



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, February 25, 1998  
For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Private and public investment, intentions 1998**  
Business and government spending in plant and equipment is expected to reach a record high in 1998. Investment spending has been increasing steadily since 1993.

2
- **Characteristics of international travellers, third quarter 1997**  
Americans travelling to Canada for at least one night increased their spending in the third quarter of 1997 compared with the same quarter of 1996 while residents of overseas countries spent less. The net result was positive for most of the Atlantic provinces but negative for Alberta and British Columbia.

6

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## OTHER RELEASES

---

- Crude oil and natural gas, 1997 and December 1997

9
- Historical Consumer Price Index data

10
- Databases for environmental analysis

10

---

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

---

11



## MAJOR RELEASES

### Private and public investment

Intentions 1998

Business and government investment spending in plant and equipment is expected to reach a record high \$120.1 billion in 1998, up 5.5% over 1997. Since 1993, investment spending has been increasing steadily, with the planned 1998 investments 35% higher than the level five years ago.

A combination of low interest rates, strong exports, soaring business profits, and near record high overall capacity utilization rates is keeping investment growth buoyant. Investment plans for 1998 show growth coming from both investments in machinery and equipment and investments in non-residential construction. Service-producing industries are expected to account for 55% of the total increase in investment, with goods-producing industries accounting for the remaining portion.

Investment in machinery and equipment is expected to be higher across many industries with chemical companies, railways, electric power, and banking leading the growth. Investment plans for building and engineering assets show the strongest year-over-year increase in four years, spurred largely by petroleum and gas, electric power, railway, and pipeline companies. After three years of strong increases, housing investment is expected to top \$41.1 billion in 1998, 41% above the 1995 level.

#### Note to readers

Investment intentions are based on a sample survey of 23,000 businesses, governments and institutions. The survey, conducted from October 1997 to January 1998, had a 71% response rate even though it was hampered in its data collection activities by the mail strike, as well as by the ice storm in Quebec and Ontario. The coefficient of variation, which measures the precision of the estimated data, is 0.5% at the Canada level. Data in this release are in current dollars.

### Transportation investments take off

Transportation companies plan to invest \$6 billion in 1998, \$1 billion more than in 1997. Over half of this increase is accounted for by railway companies, which are undertaking major investments in order to improve their competitive position in the North American market. Airports are also planning major capital expenditures in 1998.

Capital expenditures on oil and gas pipelines have steadily increased over the past two years, in tandem with growth in the oil and gas industry. In 1998 these expenditures are expected to rise by 12.2%, with most of the increase coming from Quebec and the Atlantic provinces.

### Investment in utilities heats up

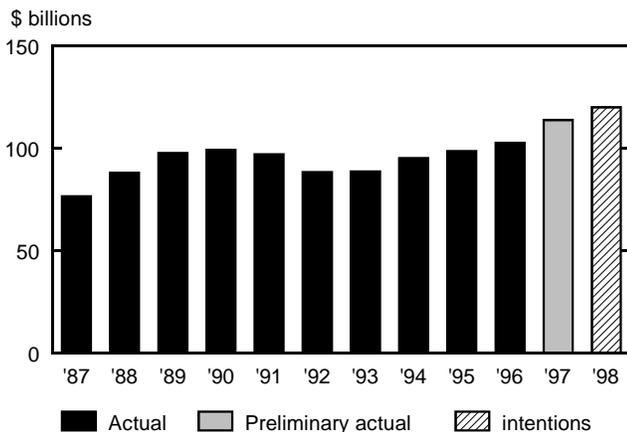
After declining in 1997, investment in utilities is expected to pick up in 1998 with electric power companies spending an additional \$1.1 billion. Most of this increase is expected to come from Quebec, and to a lesser extent, from Alberta and British Columbia.

### Investment in the petroleum industry keeps rising

The petroleum industry's investment plans show a 6.3% increase to \$15.4 billion in 1998 and follows last year's scorching 25% jump in investment. Strong U.S. demand for competitively priced Canadian petroleum and gas and expansion of the synthetic crude oil industry has been fuelling this investment growth.

