



The Daily

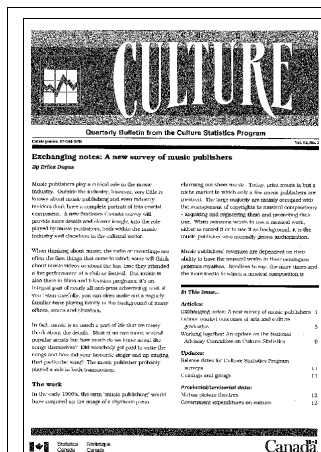
Statistics Canada

Wednesday, June 20, 2001
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Wholesale trade, April 2001** 3
Volatility was still evident in wholesale trade in April, as sales fell 0.9%.
- **Composite Index, May 2001** 6
The preliminary estimate for the leading indicator showed no change in May, its sixth straight month without an increase.

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Focus on culture Winter 2000

Focus on culture, Statistics Canada's quarterly analytical publication on culture statistics, available today, contains articles on trade in cultural goods and services and on challenges faced by heritage institutions.

The article "Market opportunities: International trade of culture goods and services" is an analysis of trade data from 1996 to 2000. Many Canadian artists and products are capturing the attention of consumers, not only in Canada but also around the world. As a result, Canada's net cultural trade position has improved considerably.

The article "Changing times for heritage institutions" examines how heritage institutions are facing the twin challenges of reduced government funding and digital technology.

Focus on culture Volume 12, number 4 (87-004-XIE, \$7/\$20; 87-004-XPB, \$9/\$27) is now available. See *How to order products*. A free preview article, "Market opportunities: International trade of culture goods and services" is available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, choose *In depth*.

For more information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382 or 613-951-7608; cult&tourstats@statcan.ca; fax: 613-951-9040), Culture, Tourism, and the Centre for Education Statistics.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Wholesale trade

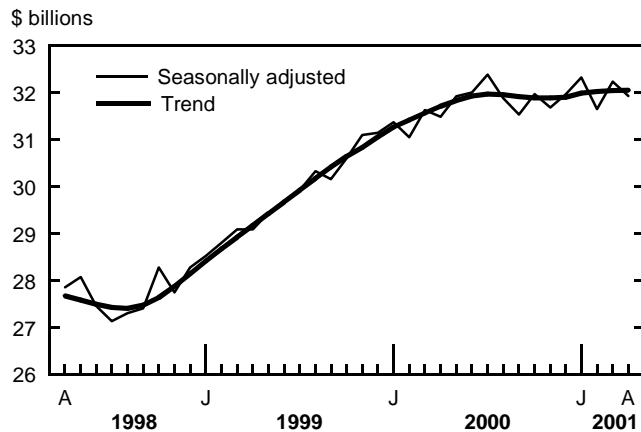
April 2001 (preliminary)

Volatility was still evident in wholesale trade in April, as sales fell 0.9% to \$31.9 billion. The drop follows a 1.8% rise in March. With one exception, since October 2000 wholesale sales have risen one month only to fall again the following month. On balance, overall wholesale sales have edged higher since the start of the year, after having levelled out beginning in mid-2000. Prior to this, wholesale sales were generally on the rise since mid-1998.

April's drop was widespread; 8 of the 11 trade groups reported declines. The only ones to advance were apparel and dry goods (+2.2%), food products (+1.5%), and the other products category (+1.0%), which includes seeds and seed processing, agricultural chemicals and other farm supplies.

Wholesale sectors reporting notable decreases were farm machinery, equipment and supplies (-3.6%); beverages, drugs and tobacco products (-3.4%); industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies (-2.5%); motor vehicles, parts and accessories (-2.1%); and metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies (-2.1%).

Wholesale sales have edged higher since the start of 2001



Wholesale sales of farm machinery down, and farm supplies up

Whereas wholesalers of farm machinery, equipment and supplies reported a drop of 3.6% in April, wholesalers of agricultural chemicals and other farm

supplies were strong contributors to the 1.0% increase in the other products category. The drop in April in wholesale sales of farm machinery, equipment and supplies followed three consecutive monthly increases. As a result, despite April's drop, wholesale sales of farm machinery, equipment and supplies have been generally rising since late 2000. After cascading downwards since early 1998, sales started to pick up in mid-1999 but were falling again by the summer of 2000.

Three consecutive monthly increases ended for wholesalers of industrial machinery

Lower wholesale sales in the industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies sector (-2.5%) followed three consecutive monthly increases. Uncertainty in the softwood lumber industry following the end of the softwood lumber accord in March was a contributing factor to April's decline. Except for a leveling-off of sales in the second half of 2000, wholesale sales in this sector were generally increasing since mid-1998.

