



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, September 30, 1999

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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Gross domestic product advanced 0.4% in July, spearheaded by a broad-based increase in factory output. It was the 12th consecutive monthly increase, marking the longest uninterrupted string of gains in more than a decade.

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Food Expenditure Survey — public-use microdata file 1996

Are you interested in doing in-depth analysis of the food spending patterns of Canadian households? For example, do you need to know what proportion of the budget is spent on various food categories by different types of households? Or which households purchased meals in restaurants and what kind of restaurants they favour?

The microdata file from the 1996 Food Expenditure Survey gives data users access to hundreds of detailed variables about food spending, the quantity of food purchased, and the type of store or restaurant where purchases occurred. Also included are a variety of household demographic variables.

The public-use microdata file for the 1996 Food Expenditure Survey (62M0002XDB, \$1,500) is now available. Similar files based on the 1984, 1986, 1990, and 1992 surveys are also available. Analytical highlights are presented in the publication *Family food expenditure in Canada* (62-554-XPB, \$52). See *How to order publications*.

For more information about the survey results and related products and services, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-7355; 1 888 297-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division.



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MAJOR RELEASES

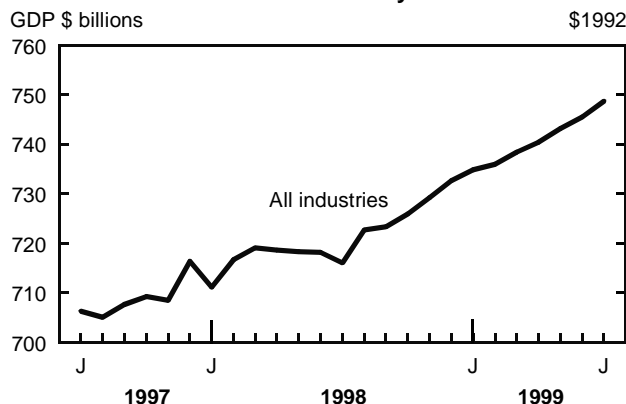
Gross domestic product by industry at factor cost

July 1999

Gross domestic product (GDP) advanced 0.4% in July, spearheaded by a broad-based increase in factory output. It was the 12th consecutive monthly increase, marking the longest uninterrupted string of gains in more than a decade.

Higher manufacturing output accounted for more than a third of July's rise. The rest of the monthly increase was attributable to advances in retailing and wholesaling, continued strength in business services, a weather-induced surge in the utilities industry and more growth in residential construction. Non-residential builders did not fare as well while the mining industry was hampered by weak demand and production interruptions. A strike by Quebec nurses reduced output in the health services sector for a second month.

Economy recorded twelfth consecutive advance in July



Broad-based gains in manufacturing

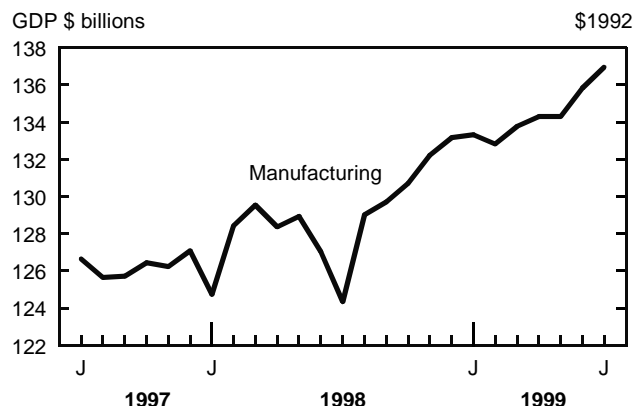
Manufacturers raised output 0.8% in July, ratcheting up production of diverse products such as transportation equipment, pulp and paper products and furniture. It was the fourth increase in manufacturing production in five months, and the second largest this year after June's 1.1% gain. Overall, 16 of 22 major industry groups, which accounted for 76.5% of manufacturing production, raised output in July.

