffic offences, reported by police. Many factors can influence crime statistics, such as changes in the age composition of the population, legislation, police enforcement practices and reporting by the public to police.

The most recent International Crime Victimization Survey confirms the recent trends in police-reported data, which show declines in most crimes between 1991 and 1995. The results also showed that, despite

these drops, the fear of crime among Canadians has grown.

Violent crime: Homicide and robbery were the only violent crimes to increase

Two types of violent crime, homicide and robbery, increased last year. Rates fell for all other violent crimes including attempted murder, sexual assault, other types of assault and abduction.

After dropping four years in a row, the homicide rate turned upward in 1996 (+6%). The homicide rate has generally been decreasing since the mid-1970s.

The robbery rate rose for the second consecutive year, up 2% from 1995. Despite decreases in the early 1990s, the rate has generally been increasing in the last 10 years.

Although total robberies increased in 1996, those involving firearms decreased for the fifth consecutive year. The rate of robberies with firearms was 31% lower than five years ago and 13% lower than a decade ago. In the last 10 years, robberies involving weapons other than firearms, such as knives, have shown the largest increase. About 4 in 10 robberies involved no weapons last year.

Minor assaults, which account for 6 in 10 violent crimes, dropped for the third straight year. The rate, however, was still 39% higher than a decade ago.

Sample of police agencies shows recent drop in wife assaults and "home-invasions"

It should be noted that the incidence of wife assault is difficult to measure with police data given the reluctance of some women to report to police. According to a sample of 61 police agencies (including Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver), the number of reported incidents has been dropping steadily from 1993 to 1996 (-18%). This sample of police agencies represents 29% of the national volume of crime and are mostly from Quebec and Ontario. The reader is cautioned that these data are not nationally representative.

Similarly, the number of "home invasions" reported by this sample dropped 17% between 1993 to 1996. Broadly defined, a home invasion encompasses robberies of private residences as well as residential break-ins with a violent crime against the occupant(s). This type of crime has received widespread attention because of the deliberate attack against the sanctity of one's home.

Property crime: Rise in motor vehicle thefts continues

Police reported 1.5 million property incidents in 1996. Last year's rate was 15% lower than five years ago and 6% lower than a decade ago.

Motor vehicle theft is the one property crime that has continued to rise in recent years: since 1988 it has grown by 79%, including a 9% jump in 1996. The only other property crime to increase last year was residential breaking and entering (+3%).

Youth crime: First notable decline in violent crime since the Young Offenders Act

The rate of young people aged 12 to 17 charged with violent crime fell 4% in 1996, the first notable decline since the Young Offenders Act came into effect.

Even so, the rate in 1996 remained 9% higher than five years ago and more than double that of a decade ago. The increase over the past 10 years was largely due to growth in the number of young people charged with common assault.

While the rate of youths charged with robbery remained stable last year, rates fell for young people charged with all other types of violent crime, including assault, sexual assault, robbery and homicide. The rate of youths charged with property crimes fell 5%, the fifth consecutive decline.

In total, police charged 117,773 youths with Criminal Code offences in 1996. More than half were charged with property crimes and 19% were charged with violent crimes. In comparison, 4 in 10 adults were charged with property crimes and 28% with violent crimes.

Violent crime down in most large cities

Three of the nine largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs) reported an increase in their overall crime rate: Québec (+5%), Montréal (+3%) and Vancouver (+3%). Although Québec showed the largest increase, it still retained the lowest overall crime rate. As with previous years, the highest rate was reported by Vancouver.

In terms of violent crime, five of the CMAs reported declines, the largest in Toronto (-9%). Violent crime grew only in Calgary (+4%) and Vancouver (+2%) and it remained stable in Edmonton and Hamilton. As with the overall crime rate, Québec reported the lowest rate of violent crime, and Vancouver the highest.

For property crimes, rates dropped in five of the nine cities, with the largest decrease in Ottawa (-15%). Rates increased in Québec (+6%), Montréal (+4%)

and Vancouver (+4%), and remained stable in Calgary. Property crime is now lowest in Toronto and continues to be highest in Vancouver.

Police-reported incidents, by most serious offence

	1996	1995 to 1996	
	number	rate ¹	% change in rate
Violent crime	291,437	973	-2.2
Homicide	633	2	6.4
Attempted murder	848	3	-10.7
Assaults	227,678	760	-2.2
Sexual assaults	26,762	89	-6.1
Other sexual offences	3,310	11	-6.4
Robbery	31,242	104	2.1
Abduction	964	3	-7.9
Property crime	1,555,800	5,192	-0.8
Break and enter	396,085	1,322	0.2
Motor vehicle theft	178,580	596	9.2
Other thefts	849,529	2,835	-2.6
Having stolen goods	30,599	102	-3.4
Fraud	101,007	337	-3.9
Other Criminal Code crimes	776,911	2,593	-3.0
Mischief	364,021	1,215	-5.2
Prostitution	5,912	20	-18.5
Arson	12,865	43	-3.3
Offensive weapons	16,132	54	-8.9
Other	377,981	1,261	-0.2
Total Criminal Code excluding traffic crimes	2,624,148	8,758	-1.6
Impaired driving	95,877	320	-7.4
Other Criminal Code traffic crimes	65,928	220	-9.0
Drugs	65,106	217	4.4
Other federal statutes	31,365	105	-14.2
Total federal statutes	2,882,424	9,620	-2.0

¹ Rates are calculated based on 100,000 population.

