



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, April 15, 1997

For release at 8:30 a.m.

---

## 1996 CENSUS OF CANADA — POPULATION AND DWELLING COUNTS

---

2

- The Census counted 28,846,761 people on May 14, 1996, up more than 1.5 million (+5.7%) since the 1991 Census.
- British Columbia recorded the highest growth rate by far of any province (+13.5%), more than twice the national average. Newfoundland experienced its first population decline between censuses (-2.9%) since it joined Confederation in 1949.
- The nation's fastest growing census metropolitan area was Vancouver, at 14.3%. Whistler, B.C., at 60.8%, was the fastest growing municipality with population of more than 5,000.

**A National Overview** (93-357-XPB, print, \$40) provides 1996 population and dwelling counts for many levels of geography including Canada, the provinces and territories, census divisions/census subdivisions, census metropolitan areas/census agglomerations, urban and rural areas, and forward sortation areas (the first three characters of the postal code).

New for 1996, **Postal Code Counts** (92F0086XCB, CD-ROM, \$60) contains 1996 Census population and dwelling counts for all six-character postal codes and forward sortation areas reported by respondents. Includes software that enables users to search the data set for specific postal codes as well as importing and exporting groups of postal codes.

**GeoRef** (92F0085XCB, CD-ROM, \$60) provides the 1996 Census population and dwelling counts for all geographic areas excluding postal code, and all of the geographic reference information a census data user will require, such as geographic codes and names. Includes a user-friendly query and retrieval software.

A range of geography products and services accompany the release of these data. They include:

- **Reference maps**, over 7,500 maps in 7 sets, ranging from enumeration areas to census divisions. Used to relate census data to actual physical locations. Available individually or in sets.
- **Digital boundary files** and **digital cartographic files** provide a geographic framework for commercially available geographic information systems or other mapping software. Available for all standard levels of geography.
- **Custom geography services**, including mapping services, where standard geography products do not fit a customer's needs.

For further information or to order any of these products, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.



Statistics  
Canada

Statistique  
Canada

Canada

## 1996 Census of Canada — Population and Dwelling Counts

Statistics Canada begins today to paint a new statistical portrait of the nation with the release of the first data from the 1996 Census.

Today's release, the first of 10 such announcements from the Census, provides a national overview of changes in population distribution between 1991 and 1996, and shows in detail where the largest increases and declines have occurred.

On May 14, 1996, the Census counted 28,846,761 people in Canada, up more than 1.5 million (+5.7%) since 1991. This growth over the past five years has been due to international migration and natural increase (births minus deaths), to an almost equal extent.

The population has doubled in 45 years from just over 14 million in 1951. Overall, the rate of population growth slowed between 1991 and 1996, compared to the previous five-year period.

### Population growth since 1951

	Total Population	Population Increase	Growth Rate %
1951	14,009,429		
1956	16,080,791	2,071,362	14.8
1961	18,238,247	2,157,456	13.4
1966	20,014,880	1,776,633	9.7
1971	21,568,311	1,553,431	7.8
1976	22,992,604	1,424,293	6.6
1981	24,343,181	1,350,577	5.9
1986	25,309,331	966,150	4.0
1991	27,296,859	1,987,528	7.9
1996	28,846,761	1,549,902	5.7

The Census showed that every province and territory, except Newfoundland, recorded an increase in population over the past five years. British Columbia recorded by far the highest growth rate (+13.5%). The number of people enumerated in Newfoundland fell for the first time since the province joined Confederation in 1949.

Saskatchewan, Prince Edward Island and the Northwest Territories were the only three areas that grew faster during the past five years in comparison to the 1986 to 1991 period.

Although Canada's population growth rate has been slowing recently, we are still frontrunners compared to the rest of the industrialised world. Between 1991 and 1996, Canada's population grew at an annual average rate of 1.1%, the highest of all G-7 industrialised nations. Average annual increases for the others (between 1990 and 1995) varied from 0.1% for Italy to 1.0% for the United States.

