



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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- **Building permits, January 1999** 3
The value of building permits declined for the first time in three months in January as construction intentions fell for both single-family and multi-family dwellings. Municipalities issued permits worth \$2.7 billion, down 2.9% from December 1998.
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Capacity use rose in the fourth quarter of 1998 after declining for the previous four quarters.

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StatCan: CANSIM directory disc

March 1999

The March 1999 *StatCan: CANSIM directory disc* is now available. This CD-ROM contains the CANSIM Time Series Directory - a guide to the data contained in the CANSIM time series database, the Statistical Data Documentation System (SDDS) - a database of the surveys and statistical programs used at Statistics Canada, and the latest version of the Statistics Canada thesaurus.

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The March 1999 edition of the *StatCan: CANSIM directory disc* (10F0005XCB, \$103) is now available in a Windows format on CD-ROM. An annual subscription covers four quarterly issues.

For more information, please contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.



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MAJOR RELEASES

Building permits

January 1999

The value of building permits declined for the first time in three months in January as construction intentions fell for both single-family and multi-family dwellings. Municipalities issued permits worth \$2.7 billion, down 2.9% from December 1998.

Overall, construction intentions in the housing sector declined 7.5% in January to \$1.5 billion, the second straight monthly decrease. In the non-residential sector, intentions rose in January for a second month, up 3.2% to \$1.2 billion. Increases in industrial and institutional intentions more than offset a decline in commercial projects.

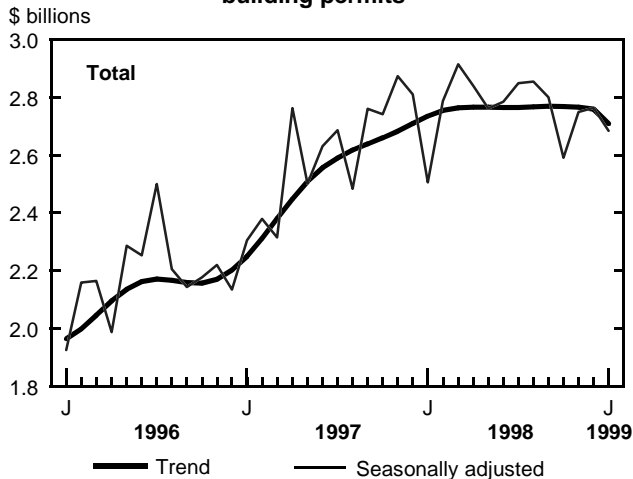
Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, easing comparisons by removal of the effects of seasonal variations.

The Building and Demolitions Permits Monthly 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 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, etc.) and land. The annual rate is a monthly figure that has been seasonally adjusted and multiplied by 12 to reflect annual levels.

First decline in three months in total value of building permits



January. In addition, according to the Canadian Real Estate Association, January's sales of existing homes posted the largest monthly decline (-6.9%) in over a year.

Despite these negative indicators, the outlook for the housing sector is positive for 1999. The Conference Board of Canada reported a substantial increase in consumer confidence during the last quarter of 1998. Similarly, investment in housing is expected to increase for the fourth consecutive year in 1999, according to data from Statistics Canada's private and public investment intentions.

In addition, long-term mortgage rates remain favourable, housing prices were stable in January, gains were made in full-time employment in 1998 and personal disposable income picked up. Housing investment was also up 0.6% in the last quarter of 1998 after three consecutive quarterly declines.

On a provincial basis, the largest declines in January took place in Ontario (-16.3% to \$629 million) and Alberta (-4.3% to \$234 million). In both provinces, the decreases resulted mainly from lower intentions in multi-family dwellings. The highest monthly gains occurred in British Columbia (+7.8% to \$177 million), Quebec (+2.4% to \$287 million) and Nova Scotia (+10.7% to \$36 million). In all cases, single-family housing led the way, especially in Quebec where this category was at its highest level since the middle of 1994.