Note to readers

The gross domestic product (GDP) of an industry is the value added by labour and capital in transforming inputs purchased from other producers into outputs. Monthly GDP by industry is valued at 1992 prices. The estimates presented here are seasonally adjusted at annual rates. This release also includes data revisions extending back to the January 1994 reference period.

Makers of primary and fabricated metal products led the industries where production declined.

A second consecutive strong gain in manufacturing



The transportation equipment group rose 2.0%, lifted by increased automobile and aircraft production. Motor vehicle assembly plants were busier as demand in the United States remained favourable during the summer. Sales south of the border in both July and August were strong and July dealer inventories were at multi-year lows. However, auto parts production in Canada edged down slightly in July, with makers of miscellaneous parts and accessories and wiring assemblies reporting the largest declines. Aircraft production climbed sharply, breaking out of a three-month lull.

A number of pulp and newsprint mills that had taken downtime because of a glut in supply returned to normal production in July, leading to a 3.5% surge in the output of paper and allied products. July's jump paralleled recent price increases, indicating that demand in global markets was firming after a protracted period of weakness. Indeed, exports of pulp and paper

products shot up 5.9% in July, the largest monthly gain in almost a year-and-a-half.

The strong upward trend in the production of electrical and electronic equipment that marked the first six months of the year eased in July, when the sector recorded a smaller-than-average 0.5% gain. Output of telecommunications equipment fell in July, matched by a drop in production of electronic parts and components. These declines were partly offset by another increase by makers of computers and peripherals, the fourth in the past five months. Moreover, production of communication wire and cable returned to strong growth in July, after a pause in June.

The furniture industry posted another robust month, as makers of office and home furniture both raised production significantly. Much of this industry's increase in recent months has been driven by higher production of office furniture, where growth, buoyed by strong foreign demand, has ballooned over 12% since the beginning of the year. The home furniture industry has also been doing well, spurred on by increased residential construction.

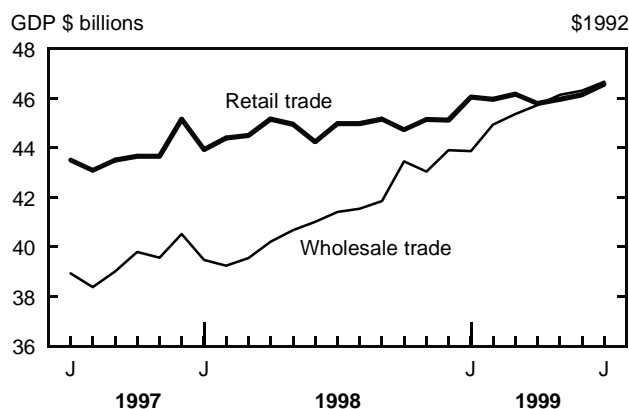
A steep drop in non-ferrous metal smelting led to a 5.2% drop in the primary metal products industry in July. The sharp decline at the smelters resulted from constrained output at several base metal mines because of mine closures, longer-than-usual summer shutdowns and strikes. Furthermore, output in the fabricated metal products industry declined 0.8% in July, on lower production by metal stamping factories and machine shops.

Output in the rapidly growing plastics industry edged down 0.3% in July, as manufacturers of plastic film and sheeting curtailed production. However, the plastics industry has lately been buoyed by strong demand for new plastic molded products, which has lifted production to levels significantly above those of a year ago.

Narrowly-based gains in retailing, wholesaling

Retailing activity rose by a healthy 0.9% in July, after a disappointing second quarter. However, the July gain was narrowly based, with auto dealerships (which saw higher sales of both cars and trucks) and department stores accounting for most of the overall increase. Clothing and household furnishing stores enjoyed moderate gains, while auto parts dealers and gas stations experienced a slowdown in business.

Healthy gains in retailing, wholesaling



Wholesaling activity rose 0.8% in July, capitalizing on the continued strong growth in sales of computers and software that has been driving the industry for the better part of four years. Excluding distributors of these products, wholesaling activity was essentially flat in July. While automotive and non-farm machinery wholesalers also had a good month, their gains were offset by weak performances by distributors of a wide range of goods, including fuel, hardware, lumber and farm machinery.

