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Statistics Canada

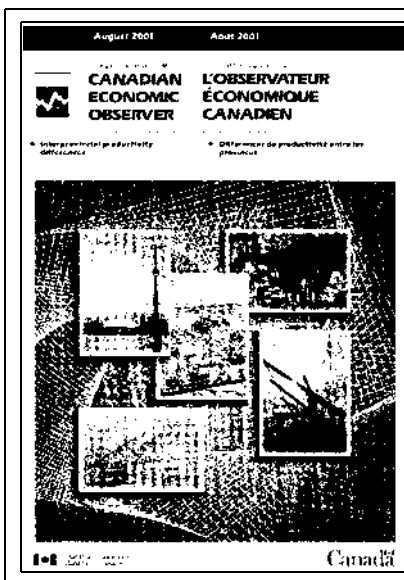
Friday, August 24, 2001

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Interprovincial productivity differences, 1996-97** 3
 Alberta's business sector led the nation in labour productivity by a wide margin on average during 1996 and 1997, according to a Statistics Canada study on differences in productivity between the provinces. Ontario was second.

(continued on page 2)



Canadian economic observer August 2001

The August issue of Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, *Canadian economic observer*, analyses current economic conditions, summarizes the major economic events that occurred in July and presents a feature article on interprovincial productivity differences. A separate statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and the major industrial nations.

The August 2001 issue of *Canadian economic observer*, Volume 14, number 8 (11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227) is now available. Visit the *Canadian economic observer's* page on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the *Canadian statistics* page, choose *Economic conditions*, and on that page see the banner ad for the *Canadian economic observer*. For more information, contact Philip Cross (613-951-9162; ceo@statcan.ca), Current Economic Analysis Group.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Interprovincial productivity differences

1996-97

Alberta led Canada business sector productivity performance in 1996-97, with an average gross domestic product (GDP) per job of \$66,000. This was \$10,000 higher than Ontario, which ranked second. These results, based on a new provincial productivity database, are part of a Statistics Canada's study on differences in interprovincial labour productivity published in the August issue of the *Canadian economic observer*.

Saskatchewan was right behind Ontario at \$54,000, the study found, followed by Quebec (\$52,000) and British Columbia (\$51,000). Manitoba (\$44,000) and Atlantic Canada (\$42,000) had the lowest GDP per job; their average productivity was only two-thirds that of Alberta.

Labour productivity differences reflect not only variations in the efficiency of labour but also dissimilarities in the availability of capital per job — a result of capital accumulation.

Provincial GDP per job differs substantially across industries. In the Atlantic provinces, the high-wage services sector is the most productive, followed closely by the natural resources sector. In Quebec, the high-wage services sector is ranked second right after the secondary manufacturing sector. From Ontario going west, the natural resources sector is the most productive, followed generally by the high-wage services sector. The productivity gap between the two most productive sectors is about \$4,000 in the Atlantic provinces and Quebec but ranges from \$20,000 in Ontario to \$275,000 in Saskatchewan.

While sectoral productivity performance varies significantly across provinces, Alberta occupies a pre-eminent position in the most innovative sectors such as high-wage services and manufacturing. Alberta and Ontario lead the high-wage services sector with a value of GDP per job close to \$100,000, compared with \$87,000 in Quebec, which ranks second. Alberta is also the most productive in the core manufacturing sector (\$113,000), followed by Quebec and Ontario (about \$80,000). Alberta ranks third in the secondary manufacturing sector, behind Ontario in first place and Quebec in second. With \$360,000 of GDP per job, Saskatchewan is the most productive in the natural resources sector followed by Alberta, producing \$290,000. Much of this performance is, however, the result of the high capital intensity of this sector.

Note to readers

This release is based on a study that compares labour productivity levels across provinces, and investigates the extent to which these are due to differences in industrial composition. Many factors account for the differences in productivity across provinces. This study focusses on the most important of these differences in the industrial composition of production activity across the country. Other determining factors are cyclical differences and barriers to labour and capital mobility.