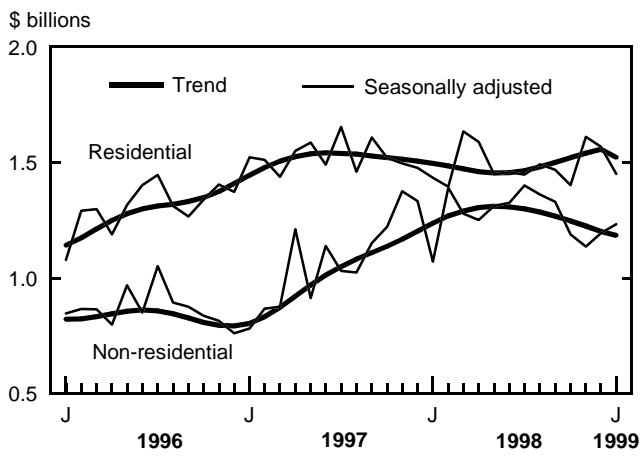
Sharp decline in multi-family permits

Construction intentions fell in both components of the housing sector in January, but the sharpest decline occurred in the multi-family sector, where the value of building permits fell 13.7% to \$388 million. Intentions for single-family dwellings fell 5.1% to \$1.1 billion.

After following a downward trend in the first half of 1998, building intentions in the housing sector improved in the second half of 1998. Also, despite January's decline, housing construction intentions remained 1.1% higher than in January 1998.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation reported a small 1.4% decrease in housing starts in

The residential trend shows its first decline in 8 months



Industrial permits fuelled gains in the non-residential sector

An increase in industrial construction intentions fuelled the gain in non-residential permits in January. The value of industrial permits jumped 33.8% to \$385 million, the highest value since last July. All components in the industrial sector participated in the increase, which was due mostly to major projects in Ontario and Quebec.

Institutional intention projects increased 16.6% to \$228 million. Most of this activity came from welfare and nursing home projects. The most significant increase in this component was recorded in Alberta, where institutional projects more than quadrupled (+345.4%) to \$79 million, the highest value since May 1989.

The commercial component was the only one of the non-residential sector to show a decline in January (-12.8% to \$621 million). Trade, services and recreation projects showed the most significant losses. The largest decreases in the commercial component were recorded

in Alberta, down 39.0% to \$10 million and in British Columbia, down 38.1% to \$49 million.

Among the provinces, the largest increases in the non-residential sector occurred in Ontario (+18.6 to \$495 million), Quebec (+8.3% to \$296 million) and Manitoba (+58.0% to \$51 million).

In contrast, the most significant decreases were reported in British Columbia (-42.1% to \$77 million), Saskatchewan (-49.0% to \$21 million) and Alberta (-6.8% to \$198 million). Excluding the institutional component in Alberta, decreases occurred in all components in these three provinces.

The value of permits in January in the non-residential sector was 15.1% higher than in January 1998. The outlook for non-residential construction is positive in 1999, based on a strong performance of the Canadian economy in the fourth quarter of 1998 and a 15.1% increase in corporate operating profits.

The Conference Board of Canada reported that corporate confidence levels were up in the fourth quarter of 1998. In addition, non-residential construction (excluding engineering) is expected to increase more than 6% in 1999, according to Statistic Canada's survey on private and public investment.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 80 (levels 3-7 and 33-48), 129, 137, 443, 989-992, 994, 995 and 4073.

The January 1999 issue of *Building permits* (64-001-XIB, \$19/\$186) will be available shortly on the Internet. See *How to order publications*. The February 1999 building permits estimates will be released on April 8.

For more information or to enquire about the methods, concepts or data quality of this release, contact Joanne Bureau (613-951-9689; burejoa@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Ginette Gervais (613-951-2025; gervgin@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Value of building permits

