



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, January 10, 1997

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Labour Force Survey, December 1996** 2
 Employment increased by an estimated 34,000 in December, bringing gains over the year to 189,000 (+1.4%). The unemployment rate stood at 9.7%, slightly above the year-end 1995 rate of 9.4%.

OTHER RELEASES

- New Housing Price Index, November 1996 7
- Estimates of labour income, October 1996 8
- Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins, November 1996 9

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

10

RELEASE DATES: January 13 to 17

11



MAJOR RELEASES

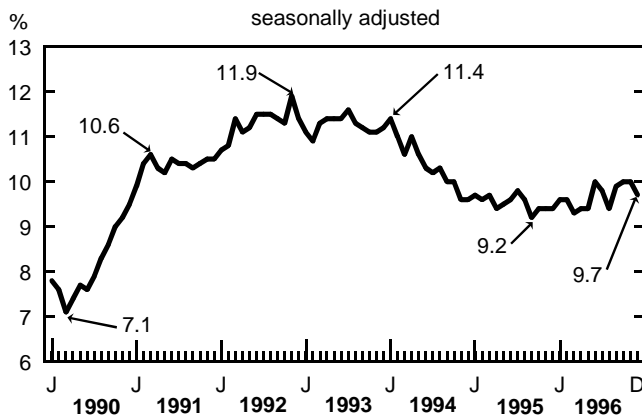
Labour Force Survey

December 1996

Employment increased by an estimated 34,000 in December, bringing gains over the year to 189,000 (+1.4%). December's rise in employment among adults, combined with a decrease in the number of youths in the labour force, drove the overall unemployment rate down to 9.7% (-0.3 percentage points).

Employment in 1996 grew at twice the pace of 1995, but contrasts with the more rapid growth of 2.9% in 1994. The employment rate edged down 0.1 percentage points to 58.5% in 1996, as the growth rate of employment did not quite keep pace with that of the population.

Unemployment rate



More full-time jobs for adults

Employment growth in December was all among adults aged 25 and over (+43,000), bringing this group's gains during the year to 209,000. In 1996, adult women gained 110,000 jobs (+2.1%) and adult men gained 99,000 (+1.6%). For adult men, virtually all of the gains were in full-time employment, while the gains among women were mostly part-time (+74,000).

Employment among youths aged 15 to 24 fell 20,000 during 1996, leaving their employment rate down 0.7 percentage points to 51.1%. Despite a large decline in youth participation in the labour force during the 1990s, persistent lack of job growth has kept their unemployment rate high, ending the year at 16.4%.

Changes in the publication

Starting next month, all tables in the publication Labour force information (71-001-PPB, \$10/\$100) have been redesigned to offer a more extensive set of current labour market indicators and to facilitate trend analysis. Employment by detailed industry will provide a better insight into labour market conditions at the national level. At the provincial level, seasonally adjusted labour market characteristics by demographic group and employment by industry will be provided on a three-month moving average basis.

All LFS seasonally adjusted series have been revised back to 1976, to reflect changes in methodology, and will be made available on CANSIM on January 27. They will also appear in the publication Historical labour force statistics (71-201-XPB, \$110), to be released on February 7.

For information on the new content of this publication, contact Nathalie Caron (613-951-4168). To subscribe to the publication, which is delivered by fax shortly after 7:00 on the release day, call 1-800-267-6677.

Industry employment in December

In December, employment growth occurred in community, business and personal services (+27,000) and other primary industries (+8,000), while there were declines in public administration (-12,000) and agriculture (-8,000). There was no significant change in the other industries.

Strong showing from goods-producing sector in 1996

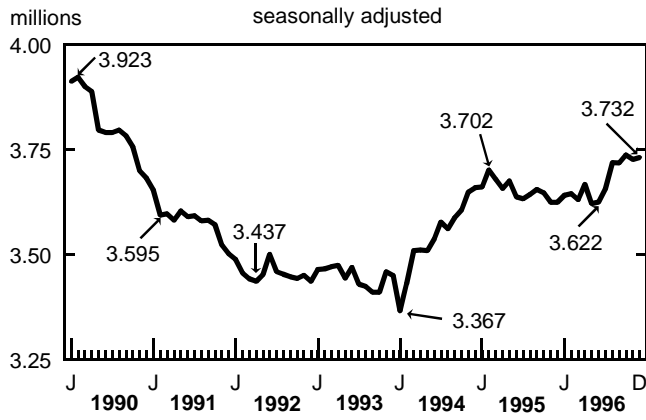
In 1996, employment was characterized by strong growth in the goods-producing industries and weaker growth in the service sector. Jobs in goods-producing industries increased by 107,000 (+3.0%), with gains in manufacturing and agriculture, while the service sector gained only 88,000 (+0.9%), with increases in trade and in community, business and personal services.

