



Infommat

A Weekly Review

Friday, September 11, 1998

OVERVIEW

◆ **Unemployment ticks down to lowest rate since August 1990**

Unemployment in August ticked down by 0.1 percentage points to 8.3% — the lowest rate since August 1990. Employment rose slightly, for the most part among youths aged 15 to 24.

◆ **Unionization of women outpacing that of men**

Nearly one in two union members today is a woman, compared with one in six 30 years ago. In the first half of 1998, non-unionized women earned only 77% of the average hourly wage earned by non-unionized men.

◆ **Travel deficit lowest in a decade**

Record spending by American travellers in Canada between April and June brought the quarterly travel deficit to its lowest level in a decade, as the falling dollar kept more Canadians from travelling abroad.

◆ **Department store sales advance for first time in three months**

July's increase in department store sales was the first monthly advance after three months of declining sales, and it was the largest monthly increase since February 1994.

◆ **Strong growth in fixed assets**

The value of the structures and equipment used to produce goods and services in the economy has grown by more than 80% over the last 20 years.

◆ **Large tuition hikes for full-time students**

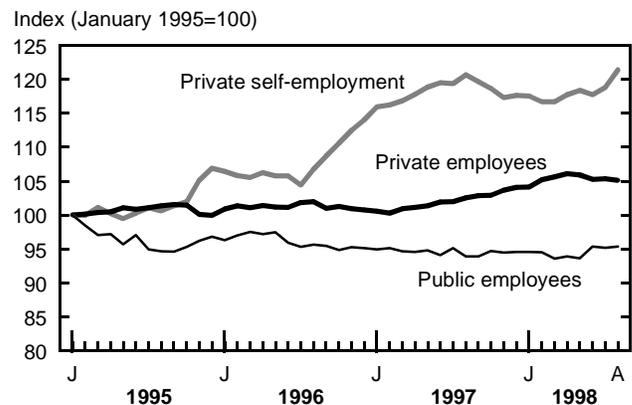
Tuition fees at Canada's universities have been rising steadily in the 1990s. This year is no exception: undergraduate arts tuition has risen 6.9% on average, while graduate tuition fees have climbed 9.3%.

Unemployment ticks down to lowest rate since August 1990

Unemployment in August ticked down by 0.1 percentage points to 8.3% — the lowest rate since August 1990. Employment rose slightly as 37,000 jobs were added to the economy, bringing the job gain over July and August to 63,000 — more than offsetting the losses in May and June. So far this year, however, employment growth has lagged last year's (+1.4% compared with +2.0%). Self-employment, which rose by 56,000 in August, has soared by 100,000 since resuming an upward trend in April. The number of private sector employees edged down by 23,000 in August; public sector employment was unchanged.

Youths aged 15 to 24 accounted for most of the overall employment growth in August, as the number employed jumped by 22,000. There was a similar increase in July (+25,000), and most of the gains in July and August were full time. The number of unemployed youths fell by 17,000 in August, bringing their unemployment rate down 0.8 percentage points to 14.5%. On average between May and August, 47.1% of 15- to 24-year-old students were employed, up 1.6 percentage points from the average last summer. As a result, the student unemployment rate this summer (16.8%) was 2.7 percentage points lower than in the same period in 1997.

Employment growth by category of worker



(continued on page 2)

... Unemployment ticks down to lowest rate since August 1990

Most of the improvement in the student summer job market went to young students (aged 15 to 19). Compared with last summer, the proportion of young students who were employed increased 2.1 percentage points to 40.6%, on average. Among those with jobs, the proportion working part time was little changed at 68.5%. The unemployment rate for young students fell 3.3 percentage points from last summer to 19.7%. By contrast, the proportion of 20- to 24-year-olds who found work this summer slipped 0.3 percentage points to 65.0%. Of these, 39.3% had part-time jobs, almost the same percentage as in 1997 (40.5%). Slightly lower labour force participation in 1998 brought the unemployment rate for this group down 1.6 points to 11.3%.