The study makes use of a new database on provincial productivity based on 243 industries of the Canadian business sector for 1996 and 1997 averaged. The Atlantic provinces were treated as a group for the sake of confidentiality protection.

In this release, labour productivity is defined as gross domestic product in current prices per job. Labour productivity differences reflect a range of factors — from differences in capital intensity to differences in efficiency.

Nine sectors were considered in the study: agriculture, fishing and trapping; natural resources (logging, forestry, mining and oil and gas); core manufacturing (electronic products, machinery, pharmaceuticals, chemical products and refined petroleum); secondary manufacturing (primary metals, transportation, rubber, plastic, fabricated metals, and non-metallic minerals); other manufacturing (tobacco, paper, beverages, textiles, printing, wood, other textiles, furniture, clothing, and leather); construction; and the high-wage (wholesale, storage, utilities, finance and pipelines), medium-wage (transportation, business services, and communication) and low-wage (accommodation and food, retail and other services) service sectors.

Core manufacturing represents highly dynamic industries that produce innovations or technologies for self-use or use in other sectors. The secondary manufacturing sector is less innovative in that it both uses technologies produced by other sectors and produces innovations for use in other sectors. The "other manufacturing" sector essentially absorbs technologies and innovations produced by the core and secondary manufacturing sectors. Average earnings, or wages, salaries and supplementary labour income, divided by employment, are used to classify service industries into high-, medium- and low-wage sectors.

The importance of industry mix

Productivity differences in the entire business sector between provinces reflect both differences in industrial composition and differences in productive efficiency across sectors. Provinces that have a substantial part of their work force in low-productivity sectors will trail those tending to have their workers in high-productivity sectors as a result of industry mix. To the extent that labour and capital are mobile across provinces, virtually all differences could be expected to reflect compositional effects.

Productive efficiency differences at the industry level were more important than the industry mix in explaining inter-provincial differences for all provinces

except British Columbia and Saskatchewan. Alberta was the only province that had both a favourable industry mix and higher productive efficiency than Ontario. Saskatchewan's slightly higher productive efficiency compared with Ontario was more than offset by an unfavourable mix. Atlantic Canada and Manitoba had a large productive efficiency gap with Ontario.

After controlling for differences in industrial structures, Alberta's leading position in productivity relative to Ontario was unchanged in the high-wage services sector and the core manufacturing sector, and even improved in the natural resources sector, where it showed the highest provincial gap.

After accounting for industry mix, productivity in Quebec is lower than in Ontario in most sectors, especially in high-wage services. Since no other sector shows advantages sufficient to offset this, overall productivity in Quebec is lower than Ontario by \$3,300.

British Columbia's situation is similar, although the overall productivity gap is about half that of Quebec (\$1,800); this is mainly a result of its better performance in the services sector. The Atlantic provinces show the highest productivity gap of roughly \$10,000, largely because they lag behind in high-wage services and secondary manufacturing.

Provincial employment data for 1996 and 1997, consistent with input-output tables, are now available on request. Please contact productivity.measures@statcan.ca.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release contact John R. Baldwin (613-951-8588; baldjoh@statcan.ca) or Tarek M. Harchaoui (613-951-9856; fax: 613-951-5403; harctar@statcan.ca), Micro-Economic Analysis Division.

Provincial productivity by industry

	Canada	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia
	GDP per job (\$,000)							
Industrial sector								
Agriculture, fishing and trapping	24.6	26.2	29.9	20.0	25.7	30.6	24.1	20.0
Natural resources	184.2	79.0	74.4	118.3	106.3	363.9	295.7	138.9
Core manufacturing	80.9	54.7	80.9	78.1	79.8	68.1	112.7	73.9
Secondary manufacturing	91.0	55.5	90.8	97.1	71.1	68.3	82.6	65.9
Other manufacturing	67.6	58.1	64.7	71.6	49.1	70.0	71.4	71.2
Construction	43.5	40.2	46.0	42.1	38.7	49.2	47.6	41.6
Low-wage services	24.9	20.2	25.1	25.4	22.0	21.2	25.9	26.5
Medium-wage services	51.7	46.3	48.6	53.2	45.8	51.0	53.9	54.3
High-wage services	93.9	82.8	87.3	98.2	82.7	89.4	100.3	91.3