| | Dec. 1998 ^r | Jan. 1999 ^p | Dec. 1998 to Jan. 1999 | Jan. 1998 to Jan. 1999 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | seasonally adjusted | | | |
| | \$ millions | | % change | |
| Canada | 2,763.8 | 2,684.4 | -2.9 | 7.1 |
| Residential | 1,568.7 | 1,450.6 | -7.5 | 1.1 |
| Non-residential | 1,195.2 | 1,233.8 | 3.2 | 15.1 |
| Newfoundland | 36.7 | 52.0 | 41.7 | 110.8 |
| Residential | 11.2 | 11.8 | 6.1 | -29.9 |
| Non-residential | 25.6 | 40.2 | 57.2 | 415.9 |
| Prince Edward Island | 9.4 | 4.7 | -50.1 | -16.5 |
| Residential | 5.3 | 2.1 | -60.0 | -21.8 |
| Non-residential | 4.1 | 2.6 | -37.2 | -11.6 |
| Nova Scotia | 63.4 | 72.5 | 14.3 | 134.3 |
| Residential | 32.5 | 36.0 | 10.7 | 45.2 |
| Non-residential | 30.9 | 36.5 | 18.0 | 493.4 |
| New Brunswick | 43.2 | 30.1 | -30.3 | -4.5 |
| Residential | 20.3 | 21.1 | 4.3 | 7.5 |
| Non-residential | 22.9 | 9.0 | -60.9 | -24.3 |
| Quebec | 553.6 | 582.9 | 5.3 | 66.6 |
| Residential | 280.3 | 287.0 | 2.4 | 32.2 |
| Non-residential | 273.3 | 295.9 | 8.3 | 122.8 |
| Ontario | 1,169.6 | 1,124.7 | -3.8 | -5.4 |
| Residential | 752.2 | 629.4 | -16.3 | 9.6 |
| Non-residential | 417.4 | 495.2 | 18.6 | -19.4 |
| Manitoba | 65.9 | 85.6 | 29.8 | 24.6 |
| Residential | 33.6 | 34.4 | 2.6 | -31.8 |
| Non-residential | 32.4 | 51.1 | 58.0 | 181.0 |
| Saskatchewan | 61.8 | 35.1 | -43.2 | 13.1 |
| Residential | 20.3 | 13.9 | -31.4 | -22.8 |
| Non-residential | 41.5 | 21.2 | -49.0 | 63.0 |
| Alberta | 457.0 | 432.2 | -5.4 | 13.1 |
| Residential | 244.3 | 233.9 | -4.3 | -8.9 |
| Non-residential | 212.8 | 198.4 | -6.8 | 58.4 |
| British Columbia | 297.1 | 254.1 | -14.4 | -34.8 |
| Residential | 164.4 | 177.3 | 7.8 | -29.4 |
| Non-residential | 132.7 | 76.9 | -42.1 | -44.6 |
| Yukon | 3.7 | 2.5 | -32.3 | 60.7 |
| Residential | 2.6 | 2.5 | -4.5 | 84.7 |
| Non-residential | 1.1 | 0.0 | -97.5 | -87.2 |
| Northwest Territories | 2.4 | 7.9 | 234.3 | 298.1 |
| Residential | 1.8 | 1.1 | -40.9 | -22.6 |
| Non-residential | 0.5 | 6.8 | 1217.4 | 1084.5 |

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

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



Industrial capacity utilization rates

Fourth quarter 1998

Capacity use rose in the fourth quarter of 1998 after declining for the previous four quarters. The upturn was mainly attributable to the surge in activity in the transportation equipment industries.

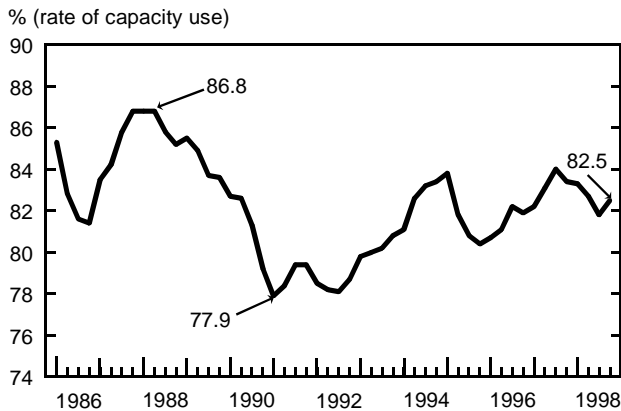
Production for the non-farm industrial group grew 1.2% in the fourth quarter, but this growth in industrial production was partly offset by growth in capacity. Industries operated at 82.5% of capacity, an increase of 0.7 percentage points over the third quarter. (The rates of capacity use have been revised back to the first quarter of 1995 to incorporate revisions in source data.)

