



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 4, 1998
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Building permits, April 1998**

The value of building permits decreased 3.6% to \$2.9 billion in April after reaching its highest monthly value in eight years in March.

2
- **A profile of inmates in adult correctional facilities, October 1996**

Compared with the adult population aged 18 and over, inmates are more likely to be male, young, and Aboriginal. Inmates also have fewer years of schooling, are more likely to be unemployed at the time of admission, and are less likely to be married.

5

OTHER RELEASES

- Help-wanted Index, May 1998

8
- Production and disposition of tobacco products, April 1998

8
- Steel primary forms, week ending May 30, 1998

8

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

REGIONAL REFERENCE CENTRES

The Nation Series, Edition 3

1996 Census

Released today, *The Nation Series, Edition 3* is the third of four CD-ROMs containing tables from The Nation series. This series provides 1996 census data for Canada, the provinces and territories, and for census metropolitan areas in most cases. Many tables also include comparative data from previous censuses.

The third edition incorporates all data from the first and second editions and contains complete tables for age, sex and marital status; family structure; structural type of dwelling and household size; immigration and citizenship; languages; Aboriginal data; ethnic origin and visible minorities; labour force activities and household activities; and place of work and mode of transportation to work.

The software *Beyond 20/20®* is included with the package. The browser has many powerful features for quick and easy searching and sorting, and for copying tables and charts to other Windows applications.

For further information on this release, or to order *The Nation Series, Edition 3* (93F0020XCB96003, \$60), contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.



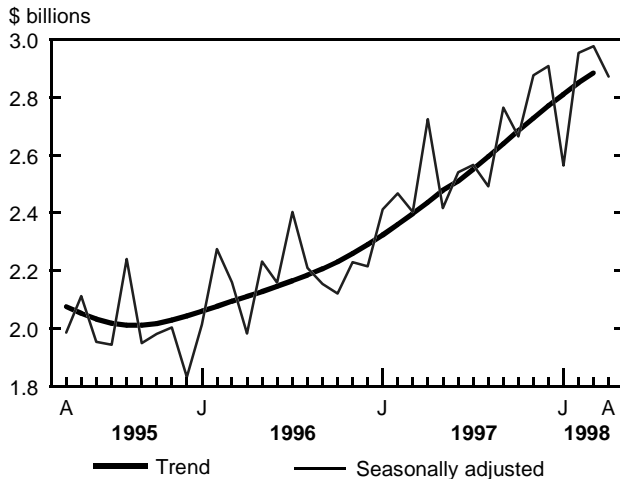
MAJOR RELEASES

Building permits

April 1998

The value of building permits decreased 3.6% to \$2.9 billion in April after reaching its highest monthly value in eight years in March.

Trend for total value of permits still rising



Municipalities issued permits worth \$1.6 billion for housing, down 4.7% from March. The decline in housing intentions came on the heels of two consecutive monthly increases and was due mainly to a drop in the value of permits for multi-family dwellings.

Similarly, drops in April in institutional and commercial construction plans offset an increase in the industrial sector and led to a 2.1% fall in the value of non-residential permits, to \$1.3 billion.

Housing sector still strong

Despite a decline in housing intentions since March, the sector was still strong in April. The value of permits issued was 4.0% higher than in April 1997 and the total value for the year (\$6.2 billion) was about the same as for the corresponding period in 1997.

April's declines in both the single-family (-1.5% to \$1.1 billion) and the multi-family (-11.2% to \$485 million) components were responsible for the 4.7% drop in residential construction intentions.

However, positive market indicators suggest an increase in housing investment for 1998—as much

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

The monthly Building and Demolitions Permits Survey covers 2,600 municipalities representing 94% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 6% of the population are very small, and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total.

