

Statistics Canada

Thursday, April 30, 1998

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

Gross domestic product at factor cost, February 1998 GDP rebounded 0.9% in February to the level that prevailed prior to the ice storm. Economic activity had plunged in January after several days of freezing rain blanketed large areas of Eastern Canada and caused widespread power blackouts. 3

Youth court statistics, 1996/97 Youth courts in Canada have heard fewer cases in recent years compared with the early 1990s. These declines are consistent with police statistical reports that showed a drop in the number of youths charged.

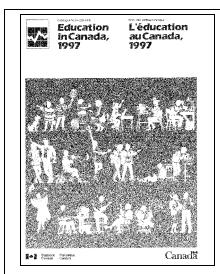
7

OTHER RELEASES

Steel primary forms, week ending April 25, 1998

10

(continued on following page)



Education in Canada

1997

Are you looking for data on education in Canada? Do you want to research issues and trends in more depth? Consult Statistics Canada's annual review, *Education in Canada*, which summarizes data on institutions, enrolment, graduates, teachers and finance for all levels of education. Its 70 tables and more than 200 pages present a comprehensive overview of the key variables in Canadian education.

Ten-year time series are shown for most variables at the Canada level and five-year time series at the provincial level. The publication also provides demographic data from the Census of Canada and figures on educational attainment, labour force participation rates and unemployment rates of the adult population from the Labour Force Survey.

Education in Canada, 1997 is now available on paper (81-229-XPB, \$51) or as an electronic document (81-229-XIB, \$38), which can be downloaded directly from www.statcan.ca. See How to order publications.

For further information on this release, contact Jim Seidle (613-951-1500; fax: 613-951-9040; <code>seidjim@statcan.ca</code>), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.





The Daily, April 30, 1998

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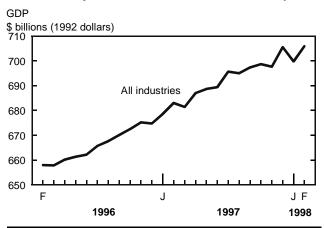
MAJOR RELEASES

Gross domestic product at factor cost

February 1998

GDP rebounded 0.9% in February to the level that prevailed prior to the ice storm. Economic activity had plunged in January after several days of freezing rain blanketed large areas of Eastern Canada and caused widespread power blackouts.

Economy rebounds from storm-induced drop



With the storm behind them, manufacturers staged a full recovery, while retailers and wholesalers made up only half their January declines. As in January, construction was once again buoyed by the costly repair effort required to restore the electric power grid. Insurers, meanwhile, suffered a setback as claims for storm-related damages skyrocketed. Mining lost ground for a second consecutive month amid depressed metal prices and unseasonably warm winter weather.

Manufacturers lead ice storm rebound

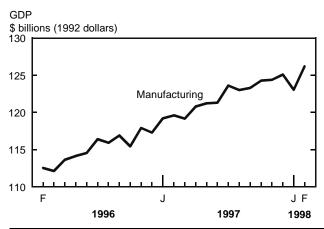
Manufacturing output surged 2.6% in February, more than erasing the decline induced by the ice storm in January. The latest increase leaves the January-to-February average slightly above the comparable average for the fourth quarter of 1997, and it marks the return of the industry to the solid growth path evident since early 1996.

Note to readers

The gross domestic product (GDP) of an industry is the value added by labour and capital in transforming inputs purchased from other producers into outputs. Monthly GDP by industry is valued at 1992 prices. The estimates presented here are seasonally adjusted at annual rates.

In December 1997, monthly GDP estimates by industry were released for the first time at 1992 prices, and the data were made available from January 1992. Data are now available from January 1981. Data for the period from 1961 to 1980 will be released at a later date.

Manufacturers lead rebound



Most of the largest increases were in areas known to have been affected by the storm: makers of electronic products, fabricated metal products, and the printing and publishing industry all rebounded strongly. As well, a host of smaller industries that are well represented in the storm-stricken zone increased output. These include makers of textiles and textile products, plastics, clothing, furniture, toys and sporting goods. Overall, the gains were widespread: 19 of 22 major industrial groups, accounting for over 90% of total manufacturing production, advanced.

Output of fabricated metal products soared as most establishments affected by the ice storm caught up on lost production. The largest advances were made by machine shops, and makers of wire and wire products and metal stampings. The machinery industry also increased output, partly reversing three consecutive declines.