Note to readers

An industry's capacity use is the ratio of its actual output to its estimated potential output. Statistics Canada derives estimates of an industry's potential output from measures of its capital stock. In addition, since 1987, Statistics Canada has been surveying companies for their estimates of annual capacity use to produce survey-based industry measures.

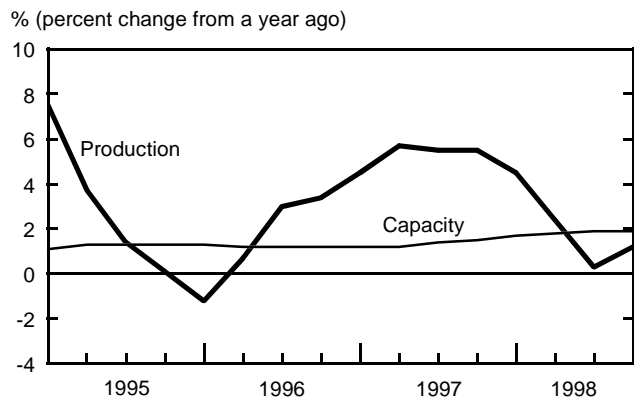
A company's measure of its level of operation, as a percentage of potential, takes into account changes in the obsolescence of facilities, capital-to-labour ratios and other characteristics of production techniques. The surveyed rates anchor the calculated quarterly series and ensure they reflect such changes.

Capacity use turns up



Business investment in plant and equipment was strong in the past few years, leading to growth in production capacity. The rate of capacity growth had been increasing since the third quarter of 1997 and levelled off in the fourth quarter of 1998. During the last two quarters of 1998, growth in capacity exceeded growth in output. The rate of growth in capacity may slow, however, as businesses are planning to decrease spending somewhat in 1999, according to the most recent survey of private and public investment intentions.

Growth in capacity overtakes growth in production



Recovery from strikes earlier in the year and strong exports to the United States were mainly responsible for the increase in production in the fourth quarter of 1998. Gains in the automotive industries were especially significant as plants stepped up production to rebuild depleted inventories and exports of automotive products surged almost 25%.

Forestry products also benefited from strong export demand. Low world prices continued to depress activity in mining industries. Residential construction increased during the fourth quarter and business spending on machinery and equipment remained strong. Meanwhile, consumer spending slowed.

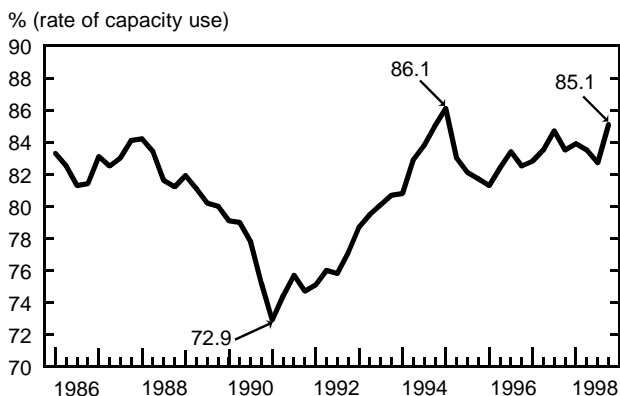
Rates of capacity use may continue to rise in the manufacturing sector where producers reported that they expect to increase production during the next quarter, according to the latest Business Conditions Survey. Construction activity may slow, however, as the value of residential building permits issued declined in January.

There is still no evidence of inflation in the economy. Industrial prices, which have been relatively stationary for some time, fell 0.3% in January. Unit labour costs have been stable for about two years. The Consumer Price Index, which has been showing annual increases mostly between 0.7 and 1.0% since November 1997, rose only 0.6% in January.

Auto industries push manufacturing

Manufacturers raised their rate of capacity use by 2.4 percentage points to 85.1% in the fourth quarter following three consecutive quarterly declines. Thirteen of the 22 industry groups in manufacturing raised their rates.

