



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, May 26, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Industrial Product Price Index, April 2000** 3  
Industrial product prices were unchanged in April compared with March, halting a 13-month string of price increases.
- **Raw Materials Price Index, April 2000** 6  
Prices for raw materials used by manufacturers fell 6.0% in April from March, largely the result of a substantial decline in the cost of crude oil. On a year-over-year basis, manufacturers paid 19.7% more for raw materials than they did in April 1999.

(continued on following page)

### Censuses of Canada, 1665 to 1871, Statistics of Canada, Volume IV

An electronic version of the *Censuses of Canada, 1665 to 1871, Statistics of Canada, Volume IV* is now available. This unique reference volume was first published in 1876, and has been out of print for more than a century. It depicts the growth and development of Canada from the earliest settlements to Confederation and on to 1871, in introductory texts and extensive statistical tables.

Anyone interested in Canadian history will find the information fascinating. References to the original sources make the volume a critical jumping-off point for historical research and analysis.

Many researchers have asked for this volume to be published in electronic form. In response, Statistics Canada has re-issued the original content of this publication on its Web site without alterations to the original text and data.

The electronic version of *Censuses of Canada, 1665 to 1871, Statistics of Canada, Volume IV* (98-187-XIE) is available on Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). The free introduction is available in both HTML or Adobe Acrobat PDF format; the latter can be downloaded for printing. The statistical tables can be opened using E-STAT, which enables both on-line viewing and downloading. E-STAT is only available to educational institutions.

For more information, contact Ruth Kelly (613-951-1168), Dissemination Division.

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**OTHER RELEASES**

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Industrial Product Price Index

April 2000 (preliminary)

Industrial product prices were unchanged in April compared with March, halting a 13-month string of monthly increases.

This marked the first time in more than a year that petroleum prices have had a downward influence on the Industrial Product Price Index. The index stood at 126.8 (1992=100) in April, unchanged from March's revised figure.

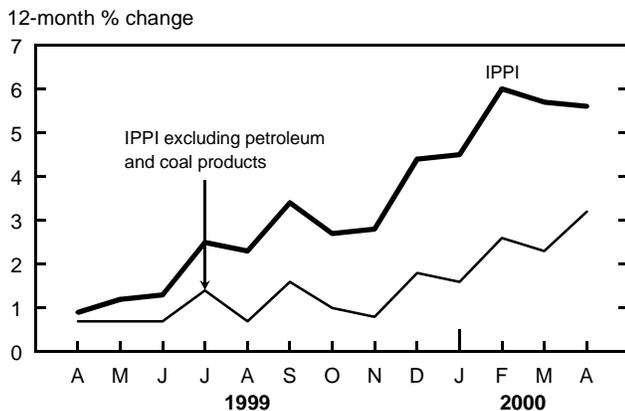
Prices for the refined petroleum industry declined 5.8% in April compared with March, on the heels of an agreement by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to ease cutbacks in production.

#### Note to readers

The Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) reflects the prices that producers in Canada receive as the goods leave the plant gate. It does not reflect what the consumer pays. Unlike the Consumer Price Index, the IPPI excludes indirect taxes and all the costs that occur between the time when a good leaves the plant and the time when the final user takes possession of it, including the transportation, wholesale, and retail costs. IPPI data is not seasonally adjusted and has a six-month revision period.

Canadian producers export many goods. They often quote their prices in foreign currencies, particularly for motor vehicles, pulp, paper, and wood products. A rise or fall in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar therefore affects the IPPI. A 1.0% change in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar has been estimated to change the IPPI by approximately 0.3%.

#### Petroleum product prices influence the IPPI



If petroleum and coal products had been excluded, the IPPI in April would have increased 0.4% compared with March, instead of remaining unchanged. Monthly prices for the refined petroleum industry have not declined since February 1999, just before OPEC members pledged to cut production in an effort to restore prices. This agreement was rescinded at the end of March 2000.

Monthly prices fell for primary metal products, lumber, and petroleum. These declines were tempered by widespread price gains, particularly for motor vehicles, paper and paper products, and meat products.

On a year-over-year basis, industrial product prices advanced 5.6% compared with April 1999, a slight deceleration from the 5.7% annual increase in March and February's gain of 6.0%.

Prices received by the refined petroleum industry were 46.1% higher than they were in April 1999. They helped boost the index on a 12-month basis, but there were also other sources of upward price pressure. The IPPI excluding petroleum and coal products rose 3.2%, its largest yearly advance since December 1995. Higher prices for products consisting of paper, primary metals, and primary meats were major factors behind this increase.