The number of adults employed in August was little changed from July. An advance in full-time employment for adult men (+22,000) was offset by falling part-time employment. Growth in total full-time employment in August (+42,000) offset much of the loss in June. However, growth in full-time employment so far this year (+1.1%) has been slower than in the same period of last year (+1.8%).

Looking at the industries, employment rose in retail trade (+20,000) for a second consecutive month. So far this year, employment in retail has risen 2.5%. Even though employees laid-off during the General Motors strike returned to work, manufacturing employment still fell by 23,000 in August. Drops in other areas of manufacturing were to blame. Despite the job losses in July and

August, employment in manufacturing was 2.3% higher than last year. Agricultural employment increased 16,000, perhaps attributable to an early harvest of some crops. Rising for a second consecutive month, construction added 13,000 jobs in August. Employment in construction is now at a four-year high.

Among the provinces in August, employment increased mostly in Quebec and Alberta. In Quebec, an employment jump of 31,000 brought the gains over the last two months to 49,000. Since the start of the year, employment in Quebec is up 39,000. In Alberta, an employment increase of 14,000 continued a long upward trend. However, because of higher labour force participation, Alberta's unemployment rate edged up. Higher labour force participation also caused New Brunswick's unemployment rate to rise despite an employment increase of 3,000. After rising in 1997, employment in New Brunswick has shown no clear trend this year. Employment in Ontario slipped, due mainly to the drop in manufacturing. So far this year, employment growth in Ontario has been slower than last year, at 1.4% compared with 2.6%. Newfoundland has lost 12,000 jobs in the last two months, erasing almost a year's worth of gains.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3450-3471, 3483-3502 and table 00799999.

Labour force information, for the week ending August 15, 1998 (71-001-PPB, \$11/\$103) is now available. For further information, contact Deborah Sunter (613-951-4740), Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750), Household Surveys Division. See also "Current trends" on page 7.

Labour Force Survey, August 1998¹

Seasonally adjusted

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	rate (%)
Canada	15,605.0	0.2	14,306.4	0.3	1,298.7	8.3
Newfoundland	234.8	-1.9	190.4	-3.5	44.4	18.9
Prince Edward Island	70.2	-1.4	60.7	-2.7	9.4	13.4
Nova Scotia	449.9	0.3	402.1	0.2	47.8	10.6
New Brunswick	364.7	1.7	321.2	0.9	43.5	11.9
Quebec	3,732.1	0.4	3,340.8	0.9	391.4	10.5
Ontario	6,003.5	-0.3	5,572.5	-0.3	431.0	7.2
Manitoba	582.3	0.8	549.6	0.5	32.8	5.6
Saskatchewan	511.3	0.9	478.0	0.4	33.3	6.5
Alberta	1,616.1	1.0	1,527.3	0.9	88.8	5.5
British Columbia	2,040.1	0.0	1,863.8	0.6	176.4	8.6

¹ Data are for both sexes aged 15 and over.

Unionization of women outpacing that of men

During the first half of 1998, about 3.6 million or 30.7% of paid workers belonged to a union, according to the Labour Force Survey. Another 294,000 employees, or about 2.6% of the total, were covered by a collective agreement. Of all working men, 31.6% belonged to a union, slightly more than the

Note to readers

Except where noted, all figures relate to union membership, not union coverage.

29.8% for women. However, among part-time workers, union membership for women was considerably higher than for men (24.4% versus 15.8%).

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... Unionization of women outpacing that of men

The unionization of women has outpaced that of men over the past 30 years. Membership for women grew five-fold from 320,000 in 1966 to 1.6 million in 1992. The union membership rate for all women employees increased from 16% to 30% over this period. Since 1992, rates have remained fairly steady.

By contrast, union membership for men increased from 1.6 million in 1966 to 2.2 million in 1992, with membership rates falling slightly from 38% to 36%. As a result, nearly one in two union members today is a woman, compared with one in six 30 years ago.