Most provinces suffered setbacks

The majority of provinces reported declines in April. Only wholesalers in Saskatchewan (+1.8%), Prince Edward Island (+0.6%), and Nova Scotia (+0.5%) reported higher sales.

The weaker wholesale sales in industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies, and in lumber and building supplies contributed to the 6.0% drop in sales reported by Newfoundland's wholesalers. These two sectors account for approximately 30% of Newfoundland wholesale sales. Alone, wholesale sales of industrial machinery accounts for one-fifth of total wholesale sales in the province. Since late 2000, wholesalers in Newfoundland have seen their sales decline. Prior to this, wholesale sales in Newfoundland were generally climbing since mid-1998.

Wholesalers in Alberta saw their sales fall 1.1% in April. This drop followed four consecutive monthly increases. The fall in sales was broadly based; eight of the trade groups reported declines. Despite April's dip, Alberta continues to be the only province where wholesalers have seen their sales generally increase since mid-1998.

Wholesale inventories unchanged

The value of inventories held by wholesalers remained relatively unchanged in April at \$44.0 billion, down 0.1%. The two wholesale sectors with the largest

inventory levels in terms of value — the industrial and other machinery sector and the automotive sector — remained unchanged. Overall, wholesalers have not been accumulating inventories since the start of the year. Previously, levels had been generally climbing over the last several years.

An important decline in inventory was reported in the computer and electronic sector (-2.2%). In March, wholesalers in the computer and electronic sector built up their inventories to meet April shipping dates.

The inventory-to-sales ratio rose marginally from 1.37 in March to 1.38 in April. The ratio has generally leveled off since the start of the year. Prior to this, the ratio had been generally climbing since mid-2000.

Available on CANSIM: tables 810001 and 810002 and matrices 59, 61, 648 and 649.

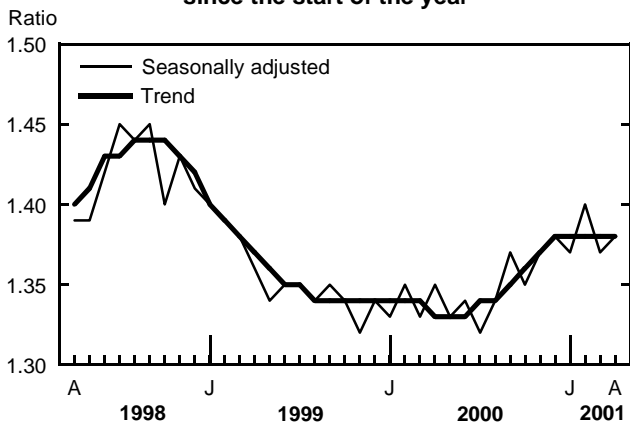
The April 2001 issue of *Wholesale trade* (63-008-XIB, \$14/\$140) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

Wholesale trade estimates for May will be released July 20.

For data or general information, contact the Client Services Unit (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca). To enquire about concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Alexander Hays (613-951-3552; haysale@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