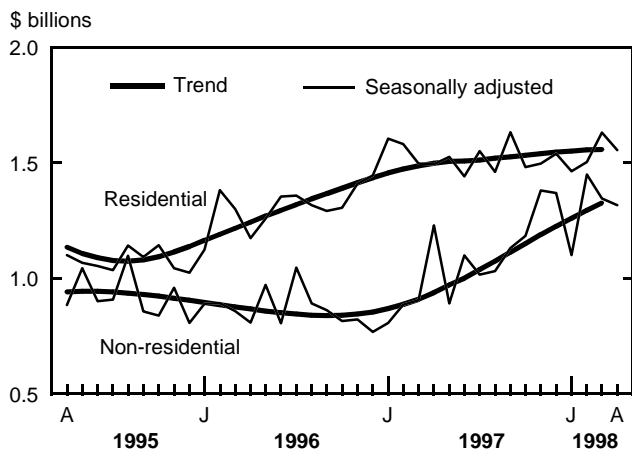
The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (e.g. waterworks, sewers, culverts) and land. The annual rate is a monthly figure that has been seasonally adjusted and multiplied by 12 to reflect annual levels.

as 8% according to the latest Private and Public Investment Survey. Increasing consumer optimism about job creation and a very active resale market combined with price stability point to a sustained housing market.

Provincially, Ontario (-11.3% to \$719 million) was the major contributor to the decline, due to a sharp drop of 26.9% in construction intentions for multi-family dwellings. However, it should be noted that the fall in multi-family permits came after two exceptional monthly increases in February and March (+75.5% and +40.5% respectively). Despite this drop in April, the multi-family sector remained very active in Ontario, reaching \$246 million (41.2% higher than April 1997).

In contrast, there were gains in British Columbia (+8.1% to \$270 million), Manitoba (+43.1% to \$38 million) and Nova Scotia (+19.1% to \$19 million). The multi-family component led the way in British Columbia, whereas single-family dwellings were mostly responsible for the increases in the other two provinces.

Both sectors take a breather



Second monthly decrease in non-residential sector

In April, the non-residential sector posted a second consecutive monthly decrease, declining 2.1% from March to \$1.3 billion. An increase in industrial construction plans was not enough to offset the drops in the commercial and institutional components.

Only the industrial component recorded an increase in April, as municipalities issued \$339 million worth of building permits, up 13.7% over March. Construction plans in manufacturing and mining industries were mostly responsible for the increase.

Most of April's slowdown came from a decrease in institutional construction plans, which fell 12.5% to \$323 million after attaining in March the highest monthly level since December 1992. Drops in construction intentions for hospitals and for health and care homes (nursing homes, daycare, etc.) more than offset a substantial increase in the value of permits for educational buildings.

Finally, the commercial component also contributed to April's step back, but to a much lesser extent. Reductions in construction intentions for hotels, warehouses and laboratories resulted in a 3.4% decrease in the value of commercial permits, down to \$655 million.

Provincially, Ontario (-19.8% to \$517 million) and Quebec (-10.1% to \$221 million) led the decrease in the

non-residential sector. In Ontario, all three components contributed to the decrease, whereas, in Quebec, a decline in the industrial sector more than offset rises in commercial and institutional intentions.

On the other hand, the most significant increases in the non-residential sector were in Alberta (+69.9% to \$271 million) and Saskatchewan (+18.9% to \$48 million). In Alberta, rises in the industrial and commercial components more than offset a reduction in institutional intentions. In Saskatchewan, industrial and institutional permits more than compensated for a drop in the commercial component.

Despite April's decline in the value of non-residential permits, there are encouraging signs for 1998. The total value of permits issued in this sector since the beginning of the year is 36.1% higher than for the same period in 1997. It is also the highest January-to-April total for any year since 1990.

Also, although firms are concerned about the sustainability of the current economic situation in Canada, 21% of the manufacturers surveyed in April by Statistics Canada's Business Conditions Survey expected to increase production in 1998. Further, 19% said they will increase employment. These expectations are also supported by Statistics Canada's Private and Public Investment Survey, which reported that business and government expect to increase investment by 5.5% over 1997 to a record \$120 billion in 1998. Fifty-five percent of the increase should occur in the service industries and 45% in the manufacturing industries.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 80 (levels 3-7, 16-22 and 24-32), 129, 137, 443, 989-992, 994, 995 and 4073.