#### Downturn in primary metal product prices

After advancing steadily since last July, primary metal product prices slipped 1.5% in April from March.

Aluminum product prices were an important factor in this decline, dropping 3.6%. While aluminum product prices have been sluggish over the past two months, April's prices were still 11.3% above those of April 1999.

Primary copper product prices fell for a third straight month (-5.2%) on the prospect of robust production despite ample inventories.

Similarly, nickel product prices fell 4.6%, the first such decline since last June. This recent downturn did little to dampen yearly prices, which have climbed 89.3% from April 1999.

However, primary metal product prices have fared well on a yearly basis, advancing 10.4% compared with April 1999. The increases were broadly based; nickel prices accounted for the bulk of the gains.

#### Pulp prices continue to strengthen

Pulp prices continued to strengthen (+4.3%), boosted by healthy demand in both North America and abroad. While pulp prices were 32.5% higher than they

were in April 1999, they remained 26.9% below their November 1995 peak.

Gains for pulp prices, combined with growth in newsprint prices (+1.8%) and paper product prices (+1.0%), brought about a 2.0% monthly increase in the paper and paper product category.

Altogether, prices for paper and paper products have climbed 12.2% from April 1999.

### Exchange rate effect

Prices of some commodities — motor vehicles, lumber, pulp, newsprint, and certain metals — are often quoted in U.S. dollars. Consequently, exchange rate fluctuations affect their contribution to the Industrial Product Price Index.

From March to April, the U.S. dollar gained ground, pushing up prices quoted in U.S. dollars. Motor vehicle prices rose 1.2%, largely the result of a higher valued U.S. dollar. The impact on the total IPPI was such that if the exchange rate had remained unchanged, the IPPI would have edged down (-0.3%).

### International 12-month price changes

|  | Month | Change<br>% |
|--|-------|-------------|
| <b>Manufacturer's prices</b>                                   |       |             |
| Canada   | April | 5.6         |
| United States  | April | 4.2         |
| Japan (domestic<br>wholesale prices)                           | April | 0.5         |
| United Kingdom<br>(domestic<br>manufacturing<br>output prices) | April | 1.6         |
| Italy  | March | 5.4         |
| Germany  | April | 2.1         |
| France (including food<br>and energy)                          | March | 11.6        |

### Available on CANSIM: matrices 1870-1878.

The April 2000 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011-XPB, \$22/\$217) will be available at the end of June. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539; [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)), Prices Division. □

