



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, July 22, 1998

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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The crime rate fell for the sixth consecutive year in 1997. The 5% drop resulted in the lowest police-reported crime rate since 1980. Most crimes declined in 1997, including homicide, attempted murder, robbery, break-ins, motor vehicle theft, and impaired driving.
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Business and government investment in plant and equipment is expected to remain at record levels with spending of \$125.4 billion, an increase of 6.6% over 1997.
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MAJOR RELEASES

Crime statistics

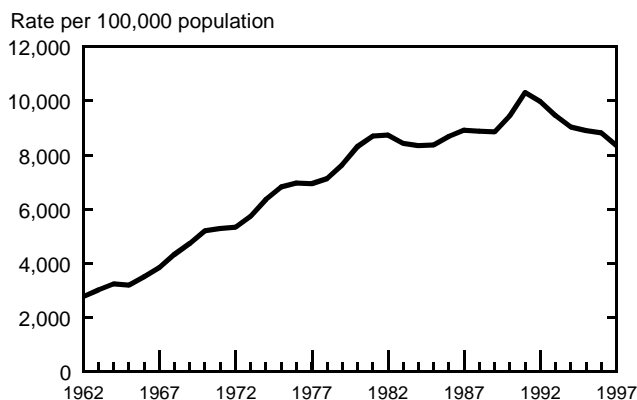
1997

The crime rate fell for the sixth consecutive year in 1997. The 5% drop resulted in the lowest police-reported crime rate since 1980. Most crimes declined in 1997, including homicide, attempted murder, robbery, break-ins, motor vehicle theft, and impaired driving.

Since peaking in 1991, the national crime rate has declined 19%. However, the crime rate is still more than double what it was three decades ago.

Most provinces followed the national trend, with decreases ranging from 2% in Nova Scotia to 10% in Prince Edward Island. Only Saskatchewan (+4%) and Alberta (+2%) reported increases in their crime rate.

Crime rate, 1962 to 1997



Violent crime: five straight years of decline

The rate for violent crimes (the most serious offences) was down 1.1% in 1997 — the fifth consecutive yearly decline. Police reported almost 300,000 incidents of violent crime in 1997. However, not all regions of Canada registered lower violent crime rates, with the Prairie provinces of Saskatchewan (+15%), Alberta (+6%) and Manitoba (+2%) reporting increases.

The homicide rate, which includes first- and second-degree murder, manslaughter and infanticide, dropped 9% in 1997 — its lowest point since 1969. The homicide rate has generally been declining since the mid-1970s. The 581 homicides reported in 1997 were 54 fewer than the year before.

Note to readers

Revisions to 1995 and 1996 data: Winnipeg and Toronto

After 1996 crime statistics were released last year, errors were identified in the 1995 and 1996 data for Winnipeg police, and 1996 data from Metro Toronto Police. These errors resulted in an undercounting of crime for these municipalities during those years. The errors have been corrected and the analysis is based on the revised numbers. Consult Juristat for more details.

Interpreting police-reported crime data

The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) collects Criminal Code statistics from police according to a nationally-approved set of rules and definitions. However, many factors could influence official crime statistics. These include reporting by the public to the police; reporting by police to the CCJS; and the impact of new initiatives such as changes in legislation, policies or enforcement practices.

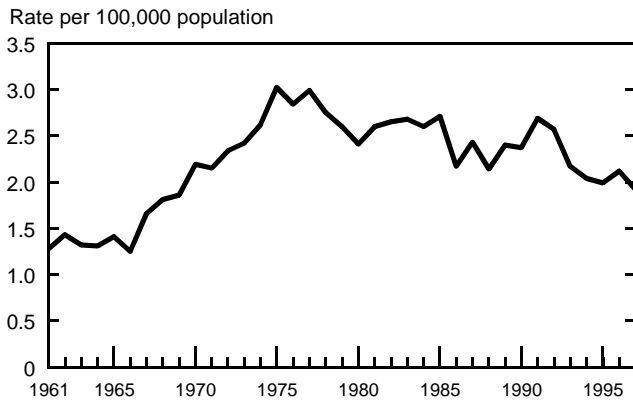
It can be argued that official crime statistics merely reflect the willingness of Canadians to report criminal activity to police. However, there is other evidence of declining crime rates. Results from the 1995 International Criminal Victimization Survey mirror trends in police-reported data. The Canadian component showed that victimization rates fell 11% between 1991 and 1995, similar to the 14% decline in the crime rate reported by police during the same period.

