



The Daily

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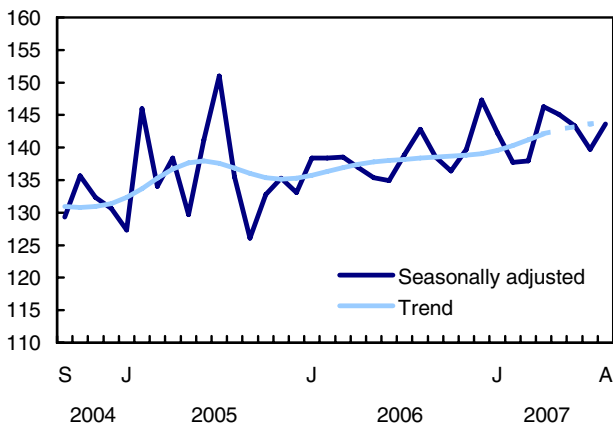
New motor vehicle sales

August 2007

New motor vehicle sales advanced 2.8% in August, partially offsetting three months of declines. Seasonally adjusted data from the New Motor Vehicle Sales Survey show that 143,606 new vehicles were sold in August on the strength of rebounding truck sales. Ontario and Quebec accounted for almost 95% of this increase.

New motor vehicle sales advance after three months of declines

Thousands of units



Note: The last few points could be subject to revisions when more data are added. This is indicated by the dashed line.

Prior to the three consecutive monthly declines, sales of new motor vehicles had been trending up since the fall of 2005 despite large fluctuations. Preliminary industry data for the month of September suggest that sales of new motor vehicles are expected to fall by 2%, mainly due to a decline in truck sales.

Trucks dominate sales increase in August

While both passenger cars and truck sales increased in August, truck sales (which include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses) outperformed passenger cars, accounting for over 85% of the increase in total vehicles sold.

Note to readers

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted.

Passenger cars include those used for personal and commercial purposes, such as taxis or rental cars. **Trucks** include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.

North American built new motor vehicles include vehicles manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico. All other new motor vehicles are considered to have been manufactured overseas.

For reasons of confidentiality, data for Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are included with those for British Columbia.

The New Motor Vehicle Sales Survey is compiled on the basis of figures obtained from motor vehicle manufacturers and importers. These results may vary from those obtained directly from auto dealers, due to possible differences in record keeping.

Truck sales advanced 4.9% to 70,399 vehicles in August, partially offsetting two consecutive months of sales declines. Truck sales have fluctuated since the beginning of 2007, with four out of eight months registering gains.

Passenger cars sales edged up 0.8% to 73,206 vehicles after declining 2.3% in July. Sales have been lackluster since a strong 7.2% increase in April 2007. North American-built passenger cars were the driving force behind the passenger car sales gain in August, rising by 1.6% to 46,801 vehicles. Sales of North American-built cars had a rough start to the year, with a 10.8% sales drop in January followed by two additional months of declines. After a nearly full recovery in April with an 11.8% gain, sales have since remained below the average monthly sales levels seen in 2005 and 2006.

Sales of overseas-built passenger cars slipped 0.7% in August. So far this year, overseas-built cars have accounted for 36.1% of total passenger cars sold. This is higher than the 2006 average of 33.6% and the highest share since 1992.

Sales in Quebec and Ontario drive national increase

Although all but three provinces saw sales rise in August, 95% of the national increase came from Quebec (+4.6%) and Ontario (+4.3%). The gains in these two provinces partially offset their recent monthly declines.

Sales in Prince Edward Island (+13.2%) rebounded from two months of declines. Sales in this province

have been generally on the rise since the fall of 2006. Increases in August were also seen in Manitoba (+5.6%), New Brunswick (+3.3%), Nova Scotia (+2.0%) and Saskatchewan (+1.2%).

Sales in Saskatchewan have picked up speed, with only three sales declines recorded since August 2006. Auto sales in Newfoundland and Labrador followed a similar pattern but have levelled off in recent months, declining 1.2% in August.

Sales in Alberta (-0.5%) and British Columbia (-0.7%) also fell in August. For British Columbia, August represented the fourth consecutive monthly decline. In fact, since the start of 2007, sales only increased in two out of eight months.

Available on CANSIM: tables 079-0001 and 079-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2402.

The August 2007 issue of *New motor vehicle sales* (63-007-XWE, free) will be available soon.

