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MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

MAJOR RELEASES

Building permits

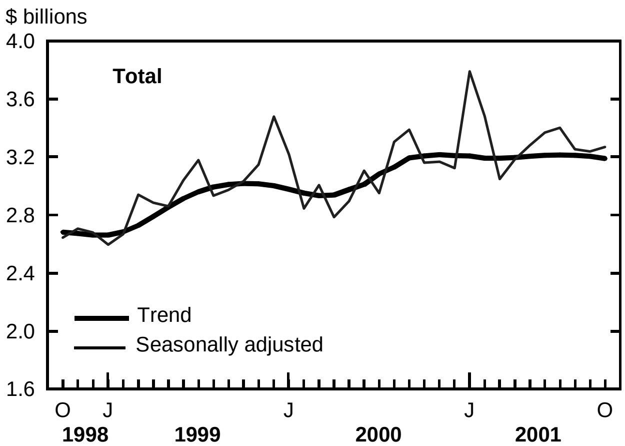
October 2001

The value of building permits issued by municipalities rose 1.0% in October as construction intentions for single-family dwellings reached their second-highest monthly level in the last decade. Builders took out $3.3 billion worth of permits.

The value of housing permits rose 1.7% to $1.9 billion. Gains in both single- and multi-family dwelling construction intentions led the residential sector to a third consecutive monthly increase.

In the non-residential sector, permits totalled $1.4 billion, virtually unchanged from September, as a gain in commercial permits was offset by declines in the industrial and institutional components.

Total value of permits up slightly



From January to October, municipalities issued $33.3 billion in building permits, up 8.7% from the same 10-month period of 2000. This was the highest level for the first 10 months of any year since 1989. Advances in both the residential and non-residential sectors induced this strong showing.

Among the metropolitan areas, Montréal led the pack in growth (in dollars) of the cumulative value of building permits. More than one-half of the gains country-wide in the non-residential sector came from the Montréal area. Buoyant construction intentions for multi-family dwellings led the Vancouver area to the second largest increase among the metropolitan areas.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

The Building and Demolitions Permits Monthly Survey covers 2,500 municipalities representing 94% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 6% of the population are very 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 or culverts) and land.

Strong construction intentions for single-family dwellings

The value of permits for single-family dwellings advanced 2.0% to $1.4 billion in October. This was the second highest result for single-family dwelling construction intentions since March 1990. Only the January 2001 result was higher.

Moreover, multi-family permits, which rose 1.2% in October to $503 million, also helped to push up the entire residential sector.

Advantageous mortgage rates have made housing more affordable, and vacancy rates for rental apartments have been shrinking; these factors have driven the residential sector's strong performance since the beginning of 2001.

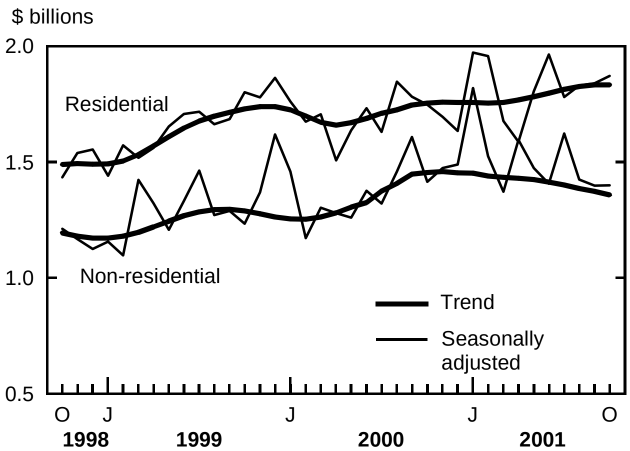
Most of the advance in the residential sector came from British Columbia (+28.4% to $295 million), where residential permits in October reached their highest level since September 1997. Quebec also posted sizeable gain in housing permits (+5.6% to $317 million). The largest decline occurred in Alberta (-10.9% to $275 million) following three months of gains.