Further, recent declines in crime have applied as equally to more serious crimes (those which are less prone to non-reporting by the public) as to less serious crimes.

Other countries have also experienced recent declines in their crime rate. For example, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported that the U.S. indexed crime rate declined 4% in 1997. Violent crime fell 5% and property crime 4%. Crime rates have also declined steadily in England and Wales.

As in previous years, the large majority of homicide victims knew their killers. Strangers were responsible for only 13% of homicides. In 1997, there were 75 spousal homicides, down from 80 the year before. Eight in ten victims of spousal homicide were women who were killed by a current or ex-husband.

Homicide rate, 1961 to 1997



Despite an 8% decline last year, the robbery rate has generally been increasing during the past decade. Compared with other forms of violent crime, robbery is more likely to involve young people. In 1997, almost 40% of persons charged with robbery were youths, compared with 15% for all other violent crimes.

The rate of sexual assaults declined for the fourth straight year, down 0.9% from 1996. Of the 27,063 incidents of sexual assault reported by police in 1997, the majority (97%) were classified as level 1, the category of least physical injury to the victim.

Fewer incidents involve firearms

There were 193 homicides with firearms in 1997, 19 fewer than in 1996. Despite this drop, firearms continue to be used in about one-third of all homicides.

The rate of firearm robberies has generally been falling since 1991 — including a 20% drop in 1997. Robberies with other weapons, such as knives, have been increasing during this period. More than 4 in 10 robberies did not involve weapons.

Other firearm-related offences have also been falling in recent years. The rate of restricted weapons offences, including handguns, declined 34% over the last five years. The offence of discharging a firearm with intent also fell during this period (-46%).

Property crime: general decline since 1991

The property crime rate fell 8% in 1997, continuing the general decline since 1991. All provinces reported a drop in property crime rates, ranging from 1% in Alberta

to 11% in Ontario. There were about 1.5 million criminal incidents involving property in 1997.

Police reported 373,355 break-ins, which represented about one-quarter of all property crimes. Six out of every ten break-ins occurred at a private residence. After two years of growth, residential break-ins dropped 5% in 1997. Business break-ins fell 10%.

After growing steadily for more than a decade, the rate of motor vehicle theft declined 3% in 1997. However, the rate remains almost 80% higher than a decade earlier. Police reported 177,286 incidents of motor vehicle theft in 1997, an average of about 485 each day.

Youth crime: increasing violence among female youth

The overall rate of youths charged with *Criminal Code* offences dropped 7% in 1997. In total, 111,736 people aged 12 to 17 years were charged in 1997. More than half of these youths were charged with property crimes, while 20% were charged with violent crimes.

The rate of youths charged with violent crime fell 2% — the second consecutive yearly decline. Despite these declines, the rate is still more than double that of a decade ago.

In recent years, concern has grown about increasing violence by young women. Over the past decade, the rate of female youths charged with violent crimes has increased twice as fast as for male youths. In 1997, the rate of violent crime dropped 4% among male youths while it increased 5% among female youths. However, the rate for female youths was still only one-third the rate for their male counterparts.

A total of 54 youths aged 12 to 17 were charged with homicide in 1997, five more than the previous year. Over the last decade, an average of 49 youths were charged with homicide each year.

With respect to property crime, the rate of youths charged declined 12% from 1996 — the sixth consecutive yearly decline.

Violent crime rates down in 16 of 25 census metropolitan areas

Rates of violent crime declined in 16 of 25 census metropolitan areas (CMAs) in 1997. Rates were lowest in Sherbrooke and Trois-Rivières, and highest in Thunder Bay and Regina. Regina also reported the largest increase in violent crime at 29%.

Homicide rates fell in 14 CMAs. Rates were highest in Saskatoon, Halifax and Edmonton, and lowest in Chicoutimi-Jonquière, Kitchener and London.

Only three CMAs reported increases in property crime: Chicoutimi-Jonquière, Halifax and Trois-Rivières. Property crime rates were highest in Regina and Vancouver and lowest in Saint John and Québec.

Available on CANSIM: 2198-2200 and tables 001401103 and 00150202.