Data on new motor vehicle sales for September will be released on November 14.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lucy Chung (613-951-1903), Distributive Trades Division.

□

New motor vehicle sales

	August 2006	July 2007 ^r	August 2007 ^p	August 2006 to August 2007	July to August 2007
Seasonally adjusted					
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	142,843	139,740	143,606	0.5	2.8
Passenger cars	72,403	72,659	73,206	1.1	0.8
North American ¹	47,891	46,058	46,801	-2.3	1.6
Overseas	24,512	26,601	26,406	7.7	-0.7
Trucks, vans and buses	70,440	67,081	70,399	-0.1	4.9
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,988	2,436	2,407	21.1	-1.2
Prince Edward Island	431	418	473	9.7	13.2
Nova Scotia	4,033	4,124	4,207	4.3	2.0
New Brunswick	2,972	3,122	3,226	8.5	3.3
Quebec	35,479	33,010	34,519	-2.7	4.6
Ontario	52,457	49,978	52,107	-0.7	4.3
Manitoba	3,773	3,736	3,944	4.5	5.6
Saskatchewan	3,377	3,868	3,914	15.9	1.2
Alberta	21,871	22,219	22,104	1.1	-0.5
British Columbia ²	16,462	16,828	16,705	1.5	-0.7
	August 2006	July 2007 ^r	August 2007 ^p	August 2006 to August 2007	
Unadjusted					
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	157,868	145,370	160,883	1.9	
Passenger cars	82,244	77,722	84,021	2.2	
North American ¹	53,812	47,819	53,703	-0.2	
Overseas	28,432	29,903	30,318	6.6	
Trucks, vans and buses	75,624	67,648	76,862	1.6	
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,482	2,731	2,970	19.7	
Prince Edward Island	531	519	637	20.0	
Nova Scotia	4,597	4,580	4,967	8.0	
New Brunswick	3,389	3,408	3,767	11.2	
Quebec	40,566	35,557	39,972	-1.5	
Ontario	56,732	50,501	57,586	1.5	
Manitoba	4,471	3,899	4,721	5.6	
Saskatchewan	3,963	4,103	4,633	16.9	
Alberta	23,266	22,236	23,588	1.4	
British Columbia ²	17,871	17,836	18,042	1.0	

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico.

2. Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Note: Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators

2007

Canada's environment continues to face challenges with respect to air and water quality and greenhouse gas emissions, according to the third annual report of environmental sustainability indicators.

The report found that the indicator of exposure to ground-level ozone, a component of smog, has increased over time.

Greenhouse gas emissions remained at nearly the same level in 2005 as in 2004, but are still significantly above 1990 levels and Canada's target under the Kyoto Protocol. However, the report found that the intensity of greenhouse gas emissions—that is, the amount emitted for each unit of economic activity—continued to decline in 2005. Nevertheless, total emissions increased over the 1990 to 2005 period, due to increased economic activity.

As in last year's report, the water quality indicator shows that guidelines for protecting aquatic life were not met, at least occasionally, at many monitoring sites across the country. Phosphorous, a pollutant derived mainly from human activities, was a major concern for the quality of surface freshwater in Canada.

The indicator results are partly due to the growing Canadian population and economy. Between 1990 and 2005, Canada's population increased by 17%, to 32.3 million. This increase, coupled with economic growth, led to greater resource use and waste production, increased greenhouse gas emissions and, in certain cases, more air and water pollution.

These results were released today in a "highlights report" of the 2007 Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators. A full report is scheduled for release in December 2007.

Exposure to some components of smog increasing over the long term

The air quality indicators track measures of Canadians' exposure to ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter during the warm season (April 1 to September 30). These pollutants are key components of smog and can lead to adverse health effects even at low concentrations in the air.

The report shows that the ozone exposure indicator increased by an average of 0.8% a year between 1990 and 2005. This is equivalent to an overall increase of about 12% between 1990 and 2005.

Regionally, the ozone exposure indicator increased in southern Ontario and in southern Quebec over the period. The indicator level was unchanged in other regions.

Note to readers

This release is based on highlights from the third annual report of the Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators, prepared by Environment Canada, Statistics Canada and Health Canada. A full report is scheduled for release in December 2007.

This report provides updates on four indicators in the following three areas: air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and freshwater quality. The indicators are intended to provide Canadians with more regular and consistent information on the state of the environment and how it is linked with human activities.