On a year-to-date basis, the value of residential permits reached $18.3 billion at the end of October, up 7.4% from the same period of 2000, with contributions from both single- and multi-family dwellings.

Among the provinces, the largest advances (in dollars) in the cumulative value of permits were posted in British Columbia (+19.7% to $2.4 billion) and Quebec

(+13.3% to $3.0 billion). Nova Scotia saw the largest decline, -15.0% to $370 million.

Value of residential permits increased for a third consecutive month



Non-residential sector remained stable

Following two consecutive monthly declines, builders took out $1.4 billion worth of non-residential building permits in October, virtually the same value as in September.

Several indicators help explain the continuing downward trend in the non-residential sector. According to Statistics Canada's Business Conditions Survey, only 8% of manufacturers remained positive about the prospects of increasing production in the fourth quarter of 2001, a historic low. Also, the Conference Board's Business Confidence Index plunged in the third quarter.

Climbing vacancy rates for office buildings, as well as declining retail sales, could also hurt non-residential intentions.

The value of commercial permits climbed 4.9% to $616 million, mostly as a result of stronger demand for office building permits. Despite the increase, October's level was 17.1% lower than the average monthly value in 2000.

In the industrial sector, a strong gain in the value of permits for manufacturing buildings was more than offset by a steep decline in the transportation building category. As a result, municipalities issued $333 million in industrial permits in October, down 1.7%.

Following robust results in September, construction intentions in the institutional sector dropped 4.7% to $450 million, led by a slowdown in permits for buildings in the education category.

Among the provinces, a large gain in the institutional component led Ontario to the largest advance (in dollars) in the non-residential sector (+17.2% to $610 million). British Columbia posted the largest retreat (-30.5% to $147 million). A substantial decline in the institutional category led non-residential intentions in British Columbia to their lowest monthly level in 11 months.

On a year-to-date basis, the value of non-residential permits totalled $15.0 billion at the end of October, up 10.2% from the same period in 2000. It was the strongest performance for any January-to-October period since 1989. Most of the advance in the year-to-date figure was the result of a strong 35.3% surge in institutional intentions. A lesser contribution came from the commercial component (+6.0%), while the cumulative value of industrial permits was down 3.5% from the same period in 2000.

Value of building permits

Census metropolitan area	Sept. 2001[r]	Oct. 2001[p]	Sept. to Oct. 2001	Jan. to Oct. 2000	Jan. to Oct. 2001	Jan.–Oct. 2000 to Jan.–Oct. 2001
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
St. John's	9.9	13.5	37.0	144.6	151.0	4.4
Halifax	22.6	13.0	-42.4	437.2	269.2	-38.4
Saint John	5.0	7.9	59.0	83.1	69.0	-17.0
Chicoutimi–Jonquière	27.5	4.5	-83.7	110.8	152.9	38.0
Québec	56.3	58.4	3.7	459.1	571.6	24.5
Sherbrooke	17.0	8.7	-48.8	112.3	117.9	5.0
Trois-Rivières	7.9	7.3	-8.4	97.1	93.6	-3.7
Montréal	276.6	383.7	38.7	2,616.3	3,571.1	36.5
Hull	28.3	14.5	-48.9	212.9	307.0	44.2
Ottawa	93.1	127.8	37.3	1,214.1	1,212.8	-0.1
Oshawa	34.3	71.4	108.1	568.8	481.9	-15.3
Toronto	631.4	678.7	7.5	6,941.0	7,056.0	1.7
Hamilton	57.7	61.0	5.7	623.5	710.5	14.0
St. Catharines–Niagara	60.3	31.9	-47.1	398.4	347.9	-12.7
Kitchener	100.2	85.1	-15.1	633.1	812.7	28.4
London	45.7	51.3	12.1	379.4	577.2	52.1
Windsor	48.1	43.9	-8.7	461.3	464.1	0.6
Sudbury	6.3	13.3	110.6	69.0	69.3	0.4
Thunder Bay	5.0	9.3	86.8	82.9	89.1	7.5
Winnipeg	19.6	35.1	79.1	445.0	354.7	-20.3
Regina	23.6	10.9	-53.8	124.7	183.3	47.0
Saskatoon	21.9	25.5	16.7	221.0	222.9	0.9
Calgary	144.7	171.1	18.2	1,948.1	1,810.7	-7.1
Edmonton	184.1	119.1	-35.3	1,018.8	1,158.9	13.7
Vancouver	212.8	256.4	20.5	2,272.1	2,599.0	14.4
Victoria	50.9	37.0	-27.3	239.1	312.9	30.8