Despite edging down in the last three months, manufacturing employment showed robust growth during 1996 (+70,000 or +3.4%). In 1996, there was strong employment growth of 32,000 (+7.4%) in agriculture.

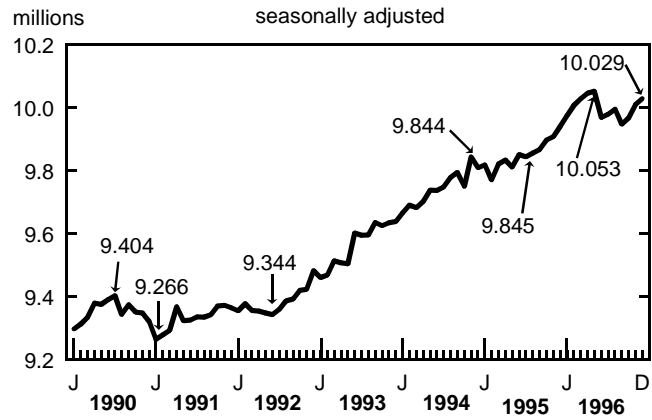
Fairly steady growth in construction in the second half of 1996 offset declines earlier in the year, leaving employment in the industry at about the same level as a year ago.

Declines in other primary industries at the beginning of the year, coupled with recent growth, left employment in this industry little changed since December 1995.

Goods-producing



Service-producing



Lackluster job growth in the service sector in 1996

Employment gains in community, business and personal services were dampened by a large loss of 70,000 in September, reducing job gains in this industry to only 52,000 (+1.0%) in 1996.

Recent advances in trade employment, along with increases observed early in the year, bolstered employment in this industry by 42,000 (+1.8%) in 1996.

The trend in employment in transportation, communication and other utilities was down as job losses totalled 31,000 (-3.0%) in 1996. Over the longer term, employment in this industry was down 70,000 (-6.6%) from its peak in mid-1995.

Over the year, employment rose by 27,000 in public administration, mostly in local administration. Employment in public administration has trended downward in recent years.

More self-employment

Almost all of December's employment gains were in the private sector, primarily in self-employment, which was up 31,000.

In 1996, private sector employment grew by 223,000 (+1.9%), with the number of self-employed increasing by 125,000 (+5.6%), outpacing the growth in the number of employees, which rose by 98,000 (+1.1%). In contrast, employment losses in the public sector totalled 33,000 (-1.6%) in 1996.

Continued employment growth in the Western provinces

In December, almost all of the employment growth occurred in the Western provinces: Manitoba (+5,000), Saskatchewan (+4,000), Alberta (+10,000) and British Columbia (+11,000). Employment also grew in Prince Edward Island (+1,000), while it declined by 3,000 in New Brunswick. There were no significant changes in the other provinces.

In 1996, employment growth of 189,000 (+1.4%) occurred mostly in the Western provinces. Employment growth was well above the national average rate in British Columbia (+4.2%), Alberta (+4.1%) and Manitoba (+3.7%). In Ontario, employment grew by 1.5%, while in Saskatchewan it was almost unchanged (+0.2%).

In Quebec, while gains were made at the beginning of the year, larger losses during the summer were only partly recovered, leaving employment down 18,000 (-0.6%).

All of the Atlantic provinces experienced employment losses during 1996: Newfoundland

(-4.1%), Prince Edward Island (-1.6%), Nova Scotia (-2.3%), New Brunswick (-2.5%).

Telephone information line to be discontinued

The telephone information line (613-951-9448) containing selected recorded messages will be discontinued when the January data is released on February 7. Instead, Labour Force Survey analysts will be available to answer inquiries about the data.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2074, 2075, 2078-2107 and table 00799999.

Available at 7 a.m. on the Internet (<http://www.statcan.ca>; select *Latest News from Statistics Canada*).

For a summary, *Labour force information*, for the week ending December 14, 1996 (71-001-PPB, \$10/\$100) is available today, as is a facsimile version (71-001-PFB, \$300 annually). The December 1996 issue of *The labour force* (71-001-XPB, \$23/\$230) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on February 7.