Juristat: Canadian crime statistics, 1997, Vol. 18, no. 11 (85-002-XPE, \$10/93; Internet version:

85-002-XIE, \$8/\$70) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Information and Client Services (613-951-9023 or 1 800 387-2231) or Shelly Crego (951-6750), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Police-reported incidents by most serious offence

	1997	1996 to 1997
	Number	Rate ¹
Violent crime	296,737	980
Homicide	581	2
Attempted murder	861	3
Assaults (levels 1, 2, 3)	222,210	734
Other assaults	11,778	39
Sexual assaults (levels 1, 2, 3)	27,063	89
Other sexual offences	3,672	12
Robbery	29,590	98
Abduction	982	3
Property crime	1,458,930	4,817
Break and enter	373,355	1,233
Motor vehicle theft	177,286	585
Theft over \$5,000	24,026	79
Theft \$5,000 and under	758,025	2,503
Possession of stolen goods	29,544	98
Fraud	96,694	319
Other Criminal Code	774,687	2,558
Arson	12,799	42
Offensive weapons	16,079	53
Prostitution	5,812	19
Mischief	341,687	1,128
Bail violation	68,920	228
Disturbing the peace	57,594	190
Other	271,796	897
Crime rate (Total Criminal Code, excluding traffic offences)	2,530,354	8,355

– Amount too small to be expressed.

¹ Rates are calculated based on 100,000 population.

Crime rates for Census Metropolitan Areas¹

	Violent crime		Property crime		Total Criminal Code	
	1997	1996 to 1997	1997	1996 to 1997	1997	1996 to 1997
	rate	% change in rate	rate	% change in rate	rate	% change in rate
Regina	1,638	29.1	9,129	-9.5	14,500	-3.9
Vancouver	1,258	-4.7	9,080	-13.1	13,029	-12.0
Saskatoon	1,397	6.6	6,940	-0.1	12,126	3.5
Victoria	1,385	1.7	6,213	-10.0	11,434	-5.4
Thunder Bay	1,810	-6.0	5,493	-4.0	11,259	-6.0
Winnipeg ²	1,456	-1.6	5,972	-9.0	10,281	-5.9
Halifax	1,126	-3.7	5,597	1.6	9,388	-1.5
Edmonton	960	4.0	5,198	-0.5	8,836	2.3
London	809	-9.3	5,408	-9.8	8,652	-10.3
Windsor	812	-7.0	4,575	-11.2	8,116	-7.5
Ottawa-Hull (Ontario part)	861	-5.9	5,030	-15.8	8,023	-15.1
Calgary	833	8.0	5,221	-3.3	7,796	-0.9
Hamilton	1,122	-1.8	4,406	-8.6	7,608	-6.2
St. Catharines-Niagara	663	0.6	4,551	-9.7	7,559	-4.7
Montréal	782	-7.0	5,126	-4.3	7,531	-5.8
Sudbury	890	-4.4	4,595	-11.2	7,505	-9.6
Ottawa-Hull (Québec part)	728	1.4	4,348	-8.7	7,216	-8.2
St. John's	1,018	-1.2	4,063	-1.9	7,077	-4.6
Saint John	1,092	10.1	3,619	-17.5	6,980	-12.6
Trois-Rivières	488	-4.4	4,338	1.2	6,662	1.7
Toronto ²	852	-1.4	3,932	-9.1	6,549	-7.6
Kitchener	730	1.0	4,076	-9.6	6,458	-7.6
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	570	-13.9	4,304	9.8	6,323	5.3
Sherbrooke	410	-1.3	3,949	-8.8	5,853	-7.4
Québec	504	-6.1	3,765	-14.2	5,664	-11.5

¹ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. The Oshawa Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) is excluded from this table due to methodological concerns with the matching of the police agency jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

² Toronto and Winnipeg data for 1996 have been revised.



Private and public investment, revised intentions

1998

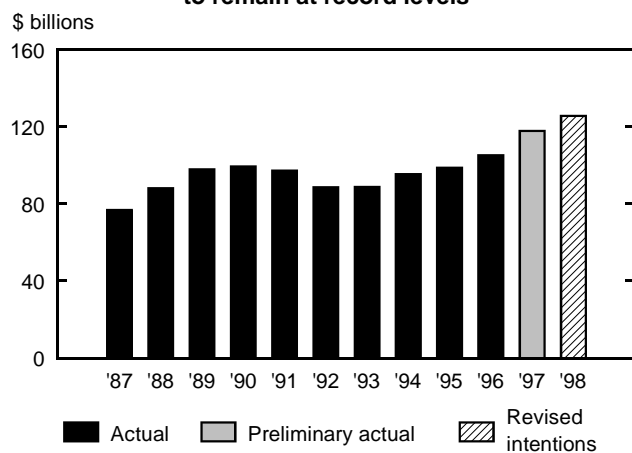
Business and government investment in plant and equipment is expected to remain at record levels with spending of \$125.4 billion, an increase of 6.6% over 1997. This latest survey shows that investment plans continue upward for 1998 with an increase of \$1.9 billion over what was originally planned earlier this year.