Business services continued to expand

Activity in the business services industry rose 0.9% in July. This was spurred by continued growth in computer and consulting services and increased demand for temporary help and other miscellaneous business services.

Above-normal temperatures boosted utilities

Unusually warm weather conditions in July sparked a surge in electrical power generation as air conditioning usage led to greater demand. Electricity use has boomed in recent months because of a heat wave that has advanced across the continent.

Homebuilding offsets drop in non-residential construction

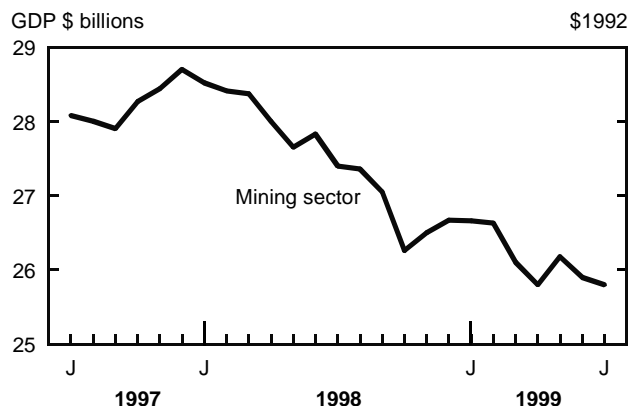
GDP in the construction industry was little changed in July, as the continued expansion of residential building activity was largely offset by a decline in non-residential construction. The latest advance in homebuilding was the 9th in 10 months, paralleling the

upswing in housing starts that followed a strike-induced slowdown in mid-1998. The decrease in non-residential building was concentrated in commercial and industrial projects.

Another weak month for the mining sector

Despite a positive month in the oil and gas industries, activity in the mining sector slipped 0.4% in July as both metal and non-metal mine output declined in the face of slackening demand and production interruptions.

Depressed demand and production interruptions hammered mining sector



The substantial drop in metal mines was the result of mine closures, extended summer shutdowns, strike actions and plant upgradings. The decline in non-metal

mine output was less pronounced, as the effects of weaker demand for potash were partly offset by increases in asbestos and diamond production.

Output of crude petroleum and natural gas rose for the third time in four months, paralleling the recent recovery in oil prices and a firming of demand in the face of declining inventories. July's increase was concentrated in natural gas production. Drilling and rigging activity was also on the rise, as stronger oil prices improved cash flow, leading some companies to accelerate exploration projects.

Other industries

Real estate agents experienced the first slowdown in six months, as sales of existing homes fell off slightly following a six-month string of increases. Telecommunication carriers and postal and courier companies reported increased business. Defense services were lifted by an increase in Canada's peacekeeping commitment to Kosovo. A strike by Quebec nurses, which intensified in July, led to another decline in output in the health services sector.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4677-4681.

The July 1999 issue of *Gross domestic product by industry* (15-001-XPB, \$15/\$145) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Richard Evans (613-951-9145; evanric@statcan.ca). For information regarding the purchase of data, contact Yolande Chantigny (1-800-887-IMAD or IMAD@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division. □