Investments in Alberta's petroleum and manufacturing industries have received an added impetus for growth in recent years from the machinery and equipment tax rebate program offered by the provincial government.

#### Spending to continue to grow in plant and equipment



### Manufacturing investment tapers off

Investment growth in manufacturing is expected to slow to 1% in 1998. This is in sharp contrast to the strong investment growth seen since 1993. Lower capacity utilization rates in Ontario's automotive industry and completions of major projects in several provinces are contributing factors to this modest growth rate.

In contrast to lower investments in the automotive industry, spending in the chemical industry is expected to keep growing, reaching \$2.6 billion in 1998. Alberta is expected to account for 77% of this planned increase.

### Leasing investment continues to grow

The purchase of motor vehicles for lease to individuals and businesses continues to grow as leasing remains an attractive alternative to purchasing. Investments by leasing companies in cars and trucks are expected to reach \$12.4 billion in 1998. For other machinery and equipment as well, businesses are also turning to leasing arrangements rather than purchasing assets.

### Housing investment booming

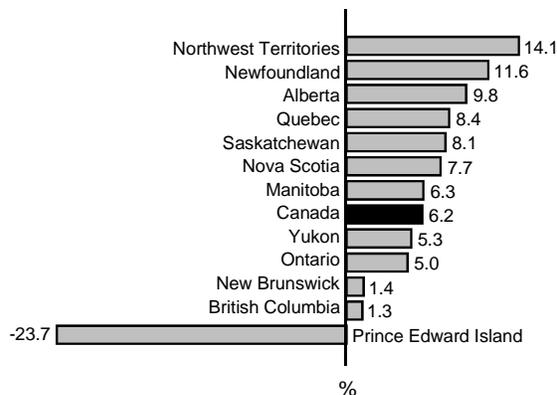
Investment in residential housing is expected to increase 8% in 1998, following a massive 17% jump in 1997. Investment in residential housing is 41% higher than the 1995 trough. Continued momentum in housing investment reflects low mortgage rates and stronger demand for new housing. Alberta and Ontario are expected to lead the way with increases of 19% and 10% respectively. In British Columbia, residential housing is expected to rise a mere 1%, a sharp contrast to the 7% growth for 1997.

The monthly Building and Demolitions Permit Survey for 1997, which provides an early indication of future building activity, also shows comparable growth for residential construction.

### Investment spending set to rise in all regions

The Northwest Territories and Newfoundland are expected to outpace all other provinces and territories in investment growth in 1998, with spending rising by 14.1% and 11.6%, respectively.

Growth highest in Northwest Territories and Newfoundland



Investment spending in Quebec is expected to surge ahead of the national average for the first time in three years. Investment plans in Quebec show an increase of 8.4% for 1998, ahead of the national average of 6.2%. Much of the increased investment in Quebec is expected to come from utilities, leasing companies, and residential construction.

Prince Edward Island is the only exception to this positive trend. Construction of the Confederation Bridge between Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick had elevated the total level of investment spending in both provinces. With the completion of this project, 1998 investment spending in Prince Edward Island is expected to decline by 23.7%.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 3101-3132, 3134 and 3135.**

*Private and public investment in Canada, Intentions 1998 (61-205-XPB, \$47) will be available shortly. See How to order publications.*

For further information on this release, contact Gilbert Paquette (613-951-9818; 1 800 571-0494; Internet: [gilbert@statcan.ca](mailto:gilbert@statcan.ca)). For analytical information, contact Susan Horsley (613-951-9815, ext. 122; 1 800 345-2294; Internet: [horsley@statcan.ca](mailto:horsley@statcan.ca)) or Irfan Hashmi (613-951-9815, ext. 120; 1 800 345-2294; Internet: [hashirf@statcan.ca](mailto:hashirf@statcan.ca)), Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Capital spending intentions of private and public organizations