After three declines in a row, production of electrical and electronic equipment shot up as makers

of business machines and computer components (both of which experienced storm-related disruptions) raised output. Production of telecommunications equipment was flat following a large gain in January that erased two months of weakness.

An end to scheduled shutdowns in January at two large auto assembly plants returned the auto and parts sector to December's production levels. The broader transportation equipment industry also found support from an increase in other transportation equipment, where makers of small personal craft increased output after a six-month string of declines.

The chemical industry yielded the only large drop in manufacturing: output of pharmaceutical products and industrial chemicals both fell.

Wholesalers and retailers stage partial recovery

Despite enjoying 1.1% sales growth in February, wholesalers regained only part of the ground lost in January. Sales rose for most categories of goods, including motor vehicles, metal and hardware, and household goods. However, distributors of motor vehicles recouped only part of January's loss, and they still remained significantly below their recent October peak. Moreover, wholesalers of machinery and equipment experienced a second consecutive decline, after an almost uninterrupted string of increases in 1997.

Retail and wholesale trade stage partial recovery

GDP
\$ billions (1992 dollars)

44

42

Retail trade

40

38

Wholesale trade

34

F

1996

1997

1998

Retailers, whose activities were disrupted by numerous store closures during January's ice storm, enjoyed 0.7% higher sales in February. Growth was widespread, leaving most retailers at or above their December sales levels. In particular, most clothing and

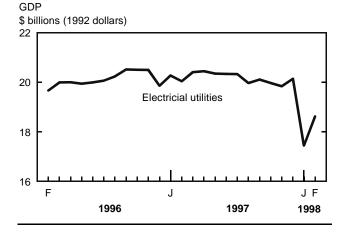
furniture stores, as well as stores selling other durable goods (such as jewellery, bicycles and sporting goods) saw sales advance at a healthy clip after they declined in January.

A second consecutive drop in sales by auto dealers, however, tempered the retail industry's overall advance. February unit sales of motor vehicles failed to return to earlier levels after a plunge in January following a high December level that had been sparked by generous dealer incentives. In particular, sales of pricier trucks and sport utility vehicles have slumped since December. Excluding the merchandising of automobiles, the sales of all other retailers were up 1.3% in February.

Electrical utilities continue to feel the weather's pinch...

Electrical utilities retraced about half of the storm-induced decline observed in the previous month, rising 6.8% in February. The utilities' incomplete recovery was partly accounted for by the reduced but still significant cost of repairing the damaged distribution system. The weather was also a factor in February's lacklustre performance: unseasonably warm temperatures lessened demand for electricity, leading the utilities to produce less output than usual for the time of year. The same warm weather pattern was also responsible for a decline in the gas distribution industry, the eighth in nine months.

Utilities still feeling impact of weather



... but construction activity benefits in storm's aftermath...

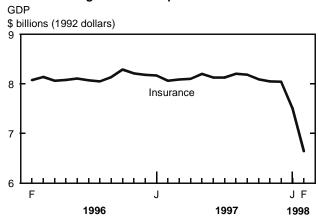
Total construction activity increased 1.5% after an even larger storm-related surge in January. The repair and engineering construction industry was buoyed for a second month by the massive effort needed to restore the damaged power grid, while residential and non-residential builders reported strong gains in February as work returned to normal at sites in the storm-stricken area. With the push to restore power to hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses now mostly over, the reconstruction effort began to focus on the task of rebuilding and renewing the system's infrastructure.

Homebuilding activity, which appeared to slow down in the latter part of 1997 after a solid recovery in the previous year, posted the largest of four consecutive gains and is trending up again. Activity at non-residential building sites, which has taken off in the last six months, is on a distinctly upward trend after being flat since the end of 1992. February's rise at commercial building sites was the largest monthly increase in almost six years.

...while insurers pay the bill

After experiencing a 6.7% decline in January, GDP in the insurance industry fell by a further 11.5% in February as the pace of processing a backlog of storm damage claims accelerated. The ice storm has so far led to hundreds of thousands of claims (most of them by homeowners and real estate operators for damage to residential properties) that may eventually amount to more than \$1 billion. In terms of the value and number of claims, January's ice storm dwarfs recent disasters such as the Saguenay and Winnipeg floods. However, the domestic insurance industry is large and well capitalized. Moreover, the practice of spreading the risk of covering large claims through international reinsurance arrangements also softened the burden on the domestic insurance industry.