The most significant factor behind the rise in unionization among women has been their growing presence in the heavily unionized public sector. Other factors include the movement of women into other traditionally male-dominated and often heavily unionized occupations (such as construction), the expansion of union activity into service industries (traditionally dominated by women), and the rise of unionization among female part-time workers.

On average, women who were unionized earned 90% of the hourly wages received by their male counterparts during the first six months of 1998. Women earned \$17.64 an hour, on average, compared with \$19.59 an hour for men. In contrast, women in non-unionized jobs earned \$12.49 an hour, only 77% of the average hourly wage of men in non-unionized jobs (\$16.21).

Women with higher education are more likely than other working women to be unionized. Roughly 4 in 10 women in unionized jobs in the first half of 1998 were university graduates; 1 in 3 had a post-secondary certificate or diploma. This reflects high union

rates in white-collar professions such as teaching and the health and social service occupations, where women predominate.

Union rates are more evenly spread among educational attainment levels. In the first half of 1998, the highest union rate for men (37%) was among those with less than Grade 9, mirroring the high union rates in blue-collar occupations such as construction, processing and machining.

Overall, in the first six months of 1998, unionized workers with full-time jobs earned on average \$19.00 an hour, compared with \$15.64 for full-time workers who were not unionized. This difference in wage rates reflects more than just the effects of unionization. Wage rates are also determined — among many other factors — by industry, occupation and educational attainment. These other factors should be borne in mind when interpreting the relative wages of unionized and non-unionized workers.

The wage difference was even greater for part-time employees, among whom unionized workers earned \$16.55 an hour, almost twice that of their non-union counterparts (\$9.71). Unionized part-timers were also more likely to work more hours in a week, thus raising their weekly earnings to \$325.64 versus \$161.92.

*The articles "Selected union statistics" and "The rise of unionization among women" are available now by fax or as a PDF file. These articles will also appear later this year in the Winter 1998 issue of **Perspectives on labour and income** (75-001-XPE, \$18/\$58). For more information, contact Ernest B. Akyeampong (613-951-4624) or Marie-Paule Robert (613-951-4628), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.*

Travel deficit lowest in a decade

Record spending by American travellers in Canada between April and June brought the quarterly travel deficit to its lowest level in a decade, as the falling dollar kept more Canadians from travelling abroad. In the second quarter of 1998, travellers spent a record \$3.4 billion in Canada, while Canadians spent \$3.9 billion travelling in other countries. The resulting difference (\$488 million) brought the travel deficit to its lowest level since early 1988 (\$364 million). Canada's travel deficit with the rest of the world has been nearly halved in less than a year. The second-quarter deficit was well below the most recent peak of \$943 million in the third quarter of 1997.

Not surprising, the major factor has far and away been spending by Americans in Canada, which is steadily rising as the value of the Canadian dollar erodes. (The value of the U.S. dollar in Canadian dollars grew 5.3% between the first quarter of 1997 and the first quarter of 1998 and, in the second quarter, reached an all-time low compared with the American dollar, sliding below US\$0.69 — a low that has since been eclipsed.) In the second quarter of 1998, American spending in Canada reached a record \$2.2 billion, up 3.5% from \$2.1 billion the previous quarter. At the same time, spending by Canadians in the United States remained relatively constant at just under \$2.5 billion. This situation produced the lowest travel deficit with the United States in 10 years (\$275 million). This deficit had peaked at \$1.9 billion during the last three months of 1991.

Americans made a record 1.8 million overnight trips to Canada during the first quarter of 1998, up 6.5% compared with the same

Note to readers

Data in this release are seasonally adjusted, but are not adjusted for inflation.

period in 1997. During June alone, Americans made 1.2 million overnight trips to Canada — a record. The increase benefited Alberta and British Columbia the most. Enjoying the increasingly favourable exchange rate, Americans stayed a little longer and spent more per trip in the first quarter of 1998 than they did in the same period of 1997. As a result, they injected \$135 million more into the Canadian economy in the first three months of 1998 than they did during the same period last year — a jump of 23.3%.