		Capital expenditures			1997 preliminary actual to 1998 intentions	1996 actual to 1997 preliminary actual
		Construction	Machinery and equipment	Total		
		\$ millions			% change	
<b>Canada<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>80,288.1</b>	<b>54,983.0</b>	<b>135,271.2</b>		
	<b>1997</b>	<b>88,166.4</b>	<b>63,625.6</b>	<b>151,792.0</b>		
	<b>1998</b>	<b>94,026.4</b>	<b>67,135.4</b>	<b>161,161.8</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>12.2</b>
Newfoundland	1996	1,764.9	526.7	2,291.6		
	1997	1,955.0	550.1	2,505.1		
	1998	2,188.0	606.7	2,794.7	11.6	9.3
Prince Edward Island	1996	368.6	125.0	493.6		
	1997	345.7	144.2	489.9		
	1998	247.5	126.2	373.7	-23.7	-0.7
Nova Scotia	1996	1,746.2	1,274.4	3,020.6		
	1997	1,940.9	1,828.4	3,769.2		
	1998	2,428.6	1,629.2	4,057.8	7.7	24.8
New Brunswick	1996	1,675.7	999.2	2,674.9		
	1997	1,584.9	941.3	2,526.3		
	1998	1,609.9	952.6	2,562.6	1.4	-5.6
Quebec	1996	15,036.7	11,269.0	26,306.2		
	1997	15,687.1	12,158.0	27,845.1		
	1998	17,122.3	13,049.9	30,172.2	8.4	5.9
Ontario	1996	25,562.8	25,087.4	50,650.2		
	1997	27,827.9	28,986.9	56,814.8		
	1998	29,591.6	30,053.7	59,645.3	5.0	12.2
Manitoba	1996	2,420.1	1,632.1	4,052.1		
	1997	2,703.3	1,947.7	4,651.0		
	1998	2,903.9	2,038.4	4,942.3	6.3	14.8
Saskatchewan	1996	3,394.2	1,991.3	5,385.5		
	1997	4,180.4	2,429.5	6,610.0		
	1998	4,362.4	2,780.2	7,142.6	8.1	22.7
Alberta	1996	14,534.6	6,263.8	20,798.3		
	1997	17,671.8	8,125.3	25,797.2		
	1998	18,888.0	9,437.9	28,325.9	9.8	24.0
British Columbia	1996	13,347.6	5,665.7	19,013.3		
	1997	13,581.5	6,374.8	19,956.3		
	1998	13,961.4	6,258.0	20,219.4	1.3	5.0
Yukon	1996	157.7	44.5	202.1		
	1997	163.9	44.4	208.3		
	1998	171.2	48.1	219.3	5.3	3.0
Northwest Territories	1996	279.3	103.5	382.8		
	1997	524.0	94.9	618.9		
	1998	551.5	154.4	705.9	14.1	61.7

<sup>1</sup> 1996 actual, followed by 1997 preliminary actual, then 1998 intentions.

**Note:** Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

**Capital spending intentions of private and public organizations**

	1996 actual	1997 preliminary actual	1998 intentions	1997 preliminary actual to 1998 intentions	1996 actual to 1997 preliminary actual
	\$ millions			% change	
<b>Total</b>	<b>135,271.2</b>	<b>151,792.0</b>	<b>161,161.8</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>12.2</b>
Plant and equipment	102,696.0	113,819.0	120,059.3	5.5	10.8
Housing	32,575.2	37,973.0	41,102.5	8.2	16.6
Goods-producing industries	46,906.0	51,644.8	54,433.2	5.4	10.1
Services-producing industries	55,789.9	62,174.2	65,626.1	5.6	11.4
<b>Divisions</b>					
Agriculture	3,743.9	4,075.3	4,372.6	7.3	8.9
Fishing and trapping	102.8	104.2	105.9	1.6	1.4
Logging and forestry	374.0	318.2	405.4	27.4	-14.9
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	15,052.3	18,510.4	19,321.6	4.4	23.0
Manufacturing	18,247.3	19,148.2	19,346.7	1.0	4.9
Construction	1,991.8	2,225.8	2,394.3	7.6	11.7
Transportation and storage	6,104.1	7,327.7	8,775.0	19.8	20.0
Communication and other utilities	13,376.2	14,806.6	16,149.9	9.1	10.7
Wholesale trade	2,539.5	2,981.8	2,882.0	-3.3	17.4
Retail trade	2,867.3	3,100.0	3,020.0	-2.6	8.1
Finance and insurance	9,772.8	13,908.7	15,669.0	12.7	42.3
Real estate operators	1,799.9	2,015.1	2,264.4	12.4	12.0
Business services	2,289.7	2,031.2	2,182.2	7.4	-11.3
Government	13,293.6	12,672.4	13,169.4	3.9	-4.7
Educational	3,356.4	3,077.3	2,924.2	-5.0	-8.3
Health and social	2,065.7	1,977.8	1,936.8	-2.1	-4.3
Accommodation, food and beverage	860.1	974.6	638.4	-34.5	13.3
Other services	4,858.5	4,563.6	4,501.2	-1.4	-6.1