The April 1998 issue of *Building permits* will be released in June on the Internet (64-001-XIB, \$19/\$186). See *How to order publications*.

The May 1998 estimates of building permits will be released on July 7.

For further information, contact Joanne Bureau (613-951-9689; burejoa@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Alain Paquet (613-951-2025; paquala@statcan.ca), Current Investment Indicators Section, Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Value of building permits

	March 1998	April 1998	March 1998 to April 1998	April 1997 to April 1998
	seasonally adjusted			
	\$ millions		% change	
Canada	2,977.1	2,871.2	-3.6	5.4
Residential	1,631.4	1,554.0	-4.7	4.0
Non-residential	1,345.7	1,317.2	-2.1	7.1
Newfoundland	19.2	15.7	-17.9	4.0
Residential	18.0	11.0	-38.9	10.3
Non-residential	1.2	4.7	302.0	-8.2
Prince Edward Island	9.5	10.7	12.7	104.8
Residential	6.7	5.1	-23.7	33.2
Non-residential	2.8	5.6	100.6	304.5
Nova Scotia	37.6	40.0	6.5	-7.2
Residential	15.6	18.6	19.1	-23.7
Non-residential	21.9	21.4	-2.5	14.2
New Brunswick	39.4	41.0	4.0	-23.5
Residential	19.5	20.3	4.5	-3.7
Non-residential	20.0	20.7	3.5	-36.3
Quebec	465.3	429.0	-7.8	-12.5
Residential	219.9	208.5	-5.2	-8.1
Non-residential	245.4	220.5	-10.1	-16.2
Ontario	1,454.6	1,236.1	-15.0	1.5
Residential	810.5	719.3	-11.3	9.5
Non-residential	644.1	516.9	-19.8	-7.8
Manitoba	92.5	99.4	7.5	120.1
Residential	26.8	38.3	43.1	72.0
Non-residential	65.7	61.1	-7.0	166.8
Saskatchewan	58.5	67.7	15.7	42.9
Residential	18.4	20.0	8.5	-22.9
Non-residential	40.1	47.7	18.9	122.7
Alberta	404.2	510.2	26.2	38.7
Residential	244.6	239.1	-2.3	25.0
Non-residential	159.6	271.1	69.9	53.6
British Columbia	391.4	415.9	6.3	-4.3
Residential	249.7	269.9	8.1	-12.7
Non-residential	141.7	146.0	3.0	16.4
Yukon	3.2	2.5	-23.4	-24.9
Residential	1.2	1.3	6.3	-35.1
Non-residential	2.0	1.2	-41.6	-8.9
Northwest Territories	1.6	3.0	80.6	320.8
Residential	0.4	2.7	497.8	363.1
Non-residential	1.2	0.3	-76.0	127.0

Note: Data may not add to totals due to rounding.



A profile of inmates in adult correctional facilities

October 1996

Compared with the adult population aged 18 and over, inmates are more likely to be male, young and Aboriginal. Inmates also have fewer years of schooling, are more likely to be unemployed at the time of admission, and are less likely to be married, according to a census of correctional facilities conducted on October 5, 1996.

In total, more than 37,000 inmates were on register on that date in 151 provincial and territorial jails and in 48 federal prisons. Although there are about as many men as women in the general population, 95% of the inmates in adult correctional facilities on that date were male.

On average, inmates are younger than the general population. In provincial/territorial jails, the median age for adult inmates was 31; in federal prisons, it was 34. By comparison, the median age of the general population in 1996 was 41.

While Aboriginal people accounted for about 2% of the adult population in 1996, they represented 17% of inmates (18% in provincial/territorial facilities, and 14% in federal facilities). These differences were particularly evident in Western Canada.