**Industrial product price indexes**  
(1992=100)

|   | Relative importance | April 1999   | March 2000 <sup>r</sup> | April 2000 <sup>p</sup> | April 1999 to April 2000 | March to April 2000 |
|---|---------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
|   |                     |              |                         |                         | % change                 |                     |
| <b>Industrial product price index (IPPI)</b>        | <b>100.00</b>       | <b>120.1</b> | <b>126.8</b>            | <b>126.8</b>            | <b>5.6</b>               | <b>0.0</b>          |
| <b>Intermediate goods<sup>1</sup></b>               | <b>59.28</b>        | <b>119.1</b> | <b>128.4</b>            | <b>128.1</b>            | <b>7.6</b>               | <b>-0.2</b>         |
| First-stage intermediate goods <sup>2</sup>         | 7.91                | 115.6        | 139.3                   | 139.4                   | 20.6                     | 0.1                 |
| Second-stage intermediate goods <sup>3</sup>        | 51.37               | 119.7        | 126.7                   | 126.4                   | 5.6                      | -0.2                |
| <b>Finished goods<sup>4</sup></b>                   | <b>40.72</b>        | <b>121.6</b> | <b>124.5</b>            | <b>124.7</b>            | <b>2.5</b>               | <b>0.2</b>          |
| Finished foods and feeds                            | 10.38               | 114.0        | 116.0                   | 116.4                   | 2.1                      | 0.3                 |
| Capital equipment                                   | 10.21               | 125.4        | 125.0                   | 125.8                   | 0.3                      | 0.6                 |
| All other finished goods                            | 20.13               | 123.5        | 128.7                   | 128.5                   | 4.0                      | -0.2                |
| <b>Aggregation by commodities</b>                   |                     |              |                         |                         |                          |                     |
| Meat, fish and dairy products                       | 7.27                | 117.9        | 124.3                   | 126.0                   | 6.9                      | 1.4                 |
| Fruit, vegetable, feed, miscellaneous food products | 6.72                | 110.9        | 110.0                   | 110.1                   | -0.7                     | 0.1                 |
| Beverages   | 2.12                | 116.4        | 118.2                   | 118.3                   | 1.6                      | 0.1                 |
| Tobacco and tobacco products                        | 0.72                | 138.2        | 140.6                   | 141.6                   | 2.5                      | 0.7                 |
| Rubber, leather, plastic fabric products            | 3.01                | 112.8        | 117.7                   | 118.1                   | 4.7                      | 0.3                 |
| Textile products                                    | 1.82                | 108.6        | 108.9                   | 109.1                   | 0.5                      | 0.2                 |
| Knitted products and clothing                       | 1.93                | 109.9        | 110.3                   | 110.3                   | 0.4                      | 0.0                 |
| Lumber, sawmill, other wood products                | 5.20                | 145.2        | 145.5                   | 144.0                   | -0.8                     | -1.0                |
| Furniture and fixtures                              | 1.46                | 115.6        | 118.5                   | 118.5                   | 2.5                      | 0.0                 |
| Pulp and paper products                             | 7.65                | 124.5        | 137.0                   | 139.7                   | 12.2                     | 2.0                 |
| Printing and publishing                             | 3.05                | 133.5        | 137.6                   | 138.3                   | 3.6                      | 0.5                 |
| Primary metal products                              | 7.58                | 116.7        | 130.8                   | 128.8                   | 10.4                     | -1.5                |
| Metal fabricated products                           | 4.11                | 123.1        | 125.5                   | 125.5                   | 1.9                      | 0.0                 |
| Machinery and equipment                             | 4.08                | 114.6        | 115.9                   | 116.3                   | 1.5                      | 0.3                 |
| Autos, trucks, other transportation equipment       | 18.76               | 132.1        | 130.9                   | 132.2                   | 0.1                      | 1.0                 |
| Electrical and communications products              | 6.03                | 106.8        | 104.7                   | 105.0                   | -1.7                     | 0.3                 |
| Non-metallic mineral products                       | 2.12                | 113.9        | 117.4                   | 117.5                   | 3.2                      | 0.1                 |
| Petroleum and coal products <sup>5</sup>            | 6.01                | 102.9        | 159.8                   | 150.9                   | 46.6                     | -5.6                |
| Chemicals and chemical products                     | 7.60                | 113.9        | 120.3                   | 121.0                   | 6.2                      | 0.6                 |
| Miscellaneous manufactured products                 | 2.45                | 118.8        | 120.8                   | 120.9                   | 1.8                      | 0.1                 |
| Miscellaneous non-manufactured commodities          | 0.31                | 117.5        | 123.5                   | 118.6                   | 0.9                      | -4.0                |

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

<sup>1</sup> Intermediate goods are goods used principally to produce other goods.

<sup>2</sup> First-stage intermediate goods are items used most commonly to produce other intermediate goods.

<sup>3</sup> Second-stage intermediate goods are items most commonly used to produce final goods.

<sup>4</sup> Finished goods are goods most commonly used for immediate consumption or for capital investment.

<sup>5</sup> This index is estimated for the current month.



## Raw Materials Price Index

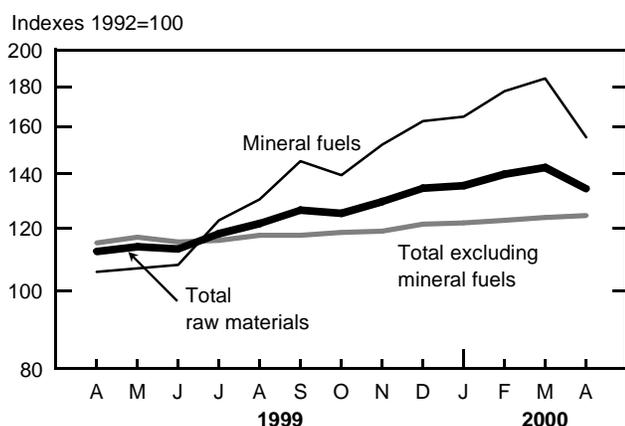
April 2000 (preliminary)

Prices for raw materials used by manufacturers fell 6.0% in April compared with March, largely the result of a substantial decline in the cost of crude oil.