**Note:** Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.



## Characteristics of international travellers

Third quarter 1997

Americans travelling to Canada for at least one night increased their spending in the third quarter of 1997 compared with the same quarter of 1996, while residents of overseas countries spent less. The net result was positive for most of the Atlantic provinces, but negative for Alberta and British Columbia.

### More Americans flying to Canada for an overnight stay

American tourists injected \$2.5 billion directly into the Canadian economy during their 5.9 million overnight stays in the third quarter of 1997. It was a \$140-million increase (+5.8%) over the amount spent during the same quarter of the previous year.

The fallout from the Open Skies agreement (implemented in February 1995 to liberalize cross-border plane travel between Canada and the United States) has been positive for Canada. In the third quarter of 1997, Americans flew to Canada for almost 1.2 million trips of one or more nights, up 7.7% from the previous summer. Meanwhile, the number of car trips of at least one night by Americans to Canada remained at 3.9 million.

The proportion of Americans who flew to Canada to spend at least one night stood at 20% in the summer of 1997, up from 15% in 1994. The impact of this change in the American market profile is important for the Canadian economy. While still more American tourists drove across the border during the third quarter of 1997 than flew to Canada, the latter generally came from farther away, stayed longer in Canada (five nights compared with four) and spent twice as much on average per night (\$160 compared with \$80).

Overall, American tourists who flew to Canada spent \$1.0 billion during the summer of 1997, up 8.3% from the previous summer.

Travellers who came to Canada to visit friends and relatives had the largest increase in the number of their overnight trips in the third quarter of 1997 (+23.3%, to 195,000). Overnight business (+7.7%) and leisure trips (+4.1%) were also up.

American business travellers who entered Canada by plane spent 4.5% less on average per night and their total spending in the third quarter dropped from \$354 million in 1996 to \$343 million in 1997 (-3.2%). However, spending by travellers visiting friends and relatives (+22.0%) or on holidays (+17.3%) jumped.

#### Note to readers

Summer is the third quarter (July, August and September).

The Atlantic provinces are Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

A tourist is a traveller who stays at least one night in a place visited.

Comparisons are made with the same quarter of previous years.

Spending excludes international transportation fares.

### Americans made more overnight visits to most Atlantic provinces

Most Atlantic provinces received a greater number of visits of at least one night from Americans during the third quarter of 1997. Americans made 153,000 overnight visits to Prince Edward Island, a 50% jump from the summer of 1996. The 13-kilometre Confederation Bridge over Northumberland Strait, which facilitates access to the island from New Brunswick, was officially opened to traffic on the last day of May.

### Number of overnight trips by Americans to Canada Third quarter of 1997

State of residence	Trips (thousands)	Average length of stay (nights)	Spending per night \$	Total spending (\$millions)
<b>By car</b>				
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,886</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>1,267</b>
New York	543	3.3	74	134
Michigan	515	3.0	79	123
Washington	413	3.8	71	109
Ohio	235	4.4	79	81
Pennsylvania	231	4.4	84	86
<b>By plane</b>				
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,162</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>968</b>
California	202	6.2	140	176
Texas	102	4.8	195	96
Florida	73	6.2	115	52
Illinois	66	4.0	203	53
New York	62	5.2	174	56

During their stays, American travellers spent \$40 million in Prince Edward Island, 37% more than the previous year. Americans also made 22% more visits of at least one night to Nova Scotia (266,000) and 13% more to New Brunswick (245,000). However, their visits to Newfoundland were down almost one-third, to 19,000.