Of the 25,000 inmates on whom data about the extent of schooling were available, 36% had a Grade 9 education or less. In comparison, the 1996 Census showed that 19% of adults aged 18 and over in Canada had a Grade 9 education or less.

Of 12,000 inmates whose employment status prior to being jailed was available, one-half (52%) were unemployed at the time of admission, compared with 7% of adults aged 18 and over in Canada.

In addition, less than one-third (31%) of the inmates were married at the time of admission to a correctional facility, compared with almost two-thirds (63%) of adults aged 18 and over in the general population.

About one-half of inmates serving time for crimes against the person

Overall, the most serious offence for which about one-half (49%) of all inmates were serving time was a crime committed against the person. Another 28% were incarcerated for property offences, and 23% were serving time for other Criminal Code or federal statute offences, such as drug offences or impaired driving.

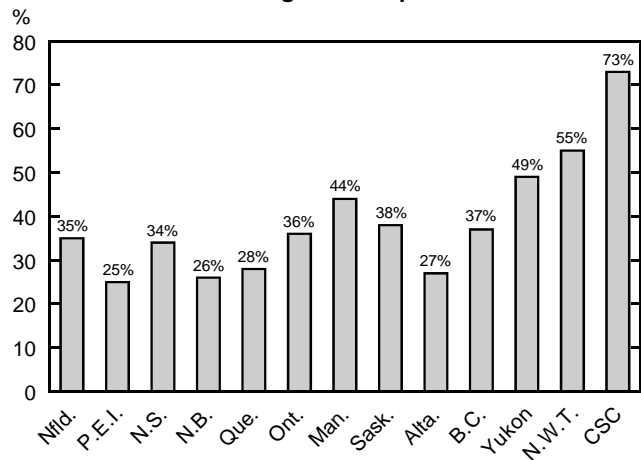
Note to readers

The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, in collaboration with federal, provincial and territorial officials, conducted a census of inmates on register in adult correctional facilities in Canada as of midnight, October 5, 1996. It provided, for the first time, a national snapshot of adult inmates. The project was designed to provide a detailed profile of the men and women incarcerated in Canadian jails and prisons. Young offenders are not included in this study.

Saturday, October 5, 1996 was chosen in order to capture information on inmates serving intermittent sentences (i.e., sentences served on weekends); however, this does not necessarily mean that this day is representative of all other days.

Data for this one-day snapshot were obtained through administrative records of the various federal, provincial and territorial correctional service departments. Since record-keeping is not standardized across the country, coverage varied from variable to variable. Most of the basic information collected was available for all inmates. However, information on inmates' assessed risk to re-offend was limited to about 1,900 inmates in seven jurisdictions: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. With respect to the profiles of the needs of inmates (such as substance abuse and personal/emotional needs), information was available for the seven jurisdictions mentioned above, as well as for federal inmates (approximately 14,000 inmates). Finally, criminal history information was not available for Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, or federal inmates.

Proportion of inmates incarcerated for crimes against the person¹



¹ Offence data were missing for 33 (0.2%) of the federal Correctional Service Canada (CSC) offenders and 2,186 (9%) of the provincial/territorial offenders.

Almost three-quarters (73%) of federal inmates had a crime against the person as their most serious

offence, primarily offences such as homicide/attempted murder and robbery.

Overall, one-third (33%) of provincial/territorial inmates had a crime against the person as their most serious offence, primarily robbery and sexual assault. A slightly larger proportion (37%) were serving time for property offences, principally breaking and entering.

Although custody rates differ markedly for men and women, the crimes for which they were serving their time are similar. In federal prisons, 74% of males and 64% of females were serving time for a crime committed against the person.

In provincial/territorial jails, the largest percentage of males, about 19%, were serving time for break and enter. Among females, the largest percentage, about 13%, were serving time for theft.