□

Wholesale inventory-to-sales ratio has stabilized since the start of the year



Wholesale merchants' sales and inventories

	April 2000	January 2001 ^r	February 2001 ^r	March 2001 ^r	April 2001 ^p	March to April 2001	April to April 2001
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
Sales, all trade groups	31,476	32,315	31,644	32,224	31,919	-0.9	1.4
Food products	4,793	5,140	5,185	5,164	5,243	1.5	9.4
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	1,963	2,141	2,236	2,308	2,229	-3.4	13.6
Apparel and dry goods	545	572	556	541	553	2.2	1.5
Household goods	864	887	890	901	892	-1.0	3.3
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	6,218	5,913	5,271	5,786	5,667	-2.1	-8.9
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	2,011	2,021	2,029	2,034	1,991	-2.1	-1.0
Lumber and building materials	2,288	2,316	2,317	2,292	2,273	-0.8	-0.7
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	611	596	615	635	612	-3.6	0.1
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies	4,870	5,028	5,095	5,199	5,069	-2.5	4.1
Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery	2,937	3,054	2,925	2,921	2,905	-0.6	-1.1
Other products	4,377	4,647	4,525	4,443	4,486	1.0	2.5
Sales by province and territory							
Newfoundland	224	230	221	229	215	-6.0	-3.7
Prince Edward Island	55	51	49	48	48	0.6	-12.5
Nova Scotia	567	571	553	554	557	0.5	-1.7
New Brunswick	408	379	406	393	384	-2.3	-6.0
Quebec	6,299	6,744	6,647	6,605	6,574	-0.5	4.4
Ontario	15,748	16,002	15,468	15,962	15,839	-0.8	0.6
Manitoba	897	962	914	940	873	-7.2	-2.8
Saskatchewan	1,000	976	961	987	1,005	1.8	0.5
Alberta	2,976	3,188	3,198	3,246	3,211	-1.1	7.9
British Columbia	3,279	3,181	3,191	3,231	3,182	-1.5	-3.0
Yukon	9	11	13	9	10	10.3	8.6
Northwest Territories	13	17	20	17	21	18.9	63.7
Nunavut	2	3	3	3	2	-34.7	-19.0
Inventories, all trade groups	42,359	44,167	44,237	44,058	43,999	-0.1	3.9
Food products	2,798	3,044	3,077	3,109	3,110	0.0	11.1
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	2,447	2,680	2,735	2,815	2,760	-2.0	12.8
Apparel and dry goods	1,067	1,130	1,151	1,152	1,163	1.0	9.0
Household goods	1,510	1,666	1,697	1,662	1,668	0.4	10.5
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	6,551	6,827	6,885	6,575	6,576	0.0	0.4
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	3,905	3,993	3,918	3,845	3,811	-0.9	-2.4
Lumber and building materials	4,093	4,061	4,014	4,044	4,016	-0.7	-1.9
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	2,008	1,883	1,896	1,859	1,894	1.9	-5.6
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies	10,395	11,074	11,145	11,105	11,110	0.1	6.9
Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery	2,373	2,245	2,178	2,267	2,217	-2.2	-6.6
Other products	5,212	5,564	5,540	5,626	5,672	0.8	8.8

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.



Composite Index

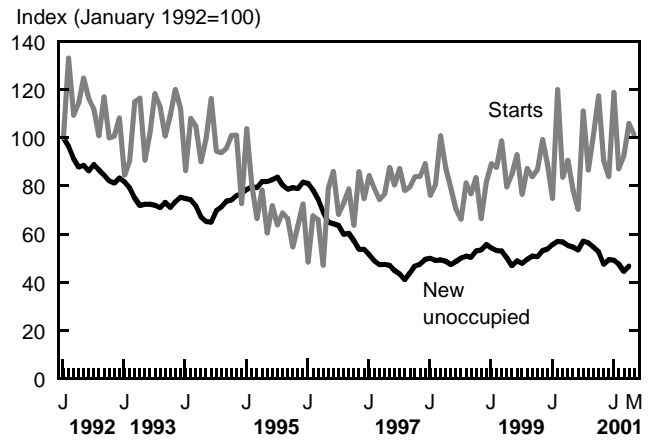
May 2001

The preliminary estimate for the leading indicator showed no change in May, its sixth straight month without an increase. The original estimate of no change in April was revised to a slight decline, in line with the trend since the turn of the year. In May, four components rose, one less than in April, four decreased and two were unchanged.

The weakness in the stock market and in manufacturing in recent months spread to services in May, with employment in this sector stalled for the first time since October 1999. The drop was particularly sharp for professional services in Ontario, where the decrease was by far the largest since records were first compiled in 1987. Ontario has been affected by slumping U.S. demand for autos and information technology. The downward trend of the U.S. leading indicator has slowed, as the money supply and the yield curve moved in a positive direction.

Boosted by gains in disposable income at the start of the year, household demand for big-ticket items remains the strongest sector in the economy, accounting for three of the four components that expanded. Housing continued on its upward trend, and falling vacancy rates, especially for multiple units, suggest more gains may be in store. Furniture and appliance sales continued to grow rapidly. Spending on other durable goods turned up, as auto sales received a boost from rebates.

Multiple-unit housing



Available on CANSIM: table 3770003 and matrix 193.

For more information on the economy, the June issue of *Canadian economic observer* (11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227) is available this week. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Economic Analysis Group.