Auto sector drives up manufacturing



The transportation equipment group of industries were the major contributors to the upturn in manufacturing. Producers in this group raised their rate of capacity use a hefty 12.0 percentage points to a 20-year high of 90.3% as they rebuilt inventories both in Canada and the United States.

Producers of glass, concrete and cement products stepped up output in the fourth quarter and were the main contributors to the 3.4 percentage point rise in the rate of capacity use in the non-metallic mineral industries, bringing the level to 88.3%.

In the wood industries, the rate increased 2.6 percentage points to 86.5% as producers of building materials boosted output.

Increased activity by pulp and paper producers raised the rate of capacity use in the paper and allied products group by 2.5 percentage points to 87.6%.

Producers of rubber products increased output and pushed up their rate of capacity use 2.5 percentage points to 95.5%.

Reduced capacity exaggerated the modest increase in production in the refined petroleum and coal industries where the rate of capacity use rose 2.5 percentage points to 97.9%, a new peak.

Other industries had declines in rates of capacity use in the fourth quarter. A slight increase in capacity combined with a drop in production in the primary metal industries brought its rate down 2.1 percentage points to 86.9%.

Similarly, in the fabricated metal products group of industries, a slight decrease in production was exaggerated by an increase in capacity leading to a downturn of 1.4 percentage points to 80.8%.

Producers of footwear were mainly responsible for the substantial decline in the output of the leather and allied products group. This drop in production was partly offset by a contraction in capacity with the result that the rate of capacity use for the group fell 4.1 percentage points to 74.1%.

Similarly, a drop in output in the primary textiles industries was partly offset by decreased capacity. The rate of capacity use fell 3.6 percentage points to 79.3%.

Ups and downs in non-manufacturing industries

Export demand for forestry products led to an increase in production in the logging and forestry industries which was partly offset by an increase in capacity. The rate of capacity use in these industries rose 1.4 of a percentage point to 83.3%.

Due to increased residential construction activity, construction industries posted a 0.5 percentage point gain in their use of capacity, bringing the level to 82.6%.

World prices continued to depress activity in the mining, quarrying and oil well group of industries. The drop in the rate of capacity use was 3.0 percentage points bringing the level to 73.2%.

In utilities, an increase of 1.2 percentage points in gas distribution systems was more than offset by a decline of 3.9 percentage points in electric power systems. As a result, the rate of capacity use for the electric power and gas distribution systems group was down 3.2 percentage points to 80.5%.

Available on CANSIM: matrices3140.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Susanna Wood (613-951-0655) or Richard Landry (613-951-2579), Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Industrial capacity utilization rates