High capacity utilization rates, profits that are still improving (except in the petroleum and insurance industries) and interest rates that remain relatively low are sustaining investment spending.

This latest survey shows that while goods producing industries are expected to have a slightly lower annual increase of 5.1%, the services producing industries are gaining strength with an annual increase of 7.7% over 1997. Spending plans for 1998 show increases coming from investment in both machinery and equipment and non-residential construction. Leading the investment in machinery and equipment is manufacturing — where spending is expected to reach \$17.8 billion in 1998. The increase in construction is less concentrated, with governments, transportation and utilities all contributing to the growth.

Housing investment should increase for the third year in a row to \$42.1 billion, up 11.0% over 1997 and bringing total investment to \$167.5 billion for 1998.

Plant and equipment spending expected to remain at record levels



Manufacturers produce an increase

Although manufacturing investment in the February survey appeared to be tapering off in 1998, these revised figures suggest strong growth (+8.2% to \$20.7

Note to readers

Revised investment intentions are based on a sample survey of 23,000 businesses, governments and institutions. The survey, which was conducted from April to June 1998, had a 78% response rate. The coefficient of variation, which measures the precision of the estimated data is 0.5% at the national level. Data in this release are in current dollars. Please note that data for 1996 actual, 1997 preliminary actual and 1998 intentions, which were originally released in February 1998, have been revised. An amended version of Private and public investment in Canada, Intentions 1998, (61-205-XIB, \$35) is available on the Internet @ www.statcan.ca. All figures in this release reflect the most current data.

billion). This increase is evident in several of the manufacturing industries, most notably the chemical (+39.2%) and the electrical and electronic products (+38.9%) industries. Transportation equipment, primary metal and paper and allied industries are all still expected to show declines for 1998.

Government investment on the rise

The increase in government spending on capital, now at \$14.1 billion, is coming from the municipal and provincial levels. Local governments are expecting a 17.2% increase in capital spending in 1998. In contrast to the previously expected decline in total provincial government spending, growth of 7.3% over 1997 is now anticipated. Federal government departments still foresee a decrease in spending of 4.6%.

Transportation investment moving up

Investment in the transportation sector is now expected to grow by 29.3% to \$9.5 billion in 1998, due in large part to increases in the pipeline industries (+41.8%) and in the truck transportation industries (+28.1%).

Ice storm has impact on spending

Spending by electric power utilities will be up sharply to \$6.7 billion in 1998, in large part due to spending in Quebec and Ontario after the January ice storm. This will translate into a 40.1% increase in construction compared with 1997. However, the advance will be partly offset by a smaller increase in machinery and equipment spending than was originally anticipated. The net result will be a 28.6% increase in total capital investment in 1998 over 1997.

Investment down in oil and gas

The conventional crude oil and natural gas industry is expecting investment of \$12.6 billion in 1998, down 4.1% from 1997. This represents a decrease of over \$1.2 billion from the first survey of 1998 intentions. This drop could be attributed to continued low oil prices, which have led to dismal profits for the industry in the first quarter of 1998. The slump is also reflected in the nearly 2 million fewer metres drilled compared with this time last year.

Housing investment builds

Investment in residential housing is expected to continue to grow, fuelled by low interest rates and a positive consumer outlook. The rate of increase for 1998 is not as strong as 1997 but is still quite healthy. The most recent figures indicate an increase of 11.0% for 1998, compared with 17.0% in 1997. Alberta (+19.6%) and Ontario (+13.6%) will continue to lead the way.

Most regions still expect increases

Nova Scotia and Quebec are expected to outpace all other provinces in investment percentage growth in 1998, with spending rising by 22.9% and 12.8% respectively.

