

# Statistics Canada

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

For release at 8:30 a.m.

## **MAJOR RELEASES**

- Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, April 1999
   Led by declines concentrated in the motor vehicle, railway rolling stock and food industries, manufacturers' shipments decreased 0.8% in April to \$39.5 billion.
- Births, 1997
   Women are increasingly starting families at age 30 and older. Almost one-third (31%) of births in 1997 were to first-time mothers in this age group, compared with 19% one decade earlier.

## **OTHER RELEASES**

- Food consumption, 1998

  Steel wire and specified wire products, April 1999

  Steel pipe and tubing, April 1999

  Geographical patterns of socio-economic well-being of First Nations communities

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  Inter-corporate ownership on CD-ROM, second quarter 1999

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## End of release

## **MAJOR RELEASES**

## **Monthly Survey of Manufacturing** April 1999

Led by declines concentrated in the motor vehicle, railway rolling stock and food industries, manufacturers' shipments decreased 0.8% in April to \$39.5 billion.

This drop in shipments followed a strong increase in March and represented the third decline in four months. However, shipments increased strongly throughout the fall of 1998. The trend of manufacturers' shipments remained positive, although at a lower pace with the addition of April's result. Shipments in April were 5.9% above the April 1998 level.

Unfilled orders slipped in April whereas inventories edged upward.

Employment in the manufacturing sector edged up in May but has changed only slightly over the last two months. In the April Business Conditions Survey, 84% of manufacturers' reported that they expected production to remain the same or increase during the second guarter.

#### Shipments fall in April after a strong showing in March

Manufacturers' shipments decreased in 13 of 22 major groups in April, representing 74.4% of the total value of shipments.

The largest contributors to April's decrease were the motor vehicle (-3.6%), railway rolling stock (-42.4%), and food (-2.4%) industries. Together, the declines in these three industries were greater than the total decline in manufacturers' shipments, which was offset by gains in nine industries.

After increasing strongly throughout the fall then levelling off, shipments in the motor vehicle industry decreased in April. The railway rolling stock industry returned to more normal levels after experiencing stronger than normal shipments in February and March and some labour difficulties in April. The decline in the food industry was primarily the result of decreased demand for canola oil from China.

#### Note to readers

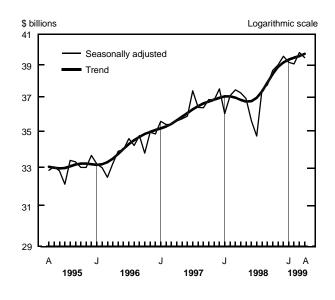
For the first time, separate non-seasonally adjusted data on shipments from Nunavut are available.

Unfilled orders are a stock of orders which will contribute to future shipments assuming that orders are not cancelled.

New orders represent orders received whether shipped in the current month or not. They are measured as the sum of shipments for the current month plus the change in unfilled orders. Some people interpret new orders as orders that will lead to future demand. This is inappropriate since the new orders variable includes orders that have already been shipped. Users should be aware that the month-to-month change in new orders may be volatile, particularly if the previous month's change in unfilled orders is large in relation to the current month's change.

Not all orders will be translated into Canadian factory shipments because portions of large contracts can be subcontracted out to manufacturers in other countries.

#### Shipments fall back in April



Increases in manufacturers' shipments were observed in the refined petroleum and coal (+9.8%), aircraft and parts (+8.8%) and wood (+2.6%) industries. The price of refined petroleum products rose 9.1% in April following an increase of 7.8% in March, according to the Industrial Product Price Index.

Manufacturers' shipments decreased in 8 of the 13 provinces and territories.