This surge in U.S. spending was most profitable to British Columbia, where spending by Americans soared 43.8% to \$243 million. Tourism spending in Alberta jumped 21.0% to \$59 million. The most frequently reported reasons for Americans visiting Canada — pleasure travel and trips to visit friends and relatives — both increased (+7.9% and +6.8% respectively) in the first quarter. Business travel, which is less discretionary than pleasure travel and, therefore, less affected by exchange rate fluctuations, rose only slightly (+1.3%). Air travel increased 8.9%, while auto travel was up (+5.7%) for a third consecutive quarter. All other modes (includes bus, train, boat and pedestrian traffic) increased by 2.8% over the same quarter last year.

(continued on page 4)

... Travel deficit lowest in a decade

The travel deficit increased between Canada and overseas nations during the second quarter, as Canadians spent more in countries other than the United States than residents of these countries spent in Canada. The resulting deficit was \$212 million, up 7.1% from the previous quarter. Spending by overseas residents travelling to Canada was down 2.3% from the first quarter to \$1.2 billion — the lowest level since the third quarter of 1995. Canadian spending in countries other than the United States declined 1.1% from the first quarter, to \$1.5 billion.

The top overseas destination for Canadians for the first quarter of 1998 was Mexico, followed by the United Kingdom. As well, Canadian travel to such traditional destinations in Europe as France, the Netherlands and Switzerland showed strong increases.

Canadians made 3.0 million overnight trips to the United States during the first quarter of 1998, a sharp 9.9% drop from the same period last year. Canadians made fewer trips to their most favoured American destinations except California, where the number of Canadians visiting rose 6.0%. Florida remained the most popular destination for Canadians with 804,000 visits. Canadians also spent the most money in that state (\$751 million). The average trip duration in Florida was 14.5 nights, compared with an average of 9.5 nights in California.

This release presents a brief overview of data from the International Travel Survey. Tables, various statistical profiles and micro-data files of characteristics of international travellers are now available. For further information, or to order, contact Ed Lander (613-951-1513; fax: 613-951-2909; landedw@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

Department store sales advance for first time in three months

Department store sales advanced 5.1% (seasonally adjusted) from June to July. This gain followed a 4.8% decline in June. July's increase was the first monthly advance after three months of declining sales, and it was the largest monthly increase since February 1994. Nevertheless, sales remained below the peak reached in March 1998. Sales were 5.9% higher than in July 1997.

Sales at department stores grew strongly between the last half of 1996 and the first quarter of this year. Restructuring in the

industry and the early arrival of summer in most parts of the country may have contributed to the recent volatility in sales.

Unadjusted for seasonal variations, department store sales were 7.6% higher in July 1998 than in July 1997. Year-over-year sales were up in all the provinces. Stores in Alberta (+11.1%) and Saskatchewan (+10.1%) put in the best performances. Department stores in both provinces posted strong year-over-year advances for most of 1997 and into the first quarter of 1998.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 111-113.

For further information, contact Jeff Fritzsche (613-951-2812; fritjef@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

Department store sales including concessions

Not seasonally adjusted

	July 1998	July 1997 to July 1998	January to July 1998	January-July 1997 to January-July 1998
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
Canada	1,233.6	7.6	8,243.7	8.8
Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island ¹	23.0	1.1	146.2	9.0
Nova Scotia	37.9	5.0	246.1	8.8
New Brunswick	27.8	2.5	182.3	8.8
Quebec	229.7	7.2	1,543.6	8.4
Ontario	511.3	9.2	3,469.6	9.7
Manitoba	52.6	9.8	346.8	8.8
Saskatchewan	42.9	10.1	274.8	10.5
Alberta	146.2	11.1	963.7	13.5
British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories	162.2	1.8	1,070.5	2.1