Where information on criminal history was available, the majority of provincial/territorial inmates (83%) had at least one previous adult conviction. Further, almost three-quarters (72%) had a previous term of provincial/territorial incarceration, and about one-half (49%) had served a previous term of probation.

Almost one-half of provincial/territorial inmates were considered at high risk to re-offend

Data on inmates' level of risk for re-offending were available for about 1,900 inmates in seven provinces and territories: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

Risk refers to the probability that offending will re-occur, but it does not necessarily refer to the severity or seriousness of the re-offending. The level of risk was assessed by combining criminal history factors, such as previous convictions, prior failure on supervision, and "need" factors such as substance abuse issues and employment instability. In other words, what was being asked was "who will be most likely to re-offend if no intervention occurs".

Based on the criminal history and indicators of individual needs of the inmates (such as substance

abuse, employment needs, and social skills) nearly half of these 1,900 inmates (49%) were considered to be at high risk to re-offend.

The high-risk group were more likely to have prior convictions and prior incarceration than lower-risk groups. They also had lower levels of education, were more likely to be unemployed, and were more likely to be serving longer prison terms.

Differences among inmates by risk level for selected jurisdictions^{1, 2}

Inmate characteristics	Risk level		
	Low	Medium	High
	%		
Prior conviction	52	80	96
Prior provincial/territorial incarceration	28	64	89
Prior federal incarceration	3	7	19
Prior failure on community supervision	4	23	47
Median current sentence length (days)	184	215	304
Most serious offence = crime against the person	31	29	29
Mean age (years)	33.1	30.3	30.1
Grade 9 or less	36	38	48
Single	47	58	58
Unemployed	47	62	81

¹ Based on data for 1,912 inmates in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

² Risk assessments are only completed on sentenced inmates serving terms of more than 30 days (excludes intermittent sentences and remands).

The Vol. 18, no. 8 issue of *Juristat: A one-day snapshot of inmates in Canada's adult correctional facilities* is now available in print (85-002-XPE, \$10/\$93) and on the Internet (85-002-XIE, \$8/\$70). See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Information and Client Services (1 800 387-2231; 613-951-9023; fax: 613-951-6615), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. □

Selected characteristics of inmates

	Adult population in Canada ¹	Provincial/territorial inmates		Federal (CSC) inmates		Total inmates	
	%	Total sample	% of sample	Total sample	% of sample	Total sample	% of sample
Median age (years)	41	31		34		32	
Male ²	49	23,678	93	13,862	98	37,540	95
Aboriginal ³	2	23,494	18	13,862	14	37,356	17
Grade 9 or less ⁴	19	19,903	34	5,002	46	24,905	36
Unemployed ⁵	7	9,239	54	2,620	43	11,859	52
Married ⁶	63	18,682	24	13,693	41	32,375	31

¹ Based on the 1996 Census.

² Missing data for one provincial/territorial inmate.

³ Missing data for 185 provincial/territorial inmates (< 1%).

⁴ Missing data for 3,776 provincial/territorial inmates (16%) and for 8,860 federal CSC (Correctional Service Canada) inmates (64%).

⁵ Missing data for 14,440 provincial/territorial inmates (61%) and for 11,242 CSC inmates (81%).

⁶ Refers to those married at time of admission. Missing data for 4,997 provincial/territorial inmates (21%) and for 169 CSC inmates (1%).



OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index

May 1998

The index that measures the number of help-wanted advertisements in newspapers advanced 0.7% in May to reach 143 (1996=100). Led by Quebec, seven of the provincial indexes recorded increases. Since March 1996, the last trough, the overall index has increased by nearly 46%. It now stands at its highest level since October 1990. Recent movements observed in the number of help-wanted advertisements are in line with other economic indicators, especially employment growth.