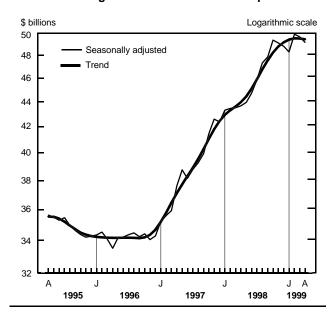
### Shipments by province

	March 1999	April 1999	March to April 1999
_	seaso	onally adjusted	
_	\$ millions	3	% change
Newfoundland	162	156	-3.4
Prince Edward Island	84	82	-1.7
Nova Scotia	552	590	7.0
New Brunswick	661	674	1.9
Quebec	9,054	9,047	-0.1
Ontario	22,100	21,822	-1.3
Manitoba	899	875	-2.7
Saskatchewan	512	490	-4.4
Alberta	2,766	2,756	-0.3
British Columbia Yukon, Northwest Territories and	3,001	2,961	-1.3
Nunavut	3	3	3.0

#### Unfilled orders fall for fifth time in six months

Manufacturers' backlog of unfilled orders fell 1.0% to \$49.2 billion in April, the fifth decline in the last six months. The trend has levelled off in recent months after increasing strongly since the beginning of 1997.

#### Backlog of unfilled orders falls in April



April's Business Conditions Survey revealed that 79% of manufacturers thought their current level of unfilled orders was about normal.

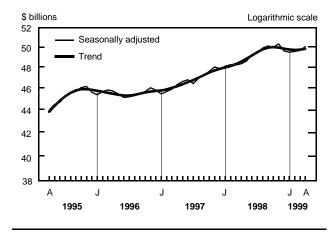
Unfilled orders decreased in the transportation equipment (-2.3%) and machinery (-2.5%) industries.

The fabricated metal products (+5.1%) industry had the largest increase in unfilled orders. The electrical and electronic products (+1.1%) and clothing (+7.0%) industries also reported increases.

#### Manufacturers' inventories increase

Manufacturers' inventories edged up 0.8% to \$50.0 billion in April. Gains were observed in all of the components of inventories, with the largest increase in the goods-in-process inventories category (+1.6%).

#### Inventories rise in April



In order of magnitude, the major contributors to April's increase in inventories were the electrical and electronic products (+3.5%), and the refined petroleum and coal (+8.5%) industries.

The largest offsetting decrease was observed in the wood (-2.9%) industry.

The inventory-to-shipments ratio rose to 1.27 in April, up from 1.25 in March. This ratio has been following a downward trend since July 1998 and has remained at historically low levels.

Available on CANSIM: Matrices 9550-9555, 9558, 9559, 9562-9565, 9568-9579 and 9581-9595.

The April 1999 issue of the *Monthly Survey* of *Manufacturing* (31-001-XPB, \$20/\$196) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

Data for shipments by province in greater detail than normally published may be available on request. For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Craig Kuntz (613-951-7092; *kuncrai@statcan.ca*), Monthly Survey of Manufacturing Section.

## Shipments, inventories and orders in all manufacturing industries

	Shipme	ents	Invento	ries	Unfilled o	rders	New ord	ders	Inventories to shipments ratio
		seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	
April 1998	37,254	-0.5	48,314	0.3	43,676	0.4	37,412	-0.2	1.30
May 1998	36,912	-0.9	48,576	0.5	43,962	0.7	37,198	-0.6	1.32
June 1998	35,587	-3.6	49,238	1.4	44,722	1.7	36,347	-2.3	1.38
July 1998	34,706	-2.5	49,372	0.3	45,883	2.6	35,867	-1.3	1.42
August 1998	37,436	7.9	49,895	1.1	47,312	3.1	38,865	8.4	1.33
September 1998	37,743	0.8	50,109	0.4	47,847	1.1	38,279	-1.5	1.33
October 1998	38,637	2.4	49,981	-0.3	49,369	3.2	40,159	4.9	1.29
November 1998	38,977	0.9	50,326	0.7	49,102	-0.5	38,710	-3.6	1.29
December 1998	39,550	1.5	49,613	-1.4	48,795	-0.6	39,243	1.4	1.25
January 1999	39,161	-1.0	49,469	-0.3	48,294	-1.0	38,660	-1.5	1.26
February 1999	39,052	-0.3	49,562	0.2	49,906	3.3	40,664	5.2	1.27
March 1999	39,786	1.9	49,658	0.2	49,659	-0.5	39,539	-2.8	1.25
April 1999	39,454	-0.8	50,042	8.0	49,159	-1.0	38,953	-1.5	1.27