¹ For reasons of confidentiality, the data for Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island are combined, as are the data for British Columbia, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

Strong growth in fixed assets

By the end of 1998, the value of the structures and equipment used to produce goods and services in the economy will total \$1.9 trillion (at 1992 prices). Over the last 20 years, the value of such structures and equipment has grown by more

Fixed assets, 1998

Industry	Building and engineering structures	Machinery and equipment	Total
\$ billions (at 1992 prices)			
Total	1,367.3	555.2	1,922.4
Agriculture, fishing, forestry and mining	225.6	33.0	258.6
Manufacturing	91.0	154.9	245.9
Construction	6.8	18.5	25.3
Transportation and utilities	367.7	181.5	549.2
Trade	38.9	31.0	69.9
Finance, insurance and real estate	143.8	50.0	193.7
Business services, accommodation and other services	44.9	44.7	89.6
Government departments	323.9	26.0	349.8
Education	82.0	7.1	89.1
Health and social services	42.8	8.5	51.3

than 80%. This growth indicates that the production capacity of the economy is expanding, which should help to sustain a non-inflationary environment.

The strong growth in fixed assets has been especially notable in machinery and equipment, which indicates that the economy has been incorporating the latest technological innovations at a rapid rate. The drive by industries to become more productive and competitive in the global economy lies behind this rapid buildup of assets.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 11000-11092 and 11100-11192.

For further information, contact Flo Magmanlac (613-951-2765). For analytical information, contact Richard Landry (613-951-2579), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

Large tuition hikes for full-time students

In the 1990s, university tuition fees at both the undergraduate and graduate levels have risen steadily — by an average of 11% per year. Mainly, the increases have been prompted by less government funding, so that schools now expect students to directly cover a larger share of the cost of their education through higher tuition fees. Some graduate level programs now charge fees closer to their actual costs. Examples include MBA and Executive MBA programs at the University of Ottawa, the University of Toronto, Queen's University and Simon Fraser University.

For the 1998/99 academic year, tuition has increased an average 6.9% for undergraduate arts students, bringing the average tuition across Canada for such students to \$3,197. In other fields of study such as law, dentistry and medicine, tuition levels are generally higher in 1998/99 than last year, and the average tuition increases are large. For example, tuition for dentistry students soared an average 27.0% this year, so that the average tuition for dental school has now reached \$5,930. Graduate students face an increase similar to their undergraduate counterparts: average graduate tuition has climbed 9.3% from last year to \$3,287 this year.

Average tuition for undergraduate arts students in British Columbia edged up 0.7% to \$2,736 in 1998/99 — the smallest increase among the provinces. Ontario's undergrads are paying the largest increase (+9.2% to \$3,564), followed by those in Alberta (+7.9% to \$3,447). Nova Scotia maintains the highest average undergraduate arts tuition in 1998/99 at \$3,903. For graduate studies, sharp fee hikes in Nova Scotia and Ontario this year mean that the two provinces have the highest graduate tuition costs at \$5,049 and \$4,224 per academic year respectively.

Foreign students, who already pay higher tuition fees than Canadian students, have seen their tuition fees increase by an average 3.9% across Canada to \$8,458 for undergraduate arts programs. Foreign students at the graduate level are paying an average of \$7,386 in tuition for the 1998/99 academic year at Canadian institutions, up only 0.4% compared with 1997/98.

Data on tuition and living accommodation costs at Canadian universities are now available for the 1998/99 academic year. Tuition fees are available by institution at the undergraduate and graduate levels for both Canadian and foreign students. Information is also available about additional fees charged to students. To obtain tables or to make general inquiries, contact Daniel Perrier (613-951-1503; perrdan@statcan.ca). For further information, contact Brigitte Bouchard (613-951-9167; boucbri@statcan.ca), Centre for Education Statistics.