### Population growth rates in G7 nations<sup>1</sup> 1990 to 1995

	1990-95 Annual growth rate %
<b>G-7 Country</b>	
World	1.5
United States	1.0
Germany	0.6
France	0.5
United Kingdom	0.2
Japan	0.2
Italy	0.1
Canada (1991-96 Census)	1.1

<sup>1</sup> *World Population 1996, United Nations, Population Division.*

Canada accounts for about 0.5% of the global population. Between 1990 and 1995, the overall number of people on the planet rose at an annual growth rate of 1.5%, that is, 0.4% in more developed regions and 1.8% in less developed regions, according to United Nations figures.

Data from the 1996 Census will be released over the next 14 months. Reports containing more detailed information on Canadians — their marital status, the languages they speak, their ethnic origin, income, education and their jobs — are scheduled between now and June 1998 to round out this new statistical portrait.

Population growth from 1991 to 1996 and number of dwellings in 1996

	Population				Dwellings
	1996	1991	% change	Absolute Change	1996
<b>Canada</b>	<b>28,846,761</b>	<b>27,296,859</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>1,549,902</b>	<b>10,899,427</b>
Newfoundland	551,792	568,474	-2.9	-16,682	187,406
Prince Edward Island	134,557	129,765	3.7	4,792	48,630
Nova Scotia	909,282	899,942	1.0	9,340	344,779
New Brunswick	738,133	723,900	2.0	14,233	272,915
Quebec	7,138,795	6,895,963	3.5	242,832	2,849,149
Ontario	10,753,573	10,084,885	6.6	668,688	3,951,326
Manitoba	1,113,898	1,091,942	2.0	21,956	421,096
Saskatchewan	990,237	988,928	0.1	1,309	375,740
Alberta	2,696,826	2,545,553	5.9	151,273	984,275
British Columbia	3,724,500	3,282,061	13.5	442,439	1,433,533
Yukon Territory	30,766	27,797	10.7	2,969	11,584
Northwest Territories	64,402	57,649	11.7	6,753	18,994

PROVINCES: B.C. booming

Among the provinces, British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario grew at rates exceeding the national average, as did the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Newfoundland lost population, and the remaining provinces grew at rates less than the national average.

The Census counted 3,724,500 people in British Columbia, an increase of 13.5%, more than twice the national average of 5.7%. British Columbia had the fastest growth rate of the 10 provinces between 1986 and 1991, and 1991 and 1996. International migration accounted for about 45% of B.C.'s rapid growth, interprovincial migration 35% and natural increase the rest. It is the only province that has grown at a faster rate than the national average in every Census since Confederation.

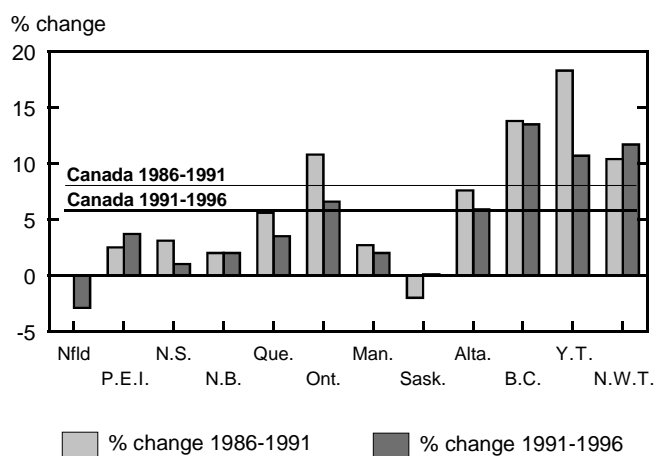
Ontario's population rose 6.6% to 10,753,573, an absolute increase of 668,688 people. While British Columbia had the higher percentage increase, its absolute growth was lower, at 442,439 people. Ontario's population growth was due to international migration, which accounted for 60%, and natural increase. About 80% of Ontario's growth occurred in its census metropolitan areas. Half of Ontario's growth was in the census metropolitan area of Toronto.

Alberta recorded a 5.9% growth, just above the national average. Natural increase accounted for about 65% of this growth over the past five years, while international migration was responsible for about 30%.

Newfoundland's population declines

The 1996 Census counted 551,792 people in Newfoundland, a 2.9% decline during the past five years. Newfoundland's population loss was due to migration to other provinces.

Population Growth Rate



Three Newfoundland municipalities, Placentia, Channel-Port aux Basques and Labrador City, were among the nation's 10 municipalities, with at least 5,000 population, which recorded the largest percentage population declines. At the same time, the census metropolitan area of St. John's grew 1.3%.