## All manufacturing industries except motor vehicle, parts and accessories industries

	Shipme	Shipments		Inventories Unfilled		rders	New ord	ders		
		seasonally adjusted								
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change		
April 1998	30,063	-0.2	45,466	0.1	37,770	0.6	30,294	0.6		
May 1998	29,736	-1.1	45,806	0.7	37,935	0.4	29,902	-1.3		
June 1998	29,889	0.5	46,290	1.1	38,590	1.7	30,543	2.1		
July 1998	29,720	-0.6	46,525	0.5	39,521	2.4	30,651	0.4		
August 1998	30,239	1.7	46,826	0.6	40,802	3.2	31,520	2.8		
September 1998	30,269	0.1	46,950	0.3	41,136	0.8	30,602	-2.9		
October 1998	30,375	0.4	46,809	-0.3	42,288	2.8	31,527	3.0		
November 1998	30,486	0.4	46,846	0.1	42,066	-0.5	30,264	-4.0		
December 1998	30,823	1.1	46,470	-0.8	42,240	0.4	30,997	2.4		
January 1999	30,418	-1.3	46,379	-0.2	41,892	-0.8	30,070	-3.0		
February 1999	30,379	-0.1	46,575	0.4	43,390	3.6	31,877	6.0		
March 1999	31,069	2.3	46,721	0.3	43,415	0.1	31,094	-2.5		
April 1999	30,951	-0.4	47,092	0.8	43,248	-0.4	30,784	-1.0		

## **Births**

1997

Women are increasingly starting families at age 30 and older. Almost one-third (31%) of births in 1997 were to first-time mothers in this age group, compared with 19% one decade earlier.

Ontario led the national trend of women starting and continuing their childbearing in their 30s and up. Fully half of all births in Ontario were to mothers age 30 and older.

In 1997, 348,598 babies were born in Canada, down 4.8% compared with 1996. This was the largest annual decline in the decade from 1987 to 1997. The total fertility rate reached a record low in 1997 at 1,552 births per 1,000 women (age 15 to 49).

#### First-time mothers getting older

Almost one-third (31%) of first births in 1997 were to mothers aged 30 and older, compared with 19% one decade earlier. These women gave birth to 46,899 of the 149,998 first-born babies in 1997. Women in their 20s continued to account for the majority of first births, but their share of the total slipped to 58% from 70% in 1987. Teenagers accounted for 11% of first births throughout the decade.

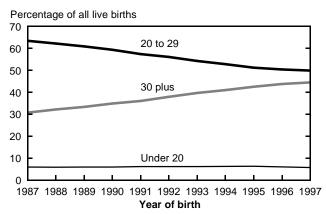
The proportion of births to first-time mothers aged 30 and older ranged from fewer than 20% in Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories to more than 35% in Ontario and British Columbia. Ten years earlier, the proportion of births to first-time mothers 30 years and over was lower in all provinces and territories, ranging from 9% to 26%.

Women in their 20s accounted for the majority of first-born babies in 1997 in all provinces and Yukon. Slightly less than 10% of first births in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia were to teenage mothers, compared with 37% of such first births in the Northwest Territories.

## Women aged 30 and older increase their share of all births

Throughout the 1987 to 1997 period, an increasing proportion of births have been to mothers aged 30 and older and this trend was not restricted to first births. In 1997, 44% of live births were to women in this age group, compared with only 31% in 1987. In contrast, the proportion of live births to women in their 20s slipped to 50% in 1997 from 63% ten years earlier. Nationally, the proportion of births to teenagers remained at 6% throughout the decade.

## Live births, by age group of mother



The proportion of births to mothers aged 30 and older increased in every province and territory in the last decade. In British Columbia, mothers in this age group had 47% of the babies in 1997, up substantially from 34% ten years earlier.

In Ontario, the proportion of births to mothers aged 30 and older rose from 33% in 1987 to 50% in 1997, which was higher than the proportion of births to mothers in their 20s (45%).

In the Atlantic and Prairie provinces and the territories, the majority of live births were to mothers in their 20s; the proportions ranged from a high of 59% in New Brunswick to a low of 51% in Yukon.

Births to teenage mothers in 1997 were as low as 5% of births in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia, and as high as 17% in the Northwest Territories and 11% in Saskatchewan. The proportion of births to teenage mothers remained fairly stable in the last decade in the provinces, but the proportions varied somewhat in the territories. However, these latter estimates should be viewed cautiously due to the small populations in the territories.