Surge in claims squeezes insurers



Mining sector loses ground again

Declining prices and unseasonably warm winter weather got the better of the mining, quarrying and oil well sector for a second consecutive month. The 0.8% drop, which saw almost all metal and non-metal mining industries post declines, was particularly pronounced among producers of potash, gold and base metals such as copper, lead, zinc and nickel. For some time now, prices of many metals have suffered the combined effects of slackening Asian demand and worldwide overcapacity, and some higher-cost mines have cut back production as a result.

Production of crude oil and natural gas also edged down for a second month in a row, prolonging a period of generally lacklustre growth. The most recent setbacks were partly accounted for by unusually mild winter weather, which has depressed demand for natural gas.

Other industries

A recovery in trucking activity led the transportation industry to a 1.7% increase in February. Business services advanced 0.7% on strength from the computer services industry.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4677-4681.

The February 1998 issue of Gross domestic product by industry (15-001-XPB, \$14/\$140) will be released in early May. See How to order publications.

For analytical information on this release, contact Richard Evans (613-951-9145; evanric@statcan.ca). For information about purchasing data, contact Kim Lauzon (613-951-9417; lauzonk@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division.

Gross domestic product at factor cost by industry (1992 prices)

	Sept. 1997 ^r	Oct. 1997 ^r	Nov. 1997 ^r	Dec. 1997 ^r	Jan. 1998 ^r	Feb. 1998 ^p	Jan. 1998 to	Feb. 1998	Feb. 1997 to
							Feb. 1998		Feb. 1998
			5	seasonally ad	djusted				
		month-to	o-month % cl	nange			\$ change ¹	\$ level ¹	% change
All industries	0.3	0.2	-0.2	1.1	-0.8	0.9	6,238	705,964	3.4
Goods-producing industries	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.7	-1.5	2.0	4,726	237,160	4.2
Agriculture	-0.1	0.9	-0.2	-0.2	0.7	8.0	94	12,296	0.1
Fishing and trapping	8.6	-8.6	-4.8	-0.7	8.5	1.1	10	894	-5.7
Logging and forestry	1.2	0.8	-0.4	-1.2	-0.1	0.2	7	4,164	1.9
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	-0.9	1.5	0.0	2.4	-1.7	-0.8	-236	28,582	2.9
Manufacturing	0.2	0.8	0.1	0.6	-1.6	2.6	3,149	126,205	5.5
Construction	1.1	-0.1	0.9	0.5	3.4	1.5	607	41,988	9.6
Other utilities	0.4	-0.7	-0.7	0.8	-10.6	5.0	1,095	23,031	-6.3
Services-producing industries	0.4	0.0	-0.3	1.3	-0.5	0.3	1,512	468,804	2.9
Transportation and storage	0.5	0.5	-0.5	2.3	-2.9	0.7	212	29,882	1.3
Communications	0.4	0.5	-2.4	3.5	0.6	-0.2	-64	25,776	6.2
Wholesale trade	1.7	2.1	-1.1	2.5	-2.5	1.1	472	41,747	6.3
Retail trade	0.2	0.2	-0.6	2.9	-1.1	0.7	271	41,821	4.5
Finance and insurance	0.6	-0.3	-0.2	0.2	-2.2	-2.1	-741	35,037	-1.2
Real estate and insurance agent	0.1	0.2	-0.2	0.2	0.6	1.4	1,067	76,299	3.1
Business services	1.5	0.6	0.3	0.8	1.0	0.7	281	41,231	10.3
Government services	-0.1	-0.5	0.4	0.2	-0.1	0.0	6	40,395	-1.1
Education	-0.8	-3.4	0.0	4.0	-0.1	-0.1	-44	40,407	-0.3
Health and social services	0.0	0.5	-0.1	0.2	0.3	-0.3	-123	48,916	1.2
Accommodation and food	0.3	-0.9	1.3	0.4	-0.5	0.5	97	18,786	3.8
Other services	0.5	0.3	-0.1	0.5	0.2	0.3	78	28,507	3.1
Other aggregations									
Industrial production	0.1	0.7	0.0	0.9	-2.9	2.3	4,008	177,818	3.4
Non-durable manufacturing	0.0	1.1	-0.3	0.5	-0.9	1.2	664	55,911	2.5
Durable manufacturing	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6	-2.2	3.7	2,485	70,294	8.0
Business sector	0.5	0.5	-0.2	1.1	-1.0	1.1	6,335	580,005	4.2
Non-business sector	-0.3	-1.2	0.1	1.4	0.1	-0.1	-97	125,959	-0.3

Revised figures.