Composite Index

	December 2000	January 2001	February 2001	March 2001	April 2001	May 2001	Last month of data available % change
Composite leading indicator (1992=100)	167.1	166.7	166.6	166.3	166.2	166.2	0.0
Housing index (1992=100) ¹	99.6	102.0	103.0	102.9	103.8	107.5	3.6
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,485	2,495	2,500	2,502	2,505	2,504	0.0
TSE 300 stock price index (1975=1,000)	9,804	9,419	8,959	8,552	8,378	8,223	-1.9
Money supply, M1 (\$ millions, 1992) ²	94,081	94,240	94,953	95,544	96,359	96,928	0.6
U.S. composite leading indicator (1992=100) ³	107.9	107.6	107.5	107.3	107.1	107.0	-0.1
Manufacturing							
Average work week (hours)	38.8	38.8	38.8	38.9	38.9	38.9	0.0
New orders, durables (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	23,527	23,500	23,203	22,864	22,968	22,699	-1.2
Shipments/inventories of finished goods ⁴	1.89	1.86	1.86	1.84	1.81	1.78	-0.03 ⁵
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	1,530	1,537	1,545	1,569	1,583	1,602	1.2
Other durable goods sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	7,096	7,097	7,075	7,079	7,063	7,088	0.3
Unsmoothed composite	166.2	166.3	167.3	166.2	165.1	166.2	0.7

¹ Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).

² Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.

³ The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.

⁴ The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for two preceding months.

⁵ Difference from previous month.

OTHER RELEASES

Annual Survey of Manufacturers 1999

The Annual Survey of Manufacturers provides information on more than 250 different industries. Data for the industries listed in the following tables are now available for Canada.

Available on CANSIM: table 301003 and matrices 11811, 11816, 11817, 11829, 11830, 11833, 11834, 11837, 11843, 11844, 11875, 11876, 11878, 11879, 11882-11887, 11914, 11915, 11926, 11927, 11971, 11986, 11988, 11989, 11993, 11994, 12000, 12018, 12019, 12079, 12083, 12084, 12162 and 12163.

Data for the industries listed in the table will appear in *Manufacturing industries of Canada: National and provincial areas* (31-203-XPB, \$68).

Research papers on manufacturing are available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Research papers (free)*, then *Manufacturing*.

For general information, to order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Dissemination Officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Value of shipments

Industry	NAICS	1998	1999	1998 to 1999	Matrix
		\$ millions		% change	
Commercial screen printing	323113	89.6	90.8	1.4	11811
Support activities for printing	323120	716.6	633.0	-11.7	11817
Petrochemical manufacturing	325110	2,528.1	2,919.2	15.5	11830
Synthetic dye and pigment manufacturing	325130	640.2	585.5	-8.5	11834
All other basic inorganic chemical manufacturing	325189	1,749.8	1,750.3	0.0	11837
Artificial and synthetic fibres and filaments manufacturing	325220	971.8	959.2	-1.3	11844
Unsupported plastic bag manufacturing	326111	1,204.7	1,300.3	7.9	11875
Unsupported plastic film and sheet manufacturing	326114	1,234.3	1,249.3	1.2	11876
Unsupported plastic profile shape manufacturing	326121	840.4	835.8	-0.6	11878
Plastic pipe and pipe fitting manufacturing	326122	821.4	848.0	3.2	11879
Polystyrene foam product manufacturing	326140	366.6	353.9	-3.5	11883
Urethane and other foam product (except polystyrene) manufacturing	326150	407.6	473.9	16.3	11885
Plastic bottle manufacturing	326160	588.8	624.8	6.1	11887
Concrete pipe, brick and block manufacturing	327330	499.2	585.3	17.2	11915
All other non-metallic mineral product manufacturing	327990	858.7	857.4	-0.1	11927
Other ornamental and architectural metal products manufacturing	332329	2,095.1	2,303.9	10.0	11971
Other fabricated wire product manufacturing	332619	790.0	781.9	-1.0	11986
Machine shops	332710	2,264.3	2,197.4	-3.0	11989
Coating, engraving, heat treating and allied activities	332810	1,875.4	2,026.6	8.1	11994
All other miscellaneous fabricated metal product manufacturing	332999	1,382.6	1,398.4	1.1	12000
Commercial and service industry machinery manufacturing	333310	1,734.5	2,150.5	24.0	12019
Switchgear and switchboard, and relay and industrial control apparatus manufacturing	335315	1,183.2	1,163.7	-1.6	12079
Communication and energy wire and cable manufacturing	335920	1,966.4	2,443.5	24.3	12084
Sign manufacturing	339950	676.2	747.2	10.5	12163

Crushing statistics

May 2001

Canadian oilseed processors crushed 168 194 metric tonnes of canola in May, according to the monthly survey of crushing plants. Oil production totalled 69 662 tonnes, while meal production amounted to 104 642 tonnes.

In the first 10 months of the 2000/2001 crop year, the canola crush volume was 2 588 626 tonnes, up 2% from 2 536 242 tonnes in the same 10 months of 1999/2000.

Available on CANSIM: table 10005 and matrix 5687.