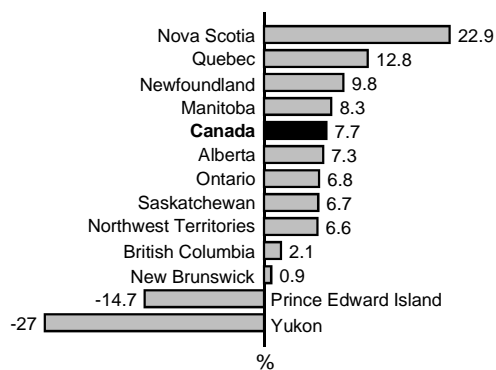
Yukon and Prince Edward Island are the only exceptions to this positive trend. Construction of the Confederation Bridge between Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick had elevated the total level of investment spending in both provinces. Since this project is now completed, spending in Prince Edward Island is expected to decline by 14.7% in 1998 over 1997. This drop, however, is significantly smaller than the 23.7% decline initially foreseen in February.

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

Private and public investment in Canada, revised intentions 1998 (61-206-XIB, \$33) will be available shortly. An amended version of *Private and public investment in Canada, Intentions 1998*, (61-205-XIB, \$35) is available on the Internet @ www.statcan.ca. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Gilbert Paquette (1 800 571-0494; 613-951-9818; gilbert@statcan.ca) or Les Shinder (1 800 345-2294, ext. 122; 613-951-9815; ext. 122; shinder@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Nova Scotia and Quebec expected to outpace other provinces



Capital spending intentions of private and public organizations

		Capital expenditures				Intentions 1998 to revised intentions	Preliminary actual 1997 to revised intentions
		Construction	Machinery and equipment	Total			
		\$ millions			% change		
Canada ¹	1997	88,336.6	67,292.8	155,629.4			
	1998	94,016.0	70,544.5	164,560.5			
	1998	95,950.9	71,588.1	167,539.0	1.8	7.7	
Newfoundland	1997	1,955.0	587.2	2,542.3			
	1998	2,188.0	648.5	2,836.5			
	1998	2,061.6	730.0	2,791.6	-1.6	9.8	
Prince Edward Island	1997	345.7	144.0	489.7			
	1998	247.5	126.0	373.5			
	1998	260.8	157.0	417.8	11.9	-14.7	
Nova Scotia	1997	1,940.9	1,897.4	3,838.3			
	1998	2,428.6	1,705.0	4,133.6			
	1998	2,917.3	1,799.7	4,717.0	14.1	22.9	
New Brunswick	1997	1,584.9	1,015.9	2,600.8			
	1998	1,609.9	1,036.4	2,646.3			
	1998	1,586.3	1,038.2	2,624.5	-0.8	0.9	
Quebec	1997	15,593.1	13,094.4	28,687.5			
	1998	17,044.2	14,016.0	31,060.2			
	1998	18,172.0	14,181.4	32,353.4	4.2	12.8	
Ontario	1997	28,092.1	30,629.6	58,721.7			
	1998	29,659.3	31,356.4	61,015.7			
	1998	30,694.4	32,035.9	62,730.3	2.8	6.8	
Manitoba	1997	2,703.3	2,024.3	4,727.6			
	1998	2,903.9	2,126.6	5,030.5			
	1998	2,934.2	2,187.5	5,121.7	1.8	8.3	
Saskatchewan	1997	4,180.4	2,466.8	6,647.2			
	1998	4,362.4	2,822.0	7,184.4			
	1998	4,279.9	2,809.9	7,089.7	-1.3	6.7	
Alberta	1997	17,671.8	8,405.2	26,077.0			
	1998	18,888.0	9,747.1	28,635.1			
	1998	18,396.0	9,579.6	27,975.6	-2.3	7.3	
British Columbia	1997	13,581.5	6,889.1	20,470.5			
	1998	13,961.4	6,758.5	20,719.9			
	1998	14,060.5	6,845.5	20,906.0	0.9	2.1	
Yukon	1997	163.9	44.2	208.1			
	1998	171.2	47.8	219.1			
	1998	111.5	40.4	151.9	-30.7	-27.0	
Northwest Territories	1997	524.0	94.7	618.7			
	1998	551.5	154.2	705.7			
	1998	476.4	183.0	659.4	-6.6	6.6	

¹ Preliminary actual 1997 followed by intentions 1998 and then revised intentions 1998.