Preliminary figures.

Millions of dollars at annual rate.

Youth court statistics

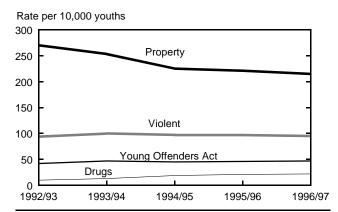
1996/97

Youth courts in Canada have heard fewer cases in recent years compared with the early 1990s. These declines are consistent with police statistical reports that showed a drop in the number of youths charged. In 1996/97, youth courts processed 110,065 cases, down marginally from the previous year, but down 4.4% from 1992/93.

The overall caseload rate in 1996/97 (455 cases per 10,000 youths) was 8.5% lower than in 1992/93. (For the purposes of this report, historical comparisons are limited to five years.) Survey coverage prior to 1992/93 was incomplete in Ontario, a province that accounts for 4 in 10 cases in Canada.

The rate of property crime, a crime category that accounted for about one-half of all youth court cases, dropped 20.6% from 1992/93 to 1996/97. The violent crime rate was up 1.9% over the five years; however, much of the growth occurred between 1992/93 and 1993/94. Violent crime cases have accounted for one-fifth of the caseload since 1992/93.

Violent crime case rates have increased slightly since 1992/93, property crime rates have dropped



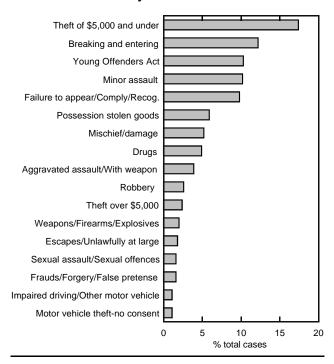
Drug crime cases have doubled from 2,331 cases in 1992/93 to 5,353 in 1996/97, although the drug crime rate continued to be low (22 cases per 10,000 youths in 1996/97). Police statistics suggest that almost two-thirds of the youths charged with drug crimes in 1996 were charged for possession of cannabis.

Most common crimes are property offences

The two most common crimes heard in youth court were "property crimes theft under" (theft of

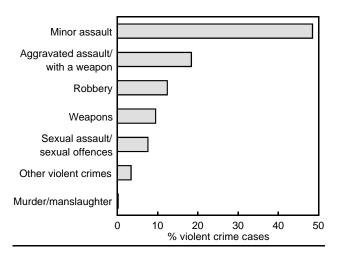
goods valued at \$5,000 and under) and "breaking and entering". The next most common case was an offence under the Young Offenders Act, meaning "failure to comply with a youth court disposition". Drug cases accounted for 5% of the caseload.

Property crimes are the most common cases in youth courts



Since 1992/93, about one-half of the violent crime cases were minor assaults. Murder/manslaughter cases accounted for less than 1% of cases heard in youth court.

About one-half of violent crime cases are for minor assault



Highest case rates in Western Canada

In 1996/97, Ontario accounted for 42% of the national youth court caseload, at a rate of 529 cases per 10,000 youths. The lowest case rates among the provinces were in Quebec, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. By contrast, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta had the highest rates. Differences in caseload rates among the provinces may be a result of many factors: the initial reporting of criminal incidents to police by citizens, police diversion of youths away from the court system, and the availability and conditions of alternative measure programs.

Youth court case rates and youth population 1996/97

	Case rates per 10,000 youths	% of youth court cases	% of youth population
Canada	455	100	100
Saskatchewan	891	8	4
Manitoba	716	6	4
Alberta	642	14	10
Newfoundland	536	3	3
Ontario	529	42	36
Nova Scotia	467	3	3
Prince Edward Island	386	<1	<1
New Brunswick	377	2	2
British Columbia	353	10	12
Quebec	195	10	12

Since 1992/93, 16- and 17-year-old youths have appeared more often in youth court than other age

groups. In 1996/97, 16- and 17-year-olds accounted for 49% of cases, while 12- and 13-year-olds accounted for 12%. Males accounted for 8 in 10 cases and they predominated in all age groups in 1996/97. The number of females appearing before the court has risen slowly, from 18% of cases in 1992-93 to 20% in 1996/97.