Gross domestic product at factor cost by industry at 1992 prices

| | Feb. 1999 ^r | March 1999 ^r | April 1999 ^r | May 1999 ^r | June 1999 ^r | July 1999 ^p | June to July 1999 | July 1999 | July 1998 to July 1999 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| seasonally adjusted | | | | | | | | | |
| | month-to-month % change | | | | | | \$ change ¹ | \$ level ¹ | % change |
| All industries | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 3,194 | 748,676 | 4.6 |
| Goods-producing industries | -0.1 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 1,497 | 248,033 | 6.0 |
| Agriculture | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.5 | -0.1 | -0.4 | -0.1 | -13 | 13,028 | 1.5 |
| Fishing and trapping | 3.5 | -5.9 | -3.0 | 10.6 | 1.1 | -5.1 | -42 | 778 | -4.5 |
| Logging and forestry | -1.8 | -0.1 | -0.3 | 0.6 | -0.9 | 1.0 | 43 | 4,316 | 5.1 |
| Mining, quarrying and oil wells | -0.1 | -2.0 | -1.2 | 1.5 | -1.1 | -0.4 | -102 | 25,801 | -5.8 |
| Manufacturing | -0.4 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 1,111 | 136,950 | 10.1 |
| Construction | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 108 | 41,313 | 3.8 |
| Other utilities | 0.9 | -0.2 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 0.4 | 1.5 | 392 | 25,847 | 4.6 |
| Services-producing industries | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 1,697 | 500,643 | 3.9 |
| Transportation and storage | 1.1 | -0.1 | 0.2 | 0.7 | 0.6 | -0.1 | -38 | 34,858 | 4.8 |
| Communications | 1.1 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 1.4 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 251 | 26,274 | 13.5 |
| Wholesale trade | 2.4 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.3 | 0.8 | 369 | 46,679 | 12.7 |
| Retail trade | -0.2 | 0.5 | -0.8 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 428 | 46,574 | 3.5 |
| Finance and insurance | -1.5 | 1.4 | 0.6 | -0.1 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 136 | 41,413 | 1.7 |
| Real estate and insurance agent | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 26 | 79,330 | 2.3 |
| Business services | 0.6 | 0.9 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 0.3 | 0.9 | 395 | 43,711 | 8.8 |
| Government services | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.6 | -0.2 | 0.4 | 163 | 45,760 | 2.6 |
| Education | -0.3 | -0.5 | 0.7 | -0.1 | -0.1 | 0.1 | 38 | 40,407 | -0.3 |
| Health and social services | -0.4 | -0.3 | -0.1 | -0.2 | -0.6 | -0.3 | -134 | 46,497 | -1.6 |
| Accommodation and food | -1.0 | 0.5 | 0.0 | -0.5 | -0.3 | -0.2 | -38 | 19,512 | 0.3 |
| Other services | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.2 | -0.2 | 0.3 | 101 | 29,628 | 2.2 |
| Other aggregations | | | | | | | | | |
| Industrial production | -0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 1,401 | 188,598 | 6.9 |
| Non-durable manufacturing | -0.3 | 0.0 | 0.6 | -0.8 | 0.6 | 1.2 | 660 | 57,777 | 3.9 |
| Durable manufacturing | -0.4 | 1.3 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 1.6 | 0.6 | 451 | 79,173 | 15.2 |
| Business sector | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 3,151 | 619,933 | 5.5 |
| Non-business sector | -0.1 | -0.1 | 0.3 | 0.0 | -0.2 | 0.0 | 43 | 128,743 | 0.4 |

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Millions of dollars at annual rate.

■

OTHER RELEASES

Department store sales and stocks

August 1999

Department stores reported sales of \$1,564.3 million (seasonally adjusted) in August, up 0.9% from July. This increase came in the wake of a 3.0% gain in July. With the August increase, department store sales have been on the rise for the past five months. Except for a slight dip in the spring of 1998, these sales have shown sustained growth since early 1996. Department store sales in August include both sales made by Eaton's and those resulting from its merchandise liquidator.

Department store sales were 12.2% higher in August than in the same month a year earlier. This year-over-year increase is the largest since September 1997 (+12.3%).