For further information on this release, contact Doug Drew (613-951-4720), Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750) or the LFS information line (613-951-9448), Household Surveys Division. □

Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	Nov. 1996	Dec. 1996	Nov. to Dec. 1996	Nov. 1996	Dec. 1996	Nov. to Dec. 1996
seasonally adjusted						
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	15,257	15,244	-0.1	65.0	64.8	-0.2
Newfoundland	233	236	1.3	51.7	52.3	0.6
Prince Edward Island	70	72	2.3	65.4	66.9	1.5
Nova Scotia	441	442	0.2	59.8	59.8	0.0
New Brunswick	356	353	-0.8	59.2	58.7	-0.5
Quebec	3,654	3,647	-0.2	62.0	61.9	-0.1
Ontario	5,893	5,869	-0.4	66.2	65.9	-0.3
Manitoba	576	580	0.7	67.1	67.6	0.5
Saskatchewan	487	491	0.8	64.4	64.9	0.5
Alberta	1,526	1,532	0.4	71.8	72.0	0.2
British Columbia	2,020	2,017	-0.1	66.1	65.9	-0.2
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	13,725	13,759	0.2	58.5	58.5	0.0
Newfoundland	190	189	-0.5	42.1	41.9	-0.2
Prince Edward Island	59	60	1.8	55.4	56.4	1.0
Nova Scotia	384	386	0.5	52.0	52.2	0.2
New Brunswick	310	307	-1.0	51.6	51.1	-0.5
Quebec	3,193	3,207	0.4	54.2	54.4	0.2
Ontario	5,347	5,335	-0.2	60.1	59.9	-0.2
Manitoba	532	537	0.9	62.0	62.6	0.6
Saskatchewan	458	462	0.9	60.6	61.1	0.5
Alberta	1,426	1,436	0.7	67.1	67.4	0.3
British Columbia	1,829	1,840	0.6	59.8	60.1	0.3
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	1,532	1,485	-3.1	10.0	9.7	-0.3
Newfoundland	43	47	9.3	18.5	19.9	1.4
Prince Edward Island	11	11	5.4	15.3	15.8	0.5
Nova Scotia	57	56	-1.8	12.9	12.7	-0.2
New Brunswick	46	46	0.0	12.9	13.0	0.1
Quebec	461	440	-4.6	12.6	12.1	-0.5
Ontario	546	534	-2.2	9.3	9.1	-0.2
Manitoba	44	43	-2.3	7.6	7.4	-0.2
Saskatchewan	29	29	0.0	6.0	5.9	-0.1
Alberta	100	96	-4.0	6.6	6.3	-0.3
British Columbia	191	177	-7.3	9.5	8.8	-0.7

Note: Provincial estimates may differ from the national totals due to independent seasonal adjustment.

Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1996	Dec. 1995 to Dec. 1996	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1996	Dec. 1995 to Dec. 1996
unadjusted						
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	14,779	15,021	1.6	63.8	63.9	0.1
Newfoundland	224	225	0.2	49.4	49.8	0.4
Prince Edward Island	68	69	2.3	64.0	64.6	0.6
Nova Scotia	433	436	0.9	59.0	59.1	0.1
New Brunswick	341	340	-0.2	57.0	56.6	-0.4
Quebec	3,583	3,593	0.3	61.5	60.9	-0.6
Ontario	5,700	5,803	1.8	64.9	65.1	0.2
Manitoba	552	572	3.7	64.8	66.7	1.9
Saskatchewan	488	484	-0.7	65.0	64.1	-0.9
Alberta	1,480	1,513	2.2	71.1	71.1	0.0
British Columbia	1,911	1,985	3.9	64.1	64.8	0.7
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	13,422	13,609	1.4	57.9	57.9	0.0
Newfoundland	188	182	-3.0	41.4	40.3	-1.1
Prince Edward Island	57	57	-0.1	53.9	53.1	-0.8
Nova Scotia	390	384	-1.4	53.1	52.0	-1.1
New Brunswick	304	296	-2.5	50.8	49.3	-1.5
Quebec	3,167	3,147	-0.6	54.3	53.4	-0.9
Ontario	5,241	5,314	1.4	59.7	59.7	0.0
Manitoba	511	531	4.0	60.0	61.9	1.9
Saskatchewan	453	456	0.7	60.3	60.3	0.0
Alberta	1,371	1,425	4.0	65.8	66.9	1.1
British Columbia	1,740	1,816	4.3	58.4	59.3	0.9
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	1,357	1,412	4.1	9.2	9.4	0.2
Newfoundland	36	43	17.1	16.2	19.0	2.8
Prince Edward Island	11	12	15.2	15.7	17.7	2.0
Nova Scotia	43	52	21.9	9.9	12.0	2.1
New Brunswick	37	44	18.7	10.9	12.9	2.0
Quebec	416	445	7.1	11.6	12.4	0.8
Ontario	459	489	6.6	8.0	8.4	0.4
Manitoba	41	41	0.3	7.4	7.1	-0.3
Saskatchewan	35	28	-19.0	7.1	5.8	-1.3
Alberta	109	88	-19.2	7.4	5.8	-1.6
British Columbia	171	170	-0.6	8.9	8.5	-0.4