The May 2001 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XIB, \$11/\$112; 22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149) will be available in August. See *How to order products*.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Les Macartney (613-951-8714; les.macartney@statcan.ca) or Karen Gray (204-983-2856; karen.gray@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Construction type plywood

April 2001

Canadian firms produced 173 576 cubic metres of construction-type plywood during April, up 5.7% from the 164 161 cubic metres produced in April 2000.

Year-to-date production totalled 681 453 cubic metres, an increase of 1.6% from the 670 935 cubic metres produced during the same period of 2000.

Available on CANSIM: table 3030005 and matrix 122.

The April 2001 issue of *Construction type plywood* (35-001-XIB, \$5/\$47) 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 Sara Breen (613-951-3521; sara.breen@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

International trade in cultural goods and services

2000

Canada's trade deficit in cultural goods and services declined for the first time in five years in 2000, as

the growth rate in exports far exceeded the growth in imports.

The nation sold almost \$4.5 billion worth of cultural products to the world last year, up 8.1% from 1999. However, imports rose only 1.7% to \$7.5 billion.

This resulted in a trade deficit of just over \$3.0 billion, down substantially from the peak of nearly \$3.3 billion in 1999. Prior to this decline, the deficit had been growing steadily during the decade.

Between 1996 and 2000, imports of cultural commodities and services increased 22.7%, while exports went up 38.4%. As a point of comparison, total merchandise trade prices, for both exports and imports, rose only 11% over the same period.

Canada's bookstores, newstands, record shops, cinemas and television programming testify to the nation's position as one of the biggest importers and consumers of cultural products in the world. However, during the past decade, the Canadian cultural sector, in particular the film and video production sector, has made substantial inroads into foreign markets.

The United States is Canada's foremost trading partner, both for imports and exports. In 2000, the United States received a substantial 94% of Canada's culture commodity exports, worth \$2.2 billion. At the same time, it accounted for 83% of Canada's cultural commodity imports, worth \$3.9 billion.

Export activities play a crucial role in cultural employment, sustaining an estimated 5% to 10% of culture jobs in Canada. The sectors most influenced by export-based employment in 1997/98 were the film and video production sector, which accounted for 38% of all jobs, and post-production and laboratory services, accounting for 41% of all jobs.

The study "Market opportunities: International trade of culture goods and services" is now available as a free preview article on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, choose *In depth. Focus on culture*, Vol. 12, no. 4 (87-004-XIE, \$7/\$20; 87-004-XPB, \$9/\$27), is also now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Michel Durand (613-951-1566) or Cindy Carter (613-951-6755), or contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; cult&tourstats@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

**Manufacturing industries of Canada:
National and provincial areas**
1998

The publication *Manufacturing Industries of Canada: National and provincial areas, 1998* is now available. The publication is based on the Annual Survey of Manufacturers. This survey collects information on approximately 35,000 manufacturing establishments grouped into 259 national industries. Data collected from the Annual Survey of Manufacturing are now classified according to the 1997 North American Industry Classification System, which replaces the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification. The survey measures manufacturing production and provides an indication of the well-being of each industry and its contribution to the Canadian economy.

Manufacturing industries of Canada: National and provincial areas, 1998 includes an analysis of

the manufacturing industry and a feature article on "The Development of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Manufacturing Time-series, 1990–1997, Outline." It also includes tables on principal statistics, notably shipments, materials purchased and labour data.

The publication, *Manufacturing industries of Canada: National and provincial areas, 1998* (31-203-XPB, \$68) is now available. The data are also available electronically on demand. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Dissemination Officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Manufacturing industries of Canada: National and provincial areas, 1998
Catalogue number 31-203-XPB (\$68).

Construction type plywood, April 2001
Catalogue number 35-001-XIB (\$5/\$47).

Focus on culture, Winter 2000, Vol. 12, no. 4
Catalogue number 87-004-XIE (\$7/\$20).

Focus on culture, Winter 2000, Vol. 12, no. 4
Catalogue number 87-004-XPB (\$9/\$27).

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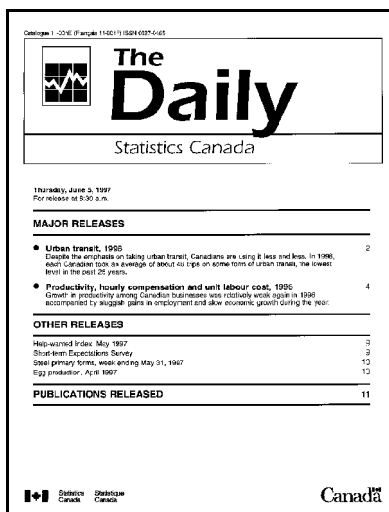
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