Department store sales including concessions

| | Aug. 1998 | Aug. 1999 | Aug. 1998 to Aug. 1999 | Jan. to Aug. 1999 | Jan. - Aug. 1998 to Jan. - Aug. 1999 |
|--|----------------|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| | Unadjusted | | | | |
| | \$ millions | | % change | \$ millions | % change |
| Canada | 1,346.1 | 1,511.6 | 12.3 | 10,298.6 | 7.4 |
| Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island ¹ | 26.2 | 30.4 | 16.1 | 193.0 | 12.0 |
| Nova Scotia | 42.3 | 47.4 | 12.0 | 312.8 | 8.4 |
| New Brunswick | 32.0 | 35.9 | 12.3 | 226.0 | 5.5 |
| Quebec | 248.5 | 270.8 | 9.0 | 1,918.1 | 7.0 |
| Ontario | 558.0 | 644.9 | 15.6 | 4,396.6 | 9.1 |
| Manitoba | 57.0 | 62.0 | 8.8 | 428.5 | 6.1 |
| Saskatchewan | 46.3 | 51.0 | 10.1 | 343.8 | 7.1 |
| Alberta | 164.9 | 183.7 | 11.4 | 1,206.8 | 6.9 |
| British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut ¹ | 170.9 | 185.4 | 8.5 | 1,273.0 | 2.5 |

¹ For reasons of confidentiality, data for Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island are combined as are data for British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Department store sales, unadjusted for seasonality, were up 12.3% in August compared with the same month in 1998. Sales increased in every province, climbing 15.6% in Ontario, 13.1% in the Atlantic provinces, 10.6% in the Prairie provinces, 9.0% in Quebec and 8.5% in the region formed by British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and

Nunavut. This last region has reported year-over-year increases in sales for each of the last four months.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 111-113.

For data or general information, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-3549; 1 877 421-3067; retailinfo@statcan.ca). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Clérance Kimanyi (613-951-6363; kimacle@statcan.ca), Retail Trade Section, Distributive Trades Division. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending September 25, 1999 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending September 25, 1999, totalled 329 694 tonnes, up 0.2% from the week-earlier 328 906 tonnes and up 8.7% from the year-earlier 303 328 tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 11 858 730 tonnes, a 1.0% decrease compared with 11 979 595 tonnes for the same period in 1998.

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

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation

August 1999

Manufacturers shipped 2 426 518 square metres of R12 factor (RSI 2.1) mineral wool batts in August, down 18.3% from 2 969 415 square metres a year earlier and up 35.3% from 1 794 005 square metres a month earlier.

Year-to-date shipments to the end of August totalled 19 846 001 square metres, a 10.0% increase from the same period in 1998.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 40 and 122 (series 32 and 33).

The August issue of *Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation* (44-004-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 Bob Traversy (613-951-3531; travrob@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Electric power statistics

July 1999

Net generation of electricity increased to 45 915 gigawatt hours (GWh), up 3.6% from July 1998. Exports decreased 5.4% to 4 753 GWh, and imports decreased from 1 237 GWh to 998 GWh.

Improved reservoir levels in Quebec enabled generation of hydro electricity to increase 4.4% to 27 182 GWh. Thermal conventional generation was up 7.7% to 13 038 GWh to service increased domestic demand due to warmer temperatures in many parts of Canada. Generation from nuclear sources was down 7.5% to 5 695 GWh because of minimal generation in New Brunswick and Quebec.

Year-to-date net generation at the end of July totalled 320 682 GWh, up 1.0% from the same period in 1998. Year-to-date exports (22 690 GWh) were down 10.5%, whereas year-to-date imports (9 454 GWh) rose 4.5% from the previous year.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3985-3999.

The July 1999 issue of *Electric power statistics* (57-001-XPB, \$12/\$114) will be available in early October. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the methods, concepts and data quality of this release, contact André Lefebvre (613-951-3560; alefeba@statcan.ca), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Coal and coke statistics

July 1999

Improved conditions in Asian markets led to an increase in coal production in July. Coal production totalled 6 200 kilotonnes, up 5.2% from July 1998. This is the first year-over-year increase in coal production since June 1998. The year-to-date production figure stood at 42 301 kilotonnes, down 4.5%.

Strong demand from Asian countries led to a 16.1% increase in exports to 3 338 kilotonnes compared with July 1998. Exports to Japan (the largest consumer of Canadian coal) increased 11.9% to 1 937 kilotonnes during the same period. Year-to-date figures show total

exports of 20 342 kilotonnes, 1.2% above last year's level.