[r] *Revised data.*
[p] *Preliminary data.*
Note: *Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.*

Propelled by the Montréal area's outstanding growth, the largest advance in the non-residential permits (in dollars) among the provinces occurred in Quebec (+33.4% to $3.4 billion). Ontario placed a distant second (+5.6% to $6.1 billion), due to substantial gains in the institutional category. The largest retreats were in Nova Scotia (-33.8%) and Manitoba (-25.0%).

Available on CANSIM: tables 260001-260008, 260010 and 260011.

The October 2001 issue of *Building permits* (64-001-XIE, $14/$145) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

The November 2001 building permit estimate will be released on January 10, 2002.

To obtain data, contact Vere Clarke (613-951-6556; *clarver@statcan.ca*). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; *saineti@statcan.ca*), Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Value of building permits

	September 2001[r]	October 2001[p]	September to October 2001	January to October 2000	January to October 2001	January–October 2000 to January–October 2001
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
Canada	**3,237.0**	**3,269.8**	**1.0**	**30,660.3**	**33,312.7**	**8.7**
Residential	1,839.0	1,871.1	1.7	17,014.6	18,280.3	7.4
Non-residential	1,398.0	1,398.8	0.1	13,645.8	15,032.4	10.2
Newfoundland	21.5	22.6	5.2	235.6	251.5	6.8
Residential	12.2	16.7	37.2	142.1	143.8	1.2
Non-residential	9.3	5.9	-36.8	93.4	107.7	15.2
Prince Edward Island	27.9	15.3	-45.1	85.1	183.4	115.6
Residential	5.0	6.1	22.4	45.7	51.2	11.9
Non-residential	22.9	9.2	-59.6	39.4	132.2	235.9
Nova Scotia	58.4	44.5	-23.8	767.5	589.7	-23.2
Residential	38.4	29.8	-22.3	435.2	369.8	-15.0
Non-residential	20.0	14.7	-26.5	332.3	219.9	-33.8
New Brunswick	50.6	50.8	0.4	410.9	456.9	11.2
Residential	27.4	22.9	-16.5	222.3	229.4	3.2
Non-residential	23.2	27.9	20.3	188.6	227.5	20.6
Quebec	591.9	636.9	7.6	5,155.4	6,348.4	23.1
Residential	300.6	317.3	5.6	2,631.3	2,981.8	13.3
Non-residential	291.3	319.6	9.7	2,524.1	3,366.6	33.4
Ontario	1,382.0	1,461.8	5.8	14,368.7	14,993.4	4.3
Residential	861.3	851.4	-1.1	8,590.0	8,889.2	3.5
Non-residential	520.7	610.5	17.2	5,778.7	6,104.2	5.6
Manitoba	50.1	66.7	33.2	736.1	615.9	-16.3
Residential	23.6	33.3	41.5	294.7	284.6	-3.4
Non-residential	26.5	33.4	25.8	441.4	331.3	-25.0
Saskatchewan	68.0	55.3	-18.8	548.1	622.0	13.5
Residential	24.4	16.3	-33.2	216.6	191.8	-11.5
Non-residential	43.6	39.0	-10.7	331.5	430.2	29.8
Alberta	530.0	459.5	-13.3	4,446.2	4,770.6	7.3
Residential	308.7	275.1	-10.9	2,403.5	2,710.5	12.8
Non-residential	221.2	184.5	-16.6	2,042.6	2,060.1	0.9
British Columbia	440.4	441.4	0.2	3,785.5	4,355.5	15.1
Residential	229.5	294.8	28.4	1,986.1	2,377.1	19.7
Non-residential	210.9	146.6	-30.5	1,799.4	1,978.4	9.9
Yukon	2.7	1.6	-40.2	51.9	47.8	-8.0
Residential	1.4	0.9	-38.6	12.7	16.5	30.0
Non-residential	1.3	0.8	-41.9	39.2	31.3	-20.3
Northwest Territories	12.4	12.2	-1.2	22.2	58.2	161.6
Residential	5.4	6.0	10.3	10.4	21.5	107.2
Non-residential	6.9	6.2	-10.2	11.9	36.7	209.0
Nunavut	1.3	1.2	-8.1	47.2	19.5	-58.7
Residential	1.2	0.5	-58.7	24.0	13.1	-45.4
Non-residential	0.1	0.7	1,127.8	23.2	6.4	-72.4