OTHER RELEASES

Internet use among older Canadians 2000

Canadians 60 and over may be in danger of being left behind as the Internet increases in importance as a method of communication. They are much less likely to use the Internet than younger people, according to the in-depth study of individuals' use of computer and Internet technology conducted by the General Social Survey (GSS) in 2000.

Only 13% of older people, or 614,000, had used the Internet during the previous year, compared to 63% of younger people. Twice as many older men (17%) as women (9%) were online.

The profile of older people as a group is very different from that of older Internet users. For example, older Internet users have higher levels of education and income than other older people. Though most are retired, employment was also a positive factor related to Internet use. Being among the "oldest old," female or living alone were related to lower incidence of use.

Most older people do not think it is important that everyone have access to the Internet (only 28% compared with 52% of those under 60). Moreover, only 8% of non-users were interested in starting. However, attitudes were not the only barriers to Internet use. Among those who were interested in starting, and did not already have a connection in their home, access to a computer or the Internet (30%), cost (26%), lack of time (15%) and lack of skills or training (14%) were most often cited as the greatest barriers.

Older people who had used the Internet the previous month averaged 5.7 hours per week on-line. Most of this time was spent on a home connection (5.6 hours per week). More than half searched for information on goods and services (57%) in the previous month, and accessed online news sites (54%). More than one-third searched for health and medical information (38%).

Most older Internet users use e-mail and use it frequently to communicate with family and friends. Seven in ten of those who used it in the previous month used it at least several times a week. During the month before they were interviewed, 84% had communicated with family this way and 77% with friends.

Four in ten older women on the Internet and one in four older men had started using it within the previous year. The short time they have been on-line is consistent with the growth in household use observed in July's Household Internet Use Survey release. However, this growth is based on a small number of users, and it

would take some time to match the penetration rates among younger people.

Older Internet users rated their computer skills higher than did older people who used a computer but had not used the Internet. While 48% of older Internet users had developed some of their skills in the workplace, 35% were self-taught without training from a workplace or an educational institution.

Note: Data for this report are from Cycle 14 of the GSS, "Access to and use of information communication technology." The GSS is an annual telephone sample survey covering the non-institutionalized population aged 15 and over in all provinces but not the territories. The topic in 2000 was access to and use of computer and Internet technology. Data were collected over a 12-month period, with a different sample each month. Internet penetration rates were estimated on the basis of the respondent's reported use during the previous year, from the time of the survey. Data on use were estimated based on the respondent's use during the previous month.

The representative sample had 25,090 respondents, representing an 81% response rate. The survey results include information from 6,178 persons aged 60 and over, 2,403 men and 3,775 women. These were weighted to represent 2,191,600 men and 2,676,200 women in this age group.

Data from the 2000 GSS complement other Statistics Canada surveys on this topic, particularly the Household Internet Survey, which collects information from Canadian households and is administered to a sub-sample of households that participate in the Labour Force Survey.

Internet use among older Canadians (56F0004MIE, free), the fourth issue of the Connectedness Series, is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the *Products and services* page, choose *Research papers (free)*, then *Communications*.

General results from Cycle 14 of the General Social Survey: Internet use were released in *The Daily* on March 26. For data or additional information contact Client Services and Dissemination (613-951-5979; fax: 613-951-0387; hfssl@statcan.ca), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Cynthia Silver (613-951-2101, cynthia.silver@statcan.ca), Housing Family and Social Statistics Division. ■

Crude oil and natural gas

June 2001 (preliminary)

Crude oil production totalled 10 325 000 cubic metres in June 2001, down 3.1% from June 2000. Exports, which accounted for 67.9% of total production, grew 2.4%.