The Yukon benefitted from the largest increase of overnight visits by Americans (+43%) after Prince

Edward Island. Americans made 158,000 visits to the Yukon and spent \$47 million.

### **Overseas tourists spent less in Canada**

Overseas residents made 1.8 million overnight trips to Canada in the third quarter of 1997, down 5.1%. Leisure travellers seem to have been more sensitive than other travellers to the drop in the value of the currency of many European countries and the Japanese yen compared with the Canadian dollar. Overseas residents reduced the number of their overnight stays in Canada by 15%. Meanwhile, business travellers (+16%) and those who came to visit friends and relatives (+10%) increased the number of their overnight trips to Canada.

The positive impact of the increased spending by American tourists to Canada in the third quarter of 1997 was tapered by a \$43 million decrease in spending by overseas tourists (-2.1%), at \$2.1 billion.

The reductions in spending by overseas residents were largest in Alberta and British Columbia. Europeans spent \$160 million in British Columbia, down 33% from the previous year and the smallest amount since the summer of 1991. Meanwhile, Asians reduced their spending in that province by 20%, to \$92 million. In Alberta, Europeans spent 24% less and Asians, 19% less.

This release presents a brief overview of data now available from the International Travel Survey. The tables on which this analysis is based, as well as various statistical profiles and microdata files of characteristics of international travellers for the third quarter of 1997, are now available on request. To order one of these products or for further information, contact Luc Dubois (613-951-1674; Internet: [duboluc@statcan.ca](mailto:duboluc@statcan.ca)), International Travel Section, Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. □

**Overnight stays by foreigners in Canada**  
Third quarter of 1997

	Stays			Change from third quarter of 1996 (%)		
	Americans	Overseas residents	Total	Americans	Overseas residents	Total
	(thousands)			%		
<b>Trips<sup>1</sup> to Canada</b>	<b>5,939</b>	<b>1,842</b>	<b>7,781</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>-5.1</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>Visits<sup>1</sup> in provinces and territories</b>						
Newfoundland	19	19	38	-30.7	-17.9	-24.9
Prince Edward Island	153	33	186	50.2	19.1	43.6
Nova Scotia	266	73	339	21.7	-3.1	15.3
New Brunswick	245	47	292	12.6	4.7	11.2
Quebec	792	628	1,421	0.6	2.1	1.2
Ontario	3,091	988	4,079	2.8	3.6	3.0
Manitoba	139	36	176	1.3	-0.8	0.8
Saskatchewan	102	28	130	10.9	7.4	10.1
Alberta	518	334	853	-4.0	-25.5	-13.8
British Columbia	1,393	474	1,867	4.4	-26.7	-5.8
Yukon	158	43	201	43.3	-27.0	18.7
Northwest Territories	27	2	30	272.7	-56.5	132.1

<sup>1</sup> One or more nights

**Spending during overnight stays by foreigners in Canada**  
Third quarter of 1997

	Spending			Change from third quarter of 1996 (%)		
	Americans	Overseas residents	Total	Americans	Overseas residents	Total
	(thousands)			%		
<b>Spending in Canada</b>	<b>2,544</b>	<b>2,061</b>	<b>4,606</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>-2.1</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>Spending in provinces and territories</b>						
Newfoundland	22	15	38	-0.4	-28.8	-14.2
Prince Edward Island	40	13	53	37.4	26.0	34.4
Nova Scotia	123	58	180	18.5	2.7	12.9
New Brunswick	56	17	73	17.0	16.1	16.8
Quebec	355	517	872	-7.2	7.0	0.7
Ontario	953	748	1,701	2.6	16.8	8.4
Manitoba	42	18	59	-5.1	31.0	3.5
Saskatchewan	29	13	42	35.4	38.4	36.3
Alberta	257	232	489	-1.5	-19.7	-11.1
British Columbia	604	415	1,019	16.4	-22.7	-3.5
Yukon	47	13	60	29.0	-42.2	1.3
Northwest Territories	16	2	18	119.4	-71.8	35.6

## OTHER RELEASES

### Crude oil and natural gas

1997 and December 1997

In December, crude oil production rose 4.5% over the same period in 1996 as a result of advances in exports and steady demand by Canadian refineries. This was the seventh consecutive monthly year-over-year advance in crude oil production.