[r] *Revised data.*
[p] *Preliminary data.*
Note: *Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index
November 2001

The Help-wanted Index (1996=100) fell 5.0% in November from October to 133, the seventh consecutive month of decline. Nine of 10 provinces recorded monthly decreases; Prince Edward Island (-6.7%), British Columbia (-6.3%) and Nova Scotia (-5.3%) showed the largest declines.

The national index was down 24.4% compared with November 2000. This is the largest year-over-year decline in recent years.

Help-wanted Index
(1996=100)

	Nov. 2000	Oct. 2001	Nov. 2001	Oct. to Nov. 2001	Nov. 2000 to Nov. 2001
	Seasonally adjusted and smoothed			% change	
Canada	**176**	**140**	**133**	**-5.0**	**-24.4**
Newfoundland	202	196	191	-2.6	-5.4
Prince Edward Island	244	224	209	-6.7	-14.3
Nova Scotia	163	150	142	-5.3	-12.9
New Brunswick	186	158	158	0.0	-15.1
Quebec	167	134	129	-3.7	-22.8
Ontario	193	146	139	-4.8	-28.0
Manitoba	174	165	162	-1.8	-6.9
Saskatchewan	139	145	144	-0.7	3.6
Alberta	176	164	157	-4.3	-10.8
British Columbia	145	112	105	-6.3	-27.6

Available on CANSIM: table 2770002.

Note: The Help-wanted Index is compiled from the number of help-wanted ads published in 22 newspapers in 20 major metropolitan areas. It is considered an indicator of labour demand measuring companies' intentions to hire new workers. These indices have been seasonally adjusted and smoothed to ease month-to-month comparisons.

To order data, or for general information, contact the Client Services Unit (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; *labour@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091) or Jean Leduc (613-951-4061), Labour Statistics Division. ■

Domestic sales of refined petroleum products
October 2001 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products totalled 7 977 100 cubic metres in October, down 3.9% from October 2000. Sales decreased for five of the seven major product groups; the largest drop was for petrochemical feedstocks (-190 900 cubic metres or -45.5%).

Motor gasoline sales were up 97 100 cubic metres, or 3.0%, from October 2000. Sales of regular non-leaded motor gasoline rose 2.6% and premium motor gasoline sales increased 10.2%, but sales of medium motor gasoline continued their downward trend, dropping 6.5%.

Sales of aviation turbo fuels fell 61 600 cubic metres, or -12.9%, from October 2000. This followed a sales decrease of 209 800 cubic metres in September, down 32.2% from September 2000. Year-to-date sales of aviation turbo fuels also dropped 306 500 cubic metres, or -5.8%.