| | Third quarter 1998 | Fourth quarter 1998 | Third to fourth quarter 1998 | 1997 | 1998 | 1997 to 1998 |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|----------------------|
| | | | % point change | | | % point change |
| Total non-farm goods-producing industries | 81.8 | 82.5 | 0.7 | 83.2 | 82.6 | -0.6 |
| Logging and forestry | 81.9 | 83.3 | 1.4 | 84.0 | 82.1 | -1.9 |
| Mining (including milling), quarrying and oil wells | 76.2 | 73.2 | -3.0 | 80.6 | 77.3 | -3.3 |
| Mining (including milling) and quarrying | 78.5 | 74.4 | -4.1 | 86.0 | 80.4 | -5.6 |
| Crude petroleum and natural gas | 74.9 | 72.5 | -2.4 | 77.4 | 75.5 | -1.9 |
| Manufacturing | 82.7 | 85.1 | 2.4 | 83.6 | 83.8 | 0.2 |
| Durable goods | 81.7 | 85.1 | 3.4 | 84.4 | 83.5 | -0.9 |
| Wood | 83.9 | 86.5 | 2.6 | 84.1 | 84.0 | -0.1 |
| Furniture and fixture | 84.2 | 83.7 | -0.5 | 84.3 | 85.9 | 1.6 |
| Primary metal | 89.0 | 86.9 | -2.1 | 89.2 | 89.4 | 0.2 |
| Fabricated metal products | 82.2 | 80.8 | -1.4 | 80.3 | 81.4 | 1.1 |
| Machinery | 77.4 | 76.2 | -1.2 | 87.2 | 81.4 | -5.8 |
| Transportation equipment | 78.3 | 90.3 | 12.0 | 86.9 | 83.5 | -3.4 |
| Electrical and electronic products | 84.0 | 82.5 | -1.5 | 79.8 | 82.7 | 2.9 |
| Non-metallic mineral products | 84.9 | 88.3 | 3.4 | 83.6 | 86.2 | 2.6 |
| Other manufacturing | 82.2 | 82.7 | 0.5 | 82.6 | 81.3 | -1.3 |
| Non-durable goods | 83.9 | 85.0 | 1.1 | 82.7 | 84.2 | 1.5 |
| Food | 82.4 | 83.5 | 1.1 | 79.0 | 82.0 | 3.0 |
| Beverage | 90.4 | 89.0 | -1.4 | 82.2 | 88.6 | 6.4 |
| Tobacco products | 81.3 | 79.1 | -2.2 | 81.0 | 81.9 | 0.9 |
| Rubber products | 93.0 | 95.5 | 2.5 | 93.6 | 94.1 | 0.5 |
| Plastic products | 81.6 | 83.7 | 2.1 | 79.3 | 81.5 | 2.2 |
| Leather and allied products | 78.2 | 74.1 | -4.1 | 78.7 | 77.3 | -1.4 |
| Primary textile | 82.9 | 79.3 | -3.6 | 84.7 | 82.5 | -2.2 |
| Textile products | 74.2 | 76.2 | 2.0 | 73.8 | 74.8 | 1.0 |
| Clothing | 86.5 | 88.2 | 1.7 | 86.2 | 87.3 | 1.1 |
| Paper and allied products | 85.1 | 87.6 | 2.5 | 90.4 | 87.0 | -3.4 |
| Printing, publishing and allied | 83.1 | 83.7 | 0.6 | 82.5 | 83.0 | 0.5 |
| Refined petroleum and coal products | 95.4 | 97.9 | 2.5 | 94.4 | 94.6 | 0.2 |
| Chemical and chemical products | 83.1 | 84.7 | 1.6 | 82.0 | 84.1 | 2.1 |
| Construction | 82.1 | 82.6 | 0.5 | 82.6 | 83.2 | 0.6 |
| Electric power and gas distribution systems | 83.7 | 80.5 | -3.2 | 85.0 | 81.9 | -3.1 |
| Electric power | 85.7 | 81.8 | -3.9 | 86.0 | 83.5 | -2.5 |
| Gas distribution | 70.0 | 71.2 | 1.2 | 78.0 | 70.6 | -7.4 |

OTHER RELEASES

Illicit drugs and crime

1997

Statistics Canada today releases a *Juristat* with a detailed analysis of criminal drug offences reported by Canadian police forces. Baseline data on this subject were released last July as part of the *Juristat on Crime statistics in Canada, 1997*. The report on drugs provides a statistical profile of drug crimes and drug offenders. It also examines national trends, as well as data for the provinces and territories.

In 1997, police forces in Canada reported 66,500 offences under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. This represented a rate of 222 offences for every 100,000 people in the population. Although the drug crime rate has increased 12% between 1993 and 1997, it has remained relatively stable since 1983. It should be noted that trends in police-reported drug offences are influenced by levels of police enforcement.

Drug offences

1988-1997

| | number | rate ¹ | % change in rate |
|------|--------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 1988 | 59,382 | 222 | ... |
| 1989 | 66,930 | 245 | 11 |
| 1990 | 60,624 | 219 | -11 |
| 1991 | 57,068 | 204 | -7 |
| 1992 | 58,881 | 207 | 2 |
| 1993 | 56,817 | 198 | -5 |
| 1994 | 60,153 | 207 | 5 |
| 1995 | 61,613 | 210 | 1 |
| 1996 | 65,729 | 222 | 6 |
| 1997 | 66,521 | 222 | 0 |

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 persons.

... Figures not applicable.