## Gains moderate in other provinces

Saskatchewan, the only province recording a population loss between 1986 and 1991, counted 990,237 people in 1996, a 0.1% gain since the last Census. Between 1986 and 1991, Saskatchewan's population had declined 2.0% from an all-time high of slightly over one million people counted in the 1986 Census.

The Census counted 134,557 people in Prince Edward Island, a 3.7% increase, which was the result of natural increase (55%) and, to a lesser extent, interprovincial migration (35%).

Quebec surpassed the seven million mark, as the Census counted 7,138,795 people, a 3.5% increase compared to a gain of 5.6% between 1986 and 1991. Natural increase was responsible for about 65% of Quebec's population growth followed by international migration.

The 1996 Census found relatively slow growth during the past five years in New Brunswick (+2.0%), Manitoba (+2.0%) and Nova Scotia (+1.0%).

## THE TERRITORIES: Above the national average

The population of the Yukon (30,766) increased 10.7% between 1991 and 1996, while the Northwest Territories increased 11.7% to 64,402 people.

In both the Yukon and Northwest Territories, the gain was due overwhelmingly to natural increase. In the case of the Northwest Territories specifically, the increase was the result of high fertility rates and declining mortality rates among its Aboriginal population.

## POPULATION DISTRIBUTION: Shift from east to west

The 1996 Census confirmed a trend seen for a number of years showing the distribution of Canada's population shifting from east to west.

In 1951, 15% of Canada's population lived in Alberta and British Columbia. By 1996, that had increased to 22%. Similarly, Ontario's share of the population has increased from 33% in 1951 to 37% in 1996.

### Note to readers

*The objective of every Census is to provide detailed information at a single point in time on the demographic, social and economic conditions of the population. One of its goals is to enumerate the entire population on Census Day. Inevitably, however, some people are not counted, either because their household did not receive a Census questionnaire (for example, a household living in a separate apartment in a house) or because they were not included in the questionnaire completed for the household (for example, a boarder or lodger). Some people may also be missed because they have no usual residence and did not spend census night in any dwelling. On the other hand, a small number of people may also be counted twice (for example, a student living away from home).*

*To determine how many individuals were missed, or counted more than once, Statistics Canada conducts post-censal coverage studies of a representative sample of individuals. The results of these studies provide information which is used to adjust the Census counts for the purpose of producing current (quarterly and annual) population estimates which take into account net under-enumeration in the Census.*

*In 1991, after adjustment for net under-enumeration, the population estimate for Canada was 2.82% higher than the population enumerated in the Census. The studies of the completeness of enumeration of the 1996 Census will be completed early next year, and will be used to revise and update the population estimates.*

Over this 45-year period, the Atlantic Provinces' proportion has fallen from 12% to the current 8%, while the proportion in Quebec has declined from 29% to 25%. Manitoba's share of the population declined from 6% in 1951 to 4% in 1996. Saskatchewan's dropped from 6% to 3%.

The date 1951 is used as a benchmark because it is the first census that included Newfoundland.

## CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREAS: Biggest get bigger

The 1996 Census enumerated 17,864,646 people living in the 25 census metropolitan areas (CMAs). This represents an increase of 6.4% over the previous census, slightly above the national average.

Just seven of the census metropolitan areas grew at a faster rate than the national average. Of those, the fastest-growing were Vancouver (+14.3%), Oshawa (+11.9%), Toronto (+9.4%) and Calgary (+9.0%). More than a third (36.2%) of Canada's population lived in the four most populous metropolitan areas: Toronto, Montréal, Vancouver and Ottawa - Hull.