Available on CANSIM: 2198-2200 and tables 00140103 and 00150202.

Juristat: Crime statistics, 1996, Vol. 17, no. 8 (85-002-XPE, \$10/\$93) is now available. See How to order publications.

For further information on this release, contact Information and Client Services (613-951-9023 or 1 800 387-2231), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. □

Crime rates for census metropolitan areas¹

	Violent crime		Property crime		Total Criminal Code	
	1996	1995 to 1996	1996	1995 to 1996	1996	1995 to 1996
	rate	% change in rate	rate	% change in rate	rate	% change in rate
Population of 500,000 and over						
Vancouver	1,325	2.2	10,494	4.4	14,868	2.7
Winnipeg ²	1,137	-4.9	6,272	-5.8	9,829	-6.6
Ottawa	911	-7.8	5,940	-14.9	9,393	-14.1
Edmonton	922	-0.2	5,219	-1.5	8,569	-1.0
Hamilton	1,131	-0.7	4,770	-5.7	8,027	-5.8
Montréal	839	-2.8	5,351	4.0	7,981	2.9
Calgary	769	4.0	5,384	0.1	7,843	-0.3
Toronto	824	-9.4	4,277	-4.8	6,920	-7.0
Québec	539	-7.0	4,380	6.1	6,398	4.9
Population of 250,000 to 499,999³						
Victoria	1,354	-0.0	6,863	-6.9	12,014	-5.3
Halifax	1,178	1.8	5,550	0.8	9,608	4.4
London	882	-8.2	5,929	-11.1	9,541	-10.9
Windsor	866	0.3	5,107	3.9	8,696	1.5
Hull	727	5.4	4,819	4.2	7,994	1.0
St. Catharines-Niagara	655	0.2	5,018	-4.7	7,896	-5.1
Kitchener	721	16.7	4,499	-4.7	6,969	-3.5
Population of 100,000 to 249,999						
Regina	1,259	9.8	10,078	4.5	15,060	3.2
Thunder Bay	1,945	7.0	5,780	-13.0	12,094	-4.2
Saskatoon	1,301	5.6	6,901	6.5	11,638	6.2
Sudbury	929	-17.9	5,162	-4.1	8,280	-8.2
Saint John	990	19.4	4,379	21.3	7,973	17.1
St. John's	1,046	-20.7	4,200	21.2	7,526	17.1
Trois-Rivières	517	0.2	4,337	5.4	6,625	4.0
Sherbrooke	418	2.6	4,365	-0.2	6,371	-0.4
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	658	4.2	3,893	-1.8	5,965	-0.3

¹ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

² Winnipeg police have discovered an under-recording of minor offences that has been occurring in recent years, the magnitude of which has not yet been determined.

³ The Oshawa census metropolitan area (CMA) is excluded from this table due to methodological concerns regarding matching of the police agency jurisdictional boundaries and CMA boundaries.



OTHER RELEASES

Employment Insurance

May 1997 (preliminary - seasonally adjusted)

Approximately 593,000 Canadians received regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits in May, up 4.2% from April. Increases were observed in all provinces and territories except for Nova Scotia and British Columbia, which both remained unchanged from April. Despite the increase in May, the number of regular beneficiaries has declined by 17.4% since May 1996.

Regular benefit payments declined for the fifth consecutive month and were 4.8% lower in May, at \$708 million. Of the provinces and territories, 11 recorded payment declines, led by Alberta (-9.1%) and Ontario (-8.8%). Payments have trended downward since April 1996.

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	May 1997	April to May 1997
	seasonally adjusted	
		% change
Canada	593,080	4.2
Newfoundland	34,150	0.6
Prince Edward Island	9,180	3.3
Nova Scotia	31,600	0.0
New Brunswick	36,220	6.0
Quebec	212,160	5.0
Ontario	148,770	2.7
Manitoba	14,960	16.1
Saskatchewan	10,720	22.1
Alberta	28,710	5.0
British Columbia	67,120	0.0
Yukon	1,300	6.8
Northwest Territories	1,120	3.8

The number of individuals who applied for employment insurance benefits declined (-2.6%) in May to 223,000. Of the provinces and territories, 10 registered declines, ranging from -2.0% in New Brunswick to -31.0% in the Yukon. Claims were down 11.6% compared with May 1996 (unadjusted).