Coke production in July increased to 283 kilotonnes, up 10.2% from July 1998.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9.

The July 1999 issue of *Coal and coke statistics* (45-002-XPB, \$12/\$114) will be available in early October. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the methods, concepts and data quality of this release, contact André Lefebvre (613-951-3560; alefeba@statcan.ca), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Employer pension plans (trusteed pension funds)

First quarter 1999

The market value of the total assets of employer-sponsored pension plans reached \$504 billion at the end of the first quarter of 1999.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5749.

The first quarter 1999 issue of *Quarterly estimates of trusteed pension funds* (74-001-XPB, \$19/\$62) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information about the current survey results and related products and services, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact Client Services (613-951-7355 or 1 888 297-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division. ■

Population projections

1999-2026

Population projections for Canada, provinces and territories by age and sex for 1999-2026 are now available on a cost-recovery basis. The projections report (91-520-XPB) with details on methodology, assumptions and analysis of results will be published at a later date.

Available on CANSIM: Matrices 6900-6913.

For more information on this release, contact Lucette Dell'Oso (613-951-2304; fax: 613-951-2952; delloso@statcan.ca), Demography Division. To enquire

about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact M.V. George (613-951-9580; fax: 613-951-2952; geormoo@statcan.ca). ■

Insights on...

Insights on... is a newsletter on trends in business and trade. It documents developments in Canadian industry and shows how businesses are responding to new challenges and opportunities. This issue also includes information on new products and services about businesses and industry available from Statistics Canada.

The current issue includes the article "Aboriginal entrepreneurs in Canada — Progress and prospects", which was compiled and recently published by Industry Canada using Statistics Canada data.

Insights on... (61F0019XIE) is now available free on the Internet (www.statcan.ca) or on paper for a fee (61F0019XPE, \$40/\$100).

To order, or for more information on this publication, contact Jamie Brunet (613-951-6684; jamie.brunet@statcan.ca), Small Business and Special Surveys Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation,
August 1999

Catalogue number 44-004-XIB

(Canada: \$5/\$47; outside Canada: US\$/US\$).

Quarterly estimates of trustee pension funds, first
quarter 1999

Catalogue number 74-001-XPB

(Canada: \$19/\$62; outside Canada: US\$19/US\$62).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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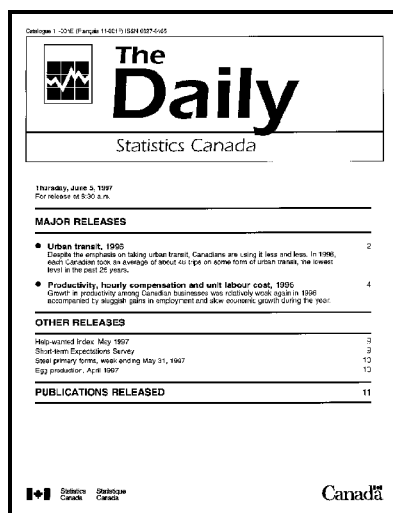
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RELEASE DATES: OCTOBER 1999

(Release dates are subject to change.)

| Release date | Title | Reference period |
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| October 1999 | | |
| 4 | Building permits | August 1999 |
| 6 | Help-wanted Index | September 1999 |
| 7 | Homicide in Canada | 1998 |
| 8 | Labour Force Survey | September 1999 |
| 8 | Field crop reporting series: September crop production estimates | 1999 |
| 12 | New information technology in high schools and elementary schools | 1999 |
| 12 | New Housing Price Index | August 1999 |
| 13 | Government expenditures on culture | 1997-98 |
| 14 | National Longitudinal Survey on Children and Youth (NLSCY) | 1996-1997 |
| 15 | Consumer Price Index | September 1999 |
| 15 | New motor vehicle sales | August 1999 |
| 19 | Composite Index | September 1999 |
| 20 | Canadian international merchandise trade | August 1999 |
| 20 | Wholesale trade | August 1999 |
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