



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, September 2, 1997

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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OTHER RELEASES

Hospital morbidity

1994/95

During fiscal year 1994/95, there were 3.5 million discharges from general and allied special hospitals in the provinces and territories. These discharges accounted for 37.5 million days of hospital care, with an average length of stay of 11 days. These figures refer to inpatient events only and exclude newborns and patients treated on an outpatient basis in, for example, emergency wards or day surgery programs. Comparable trend data for 1984/85 to 1994/95 are available for the provinces only.

During 1994/95, the number of hospital discharges fell moderately (-5%), whereas the discharge rate decline was much larger (-18%) — from 14,484 to 11,838 discharges per 100,000 population. At the same time, the annual number of hospital days fell (-10%) from 41.5 million to 37.5 million, reflecting, to some degree, a drop in the average length of stay from 11.4 to 10.9 days.

Surgical procedures accounted for 48% of total hospital discharges in 1994/95, just slightly below the level in 1984/85 (50%). However, there was a sharp 22% drop in the surgical procedure rate from 7,281 to 5,662 surgical procedures per 100,000 population.

Declines in hospital discharge rates are due, in part, to the trend toward more frequent use of ambulatory care and day surgery. Additionally, improved treatment methods as well as new pharmaceuticals may have reduced the need for hospitalization or surgical intervention.

Discharge abstract database

The Canadian Institute for Health Information also maintains the Discharge abstract database (DAD). The DAD, which currently covers fiscal years 1979/80 to 1996/97, is patient-specific and contains clinical, demographic and administrative data on patient discharges for acute, chronic, rehabilitation, day surgery and outpatient discharges. The DAD includes 85% of all hospital patient discharges and has proven useful in evaluating patient length of stay and resource consumption and in supporting facility-specific clinical research.

Mental health statistics, 1994/95

There were 211,342 discharges for mental disorders from Canadian hospitals in 1994/95. General hospitals accounted for the majority (84%) of these

discharges, with psychiatric hospitals making up the remaining 16%. The average length of stay in general hospitals (34 days) was much shorter than in psychiatric hospitals (271 days), which are more likely to treat long-term care patients.

Since 1984/85, the number of discharges for mental disorders has increased by 12% in general hospitals, but in psychiatric hospitals the number has fallen by 14%. However, the discharge rate has decreased in both types of hospitals. The discharge rate for general hospitals edged down 3% from 630 to 612 per 100,000 population. The decrease was much sharper (-31%) in psychiatric hospitals where the rate fell from 152 to 105 discharges per 100,000 population.

The decreases in the discharge rates from hospitals reflect the shift in treatment strategies for the mentally ill, with more emphasis on outpatient treatment in hospitals and community clinics, as well as the transfer of long-term chronic care patients to residential care facilities.

These statistics are counts of hospital discharges of cases diagnosed as mental disorders. Discharges are counts of events, not patients, so for example, a patient admitted and discharged three times during the reporting year would be counted as three discharges.

The 1994/95 data were collected from general hospitals and psychiatric hospitals by the Canadian Institute for Health Information. For further information on the 1994/95 data, contact Sherry Kennedy (416-429-0477, ext. 3532; fax: (416-429-1953), Canadian Institute for Health Information.

For further information on trends from 1984/85 to 1994/95, contact Rod Riley (613-951-1641), Health Statistics Division, Statistics Canada. ■

Sales of refined petroleum products

July 1997 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products totalled 8 061 700 cubic metres in July 1997, up 5.9% from a year earlier. The largest sales increases were recorded for diesel fuel oil (+170 400 cubic metres or +9.9%) and heavy fuel oil (+66 800 or +13.9%). The "All other refined products category," which includes propane, asphalt and partially finished products, also increased strongly (+75 600 cubic metres or +7.2%).

During the first seven months of 1997, sales increased for six of the seven major product groups. The 17.0% advance for heavy fuel oil was due to

greater use of the product in Atlantic Canada to generate electricity. Higher demand by the transport sector (railways and the truck transport industry) and increased usage by the crude petroleum and natural gas industry led to an 8.7% gain in diesel fuel oil sales. Sales of light fuel oil declined 8.7% from the same period in 1996.