Population in census metropolitan areas in 1991 and 1996 and number of dwellings in 1996

	Rank		Population		% change	Dwellings
	1996	1991	1996	1991		1996
Toronto	1	1	4,263,757	3,898,933	9.4	1,494,498
Montréal	2	2	3,326,510	3,208,970	3.7	1,350,677
Vancouver	3	3	1,831,665	1,602,590	14.3	697,429
Ottawa - Hull	4	4	1,010,498	941,814	7.3	388,977
Edmonton	5	5	862,597	841,132	2.6	321,258
Calgary	6	6	821,628	754,033	9.0	306,588
Québec	7	8	671,889	645,550	4.1	279,432
Winnipeg	8	7	667,209	660,450	1.0	262,673
Hamilton	9	9	624,360	599,760	4.1	236,342
London	10	10	398,616	381,522	4.5	157,739
Kitchener	11	12	382,940	356,421	7.4	141,739
St. Catharines - Niagara	12	11	372,406	364,552	2.2	145,655
Halifax	13	13	332,518	320,501	3.7	128,618
Victoria	14	14	304,287	287,897	5.7	130,119
Windsor	15	15	278,685	262,075	6.3	106,701
Oshawa	16	16	268,773	240,104	11.9	93,855
Saskatoon	17	17	219,056	210,949	3.8	85,616
Regina	18	18	193,652	191,692	1.0	75,115
St. John's	19	19	174,051	171,848	1.3	61,156
Sudbury	20	21	160,488	157,613	1.8	62,208
Chicoutimi - Jonquière	21	20	160,454	160,928	-0.3	60,424
Sherbrooke	22	22	147,384	140,718	4.7	62,416
Trois-Rivières	23	23	139,956	136,303	2.7	58,911
Saint John	24	24	125,705	125,838	-0.1	47,294
Thunder Bay	25	25	125,562	124,925	0.5	49,102

The census metropolitan area of Toronto was enumerated at 4,263,757, becoming the first with more than four million people. Its population rose by 364,824, almost a quarter of Canada's total population increase. International migration accounted for more than half the growth of the Toronto census metropolitan area.

Ottawa - Hull became the first census metropolitan area since Vancouver reached the one million level in 1971. Its population rose 7.3% to 1,010,498. The Quebec part grew faster (+8.9%) than the Ontario part (+6.8%).

The only census metropolitan area that grew faster over the past five years than it did between 1986 and 1991 was Windsor. Its population reached 278,685 in 1996, up 6.3% compared to a gain of 3.2% between 1986 and 1991.

Growth patterns led to some changes in rankings. Québec's 4.1% increase allowed it to edge out Winnipeg as the seventh largest census metropolitan area, while Kitchener took over 11th spot from St. Catharines-Niagara.

**Montréal: Increases in the suburbs**

While the census metropolitan area of Montréal experienced overall growth of 3.7%, two large central

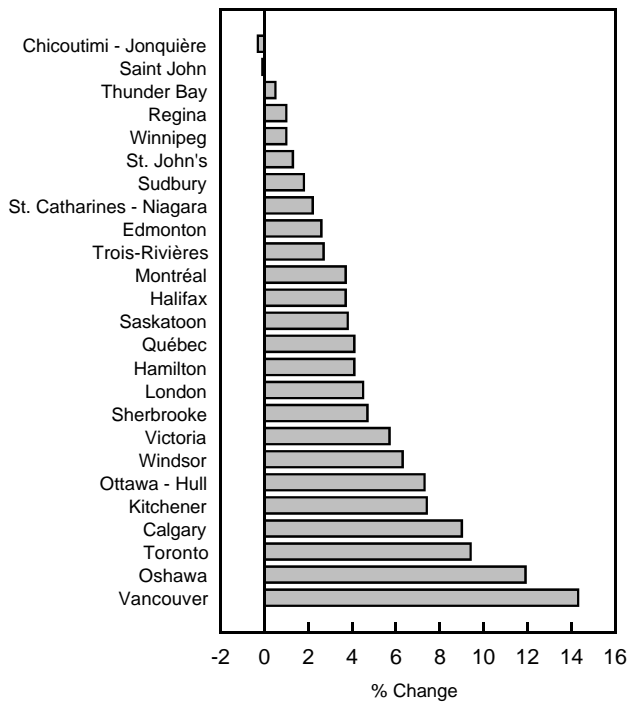
municipalities experienced population declines. The City of Montréal (the largest component of the Montréal census metropolitan area) declined 0.1%, and Montréal-Nord 4.6%.

Growth in smaller municipalities within the Montréal census metropolitan area accounted for the area's overall population increase. Several recorded strong growth rates, among them La Plaine (+36.3% to 14,413), Blainville (+30.5% to 29,603), Varennes (+27.7% to 18,842), Mirabel (+26.3% to 22,689) and Chambly (+24.1% to 19,716).