#### Fertility falls to record low in 1997

Despite an increase in the early 1990s, the fertility rate, at 1,552 live births per 1,000 women (age 15 to 49), has fallen below the former record low of 1987. It now stands at less than half of the peak reached in 1959, when there were 3,935 births per 1,000 women.

In 1997, the Northwest Territories had the highest fertility rate, at 2,583 live births per 1,000 women, while Newfoundland had the lowest rate, at 1,269 live births per 1,000.

In terms of age groups, the fertility rate was highest for women aged 25 to 29, at 103.9 live births per 1,000 women that age, followed by 84.4 live births per 1,000 women aged 30 to 34. In 1997, the national fertility rate was lower for all age groups under 30 compared with 1987.

In 1997, Ontario had the highest fertility rates for women in their 30s and some of the lowest rates for women in their 20s. In this province, fertility rates for teenagers and women in their 20s were lower in 1997 compared with 1987, but they were higher for women aged 30 and older. For example, the fertility rate for women aged 30 to 34 increased from 79.7 births per 1,000 in 1987 to 91.3 in 1997; for women aged 35 to 39, the rate increased from 26.8 to 38.1 births per 1,000 women over this decade.

## Infant mortality drops to 5.5 deaths per 1,000 live births

Infant mortality (the death of children under one year of age) was down to 5.5 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1997, compared with 5.6 per 1,000 in 1996 and 7.3 per 1,000 in 1987. The infant mortality rate for girls, at 5.0 deaths per 1,000 live births, remains lower than that for boys, at 6.0 deaths per 1,000.

The infant mortality rate was lowest in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia in 1997 (4.4 deaths per 1,000 live births). The rate in Quebec, which had

dropped to a record low of 4.6 in 1996, rose to 5.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 1997.

#### Infant mortality 1997

	Infant deaths	Live births <sup>1</sup>	Infant mortality rate
			(Deaths per 1,000 live births)
Canada	1,928	348,598	5.5
Newfoundland	28	5,416	5.2
Prince Edward Island	7	1,591	4.4
Nova Scotia	44	9,952	4.4
New Brunswick	45	7,922	5.7
Quebec	444	79,774	5.6
Ontario	728	133,004	5.5
Manitoba	110	14,655	7.5
Saskatchewan	114	12,860	8.9
Alberta	178	36,905	4.8
British Columbia	210	44,577	4.7
Yukon	4	474	8.4
Northwest Territories	16	1,468	10.9

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Excludes births to non-residents of Canada and stillbirths.

To obtain data, contact Client Custom Services (613-951-1746). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Patricia Tully (613-951-1759) or Doreen Duchesne (613-951-6379), Health Statistics Division.

## First live births, by mother's age group

		1987			1997				
	Mother's age group <sup>1</sup>								
	Under	20	30	Under	20	30			
	20	to 29	plus	20	to 29	plus			
			%						
Canada <sup>2</sup>	11.3	70.0	18.7	11.0	57.7	31.3			
Newfoundland				16.3	61.3	22.5			
Prince Edward Island	18.7	69.6	11.7	16.9	60.6	22.5			
Nova Scotia	15.8	70.4	13.9	13.8	60.0	26.2			
New Brunswick	15.4	71.4	13.3	14.9	64.6	20.5			
Quebec	7.8	74.3	17.7	9.1	62.6	28.3			
Ontario	9.9	69.9	20.2	9.0	55.1	35.7			
Manitoba	18.0	65.1	16.9	17.9	55.4	26.6			
Saskatchewan	21.2	66.7	12.1	23.1	58.4	18.4			
Alberta	14.9	67.4	17.7	13.9	57.6	28.5			
British Columbia	10.6	66.5	22.9	9.5	55.2	35.3			
Yukon	21.0	52.7	26.3	13.5	56.0	30.5			
Northwest Territories	44.1	46.8	9.1	37.2	43.8	19.0			