Sales of refined petroleum products

| | July 1996 | July 1997 | July 1996 to July 1997 % |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|---|
| | '000 of cubic metres | | change |
| Total, all products | 7 609.1 | 8 061.7 | 5.9 |
| Motor gasoline | 3 230.8 | 3 344.3 | 3.5 |
| Diesel fuel oil | 1 729.1 | 1 899.5 | 9.9 |
| Light fuel oil | 162.4 | 154.6 | -4.8 |
| Heavy fuel oil | 478.9 | 545.7 | 13.9 |
| Aviation turbo fuels | 557.4 | 563.1 | 1.0 |
| Petrochemical feedstocks ¹ | 405.0 | 433.4 | 7.0 |
| All other refined products | 1 045.5 | 1 121.1 | 7.2 |

| | Jan. 1996 to July 1996 | Jan. 1997 to July 1997 | Jan.- July 1996 to Jan.- July 1997 % |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| | '000 of cubic metres | | change |
| Total, all products | 49 685.0 | 52 291.3 | 5.2 |
| Motor gasoline | 20 388.4 | 20 823.1 | 2.1 |
| Diesel fuel oil | 11 090.3 | 12 056.6 | 8.7 |
| Light fuel oil | 3 809.5 | 3 477.7 | -8.7 |
| Heavy fuel oil | 3 463.2 | 4 050.9 | 17.0 |
| Aviation turbo fuels | 3 132.0 | 3 353.0 | 7.1 |
| Petrochemical feedstocks ¹ | 2 617.1 | 2 846.4 | 8.8 |
| All other refined products | 5 184.5 | 5 683.6 | 9.6 |

¹ Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce chemicals, synthetic rubber and a variety of plastics.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 628-642 and 644-647.

The July 1997 issue of *Refined petroleum products* (45-004-XPB, \$21/\$206) will be available in October. See *How to order publications*.

For further information about this release, contact Nick Farinaccio (613-951-3563; Internet: farinic@statcan.ca), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending August 14, 1997

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending August 14, 1997, increased 12.4% to 4.8 million tonnes from the same period of last year. The number of cars loaded increased 12.7%.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totalled 336 000 tonnes, down 2.4% from the same period of last year. The year-to-date figures were up 12.5%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) increased 11.3% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 160 million tonnes, up 6.9% from the previous year.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For further information on this release, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2528; fax: 613-951-0579), Railway Transport Unit, Transportation Division. ■

Cement

July 1997

Manufacturers shipped 1 322 844 tonnes of cement in July, up 5.9% from 1 248 682 tonnes in July 1996, and up 5.4% from 1 255 478 tonnes in June 1997.

For January to July 1997, shipments totalled 6 121 114 tonnes, up 7.8% from 5 677 774 tonnes during the same period in 1996.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 92 and 122 (series 35).

The July 1997 issue of *Cement* (44-001-XPB, \$7/\$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Roland Joubert (613-951-3527; Internet: rjoubert@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

For-hire motor carriers of freight — top carriers

Second quarter 1997

In the second quarter of 1997, the top 74 for-hire motor carriers based in Canada (those earning \$25 million or more annually) generated \$1.25 billion in operating revenues and \$1.19 billion in operating expenses. The operating ratio (operating expenses divided by

operating revenues) improved to 0.95, from 0.96 in the second quarter of 1996 (any ratio over 1.00 represents an operating loss).

The operating ratio for carriers of specialized freight in the second quarter decreased by 2 points to 0.97 from the second quarter of 1996, while the operating ratio of general freight carriers increased by 1 point to 0.95 over the same period.

The 1997 second quarter data on the top for-hire carriers provided results from 55 general freight carriers (compared with 50 carriers in 1996) and 19 specialized freight carriers (compared with 17 carriers in 1996).

For further information, contact Gilles Paré (613-951-2517; fax: 613-951-0579), Transportation Division. ■

National economic and financial accounts Second quarter 1997

The following table should have appeared in the August 29th release of National economic and financial accounts.

GDP at 1986 Prices

| | % change | Annualized % change | Year-over-year % change |
|------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1st quarter 1996 | 0.3 | 1.4 | 0.6 |
| 2nd quarter 1996 | 0.4 | 1.4 | 1.2 |
| 3rd quarter 1996 | 0.8 | 3.3 | 1.8 |
| 4th quarter 1996 | 0.7 | 2.9 | 2.3 |
| 1st quarter 1997 | 0.9 | 3.7 | 2.8 |
| 2nd quarter 1997 | 1.2 | 4.9 | 3.7 |

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Farm cash receipts, January to June 1997
Catalogue number 21-001-XPB
(Canada: \$20/\$64; outside Canada: US\$20/US\$64).

Electric lamps (light bulbs and tubes), July 1997
Catalogue number 43-009-XPB
(Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

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

All prices exclude sales tax.

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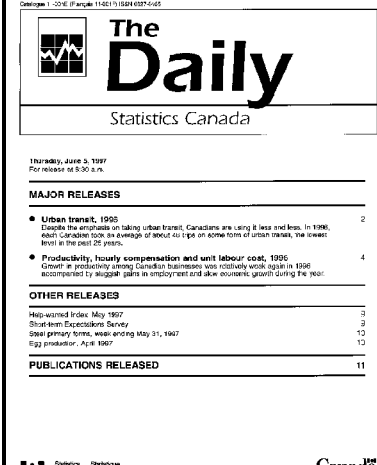
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, 68% of Canadians 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 notably 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 3
- Steel primary forms, season ending May 31, 1997 12
- Egg production, April 1997 13

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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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