Sales of refined petroleum products

	Oct. 2000[r]	Oct. 2001[p]	Oct. 2000 to Oct. 2001
	Thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total, all products	**8,298.9**	**7,977.1**	**-3.9**
Motor gasoline	3,232.1	3,329.2	3.0
Diesel fuel oil	2,109.9	2,041.9	-3.2
Light fuel oil	391.5	342.3	-12.6
Heavy fuel oil	814.4	734.7	-9.8
Aviation turbo fuels	479.1	417.5	-12.9
Petrochemical feedstocks[1]	419.6	228.7	-45.5
All other refined products	852.3	882.6	3.6
	Jan. 2000 to Oct. 2000[r]	Jan. to Oct. 2001[p]	Jan.–Oct. 2000 to Jan.–Oct. 2001
Total, all products	**78,056.2**	**78,649.3**	**0.8**
Motor gasoline	31,935.7	32,401.3	1.5
Diesel fuel oil	19,574.8	19,143.8	-2.2
Light fuel oil	3,797.2	3,880.6	2.2
Heavy fuel oil	5,809.5	6,985.4	20.2
Aviation turbo fuels	5,245.6	4,939.1	-5.8
Petrochemical feedstocks[1]	3,795.5	3,467.2	-8.7
All other refined products	7,897.9	7,831.8	-0.8

r *Revised data.*
p *Preliminary data.*
1 *Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce chemicals, synthetic rubber and a variety of plastics.*

Year-to-date sales of refined petroleum products to the end of October were up 593 100 cubic metres or 0.8% over the same period in 2000. Sales rose for three of the seven major product groups; the strongest gainers were heavy fuel oil (+1 175 900 cubic metres or +20.2%), motor gasoline (+465 600 cubic metres or +1.5%) and light fuel oil (+83 400 cubic metres or +2.2%).

Available on CANSIM: table 1340004.

To order data, or for general information, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *energ@statcan.ca*.) To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gerry Desjardins (613-951-4368; *desjger@statcan.ca*) or Eleonore Harding (613-951-5708; *hardele@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending December 1, 2001 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending December 1 totalled 284 254 metric tonnes, down 1.0% from 287 228 tonnes a week earlier and down 5.5% from 300 955 tonnes in the same week of 2000. The year-to-date total at the end of the reference week was 13 816 184 tonnes, down 10.5% from 15 434 490 tonnes in the same period of 2000.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *manufact@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Dragos Ifrim (613-951-3527; *dragos.ifrim@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Farm product prices

October 2001

Prices that farmers received in October for grains, oilseeds, specialty crops, fruits, vegetables, cattle, hogs, poultry, eggs and dairy products are now available.

The Ontario hog price in October, was $1.67 per kilogram, 9% below the September price and the lowest since February, when it was $1.57 per kilogram. The October barley price in Saskatchewan was $124.96 per metric tonne, up 3% from September and the highest since July 1996.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bernie Rosien (613-951-2441; fax: 613-951-3868; *bernie.rosien@statcan.ca*) Agriculture Division. ■

Light bulbs and tubes

October 2001

Light bulb and tube manufacturers sold 25.2 million light bulbs and tubes in October, down 8.3% from 27.5 million in October 2000.

Year-to-date sales to the end of October totalled 299.9 million light bulbs and tubes, down 2.1% from 306.4 million in the same period of 2000.

The October 2001 issue of *Electric lamps, light bulbs and tubes*, Vol. 30, no. 10 (43-009-XIB, $5/$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For general information or to order data, please contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *manufact@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gregory Sannes (613-951-7205; *sanngre@statcan.ca.*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Sentencing in adult criminal courts

1999/2000

Adult criminal courts in nine jurisdictions heard a total of 378,600 cases in the fiscal year 1999/2000. About 61% of those, or 228,200 cases, resulted in a conviction, according to a new *Juristat* from the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

About 7 of every 10 cases involved a conviction for a single offence; the remainder involved multiple convictions.

Judges imposed prison sentences in 27% of single-conviction cases, with an average length of 94 days. In the case of multiple-conviction cases, they ordered a prison sentence in 53% of cases. For multiple-conviction cases, the average length of sentence was 175 days, nearly twice as long as that for single-conviction cases.

Judges imposed a term of probation in 40% of single-conviction cases, with an average length of 434 days—more than a year. A term of probation was ordered in 49% of multiple-conviction cases, and the average length was considerably longer—556 days.

A fine was the most frequently imposed sanction, occurring in 45% of all single-conviction cases. The average fine was about $600. A fine was imposed less often for multiple-conviction cases.