Prices in the mineral fuel category, almost all of which is crude oil, declined 15.5% from March to April, the first monthly decrease in six months. If mineral fuels were excluded, raw materials prices in April would have increased 0.5%.

The Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100) was 134.1 in April, down from 142.6 in March.

### Raw material and crude oil prices drop in April



On a year-over-year basis, manufacturers paid 19.7% more for raw materials than they did in April 1999, a substantial deceleration from the 12-month increase of 33.0% in March. Again, crude oil prices were behind the slowdown.

Prices in the mineral fuels sector were 47.2% higher than in April 1999. In March, by comparison, mineral fuel prices were almost double the level of March 1999. Crude oil prices alone were 50.4% higher in April than they were a year ago.

If mineral fuels were excluded, the year-over-year increase in raw materials prices would have been only 8.1% instead of 19.7%.

The main contributors to the year-over-year increase in raw material prices, other than mineral fuels, were animal products and non-ferrous metals, particularly nickel concentrates, alumina, and copper concentrates. Prices have strengthened for all three metals in 1999 as growth continued in North America and the economies of Europe and many countries in eastern Asia become stronger.

#### Note to readers

The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) reflects the prices paid by Canadian manufacturers for key raw materials. These indexes are not seasonally adjusted and are subject to a six-month revision policy.

Many of these prices are set in the world marketplace. Also, unlike the Industrial Product Price Index (also not seasonally adjusted), the RMPI includes goods that are not produced in Canada.

### Prices down for nickel concentrates, alumina and copper concentrates

Nickel concentrate prices dropped 5.1% in April. Nickel concentrate prices have been tending to rise since December 1998. April's decline may reflect uncertainty over several market factors.

One such factor is that stainless steel output has been rising for more than a year. This usually results in the more rapid generation of stainless steel scrap that can be used as a substitute for nickel. There has also been concern that relatively high nickel prices could encourage Russia and Eastern Europe to increase their sales of this metal. By March, nickel prices were more than 150% higher than in December 1998.

Alumina prices fell for a second month in April. Prices have nearly returned to levels at the outset of a rally late in 1999.

Prices for copper concentrates fell for a third consecutive month. Although demand is strong, world inventories are close to a record high, and it is expected that global production will rise as mines, such as Los Pelambres in Chile, open.

Contributing to the overall weakness in metal prices in mid-April was concern that plunging stock markets and rising interest rates would slow U.S. economic growth, cooling demand for metal products.

### Prices up for hogs and slaughter cattle

Among animal products, the most important contributors to the 12-month increase have been hogs for slaughter, cattle, and milk. The size of the Canadian cattle herd had declined in the early part of 2000 compared with last year, while the demand for beef has remained strong. In the case of the Canadian hog industry, production levels have remained relatively stable as demand has picked up.

Hog prices rose 13.2% from March to April, and were 57.3% higher than in April 1999. Prices in April 2000 were almost 3.5 times their low point in December 1998. Internationally, North American hog prices were strong in mid-April, amid concern that

American fast food restaurants were using more bacon and that grocers were selling more pork just as the U.S. hog herd was declining.

April's 2.7% increase in slaughter cattle prices brought cattle prices to a record high. This increase followed a 5.6% rise in March that more than offset the declines that occurred in January and February. April's price level was 14.3% higher than that of April 1999. In the United States, the 12-month change in the price for slaughter cattle was up appreciably more than in Canada, supported by a strong demand for beef.

### Sugar prices jump

Sugar prices jumped 11.6% in April from March, and were 10.4 % higher than in April 1999. In March, prices had been 14.9% lower than in March 1999.

The April price increase was partly due to Brazil's holding back supplies from the world market in an attempt to boost prices. In addition, demand rose

among buyers in the Philippines, Bangladesh and Russia.

### Prices up for iron ore

Iron ore prices rose 1.2% in April from March and were 2.0% higher than in April 1999, the result of new contracts. Although prices are 3.9% higher than at their low point in May 1999, they are still about 10% lower than at their high point in the last quarter of 1998.

### Available on CANSIM: matrix 1879.

The April 2000 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011-XPB, \$22/\$217) will be available at the end of June. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539; [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)), Prices Division.