Crude oil and natural gas

	June 2000	June 2001	June 2000 to June 2001 % change
Thousands of cubic metres			
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹			
Production	10 650.0	10 325.0	-3.1
Exports	6 844.6	7 008.8	2.4
Imports ²	4 357.0	3 875.1	-11.1
Refinery receipts	8 127.2	7 630.2	-6.1
Millions of cubic metres			
Natural gas³			
Marketable production	13 193.5	13 335.0	1.1
Exports	8 010.8	8 469.5	5.7
Canadian domestic sales ⁴	4 071.6	3 750.8	-7.9
Thousands of cubic metres			
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹			
Production	63 405.4	64 113.3	1.1
Exports	40 262.4	40 514.4	0.6
Imports ²	26 146.1	27 891.8	6.7
Refinery receipts	49 236.7	51 415.1	4.4
Millions of cubic metres			
Natural gas³			
Marketable production	82 722.3	85 484.6	3.3
Exports	49 052.9	54 597.3	11.3
Canadian domestic sales ⁴	39 707.5	37 120.2	-6.5

¹ Disposition may differ from production because of inventory change, industry own-use, etc.

² Crude oil received by Canadian refineries from foreign countries for processing. Data may differ from International Trade Division estimates because of timing differences and the inclusion of crude oil landed in Canada for future re-export in the division's data.

³ Disposition may differ from production because of inventory change, usage as pipeline fuel, pipeline losses, line-pack fluctuations, etc.

⁴ Includes direct sales.

Marketable natural gas production rose 1.1% from June 2000, while domestic sales fell 7.9%. All three sectors — residential, commercial and industrial — posted lower sales. Residential sales fell 15.2% and commercial sales were down 6.6%. Sales to the industrial sector fell 6.8% compared with June 2000, largely because of lower demand for natural gas by

electric utilities and the chemical industry. Natural gas exports, which accounted for 63.5% of total marketable production, gained 5.7%.

January-to-June production of crude oil grew 1.1% compared with the same period in 2000, and crude oil exports rose 0.6%.

January-to-June marketable production of natural gas was up 3.3% compared with the same period in 2000. Natural gas exports were up 11.3%, but domestic sales fell 6.5%.

Available on CANSIM: tables 1260001, 1310001 and matrices 530 and 539.

As of September 14, *Daily* releases will refer only to CANSIM II table numbers. CANSIM II contains more than 2 million data time series depicting economic and social conditions in Canada. Data are updated on the day that new values for these series are released. Real-time access to CANSIM II is available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca) from the *Our products and services* page. For more information, contact Louis Boucher (613-951-8906; louis.boucher@statcan.ca).

The June 2001 issue of *Supply and disposition of crude oil and natural gas* (26-006-XPB, \$19/\$186) will be available in September. See *How to order products*.

To order data, or for general information, contact the Dissemination Officer (1-866-873-8799; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and 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. ■

Natural gas sales

June 2001 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales totalled 3 742 million cubic metres in June, down 7.9% from June 2000. All three sectors (residential, commercial and industrial) recorded lower sales. Sales to the industrial sector (including direct sales) fell 6.8% compared with June 2000, owing to lower demand for natural gas by electric utilities and the chemical industry.

Year-to-date sales dropped 6.5% from the same period in 2000. Lower demand by the industrial sector (including direct sales) led to an 8.1% decline compared with the same period of 2000. Sales to the residential and commercial sectors dropped 5.0% and 2.6%, respectively.

Natural gas sales

	June 2001 ^P	June 2000	June 2000 to June 2001
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas sales	3 742 471	4 065 457	-7.9
Residential	461 928	544 922	-15.2
Commercial	325 364	348 179	-6.6
Industrial	1 329 648	1 789 932	-6.8
Direct	1 625 531	1 382 424	
	Year-to-date		
	2001 ^P	2000	2000 to 2001
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas sales	37 078 268	39 665 158	-6.5
Residential	8 594 526	9 046 513	-5.0
Commercial	6 138 012	6 300 192	-2.6
Industrial	9 750 816	11 247 809	-8.1
Direct	12 594 914	13 070 644	

^P Preliminary figures.