New from Statistics Canada



Perspectives on labour and income Autumn 1998

The feature article in the autumn issue of *Perspectives on labour and income* looks at couples who do shift work. For the first time, the Survey of Work Arrangements reveals information on the hours that dual-earner couples work and the degree to which their work schedules overlap. The analysis compares couples who work shifts with those who do not. A second article, "Labour force participation in the 1990s", questions the labour market discouragement theory and provides some explanation for the decade's declining participation rate. A third article, "Looking for work", examines how job search methods have changed over the past 20 years. Two other articles, "Retirement patterns of working couples" and "Home-based entrepreneurs", along with a comparative profile of the North American labour markets and census income data, conclude the issue.

The Autumn 1998 issue of Perspectives on labour and income (75-001-XPE, \$18/\$58) is now available. For further information, contact Marie-Paule Robert (613-951-4628), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

Literacy in the workplace 1994 International Adult Literacy Survey

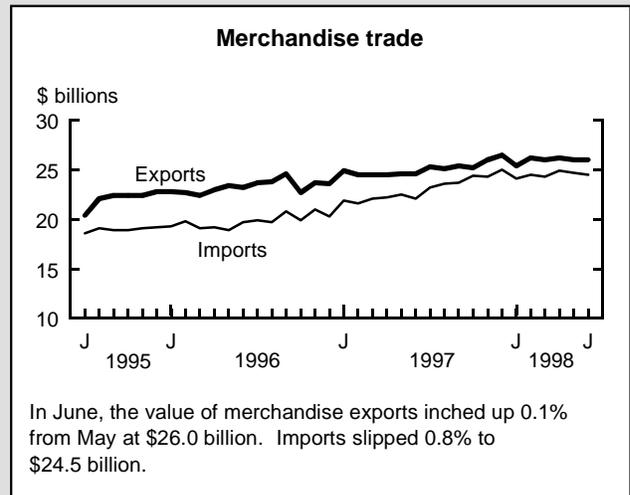
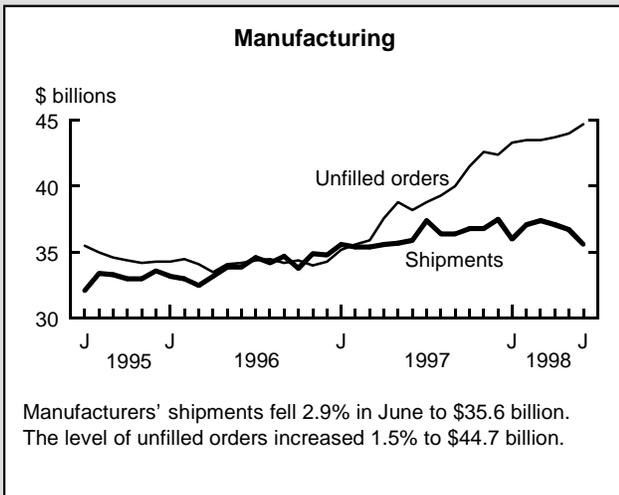
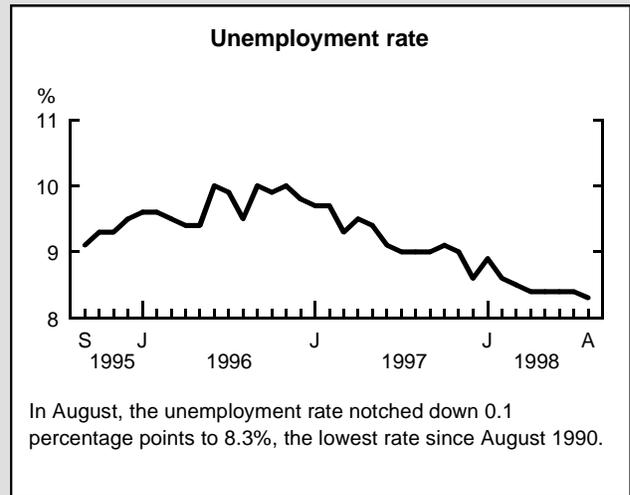
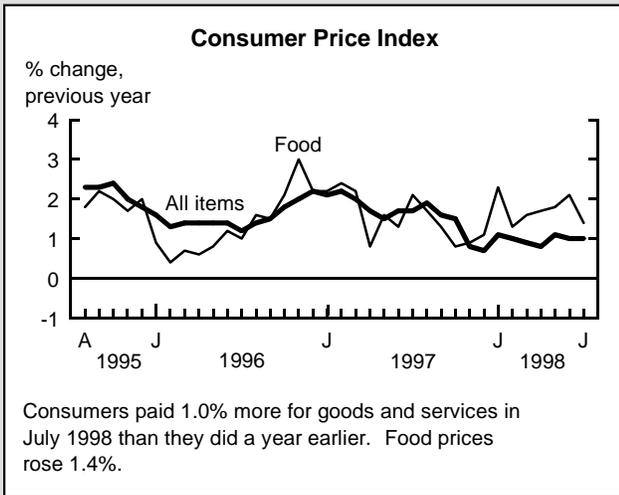
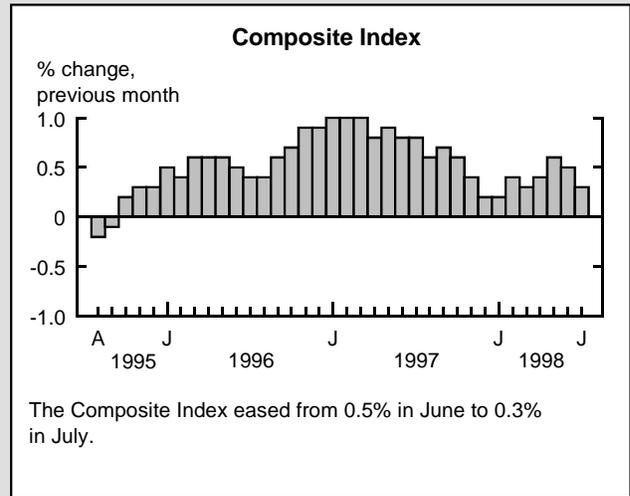
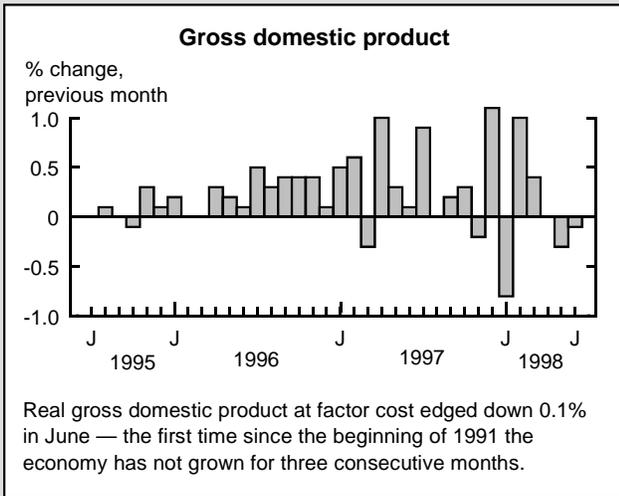
A new report profiles the literacy skills of Canada's workers and compares them with the literacy requirements of their workplaces. In other words, how do workers' literacy skills "fit" their job requirements? For example, are highly literate workers employed in jobs with high literacy requirements? This report reveals that almost three in four Canadian workers are employed in a job appropriate to their literacy skills. Roughly 2 million workers with low literacy skills are in jobs that make few demands on their reading, writing and numeracy abilities. Close to 4 million persons with medium-level literacy skills are employed in jobs with mid-range demands. And about 2.8 million Canadians with high literacy skills have jobs that require frequent use of those skills.