During the 1990s, cannabis offences have been increasing while cocaine and heroin offences have been declining. In 1997, cannabis offences accounted for 72% of all drug crimes, compared with 58% in 1991. In contrast, cocaine accounted for 17% of all cases in 1997, down from 28% in 1991, and heroin accounted for about 2% of all cases, down marginally from 1991.

Possession of cannabis alone accounted for almost half of all drug offences. In 1997, cultivation offences represented 14% of all cannabis offences compared with slightly less than 3% a decade earlier. According to the Criminal Intelligence Service Canada, this rise may be linked to more sophisticated growing techniques and new technology which have enabled Canadian traffickers to produce high-quality cannabis

in hydroponic greenhouses. Canadian-grown cannabis accounted for 50% of the domestic market supply in 1995, compared with 10% in 1985.

Among the provinces, British Columbia has consistently reported the highest rate of drug crime since 1982. Its 1997 rate of 426 drug offences for every 100,000 population was almost double the national rate. Newfoundland recorded the lowest rate (132) for the second consecutive year. In recent years, Newfoundland and Alberta have shown the largest decreases in the rate of drug offences, while Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba have shown the largest increases.

Overall, 40,800 people, both youths and adults, were charged with a drug offence in 1997. Nine out of every 10 of them were male. People charged in cocaine and heroin incidents were, on average, 30 years of age. Those charged with cannabis offences tended to be younger, with an average age of 25. Also, older offenders are more likely to be involved with "supply" offences.

Court data from seven provinces and one territory for the fiscal year 1996/1997 show that almost two-thirds (64%) of people convicted of drug trafficking were sentenced to prison, five times the proportion of people jailed for drug possession (13%).

Data from a one-day snapshot of inmates in correctional facilities in 1996 showed that 9% of the adult inmate population in Canada were in prison for a drug offence as their most serious offence. Alberta (17%) and Quebec (14%) had the highest percentage of drug offenders in their provincial prisons, while British Columbia (8%) was below the national average. In federal penitentiaries, 8% of all inmates were incarcerated for a drug offence as their most serious offence.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2198-2200.

Juristat: Illicit drugs and crime in Canada, vol.19, no.1 (85-002-XPE, \$10/\$93) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Information and Client Services (613-951-9023; 1 800 387-2231), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. ■

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending February 21, 1999

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending February 21, 1999 decreased 8.3% to 4.5 million tonnes from the same period of 1998. The number of cars loaded decreased 5.8%.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totalled 355 000 tonnes, a 12.8% increase from the same period last year. The year-to-date figures show a gain of 11.3%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) decreased 7.0% during the period. The year-to-date total amounted to 33.6 million tonnes, a 6.3% decrease from the previous year.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; laroque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Annual Survey of Canadian-domiciled Marine Carriers

1997

For-hire marine carriers in Canada reported an operating profit for the fifth straight year in 1997. A before-tax profit of \$123 million on revenues of \$2.0 billion was reported by 145 for-hire carriers.

Preliminary statistics for 1997 will be published in the *Surface and marine transport service bulletin* (50-002-XIB, \$10/\$62). See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; laroque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Imports by country, January-December 1998
Catalogue number 65-006-XMB
(Canada: \$62/\$206; outside Canada: US\$62/US\$206).

Imports by country, January-December 1998
Catalogue number 65-006-XPB
(Canada: \$124/\$412; outside Canada: US\$124/US\$412).

Exports by commodity, December 1998
Catalogue number 65-004-XMB
(Canada: \$37/\$361; outside Canada: US\$37/US\$361).

Exports by commodity, December 1998
Catalogue number 65-004-XPB
(Canada: \$78/\$773; outside Canada: US\$78/US\$773).

Juristat: Illicit drugs and crime in Canada, 1997,
vol. 19, no. 1
Catalogue number 85-002-XIE
(Canada: \$8/\$70; outside Canada: US\$8/US\$70).

Juristat: Illicit drugs and crime in Canada, 1997,
vol. 19, no. 1
Catalogue number 85-002-XPE
(Canada: \$10/\$93; outside Canada: US\$10/US\$93).

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 9, 1997
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 65 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow nominal growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **High-wire index, May 1997** 3
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