Cases continued to be processed quickly. Almost one-half of cases were completed (from first appearance to sentencing) in two months or less in 1996/97, and only 20% of cases lingered longer than six months (excludes Alberta).

Revisions to the Young Offenders Act in 1995 made a transfer to adult court the standard for the most serious violent crime cases involving 16- and 17-year-olds, unless otherwise ruled by the court. Nevertheless, a transfer to adult court continued to be seldom ordered: transfers accounted for less than 0.1% of the caseload in 1996/97. Of the 92 cases transferred to adult court, 6 in 10 were for violent crimes, and about 3 in 10 involved property crimes.

About two-thirds of youth court cases have resulted in guilty findings since 1992/93. The majority of convictions resulted in a sentence to be served in the community. Again, probation was the most serious disposition in one-half of cases with guilty findings (51% in 1996/97). Four in five probation terms were for 12 months or less.

In 1996/97, custody was the most common sentence ordered in cases involving serious violent offences such as murder/manslaughter (88%), aggravated assault (79%) and robbery (57%). As well, certain administrative offence cases tended to result in terms of custody: escape from custody (88%) and being unlawfully at large (89%).

In 1996/97, terms of custody were shorter: 75% of cases with guilty findings had a term of custody of three months or less, up from 71% in 1992/93. The two most common cases, breaking and entering, and theft valued at \$5,000 and under, resulted in median terms of custody of three months and one month respectively in 1996/97. The median custodial term for all cases was 1.5 months.

Four in ten convictions in 1996/97 involved repeat offenders. Repeat young offenders received increasingly harsher sentences as the number of prior convictions increased. Persistent offenders (those with at least three prior convictions) accounted for 11% of convictions. Males were more likely to be persistent offenders than females (12% of the male caseload versus 6% of the female).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 8900-8921.

The annual report, *Youth court statistics, 1996/97* (85-522-XPB, \$37) is now available. A microfiche version of the annual report is also available (85-522-XMB, \$27). See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (613-951-9023; 1 800 387-2231).

Cases heard in youth courts, by major crime category

	1992/	1992/93		1996/97		1992/93 to 1996/97	
	Number	Rate per 10,000 youths	Number	Rate per 10,000 youths	Number	Rate per 10,000 youths	
					% change		
Total cases	115,187	497	110,065	455	-4.4	-8.5	
Violent	21,653	94	23,044	95	6.4	1.9	
Property	62,456	270	51,767	214	-17.1	-20.6	
Other Criminal Code ¹	18,517	80	18,285	76	-1.3	-5.4	
Drug	2,331	10	5,353	22	129.6	120.0	
Young Offenders Act	9,780	42	11,335	47	15.9	11.0	
Other federal statutes	450	2	281	1	-37.6	-40.2	

Includes traffic crime.

OTHER RELEASES

Steel primary forms

Week ending April 25, 1998 (preliminary)

Production of steel primary forms for the week ending April 25, 1998, totalled 310 743 metric tonnes, down 4.2% from 324 431 tonnes a week earlier, but up 2.3% from 303 753 tonnes a year earlier.

The year-to-date total at the end of the week was 5 121 800 tonnes, a 9.5% increase compared with 4 678 780 tonnes for the same period in 1997.

For further information on this release, contact Huguette Montcalm (613-951-9827; monthug@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Asphalt roofing

March 1998

Production of asphalt shingles totalled 3 653 050 metric bundles in March, a 12.1% decrease from 4 153 945 bundles a year earlier.

For January to March 1998, production amounted to 9 054 871 metric bundles, a 22.0% drop from 11 582 557 bundles during the same period in 1997.

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

The March 1998 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; pentlii@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Electric power

February 1998

Milder weather throughout Canada led to reduced generation of electricity in February. Net generation of electricity decreased to 45 059 gigawatt hours (GWh), down 4.8% from February 1997. Exports increased 5.6% to 3 071 GWh, and imports increased from 860 GWh to 1 285 GWh.

Generation of hydroelectricity decreased 5.8% to 28 410 GWh, due mainly to milder weather in Quebec compared with February 1997. The temporary closing of seven nuclear reactors at Ontario Hydro's Pickering

and Bruce plants and the shutdown for maintenance of New Brunswick's Point Lepreau plant led to a 33.1% drop in nuclear generation, which totalled 5 116 GWh. Thermal conventional generation climbed 20.9% to 11 534 GWh, mainly to compensate for the lost nuclear generating capability in Ontario and New Brunswick. Higher imports and lower exports also helped Ontario Hydro meet its domestic demand despite the lost capacity.