## All live births, by mother's age group

		1987			1997				
	Mother's age group <sup>1</sup>								
	Under	20	30	Under	20	30			
	20	to 29	plus	20	to 29	plus			
			%						
Canada <sup>2</sup>	5.9	63.4	30.7	5.7	49.8	44.4			
Newfoundland				9.2	56.5	34.3			
Prince Edward Island	8.5	64.5	26.9	9.0	54.7	36.3			
Nova Scotia	7.8	65.4	26.8	7.5	53.9	38.6			
New Brunswick	7.8	66.7	25.5	8.3	59.1	32.6			
Quebec	4.3	66.9	28.6	4.7	53.3	41.9			
Ontario	5.0	61.5	33.5	4.6	45.4	49.9			
Manitoba	9.3	62.4	28.3	9.7	52.7	37.6			
Saskatchewan	10.2	65.8	24.1	11.4	56.2	32.4			
Alberta	7.4	63.2	29.4	7.0	52.2	40.8			
British Columbia	5.3	60.7	34.0	5.0	48.3	46.7			
Yukon	10.3	54.6	35.1	6.8	51.1	42.2			
Northwest Territories	20.7	58.7	20.6	17.1	55.9	27.0			

Mother's age was not available for births in Newfoundland prior to 1991.

Mother's age was not available for births in Newfoundland prior to 1991.

Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding and unknown mother's age.

Excludes births to non-residents of Canada and stillbirths.

Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding and unknown mother's age. Excludes births to non-residents of Canada and stillbirths.

## **OTHER RELEASES**

## **Food consumption**

1998

Canadians are eating more according to 1998 data on the amount of food available for consumption. At the same time, they continued the trend to healthier eating, choosing lower-fat products. The 1998 general increase in food consumption coincided with an expanding Canadian economy and a falling unemployment rate.

Per capita consumption of red meat increased in 1998 after declining since the mid-1970s. Much of this increase can be attributed to pork demand, which rose 6.5% to 27.0 kilograms per person in 1998, as consumers responded to increased supplies and lower prices.

Each Canadian ate on average 61.3 kg of red meat in 1998, up 2.9% from the previous year. Beef consumption, although stable, remains the red meat of choice among Canadian consumers, accounting for about half of consumption. Consumption of all types of poultry were up in 1998.

Consumption of eggs, which had been decreasing for several decades has bounced back since 1995. Each Canadian ate an average of 15.2 dozen eggs in 1998, up 5% from 1995. Promotions by the egg industry and increased use in processed foods have helped to raise consumption back to levels seen in the late 1980s.

Canadians continue to enjoy frozen treats such as milkshakes, ice cream and ice milk. However, ice cream has lost some ground over the last couple of years to its lower fat alternative, ice milk. Yogurt is also becoming increasingly popular, showing a 65% increase in consumption since the mid-1980s. Yogurt consumption in 1998 was over 8% greater than last year's level (3.4 litres per person compared with 3.2 litres in 1997).

Rice continues to rise in popularity as an alternative to potatoes and other side dishes. Its consumption has more than doubled over the past 15 years due in part to many convenient, packaged selections and to higher demands from an expanding Asian population. In 1998, each Canadian ate 7.9 kg of rice, up 1.7% from a year ago.

The amount of fluid milk consumed both as lowand full-fat varieties continued to decrease. In 1998, fluid milk consumption dropped to 84.1 litres, down over 5% from 1997. However, consumers concerned about their fat intake are increasingly choosing low-fat over standard milks.

The general decrease in milk consumption can be attributed to factors such as an aging population

with fewer children, a growing ethnic population, which traditionally does not drink much milk and displacement by other beverages such as soft drinks and juices.

Soft drinks are becoming increasingly popular, showing close to a 100% jump in consumption since the early seventies. Canadians drank on average 114 litres in 1998, compared with 106 litres in 1997.

Data available up to 1997 also show that consumers have a strong preference for fresh fruit and vegetables. The 1998 data for fruit and vegetables, oils and fats, and fish will be released in October.

Canada's growing population demands a variety of foodstuffs, not all of which can be supplied domestically. This is reflected in the greater proportion of foods within the net supply of food available for consumption. For example, imports account for 88% of the fresh fruit consumed in Canada and 39% of the fresh vegetables.

Imports of red meats, poultry and eggs have also climbed, partly the result of freer trade. The proportion of net supply of red meat imports escalated from 9% in 1985 to 18% in 1998. Similarly, poultry imports increased from 5% to 14% and imports of eggs rose from 5% to 11% over the same period.