These indicators, first reported in 2005, have now been updated for a third year.

Environment Canada, Statistics Canada and Health Canada are working together to report and continue the development of the Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators. This effort has benefited from the cooperation and input of all the provinces and territories.

*The **air quality indicators** track measures of Canadians' exposure to ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter.*

*The **greenhouse gas emissions indicator** tracks the annual Canadian releases of the six greenhouse gases that are the major contributors to climate change.*

*The **freshwater quality indicator** uses the Water Quality Index endorsed by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment to summarize the status of surface freshwater quality.*

The exposure indicator for fine particulate matter did not show any significant increase or decrease between 2000 and 2005, the only period for which consistent data are available.

Transportation, electricity generation, wood burning and the use of chemical products such as paint and solvents can increase levels of ozone and fine particulate matter in the air.

Greenhouse gas emissions up sharply since 1990, despite decline in intensity

The consensus of the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is that greenhouse gas emissions caused by human activity are having a discernible impact on the climate.

In 2005, Canada's greenhouse gas emissions were estimated at 747 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, up 25% from 1990. These emissions were 33% above the target set by the Kyoto Protocol.

Greenhouse gas emissions increased significantly between 1990 and 2005, despite the fact that 17.8% less greenhouse gas was emitted per unit of economic activity in 2005 compared with 1990. Increases in overall economic activity resulted in increases in both energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

Contrary to the general trend since 1990, greenhouse gas emissions were nearly stable between 2003 and 2005. This change was due primarily to

a reduction in emissions from electricity production (reduced coal-fired generation and increased hydro and nuclear generation), reduced demand for home heating fuels due to warm winters and a reduced rate of increase in fossil fuel production.

Freshwater quality: Phosphorous a concern for aquatic life

This indicator assesses surface freshwater quality with respect to the protection of fish, aquatic invertebrates and plants. It does not assess the quality of water for human consumption and use. The indicator is based on information gathered from 2003 to 2005.

Water monitoring results throughout southern Canada show that guidelines for protecting aquatic life were not met, at least occasionally, at many sites.

Tests at 359 river and lake monitoring sites in southern Canada found that freshwater quality was rated as "good" or "excellent" at 44% of the sites, "fair" at 33%, and "marginal" or "poor" at 23%.

The report found that phosphorus was a major concern for surface freshwater quality in Canada. Phosphorus levels in southern Canada did not meet the

water quality guidelines for aquatic life over half the time at 127 of 344 monitoring sites.

Most phosphorus in water comes from sewage, agricultural runoff and industrial wastewater.

An oversupply of phosphorous in water can result in excessive growth of aquatic plants such as algae and reduce the amount of dissolved oxygen available for fish and other aquatic animals. Some algal blooms can be toxic, threatening livestock and human health.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 5127, 5128 and 5129.

The report, *Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators: Highlights, 2007* (16-252-XWE, free), is now available online. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *Free internet publications*, choose *Environment*. The publication is also available at (<http://www.environmentandresources.ca/indicators>).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Information Officer (613-951-0297; environ@statcan.ca), Environment Accounts and Statistics Division. ■

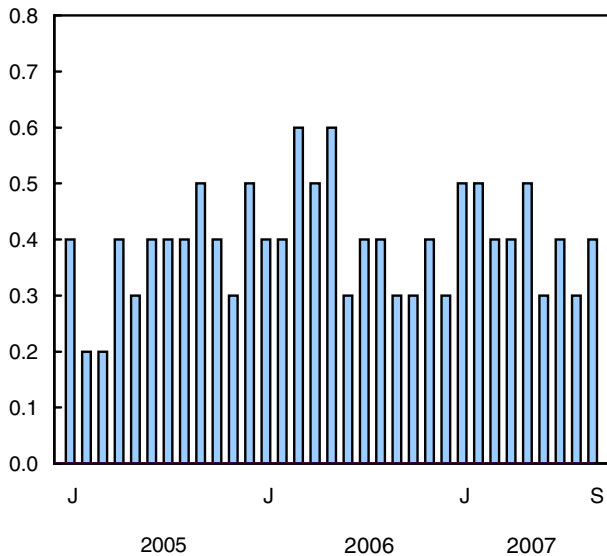
Leading indicators

September 2007

The composite leading index rose 0.4% in September, a slight improvement on its 0.3% gain in August. More importantly, the index showed little or no effect from the turmoil in some parts of financial markets that began in mid-August. In particular, there were concerns that unsettled financial market conditions would affect output and employment, but strong gains in housing starts and jobs in September showed that these were unfounded.