In contrast, the strong population growth in the Ottawa - Hull and Toronto census metropolitan areas was the result of a combination of factors, that is, small population increases of about 3% in their central municipalities, coupled with strong growth in many of the municipalities on their outskirts.

Consistent with the high levels of population growth in British Columbia, the census metropolitan area of Vancouver experienced high growth in almost all of the municipalities which make up the census metropolitan area.

**Census Metropolitan Area Growth Rates, 1991 to 1996**



**Note to readers**

*In comparing Census results for 1991 and 1996, it should be noted that the 1996 Census figures do not include persons who on Census Day were temporarily absent and not enumerated at their usual place of residence. The number of such persons will be estimated using post-censal coverage studies. In 1991, an estimated 92,584 persons in this category were included in the Census counts.*

Mississauga surpassed the half-million mark at 544,382 people. It recorded the largest absolute gain among the largest municipalities (81,000).

Only eight municipalities with populations of more than 5,000 had increases of over 40% during the past five years, compared to 22 between 1986 and 1991. Eleven municipalities declined by more than 6% between 1991 and 1996, compared to 25 over the previous five-year census period.

Whistler, B.C., had the highest growth rate (+60.8%) among municipalities with a population of more than 5,000. In absolute numbers, however, that represented an increase of just 2,713 people, raising Whistler's population to 7,172.

The second and third fastest growing municipalities of that size also had growth rates of over 50%. Saint-Colomban, Que., in the Montréal census metropolitan area, increased 53.1% to 5,569 and the University Endowment Area, B.C., in downtown Vancouver, gained 50.7%, to 6,833.

Annapolis, N.S., experienced the greatest percentage decline, 21.6%, dropping it to 6,710. This decline was primarily due to military personnel who were transferred out of a Canadian Forces base located in the municipality. No other municipality, small or large, experienced a decline of greater than 10%.

Some smaller resource-based municipalities and one-industry towns experienced notable declines: Labrador City, Nfld. (-6.7%), New Liskeard, Ont. (-5.9%), Kirkland Lake, Ont. (-5.1%), Elliot Lake, Ont. (-3.6%), Thetford Mines, Que. (-3.4%) and Asbestos, Que., (-3.3%).

**MUNICIPALITIES: Pace fastest in B.C. and Ontario**

Twenty-three of Canada's 44 largest municipalities (those with populations of more than 100,000) experienced moderate growth rates of between 1% and 10%. Only eight experienced a decline, none more than 2.6%. Eleven had growth rates of more than 10%.

Of these largest municipalities, the fastest growing were all in British Columbia and Ontario. Richmond Hill, north of Toronto, surpassed the 100,000 mark with a population enumerated at 101,725. Its increase of 26.9% was the highest of the largest municipalities.

Richmond Hill was followed by three British Columbia municipalities. Surrey gained almost 60,000 inhabitants, rising 24.2% to 304,477. Similarly, Abbotsford recorded a 21.3% increase to 105,403 and Coquitlam, a 21.2% gain to 101,820.

**Fastest growing municipalities had populations of 5,000 or more 1991 to 1996**

	1996	1991	%
	Population		change
<b>Municipality with population over 5,000</b>			
Whistler	7,172	4,459	60.8
Saint-Colomban	5,569	3,638	53.1
University Endowment Area	6,833	4,534	50.7
Courtenay	17,335	11,698	48.2
Canmore	8,354	5,681	47.1
Saint-Émile	9,889	6,916	43.0
Cochrane	7,424	5,267	41.0
Sainte-Catherine	13,724	9,805	40.0
Masson-Angers	7,989	5,753	38.9
La Plaine	14,413	10,576	36.3
Wasaga Beach	8,698	6,457	34.7
Notre-Dame-de-l'Île-Perrot	7,059	5,261	34.2
Lavaltrie	5,821	4,365	33.4
Saint-Lin	9,336	7,029	32.8
Ladysmith	6,456	4,875	32.4
Qualicum Beach	6,728	5,137	31.0
Blainville	29,603	22,679	30.5
Val-des-Monts	7,231	5,551	30.3
Central Okanagan, Subd. B	22,901	17,770	28.9
Parksville	9,472	7,381	28.3
Kanata	47,909	37,344	28.3
Airdrie	15,946	12,456	28.0
Varennes	18,842	14,758	27.7
Nanaimo, Subd. B	19,930	15,619	27.6
Saint-Jean-Chrysostome	16,161	12,717	27.1