These data represent food available for consumption and not actual quantities of food consumed in Canada. This is because the data do not include losses in stores, households, private institutions or restaurants.

#### Available on CANSIM: matrices 2260-2267.

Historical consumption data (1984 to 1998) for dairy products, beverages, eggs, pulses and nuts, sugars and syrups, cereals, meats, poultry, plus detailed information on production, stocks, international trade and supplies used by manufacturers will be available in *Food consumption in Canada, part I* (32-229-XPB, \$33; 32-229-XIB, \$25), which will be released at the end of June.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Debbie Dupuis (613-951-2553) or Patricia Chandler (613-951-2506; 1-800-465-1991; fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division.

# **Steel wire and specified wire products** April 1999

Shipments of steel wire and specified wire products totalled 72 825 tonnes in April, down 2.6%

from 74 758 tonnes (revised) in April 1998. Production and export market data for selected commodities are also available.

#### Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (series 19).

The April 1999 issue of *Steel wire and specified wire products* (41-006-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-9837; saineti@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

## Steel pipe and tubing

April 1999

Steel pipe and tubing production for April totalled 192 804 tonnes, a 19.0% decrease from 237 961 tonnes a year earlier.

Year-to-date production to the end of April totalled 823 305 tonnes, down 7.7% from 891 789 tonnes during the same period in 1998.

#### Available on CANSIM: matrix 35.

The April 1999 issue of *Steel pipe and tubing* (41-011-XIB, \$5/\$47) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-7093; milsomg@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

# Geographical patterns of socio-economic well-being of First Nations communities

In collaboration with the Rural Secretariat, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, Statistics Canada today releases the eighth in a series of analysis bulletins profiling trends in rural Canada.

This bulletin. Geographical patterns socio-economic well-being of First Nations communities, shows that First Nations communities in the Prairie provinces and Canadian Shield locations typically have the poorest conditions when education, housing, employment and income are taken into consideration. Southern British Columbia and B.C. coastal communities, along with southern Ontario communities, have relatively good conditions.

Between 1986 and 1996, there has been little change in the geographic patterns of socio-economic well-being among First Nations communities. These communities appear to be poorly integrated with the surrounding non-aboriginal society and economy—at least in ways which are mutually beneficial. There are only weak relationships between the employment, income and housing of First Nations communities and the neighbouring non-aboriginal communities.

Geographical patterns of socio-economic well-being of First Nations communities (21-006-XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site at www.statcan.ca under Products and services.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Robin P. Armstrong (613-951-4995; 1-800-465-1991; fax: 613-951-0387; armsrob@statcan.ca), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.

## Inter-corporate ownership on CD-ROM Second quarter 1999

Inter-corporate ownership on CD-ROM (61-517-XCB) is now available. An annual subscription with quarterly updates is \$995; a single copy without updates is \$350. The Inter-corporate ownership 1998 directory is also available (61-517-XPB, \$350). See How to order publications.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality for this release, contact Gail Sharland (613-951-9843) or Steve Dufour (613-951-2651), Industrial Organization and Finance Division.

## **PUBLICATIONS RELEASED**

Gross domestic product by industry, March 1999 Catalogue number 15-001-XPB

(Canada: \$15/\$145; outside Canada: US\$15/US\$145).

Rural and small town Canada analysis bulletin, Geographical patterns of socio-economic well-being of first nations communities, vol.1, no. 8 Catalogue number 21-006-XIE (Free).

Exports by country, January-March 1999 Catalogue number 65-003-XMB

(Canada: \$62/\$206; outside Canada: US\$62/US\$206).

Exports by country, January-March 1999 Catalogue number 65-003-XPB

(Canada: \$124/\$412; outside Canada:

ÙS\$124/US\$412).

Exports by commodity, March 1999 Catalogue number 65-004-XMB

(Canada: \$37/\$361; outside Canada: US\$37/US\$361).

Exports by commodity, March 1999 Catalogue number 65-004-XPB

(Canada: \$78/\$773; outside Canada: US\$78/US\$773).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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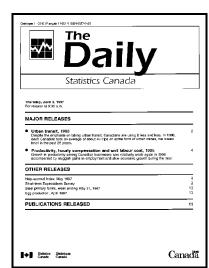
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