Composite leading indicator

Smoothed % change



Household demand remained the driving force behind growth. The housing index leapt by 5.3%, its largest gain in almost six years, due to higher housing starts. Spending on durable goods also accelerated. Strong consumer demand for services was the largest contributor to the growth of services employment.

Financial market conditions improved in September after slowing over the summer. The stock market rebounded 1% due to widespread gains.

The manufacturing sector remained mixed, with new orders rising, the average workweek declining and the ratio of shipments to inventories remaining unchanged for a second straight month.

The US leading indicator also was unchanged. Housing market conditions deteriorated late in the summer. Instead, exports and business investment took the lead in growth.

Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1601.

This release will be reprinted in the November 2007 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*. For more information on the economy in September, consult the October 2007 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 20, no. 10 (11-010-XWB, free), now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Philip Cross (613-951-9162; ceo@statcan.ca), Current Economic Analysis Group. □

Leading indicators

	April 2007	May 2007	June 2007	July 2007	August 2007	September 2007	Last month of data available % change
Composite leading indicator (1992=100)	225.1	226.3	227.0	227.8	228.4	229.3	0.4
Housing index (1992=100) ¹	145.1	147.7	146.4	148.5	149.4	157.3	5.3
Business and personal services employment (thousands)	2,827	2,836	2,842	2,851	2,853	2,866	0.5
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	13,114	13,344	13,518	13,683	13,782	13,918	1.0
Money supply, M1 (\$ millions, 1992) ²	163,138	163,100	163,530	164,367	165,492	166,534	0.6
U.S. Conference Board leading indicator (1992=100) ³	126.9	126.9	126.8	126.8	127.1	127.1	0.0
Manufacturing							
Average workweek (hours)	38.5	38.5	38.5	38.5	38.5	38.4	-0.3
New orders, durables (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	26,808	27,087	27,065	26,909	26,816	26,891	0.3
Shipments/inventories of finished goods ⁴	1.82	1.84	1.85	1.84	1.84	1.84	0.00 ⁵
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	2,624.8	2,633	2,651.8	2,677.8	2,693.6	2,726	1.2
Other durable goods sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	8,865.8	8,949.6	9,032.8	9,138	9,170.6	9,221.2	0.6
Unsmoothed composite leading indicator	226.7	228.5	229.0	229.4	228.4	231.3	1.3

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 the second preceding month.

5. Difference from previous month.

Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey

Second quarter 2007

An upswing in sales of commodities related to the automotive sector drove retail sales growth in the second quarter of 2007.

Led by strong increases in sales of commodities related to the automotive sector, retailers sold \$109.9 billion of goods and services in retail stores in the second quarter of 2007, up 7.2% over the same quarter last year. This represented the largest year-over-year growth since the third quarter of 2002. Sales increased among all major commodity groups.

Sales of motor vehicles, parts and services increased 9.1% to \$25.8 billion. This was the highest increase since the third quarter of 2002 and was due to the strength of sales of new motor vehicles, which rose 8.1%. Sales of new cars rose 4.3% after two consecutive declining quarters. The sales value of new trucks, vans, minivans and sport utility vehicles rose 11.6%, the fourth consecutive quarterly increase. Used vehicle sales were also strong, up 13.3%.

According to the New Motor Vehicle Sales Survey (NMVS), the sales value of trucks rose by 5.5% during the same period. The difference between the surveys' results is attributable to the inclusion, in the NMVS, of sales of heavy trucks by wholesalers, which declined substantially in 2007. In 2006, firms increased their purchases of heavy trucks in order to renew their fleets

to meet new environmental regulations that came into effect in the United States at the beginning of 2007.

Sales of automotive fuels, oils and additives also rose (+9.1%) in the second quarter of 2007, representing the highest year-over-year increase since the second quarter of 2006.

The ongoing strength in the housing market continued to propel sales of furniture, home furnishings and electronics. In the second quarter, retailers sold \$8.8 billion of these commodities (+8.5%), continuing an upward trend for the third consecutive quarter.