Available on CANSIM: tables 1290001-1290004 and matrices 1052-1055.

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The June 2001 issue of *Natural gas transportation and distribution* (55-002-XIB, \$13/\$125) will be available in September. See *How to order products*.

To order data, or for general information, contact the Dissemination Officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca). For analytical information, or to inquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Gary Smalldridge (613-951-3567; gary.smalldridge@statcan.ca) or contact Tom Lewis (613-951-3596; tom.lewis@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Energy supply and demand

Third quarter 2000

Production of primary energy in Canada totalled 3 838 petajoules in the third quarter of 2000, up 1.7% from the third quarter of 1999. The advance was due to

increases in the production of crude oil (+3.8%), natural gas (+3.4%) and natural gas liquids (+1.8%).

Total exports of primary energy products rose 3.7% from the third quarter of 1999. Gains were recorded for crude oil, primary electricity, natural gas liquids and natural gas. Total imports of primary energy products increased 16.5% — virtually all products recorded strong gains.

Energy supply and demand

	Third quarter 1999 ^r	Third quarter 2000	Third quarter 1999 to third quarter 2000
	petajoules ¹		% change
Production²	3 775	3 838	1.7
Exports ²	1 977	2 051	3.7
Imports ²	624	727	16.5
Availability ²	2 363	2 446	3.5
Electricity generation	376	370	-1.6
Producer consumption	285	318	11.6
Non-energy use	221	216	-2.3
Final demand³	1 546	1 596	3.2
Industrial	495	533	7.7
Transportation	614	608	-1.0
Residential and agriculture	215	214	-0.5
Commercial and government	222	242	8.6
	Year-to-date		
	1999 ^r	2000	1999 to 2000
	petajoules ¹		% change
Production²	11 365	11 686	2.8
Exports ²	5 751	6 173	7.3
Imports ²	1 842	2 086	13.2
Availability ²	7 744	7 948	2.6
Electricity generation	1 102	1 119	1.5
Producer consumption	891	933	4.7
Non-energy use	625	584	-6.6
Final demand³	5 260	5 436	3.3
Industrial	1 614	1 756	8.8
Transportation	1 723	1 710	-0.8
Residential and agriculture	1 049	1 057	0.8
Commercial and government	874	913	4.5

^r Revised data.

¹ A 30-litre gasoline fill-up contains about one gigajoule of energy. A petajoule is one million gigajoules.

² Primary energy sources are coal, crude oil, natural gas, natural gas liquids, and hydro and nuclear electricity.

³ Final demand is the sum of usage by the industrial, transportation, residential and farm, and commercial and government sectors.

Final demand for energy in Canada was 3.2% higher during the third quarter of 2000 than in the third quarter of 1999. The increase was due primarily to stronger demand for energy by the industrial and commercial sectors.

In the first nine months of 2000, production of primary energy products was 2.8% higher than in the same period in 1999. Total exports of primary energy products rose 7.3%, and imports (mainly crude oil and coal) increased 13.2%. Final demand for energy in Canada was up 3.3%.

Note: New CANSIM matrices have been created for the *Quarterly report on energy supply-demand* for Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. They are matrices 4965 to 4967 for energy data in natural units and matrices 7940 to 7942 and 7973 to 7975 for energy data in terajoules. In addition, data for gas plant NGLs (natural gas liquids) for Canada, the provinces and territories are now broken out into their components of propane, butane and ethane. These data are included in CANSIM II tables 1280002 and 1280003. Historical data prior to 2000 will be made available later.

Available on CANSIM: tables 1280001-1280003 and matrices 4945, 4946, 4950-4962, 4965-4967, 7940-7942 and 7973-8001.

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The third quarter 2000 issue of *Quarterly report on energy supply/demand in Canada* (57-003-XPB, \$43/\$141), will be available shortly. See *How to order products*.