**Fastest declining municipalities had populations of 5,000 or more 1991 to 1996**

	1996	1991	%
	Population		change
<b>Municipality with population over 5,000</b>			
Annapolis, Subd. A	6,710	8,554	-21.6
Placentia	5,013	5,515	-9.1
Miramichi	19,241	21,165	-9.1
Yarmouth	7,148	7,820	-8.6
Flin Flon (Part)	6,572	7,119	-7.7
Portage la Prairie	6,627	7,156	-7.4
Channel-Port aux Basques	5,243	5,644	-7.1
Guysborough	5,942	6,389	-7.0
Labrador City	8,455	9,061	-6.7
LeMoynes	5,052	5,412	-6.7
Shawinigan	18,678	19,931	-6.3
New Liskeard	5,112	5,431	-5.9
Kirkland Lake	9,905	10,440	-5.1
Inverness, Subd. A	6,595	6,947	-5.1
Vanier	17,247	18,150	-5.0
Crowsnest Pass	6,356	6,680	-4.9
Iroquois Falls	5,714	5,999	-4.8
Montréal-Nord	81,581	85,516	-4.6
Port-Cartier	7,070	7,383	-4.2
Wood Buffalo	35,213	36,771	-4.2
Sudbury, Unorganized, North Part	7,147	7,463	-4.2
Sorel	23,248	24,253	-4.1
Chatham	6,321	6,594	-4.1
Bathurst	13,815	14,409	-4.1
Sillery	12,003	12,519	-4.1

**DWELLINGS: Outpacing the population**

The number of occupied private dwellings in Canada continues to grow at a faster rate than the country's population.

While the population rose 5.7% over the five-year census period, the number of occupied private dwellings increased 8.1%. The 1996 Census counted 10,899,427 dwellings, compared to 10,079,442 five years ago.

The number of occupied private dwellings in British Columbia rose 14.6% to 1,433,533, the biggest percentage increase among provinces.

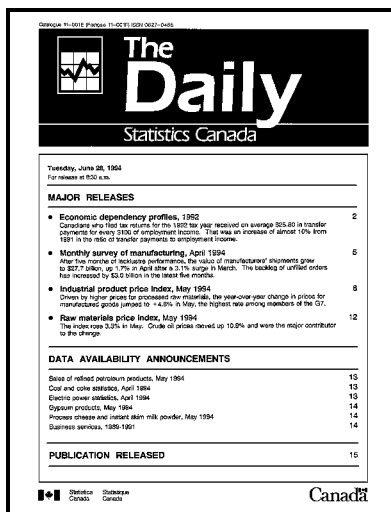
For further information on this release, contact Media Relations (613-951-4636).

Statistics Canada has started consultations on 2001 Census content and post-censal survey topics. For information write: 2001 Census Content Determination Project, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6. Internet: [consultation2001@statcan.ca](mailto:consultation2001@statcan.ca)

**Upcoming release dates**

**Information on**

April 15, 1997	Population and dwelling counts
October 14, 1997	Age, sex, marital status, common-law families
November 4, 1997	Immigration and citizenship
December 2, 1997	Mother tongue, home languages, official and non-official languages
January 13, 1998	Aboriginal
February 17, 1998	Ethnic origin
March 17, 1998	Labour force activity, occupation, industry, household activities, place of work, mode of transportation
April 14, 1998	Education, mobility and migration
May 12, 1998	Sources of income, family and household income
June 9, 1998	Social and economic characteristics of families, occupied private dwellings, housing costs



**Statistics Canada's official release bulletin**

Catalogue 11-001E.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To receive *The Daily* from the Internet, send an E-mail message to [listproc@statcan.ca](mailto:listproc@statcan.ca). Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Editor: John Flanders (613-951-8292)  
Head of Official Release: Chantal Prévost (613-951-1189)

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 1997. Citation in newsprint, magazine, radio, and television reporting is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source. Any other reproduction is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source on all copies as follows: Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, catalogue 11-001E, along with date and page references.