Natural gas production decreased 1.2% from the December 1996 level, following several months of relatively robust growth. The weakness was due to a sharp decline in domestic sales, as a result of warmer than normal weather conditions throughout most of Canada. Exports of natural gas were 5.3% higher than in December 1996.

For the year, crude oil production was up 4.2% over 1996, principally the result of an 8.4% advance in exports. Canadian crude oil has found a ready market in the United States, where reliance on shipments from the Persian Gulf and declines in domestic production have increased the demand for shipments from Canada. In 1997, over 57% of Canada's annual crude oil production was exported, virtually all to the United States.

Concurrently, natural gas production rose a modest 1.7% over the 1996 level. Growth in exports slowed in 1997 (up 2.5% over 1996) as a result of pipeline capacity restrictions. All major export points have reached the upper limit of existing pipelines' capacity to transport gas into the United States. A number of projects that will increase pipeline capacity are underway, but these facilities will likely not be operational before late 1998. Natural gas from Canada accounts for nearly 13% of U.S. consumption.

### Crude oil and natural gas

	Dec. 1996	Dec. 1997	Dec. 1996 to Dec. 1997
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
<b>Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons<sup>1</sup></b>			
Production	10 271.6	10 729.4	4.5
Exports	6 170.9	7 077.8	14.7
Imports <sup>2</sup>	3 334.3	4 501.3	35.0
Refinery receipts	7 781.6	8 899.3	14.4
	millions of cubic metres		% change
<b>Natural gas<sup>3</sup></b>			
Marketable production	14 289.7	14 119.7	-1.2
Exports	7 401.1	7 791.5	5.3
Canadian sales <sup>4</sup>	7 856.3	7 169.8	-8.7
	Jan. 1996	Jan. 1997	Jan. - Dec. 1996
	to	to	to
	Dec. 1996	Dec. 1997	Jan. - Dec. 1997
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
<b>Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons<sup>1</sup></b>			
Production	117 620.5	122 565.9	4.2
Exports	65 258.1	70 711.3	8.4
Imports <sup>2</sup>	39 731.2	44 280.2	11.4
Refinery receipts	92 687.0	96 563.5	4.2
	millions of cubic metres		% change
<b>Natural gas<sup>3</sup></b>			
Marketable production	153 578.3	156 183.1	1.7
Exports	80 117.1	82 091.1	2.5
Canadian sales <sup>4</sup>	67 218.9	67 443.8	0.3

<sup>1</sup> Disposition may differ from production due to inventory change, industry own-use, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Crude oil received by Canadian refineries from foreign countries for processing. Data may differ from International Trade Division (ITD) estimates due to timing differences and the inclusion of crude oil landed in Canada for future re-export in the ITD data.

<sup>3</sup> Disposition may differ from production due to inventory change, usage as pipeline fuel, pipeline losses, line-pack fluctuations, etc.

<sup>4</sup> Includes direct sales.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 530 and 539.

The December 1997 issue of *Crude petroleum and natural gas production* (26-006-XPB, \$19/\$186) will be available in March. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Gérard O'Connor (613-951-3562, Internet: [oconger@statcan.ca](mailto:oconger@statcan.ca)), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### **Historical Consumer Price Index data**

Historical Consumer Price Index data up to December 1997 have been rebased to a 1992=100 time base and are now available.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 9940-9970.**

For further information, contact Sandra Shadlock (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-2848; Internet: [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)), Prices Division. ■

### **Databases for environmental analysis**

Databases for environmental analysis for federal, provincial and territorial governments are now available.

For further information or to order the CD-ROM *Databases for environmental analysis: Federal, provincial and territorial governments* (16-506-XCB, \$30), contact Anne-Marie Bridger (613-951-5342), National Accounts and Environment Division. ■

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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

**Food industries, 1995**  
**Catalogue number 32-250-XPB**  
(Canada: \$40; outside Canada: US\$40).

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

**Canadian international merchandise trade,**  
December 1997  
**Catalogue number 65-001-XPB**  
(Canada: \$19/\$188; outside Canada: US\$19/US\$188).

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