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

Capital spending intentions of private and public organizations

	Preliminary actual 1997	Intentions 1998	Revised intentions 1998	Intentions 1998 to revised intentions 1998	Preliminary actual 1997 to revised intentions 1998
	\$ millions			% change	
Total	155,629.4	164,560.5	167,539.0	1.8	7.7
Plant and equipment	117,656.4	123,458.0	125,399.5	1.6	6.6
Housing	37,973.0	41,102.5	42,139.5	2.5	11.0
Goods-producing industries	51,644.8	54,433.2	54,295.5	-0.3	5.1
Services-producing industries	66,011.6	69,024.8	71,104.0	3.0	7.7
Divisions					
Agriculture	4,075.3	4,372.6	3,767.6	-13.8	-7.6
Fishing and trapping	104.2	105.9	105.9	0.0	1.6
Logging and forestry	318.2	405.4	338.0	-16.6	6.2
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	18,510.4	19,321.6	17,734.6	-8.2	-4.2
Manufacturing	19,148.2	19,346.7	20,716.3	7.1	8.2
Construction	2,225.8	2,394.3	2,483.2	3.7	11.6
Transportation and storage	7,327.7	8,775.0	9,474.7	8.0	29.3
Communication and other utilities	14,806.6	16,149.9	16,644.9	3.1	12.4
Wholesale trade	2,981.8	2,882.0	3,139.8	8.9	5.3
Retail trade	3,100.0	3,020.0	3,309.1	9.6	6.7
Finance and insurance	17,625.8	19,160.6	18,203.9	-5.0	3.3
Real estate operators	2,015.1	2,264.4	2,619.9	15.7	30.0
Business services	1,981.3	2,123.7	2,303.4	8.5	16.3
Government	12,842.6	13,135.1	14,114.9	7.5	9.9
Educational	3,077.3	2,924.2	2,908.0	-0.6	-5.5
Health and social	1,977.8	1,936.8	2,307.8	19.2	16.7
Accommodation, food and beverage	974.6	638.4	829.6	29.9	-14.9
Other services	4,563.6	4,501.2	4,443.5	-1.3	-2.6

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



OTHER RELEASES

Electric lamps

June 1998

Light bulb and tube manufacturers sold 21.9 million light bulbs and tubes in June, down 2.7% from the 22.5 million sold a year earlier.

Year-to-date sales at the end of June totalled 141.6 million light bulbs and tubes, a decrease of 4.5% from the 148.3 million sold a year earlier.

The June 1998 issue of *Electric lamps* (43-009-XPB, \$7/\$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Laurie Vincent (613-951-3523; vincwil@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Electric lamps

Second quarter 1998

Data on manufacturers' imports, production and inventories of electric lamps are now available for the second quarter of 1998.

For further information on this release, contact Laurie Vincent (613-951-3523; vincwil@ststcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction, and Energy Division. ■

Monthly farm product prices

January to May 1998

Monthly farm product prices from January to May 1998 are now available.

For further information on this release, contact Bernie Rosien (613-951-2441; fax: 613-951-3868), Farm Income and Prices Section, Agriculture Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Gross domestic product by industry, April 1998
Catalogue number 15-001-XPB
(Canada: \$15/\$145; outside Canada: US\$15/US\$145).

General review of the mineral industries, 1996
Catalogue number 26-201-XPB
(Canada: \$25; outside Canada: US\$25).

Private and public investment in Canada, Intentions
1998
Catalogue number 61-205-XIB
(Canada: \$35; outside Canada: US\$35).

Canadian international merchandise trade,
May 1998
Catalogue number 65-001-XIB
(Canada: \$14/\$141; outside Canada: US\$14/US\$141).

Canadian international merchandise trade,
May 1998
Catalogue number 65-001-XPB
(Canada: \$19/\$188; outside Canada: US\$19/US\$188).

Juristat, Canadian crime statistics, 1997, Vol. 18,
no. 11
Catalogue number 85-002-XIE
(Canada: \$8/\$70; outside Canada: US\$8/US\$70).

Juristat, Canadian crime statistics, 1997, Vol. 18,
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Statistics Canada	
Thursday, June 9, 1997	
For release at 9:30 a.m.	
MAJOR RELEASES	
• Urban transit, 1995 Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.	2
• Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995 Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1995 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow nominal growth during the year.	4
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Help-wanted index, May 1997	3
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Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997	12
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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E.

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