The number and nature of convictions in a case both influence the type of sentence imposed. However, this analysis focusses on cases with a single conviction, because only in single-conviction cases can the sentence be directly related to the specific offence.

Males comprised the vast majority (84%) of offenders convicted of a single offence in adult criminal courts; 13% were females. Less than 1% of cases involved companies, and the remainder, about 3%, were single-conviction cases for which the sex of the accused was not known.

In 1999/2000, 29% of single-conviction cases involving males resulted in incarceration, compared with 19% of cases involving females.

This *Juristat* also compares the sentencing of adults and youths for the most commonly occurring offences. In 1999/2000, adults were more likely than young offenders to receive a term of custody for some of the most frequently occurring offences, but were often sentenced to shorter custody terms.

For convicted single-charge cases of common assault, where the sentencing rates were nearly identical, 57% of youths received a custody term of greater than one month, while only 41% of adults received this longer custody sentence. Similarly, in single-charge cases of property damage and mischief, 55% of youth offenders received a custody sentence of greater than one month, compared with 30% of adults.

Note: Adult criminal court statistics for 1999/2000 were originally released in *The Daily* on May 16. This *Juristat* presents a more detailed analysis.

Juristat: Sentencing in adult criminal courts, 1999/00, Vol. 21, no. 10, (85-002-XIE, $8/$70; 85-002-XPE, $10/$93) is now available. See *How to order products*.

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

Differences in interprovincial productivity
1996–1997

Alberta led Canadian business sector productivity during the late 1990s, according to a recent study examining differences in labour productivity among the provinces. The research paper *Differences in interprovincial productivity levels* released today is an expanded version of an article published in the August 2001 issue of *Canadian economic observer* (11-010-XPB).

Among the key findings are that Alberta led all provinces with an average gross domestic product (GDP) per job of $66,000; Ontario was second, $10,000 behind. Saskatchewan, Quebec and British Columbia trailed Ontario by between $2,000 and $5,000 in GDP per job. Manitoba and Atlantic Canada posted average productivity that was only two-thirds that of Alberta. The study found that some of these differences were the result of differences in industrial structure among provinces, and some were due to real differences in labour productivity across sectors.

The Analytical Studies Branch research paper no. 180, *Differences in interprovincial productivity levels,* (11F0019MIE01180, free) is now available on Statistics Canada’s Web site (*www.statcan.ca*). From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Research papers (free)*, then *Social conditions*. A paper version (11F0019MPE, no. 180, $5/$25), can be ordered from Louise Laurin (613-951-4676).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact David Sabourin (613-951-3735), Micro-economic Analysis Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Differences in interprovincial productivity levels
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Catalogue number 43-009-XIB ($5/$47).

Electric power statistics, Vol. 69, no. 9, September 2001
Catalogue number 57-001-XIB ($9/$85).

Labour Force information, week ending November 10, 2001
Catalogue number 71-001-PIB ($8/$78).
Available at 7 am Friday, December 7

Labour Force information, week ending November 10, 2001
Catalogue number 71-001-PPB ($11/$103).
Available at 7 am Friday, December 7

Juristat, sentencing in adult criminal courts, 1999-2000, Vol. 21, no. 10
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Juristat, sentencing in adult criminal courts, 1999-2000, Vol. 21, no. 10
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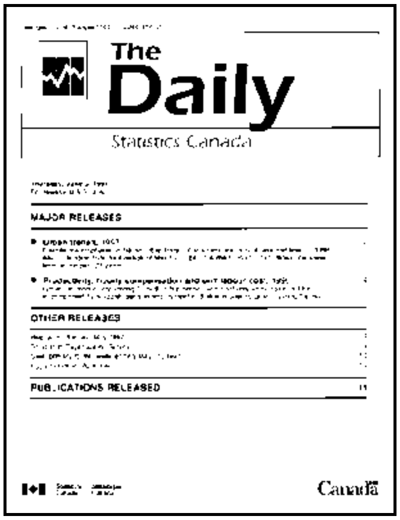

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