To order data, or for general information, contact the Dissemination Officer (1-866-873-8799; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gary Smalldridge (613-951-3567; smalgar@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending August 18, 2001 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending August 18 totalled 291 088 metric tonnes, up 0.9% from 288 442 tonnes a week earlier but down 10.4%

from 325 024 tonnes in the same week of 2000. The year-to-date total at the end of the reference week was 9 491 044 tonnes, down 12.3% from 10 827 531 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. ■

Crushing statistics

July 2001

Oilseed processors crushed 207,859 metric tonnes of canola in July, according to the monthly survey of crushing plants. Oil production totalled 88,214 tonnes; meal production was 129,045 tonnes.

In the 2000/01 crop year, the canola crush volume was 3,013,091 tonnes, a marginal increase from the crush volume of 2,983,380 tonnes in the 1999/2000 crop year.

Available on CANSIM: table 10005 and matrix 5687.

As of September 14, *Daily* releases will refer only to CANSIM II table numbers. CANSIM II contains more than 2 million data time series depicting economic and social conditions in Canada. Data are updated on the day that new values for these series are released. Real-time access to CANSIM II is available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca) from the *Our products and services* page. For more information, contact Louis Boucher (613-951-8906; louis.boucher@statcan.ca).

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

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods and 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. ■

Air charter statistics

Second quarter 2000 (preliminary)

Air charter data for the second quarter are now available.

Air charter data will appear in the September 2001 issue of the *Aviation service bulletin* (51-004-XIB, \$8/\$82). A print-on-demand service is also available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141; kathie.davidson@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Civil aviation financial statistics

First and second quarter 2001

Air Canada reported seasonally adjusted basic losses of \$193 million in the first quarter and \$289 million in the second quarter (all data are seasonally adjusted). Basic income, or loss, is measured by combining the operating income (before capital gains, miscellaneous items and tax) with interest expenses and interest income.

This follows a loss of \$310 million in the fourth quarter of 2000, for the total operations of Air Canada and Canadian Airlines Ltd. This fourth quarter loss included several one-time expenses incurred by Air Canada as a result of the merger with Canadian Airlines Ltd.

Available on CANSIM: table 4010001 and matrix 385 (series 7-9).

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The first and second quarter 2001 civil aviation financial statistics for Air Canada will appear, respectively, in the August and September 2001 issues of *Aviation service bulletin* (51-004-XIB, \$8/\$82). A print-on-demand service is also available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Lund (613-951-0125) or Lisa Di Piétro (613-951-0146), Transportation Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

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Canadian economic observer, Vol. 14, no. 8,
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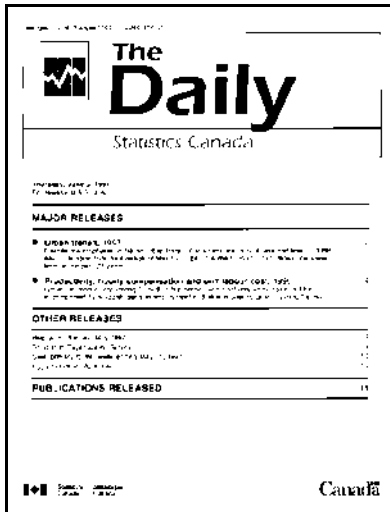
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The Daily, August 24, 2001

RELEASE DATES: AUGUST 27 TO 31

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
27	Farm cash receipts	January–June 2001
27	University tuition fees	2001/02
28	International travel account	Second quarter 2001
28	Employment, earnings and hours	June 2001
28	Production estimates of principal field crops	July 31, 2001
29	Industrial Product and Raw Materials Price Indexes	July 2001
29	Characteristics of international travellers	First quarter 2001
30	Quarterly financial statistics for enterprises	Second quarter 2001
31	Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry	June 2001
31	National economic and financial accounts	Second quarter 2001
31	Balance of international payments	Second quarter 2001