Within this category, sales of home furnishings were strong (+12.1%) while home electronics (+7.9%) and indoor furniture (+6.9%) grew less rapidly.

Sales of hardware, lawn and garden products advanced 6.6% to \$9.3 billion in the second quarter. Within this category, hardware and home renovation products rose 8.1%, the highest increase since the third quarter of 2006. The largest component of this category, lumber and other building materials, rose 8.2% over the same quarter last year, a moderation of the double-digit growth in 2006.

After increasing at their fastest pace in nearly five years in the first quarter of 2007, year-over-year sales of health and personal care products rose 8.3%, the lowest increase in a year. Since the second quarter of 2006, sales of these commodities have been increasing at a faster pace than total retail sales. Sales of prescription

drugs posted double-digit growth (+10.0%) while sales growth of over-the-counter drugs, vitamins and herbal remedies grew 8.5% in the second quarter, down from 13.5% in the first quarter.

Sales of clothing, footwear and accessories amounted to \$8.3 billion, up a moderate 4.0% over the same period in 2006. Within this group, sales of women's clothing (+4.4%), children's clothing (+4.0%) and men's clothing (+3.6%) all rose moderately, while sales of footwear (+2.1%) had their weakest increase since the fourth quarter of 2004.

Clothing, footwear and accessories sales grew 5.6% in the second quarter in clothing and accessories stores, while sales dropped 0.4% in general merchandise stores (which include department stores). As a result, clothing and accessories stores accounted for 67% of sales of clothing, footwear and accessories, up from 66% in the second quarter of 2006, while general merchandisers saw their share of sales decline from 25% to 24% for the same period.

Sales of food and beverages rose 5.9% from the second quarter of 2006. At 20.4% of retail sales, it is this commodity's lowest share of total retail sales since the

series began in 1998. Sales of alcoholic beverages were up 7.7%, with more moderate increases in food (+5.5%) and non-alcoholic beverages (+4.3%).

Year-over-year sales of sporting and leisure goods amounted to \$3.3 billion, up 7.6% and continuing an upward trend since the fourth quarter of 2006.

Note: The Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey collects national level retail sales by commodity, from a sub-sample of businesses in the Monthly Retail Trade Survey. Quarterly data have not been adjusted for seasonality. All percentage changes are year-over-year.

Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0018 and 080-0019.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2008.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ruth Barnes (613-951-6190), Distributive Trades Division.

Sales by commodity, all retail stores

	Second quarter 2006 ^r	First quarter 2007 ^r	Second quarter 2007 ^p	Second quarter 2006 to second quarter 2007
Unadjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
Commodity				
Food and beverages	21,205	19,879	22,452	5.9
Health and personal care products	8,136	8,484	8,809	8.3
Clothing, footwear and accessories	8,002	6,339	8,321	4.0
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics	8,099	8,214	8,789	8.5
Motor vehicles, parts and services	23,610	18,708	25,759	9.1
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	9,963	8,948	10,865	9.1
Housewares	1,874	1,773	1,926	2.7
Hardware, lawn and garden products	8,763	4,849	9,342	6.6
Sporting and leisure goods	3,067	2,734	3,300	7.6
All other goods and services	9,736	7,448	10,309	5.9
Total	102,456	87,376	109,871	7.2

^r revised
^p preliminary

Dairy statistics

August 2007 (preliminary)

Dairy farmers sold almost 647 700 kilolitres of milk and cream to dairies in August, up 4.7% from August 2006. Fluid milk sales stood at 257 200 kilolitres and industrial milk sales at 390 500 kilolitres. Industrial milk is used to manufacture butter, cheese, yogurt, ice cream, milk powders and concentrates.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3430, 3431 and 3432.

The third quarter 2007 issue of *Dairy Statistics*, Vol. 2, no. 3 (23-014-XWE, free) will be available in November.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release,

contact Anna Michalowska (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; 613-951-2442; fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division. ■

Steel wire and specified wire products

August 2007

Data on steel wire and specified wire products production are now available for August.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0047.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2106.

The August 2007 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-XWE) will soon be available.

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

New products

Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators: Highlights, 2007
Catalogue number 16-252-XWE
 (free).

Inter-corporate Ownership, Third Quarter 2007
Catalogue number 61-517-XCB (\$375/\$1065).

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The Daily
 Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
Discards the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 22 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** 5
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- **Egg production, April 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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