Year-to-date net generation at the end of February 1998 totalled 93 064 GWh, down 4.6% from the previous year. Year-to-date exports (6 065 GWh) dropped 2.8% from the previous year, whereas year-to-date imports (2 608 GWh) rose 67.0%.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3987-3999.

The February 1998 issue of *Electric power statistics* (57-001-XPB, \$12/\$114) will be available the first week of May. See *How to order publications*.

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

Coal and coke

February 1998

More deliveries to ports and higher domestic demand drove coal production up to 6 250 kilotonnes in February, a 0.8% increase from February 1997. The 1998 year-to-date production figure stood at 12 580 kilotonnes, up 5.9% from 1997.

Exports in February decreased 1.2% from February 1997, to 2 783 kilotonnes. However, exports to Japan (the largest consumer of Canadian coal) fell 17.8% to 1 310 kilotonnes during the same period. Increased exports to Europe and to the rest of Asia counterbalanced part of the decline. At the end of February 1998, year-to-date exports totalled 4 969 kilotonnes, 9.8% below last year's level.

Coke production in February 1998 decreased to 252 kilotonnes, down 4.3% from February 1997.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9.

The February 1998 issue of *Coal and coke statistics* (45-002-XPB, \$11/\$110) will be available the first week of May. See *How to order publications*.

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

Airport activity

Second quarter 1997

Preliminary data on airport activity are now available for the second quarter 1997. The May 1998 issue of *Aviation service bulletin* (51-004-XIB, \$105) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Rolf Hakka (613-951-0068), Aviation Statistics Centre, Transportation Division.

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

National economic and financial accounts, Fourth quarter 1997

Catalogue number 13-001-XPB

(Canada: \$44/\$145; outside Canada: US\$44/US\$145).

Sawmills and planing mills, February 1998 Catalogue number 35-003-XPB

(Canada: \$12/\$114; outside Canada: US\$12/US\$114).

Education in Canada, 1997 (Internet version) Catalogue number 81-229-XIB

(Canada: \$38; outside Canada: US\$38).

Education in Canada, 1997 (paper version) Catalogue number 81-229-XPB

(Canada: \$51; outside Canada: US\$51).

Youth court statistics, 1996-97 (microfiche version) **Catalogue number 85-522-XMB**

(Canada: \$27; outside Canada: US\$27).

Youth court statistics, 1996-97 (paper version) Catalogue number 85-522-XPB

(Canada: \$37; outside Canada: US\$37).

All prices exclude sales tax.

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; and -XPB or -XPE denote a paper version.

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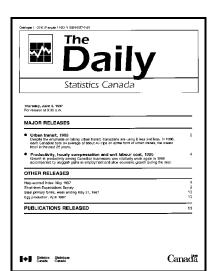
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RELEASE DATES: MAY 1998

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
1	Business Conditions Survey: Manufacturing industries	April 1998
4	Building permits	March 1998
6	Help-wanted Index	April 1998
8	Labour Force Survey	April 1998
11	Field crop reporting series: Grain stocks at March 31	1998
11	New Housing Price Index	March 1998
11	The intricate family life courses of Canadian children	1994
12	Sources of income, earnings, total income, family income and household income	1996 Census
13	New motor vehicle sales	March 1998
13	International student participation in Canadian education	1993-95
14	Consumer Price Index	April 1998
14	Provincial economic accounts	1992-97
15	Travel between Canada and other countries	March 1998
15	Composite Index	April 1998
19	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	March 1998
19	Technology, trade and wage differentials	
20	Canadian international merchandise trade	March 1998
20	Wholesale trade	March 1998
21	Retail trade	March 1998
21	Port activity	1997
22	Canada's international transactions in securities	March 1998
22	Quarterly financial statistics for enterprises	First quarter 1998
25	Farm cash receipts	First quarter 1998
25	Net farm income	1997 (preliminary)
26	Industrial Product Price Index	April 1998
26	Raw Materials Price Index	April 1998
26	Employment Insurance	March 1998
27	Characteristics of international travellers	Fourth quarter 1997
27	Railway carloadings	1997
28	Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile	1996
28	Employment, earnings and hours	March 1998
29	International travel account	First quarter 1998
29	Children's books	1996-97

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