### Raw materials price indexes (1992=100)

|   | Relative importance | April 1999   | March 2000 <sup>r</sup> | April 2000 <sup>p</sup> | April 1999 to April 2000 | March to April 2000 |
|---|---------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
|   |                     |              |                         |                         | % change                 |                     |
| <b>Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI)</b> | <b>100.00</b>       | <b>112.0</b> | <b>142.6</b>            | <b>134.1</b>            | <b>19.7</b>              | <b>-6.0</b>         |
| Mineral fuels                           | 31.47               | 105.7        | 184.1                   | 155.6                   | 47.2                     | -15.5               |
| Vegetable products                      | 9.41                | 117.0        | 111.9                   | 112.6                   | -3.8                     | 0.6                 |
| Animals and animal products             | 24.41               | 107.5        | 119.3                   | 123.1                   | 14.5                     | 3.2                 |
| Wood                                    | 14.88               | 135.8        | 143.0                   | 143.4                   | 5.6                      | 0.3                 |
| Ferrous materials                       | 3.17                | 112.1        | 123.0                   | 123.9                   | 10.5                     | 0.7                 |
| Non-ferrous metals                      | 13.81               | 103.9        | 119.2                   | 114.5                   | 10.2                     | -3.9                |
| Non-metallic minerals                   | 2.85                | 118.6        | 119.7                   | 119.8                   | 1.0                      | 0.1                 |
| <b>RMPI excluding mineral fuels</b>     | <b>68.53</b>        | <b>114.9</b> | <b>123.6</b>            | <b>124.2</b>            | <b>8.1</b>               | <b>0.5</b>          |

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.



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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Steel primary forms

Week ending May 20, 2000 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending May 20 was 313 103 tonnes, down 2.1% from 319 730 tonnes a week earlier and down 2.5% from 321 112 tonnes in the same week of 1999. The year-to-date total at the end of the reference week was 6 484 477 tonnes, a 6.4% increase compared with 6 092 426 tonnes in the same period of 1999.

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](mailto:milsomg@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### Construction-type plywood

March 2000

Canadian firms produced 181 321 cubic metres of construction-type plywood in March, up 5.4% from the 172 033 cubic metres produced in March 1999.

Year-to-date production was 507 711 cubic metres, an increase of 7.6% from the 471 862 cubic metres produced during the same period in 1999.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (level 1).

The March 2000 issue of *Construction type plywood* (35-001-XIB, \$5/\$47) 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 Gilles Simard (613-951-3516; [simales@statcan.ca](mailto:simales@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### Electric power selling price indexes

January to April 2000

Electric power selling price indexes (1992=100) are now available for January to April.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 1880.

The April 2000 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011-XPB, \$22/\$217) will be available at the end of June. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Denise Potvin (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539), Prices Division. ■

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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**Infomat — A weekly review**, May 26, 2000  
**Catalogue number 11-002-XIE** (\$3/\$109).

**Infomat — A weekly review**, May 26, 2000  
**Catalogue number 11-002-XPE** (\$4/\$145).

**The dairy review**, January-March 2000  
**Catalogue number 23-001-XIB** (\$27/\$89).

**The dairy review**, January-March 2000  
**Catalogue number 23-001-XPB** (\$36/\$119).

**Construction type plywood**, March 2000  
**Catalogue number 35-001-XIB** (\$5/\$47).

**Canadian international merchandise trade**,  
March 2000  
**Catalogue number 65-001-XIB** (\$14/\$141).

**Canadian international merchandise trade**,  
March 2000  
**Catalogue number 65-001-XPB** (\$19/\$188).

**Censuses of Canada, 1665 to 1871, statistics of  
Canada**, volume IV  
**Catalogue number 98-187-XIE**  
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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997  
For release at 8:30 a.m.

**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are taking it less and less. In 1996, about 1.5 billion trips were taken 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 relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 8
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### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E.

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*The Daily, May 26, 2000*

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**RELEASE DATES: MAY 29 TO JUNE 2**

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**May 29 to June 2**  
(Release dates are subject to change.)

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| <b>Release date</b> | <b>Title</b>  | <b>Reference period</b> |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 29                  | <b>Juristat: Youth court statistics</b>                       | 1998/99                 |
| 30                  | <b>International travel account</b>                           | First<br>quarter 2000   |
| 30                  | <b>Characteristics of international travellers</b>            | 1999                    |
| 31                  | <b>National economic and financial accounts</b>               | First<br>quarter 2000   |
| 31                  | <b>Balance of international payments</b>                      | First<br>quarter 2000   |
| 31                  | <b>Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry</b> | March 2000              |
| 1                   | <b>Juristat: Adult correctional services</b>                  | 1998/99                 |

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