Help-wanted Index

(1996=100)

	May 1998	April 1998	May 1997	May 1997 to May 1998	April 1998 to May 1998
	seasonally adjusted				
					% change
Canada	143	142	121	18.2	0.7
Newfoundland	147	141	119	23.5	4.3
Prince Edward Island	139	141	128	8.6	-1.4
Nova Scotia	136	133	119	14.3	2.3
New Brunswick	146	142	126	15.9	2.8
Quebec	141	137	109	29.4	2.9
Ontario	145	147	124	16.9	-1.4
Manitoba	159	157	130	22.3	1.3
Saskatchewan	141	139	126	11.9	1.4
Alberta	154	156	144	6.9	-1.3
British Columbia	120	117	117	2.6	2.6

In Quebec, the Help-wanted Index grew 2.9% to 141. In the first five months of 1998, the Quebec index has risen almost 18%, more than the growth recorded for all of 1997.

For a second consecutive month, British Columbia's index increased, this month by 2.6% to reach 120.

In May, indexes in two of the Prairie provinces increased: Manitoba's index rose 1.3% to 159 and Saskatchewan's increased 1.4% to 141.

Led by Newfoundland's index (+4.3%), three of the Atlantic provinces' indexes advanced.

Note: The Help-wanted Index is compiled from the number of help-wanted ads published in 22 newspapers in 20 major metropolitan areas. The index is a measure

of companies' intentions to hire new workers. These indexes have been seasonally adjusted and smoothed to ease month-to-month comparisons.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 105 (levels 8, 9 and 10).

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

Production and disposition of tobacco products

April 1998

In April, cigarette manufacturers maintained strong production, building up inventories while sales declined. To prepare for plant closings in the summer, inventories are usually augmented at this time of year.

Production in April was 5 billion cigarettes, up 14% from March and 15% more than was produced in April 1997. On a year-to-date basis, production reached 17 billion cigarettes, the same level as last year.

Shipments declined 8% in April from the previous month, to 3.7 billion cigarettes. This was 15% lower than April 1997 shipments, and it brought the 1998 year-to-date shipments to 15 billion cigarettes, slightly (-1%) below last year's shipments.

Although the high level of production boosted inventories by 13% to 6.1 billion cigarettes, they remained 10% below the closing inventories of April 1997.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 46.

The April 1998 issue of *Production and disposition of tobacco products* (32-022-XPB, \$7/\$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511; zylspet@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending May 30, 1998 (preliminary)

Production of steel primary forms for the week ending May 30, 1998 totalled 329 669 metric tonnes, a 21.7%

increase from 270 881 tonnes a week earlier and up 2.5% from 321 656 tonnes a year earlier.

The year-to-date total at the end of the week was 6 677 713 tonnes, a 5.2% increase compared with 6 347 179 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. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Coal and coke statistics, March 1998
Catalogue number 45-002-XPB
(Canada: \$12/\$114; outside Canada: US\$12/US\$114).

Electric power statistics, March 1998
Catalogue number 57-001-XPB
(Canada: \$12/\$114; outside Canada: US\$12/US\$114).

Imports by commodity, March 1998
Catalogue number 65-007-XMB
(Canada: \$37/\$361; outside Canada: US\$37/US\$361).

Imports by commodity, March 1998
Catalogue number 65-007-XPB
(Canada: \$78/\$773; outside Canada: US\$78/US\$773).

**Juristat: A one-day snapshot of inmates in
Canada's adult correctional facilities**, June 1998
Catalogue number 85-002-XIE
(Canada: \$8/\$70; outside Canada: US\$8/US\$70).

**Juristat: A one-day snapshot of inmates in
Canada's adult correctional facilities**, June 1998
Catalogue number 85-002-XPE
(Canada: \$10/\$93; outside Canada: US\$10/US\$93).

The Nation Series, Edition 3, 1996 Census
Catalogue number 93F0020XCB96003
(Canada: \$60; outside Canada: US\$60).

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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Thursday, June 4, 1998
For release at 8:30 a.m.



MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 60 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 noticeably weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow nominal growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **High-wire index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 10
- **EGG predictor, April 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E.

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