



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, July 4, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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Services indicators

First quarter 1997

The feature article in the first quarter 1997 issue of *Services indicators* is a sequel to the "Access to the information highway" article published last year. The current article updates figures on the proportions (penetration rates) of homes with telephones, cable, computers and modems, and also provides 1996 data on cellular phones and Internet use. The penetration rates of these commodities are analyzed in relation to several socio-economic and demographic variables.

Virtually all households have a telephone, while almost three in four have cable, one in seven a cellular phone, and nearly one in three a computer. Although half of the computer households have a modem, less than half of these particular households use their modem to access the Internet.

Household income strongly affects the penetration rates for cellular phones, computers and Internet use. However, among those with a computer, education level is a stronger predictor of Internet use than income. In contrast, for cellular phone use, income is a stronger predictor than education.

The first quarter 1997 issue of *Services indicators* (63-016-XPB, \$35/\$116), which profiles the communications, finance, insurance, real estate and business services sectors, is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, contact Don Little (613-951-6739), Services Division.



OTHER RELEASES

Estimates of labour income

April 1997 (preliminary)

Both labour income and employees' wages and salaries rose by 0.5% in April. Gains in average weekly earnings contributed to the advance as April employment levels were only slightly changed from March.

Industrially, wages and salaries rose significantly in April in manufacturing, construction, trade and commercial and personal services. In all instances, strength in average earnings contributed to the growth. After increasing steadily since October 1996, wages and salaries in finance, insurance and real estate were unchanged in April from their March level. In contrast, wages and salaries paid to employees in educational and related services and all levels of administration continued to decline.

All provinces and territories posted growth in wages and salaries and labour income in April except New Brunswick which was unchanged.

Note: Labour income consists of wages and salaries (87%), plus supplementary labour income (13%). Wages and salaries include items such as bonuses, gratuities, taxable allowances and retroactive wage payments. Supplementary labour income is employers' contributions to employee welfare, pension, workers' compensation and employment insurance plans. Labour income accounts for about 54% of gross domestic product.

Users of the labour income data should note that the seasonally adjusted data have been revised back to January 1997.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1791 and 1792.

For further information on this release, contact Jean Lambert (613-951-4051; fax: 613-951-3618), National Accounts and Environment Division.

Wages and salaries and supplementary labour income

	March 1997 ^r	April 1997 ^p	March 1997 to April 1997
	Seasonally adjusted		
	\$ millions		% change
Agriculture, fishing and trapping	262.1	260.4	-0.6
Logging and forestry	270.8	271.7	0.3
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	680.5	682.9	0.4
Manufacturing	6,025.4	6,100.6	1.2
Construction	1,722.5	1,750.3	1.6
Transportation, storage, communications and other utilities	2,951.1	2,952.1	0.0
Trade	4,566.1	4,605.0	0.9
Finance, insurance and real estate	2,887.1	2,885.8	-0.0
Commercial and personal services	4,878.6	4,931.1	1.1
Educational and related services	2,745.4	2,739.7	-0.2
Health and social services	2,871.6	2,870.4	-0.0
Federal administration and other government services	891.0	880.6	-1.2
Provincial administration	703.0	700.1	-0.4
Local administration	679.1	676.9	-0.3
Total wages and salaries	32,091.6	32,265.2	0.5
Supplementary labour income	4,797.8	4,818.3	0.4
Labour income	36,889.4	37,083.5	0.5

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.



Services indicators

First quarter 1997

The service sector's output, employment and price levels increased in the first quarter of 1997, accompanying rapid growth in the consumption of service commodities. However, Canada's international trade in service commodities uncharacteristically dipped.

The 1.6% rise in consumer spending on services, the strongest quarterly increase of the past two years, was fuelled by higher spending on transportation, communications and financial and legal services. Despite higher consumer demand for services, the services Consumer Price Index edged up by only 0.3%. Higher prices for telephone services and air transportation contributed to this increase.

Gross domestic product for the services sector increased relatively rapidly for the second consecutive quarter. The output growth rate of services (+0.8%) in this quarter mirrored that of the overall economy. Services growth was strongest in the telecommunication carriers industry and for banks and other deposit-accepting institutions.

Despite robust growth in service industry output, employment in the sector rose only marginally, suggesting that productivity improved among service sector employees. Services employment grew this quarter by its lowest rate (+0.4%) in the past two years. With the service industries shedding full-time employees for the second straight quarter, the job growth that did occur emanated from part-time job creation. This was the sixth consecutive quarter in which part-time jobs in the services sector grew more rapidly than full-time jobs. For the first quarter of 1997 this was especially the case in the finance, insurance and real estate industries. However, an exception was the business services industries where full-time employment grew and part-time employment fell.

Unlike exports of merchandise, which rose 5% this quarter, exports of services declined by 1%. However, because service industry imports declined more rapidly than service exports, the services trade deficit fell to \$2.35 billion. Most of the drops in service exports and imports arose from reduced trade in commercial services.

The first quarter 1997 issue of *Services indicators* (63-016-XPB, \$35/\$116) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, contact Don Little (613-951-6739), Services Division. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending June 28, 1997 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending June 28, 1997, totalled 283 001 tonnes, down 8.1% from the week-earlier 307 901 tonnes and down 1.0% from the year-earlier 285 742 tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 7 547 044 tonnes, a 2.8% increase compared with 7 342 914 tonnes for the same period in 1996.

For further information on this release, contact Andy Shinnan (613-951-3515; Internet: shinand@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Practices in support of quality services in the public service

1997

The results of the 1997 Survey of Practices in Support of Quality Services in the Public Service are now available. For more information, contact Paul Johannis (613-951-3431). ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Cereals and oilseeds review, April 1997
Catalogue number 22-007-XPB
(Canada: \$15/\$149; outside Canada: US\$15/US\$149).

Crude petroleum and natural gas production,
March 1997
Catalogue number 26-006-XPB
(Canada: \$19/\$186; outside Canada: US\$19/US\$186).

Cement, May 1997
Catalogue number 44-001-XPB
(Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

Electric power annual statistics, 1995
Catalogue number 57-202-XPB
(Canada: \$/\$30; outside Canada: US\$/US\$30).

Services indicators, First quarter 1997
Catalogue number 63-016-XPB
(Canada: \$35/\$116; outside Canada: US\$35/US\$116).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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Statistics Canada

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 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted Index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 9
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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E.

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Editor: Duncan Currie (613-951-1103)

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

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RELEASE DATES

July 7 to 11 1997
(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
7	Building permits	May 1997
10	New motor vehicle sales	May 1997
10	New Housing Price Index	May 1997
10	Help-wanted Index	June 1997
11	Labour Force Survey	June 1997