However, more than one in four workers are a literacy "mismatch" for the work they are doing. For example, almost 2.5 million workers have higher literacy skills than their jobs demand (i.e., they have a literacy surplus), and as many as 635,000 workers may not have sufficiently well developed skills to do their jobs adequately (a literacy deficit).

The study, which was conducted by Professors Harvey Krahn and Graham S. Lowe from the University of Alberta, is the fourth in a series of reports from the 1994 International Adult Literacy Survey.

Literacy utilization in Canadian workplaces, no. 4 (paper: 89-552-MPE, \$10; Internet: 89-552-MIE, free) is now available. The electronic version of the report can be found on the Internet at www.statcan.ca. A paper of highlights from the report is also available (89F0103XIE). For further information, contact Nancy Darcovich (613-951-4585; darcovi@statcan.ca), Special Surveys Division.

Current trends



Note: All series are seasonally adjusted except the Consumer Price Index.

Latest monthly statistics

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
GENERAL				
Gross domestic product (\$ billion, 1992)	June	707.5	- 0.1%	2.5%
Composite Index (1981=100)	July	207.7	0.3%	5.4%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billion)	Q2 1998	25.7	- 4.6%	- 4.3%
Capacity utilization (%)	Q2 1998*	85.6	- 0.1†	1.3†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade (\$ billion)	June	20.4	- 1.7%	4.0%
New motor vehicle sales (thousand of units)	June	123.1	- 3.1%	8.0%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	August*	14.31	0.3%	2.0%
Unemployment rate (%)	August*	8.3	- 0.1†	- 0.7†
Participation rate (%)	August*	64.9	0.0†	- 0.1†
Labour income (\$ billion)	June	38.2	- 0.2%	3.1%
Average weekly earnings (\$)	June	603.18	- 0.2%	0.8%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports (\$ billion)	June	26.0	0.1%	5.7%
Merchandise imports (\$ billion)	June	24.5	- 0.8%	10.6%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billion)	June	1.5	0.2	- 0.9
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	June	35.6	- 2.9%	- 0.6%
New orders (\$ billion)	June	36.3	- 2.0%	2.9%
Unfilled orders (\$ billion)	June	44.7	1.5%	17.1%
Inventory/shipments ratio	June	1.38	0.05	0.08
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	July	108.8	0.0%	1.0%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	July	119.5	0.3%	0.3%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	July	107.3	0.3%	- 15.4%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	July*	100.2	0.1%	1.0%

Note: All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of the price indexes.

* new this week

† percentage point

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Publications released from September 3 to 9, 1998

Division/Title of publication	Period	Catalogue number	Price: Issue/Subscription	
			Canada (C\$)	Outside Canada (US\$)
AGRICULTURE				
Cereals and oilseeds review	June 1998	22-007-XPB	15/149	15/149
Field crop reporting series, No. 6:				
Stocks of grain	July 31, 1998	22-002-XPB	15/88	15/88
Livestock statistics updates	July 1, 1998	23-603-UPE	45/149	45/149
HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS				
Labour force information	Week ending Aug. 15, 1998	71-001-PPB	11/103	11/103
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Exports by commodity	June 1998			
Microfiche		65-004-XMB	37/361	37/361
Paper		65-004-XPB	78/773	78/773
Exports by country	Jan.-June 1998			
Microfiche		65-003-XMB	62/206	62/206
Paper		65-003-XPB	124/412	124/412
INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK				
Building permits	July 1998	64-001-XIB	19/186	19/186
LABOUR AND HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS ANALYSIS				
Perspective on labour and income	Autumn 1998	75-001-XPE	18/58	18/58
MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY				
Cement	July 1998	44-001-XPB	7/62	7/62
Coal and coke statistics	June 1998	45-002-XPB	12/114	12/114
Gas utilities	May 1998	55-002-XPB	17/165	17/165
Production and disposition of tobacco products	July 1998	32-022-XPB	7/62	7/62
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