Employment Insurance statistics

	April 1997	May 1997	April to May 1997
	seasonally adjusted		
			% change
Reg. beneficiaries ('000)	569 ^P	593 ^P	4.2
Reg. payments (\$ millions)	744.2	708.4	-4.8
Claims ('000)	229	223	-2.6
	May 1996	May 1997	May 1996 to May 1997
	unadjusted		
			% change
All beneficiaries ('000)	889	749 ^P	-15.7
Reg. beneficiaries ('000)	687	562 ^P	-18.2
Claims ('000)	194	168	-13.3
Payments (\$ millions)	1,125.5	935.8	-16.9
	Year-to-date (January to May)		
	1996	1997	1996 to 1997
			% change
Claims ('000)	1,238	1,095	-11.6
Payments (\$ millions)	6,818.8	6,050.9	-11.3

^P Preliminary figures.

Note: "All beneficiaries" includes all claimants paid regular benefits (e.g., due to layoff) or special benefits (e.g., due to illness).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 26 (series 1.6), 5700-5717 and 5735-5736.

Note: The discrepancy between the estimated number of regular beneficiaries and regular payments series can be explained by the difference in their time frames. The number of beneficiaries represents all persons who received EI benefits during the week containing the 15th day of the month. The regular benefit payments series represents the total of all payments received by individuals during the entire month.

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

Electric lamps

June 1997

Light bulb and tube manufacturers sold 22.5 million light bulbs and tubes in June 1997, an increase of 15.2% from the 19.6 million a year earlier.

Year-to-date sales at the end of June 1997 totalled 148.3 million light bulbs and tubes, an increase of 2.7% from the 144.4 million a year earlier.

The June 1997 issue of *Electric lamps* (43-009-XPB, \$7/\$62) will be available shortly.

For further information on this release, contact Laurie Vincent (613-951-3523; Internet: vincwil@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Asphalt roofing

June 1997

Production of asphalt shingles totalled 3 641 130 metric bundles in June, down 0.5% from 3 658 973 metric bundles produced a year earlier.

January-to-June 1997 production amounted to 23 761 846 metric bundles, up 28.1% from 18 546 007 (revised) metric bundles produced during the same period in 1996.

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

The June 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. ■

Sawmills and planing mills

May 1997

Sawmills in Canada produced 5 516.8 thousand cubic metres of lumber and ties in May, down 0.9%

from 5 568.1 thousand cubic metres (after revisions) produced in May 1996.

January-to-May 1997 production was 27 883.1 thousand cubic metres, up 3.5% from 26 939.6 thousand cubic metres (after revisions) produced over the same period in 1996.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 53, 122 (series 2).

The May 1997 issue of *Sawmills and planing mills* (35-003-XPB, \$12/\$114) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Gilles Simard (613-951-3516; Internet: simales@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction, and Energy Division. ■

Cereals and oilseeds review

May 1997

In late June, Statistics Canada released the results of its crops seeded area survey. Western Canadian spring wheat area in 1997 was down 10% from 1996. In contrast, oilseeds rebounded in 1997 with canola, flaxseed and soybean areas up 38%, 41% and 21% respectively over a year earlier. Despite the Red River flood covering some 450,000 acres of cropland, satellite imagery indicated that by mid-June, less than 5,000 acres were left unseeded. Additional information is provided in the June *Situation report*.

The May issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149), which contains the June situation report, will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Dave Burroughs (613-951-5138), Crops Section, Agriculture Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Construction type plywood, May 1997
Catalogue number 35-001-XPB
(Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

Private and public investment in Canada, revised intentions 1997 (microfiche version)
Catalogue number 61-206-XMB
(Canada: \$37; outside Canada: US\$37).

Private and public investment in Canada, revised intentions 1997 (paper version)
Catalogue number 61-206-XPB
(Canada: \$44; outside Canada: US\$44).

Juristat: Canadian crime statistics, 1996, Vol. 17, no. 8
Catalogue number 85-002-XPE
(Canada: \$10/\$93; outside Canada: US\$10/US\$93).

Juristat: Homicide in Canada, 1996, Vol. 17, no. 9
Catalogue number 85-002-XPE
(Canada: \$10/\$93; outside Canada: US\$10/US\$93).

All prices exclude sales tax.

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 1997. Citation in newsprint, magazine, radio, and television reporting is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source. Any other reproduction is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source on all copies as follows: Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, catalogue 11-001E, along with date and page references.

How to order publications

Simplify your data search with the *Statistics Canada Catalogue* (11-204E, \$16; outside Canada: 16\$US).

Its keyword index will guide you to statistics on Canada's social and economic activity.

Order publications by phone:

Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.

In Canada and the United States call:

1-800-267-6677

From other countries call:

1-613-951-7277

To fax your order:

1-800-889-9734

Address changes or account inquiries:

1-800-700-1033

Internet:

order@statcan.ca

To order a publication by mail write: Statistics Canada, Circulation Management, Operations and Integration Division, Ottawa, K1A 0T6.

Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.