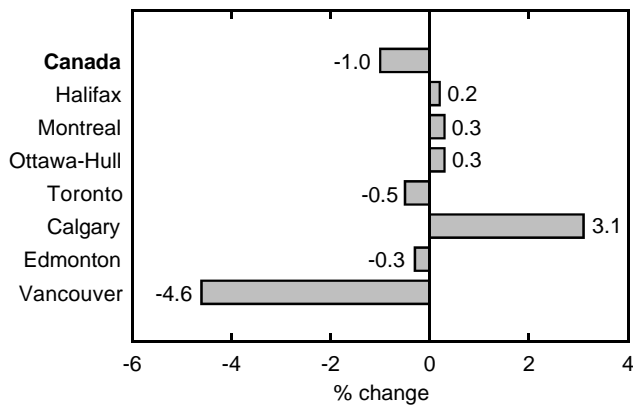
OTHER RELEASES

New Housing Price Index

November 1996

The downward movement of new housing prices experienced over the last two years continued to ease. The Canada composite index decreased 1.0%, compared with November 1995.

New housing price indexes
November 1995 to November 1996



This rate was less than the 1.6% annual decline that was reported in October 1996. (The annual rate of change has been negative since July 1994).

From October to November, the composite index increased 0.3%. This was the largest monthly increase observed at the Canada level since April 1993. Eleven of the 21 cities surveyed registered monthly increases in November, while 6 cities recorded decreases and the remaining 4 showed no change.

New housing price indexes (1986=100)

	Nov. 1996	Nov. 1995 to Nov. 1996	Oct. to Nov. 1996
		% change	
Canada total	131.8	-1.0	0.3
House only	121.6	-1.0	0.4
Land only	165.2	-0.5	0.1
St. John's	125.7	-1.1	-0.2
Halifax	121.4	0.2	-
Charlottetown	116.2	-0.3	-1.2
Saint John-Moncton-Fredericton	113.9	-0.6	0.2
Québec	132.9	-2.1	-0.2
Montreal	137.5	0.3	-0.1
Ottawa-Hull	119.8	0.3	0.8
Toronto	136.2	-0.5	0.2
Hamilton	125.9	1.0	0.6
St. Catharines-Niagara	123.2	1.6	1.3
Kitchener-Waterloo	121.6	0.2	0.4
London	140.7	0.2	-0.4
Windsor	132.1	3.0	3.0
Sudbury-Thunder Bay	137.3	-0.1	0.1
Winnipeg	119.5	1.1	-
Regina	135.3	2.2	0.1
Saskatoon	116.5	2.0	-
Calgary	146.0	3.1	1.1
Edmonton	145.0	-0.3	-
Vancouver	127.7	-4.6	0.2
Victoria	108.8	-5.0	-0.5

- Nil or zero.

Builders reported that some price increases were attributable to increased construction costs (lumber in particular); in some cases, improving market conditions have allowed a portion of these increases to be passed on to buyers. However, generally speaking, market conditions remain very competitive.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 2032.

The fourth quarter 1996 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$23/\$76) will be available in March. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Sandra Shadlock (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-2848; Internet: shadsan@statcan.ca), Client Services Unit, Prices Division. ■

Estimates of labour income

October 1996 (preliminary)

Employees' wages and salaries rose 0.3% in October, the third consecutive monthly increase. Gains in both employment and average earnings contributed to this rise. Overall growth in wages and salaries for the first 10 months of 1996 was 2.6% over the same period in 1995.

The October increase was widespread, with the largest gains occurring in finance, insurance and real estate, education and related services and mines, quarries and oil wells. The first two industries experienced strong growth in average weekly earnings.

After three months of declines or little change, construction wages and salaries rose by 0.9% in October. A substantial increase in hours worked, as well as gains in employment, contributed to the advance.

In contrast, wages and salaries fell sharply in manufacturing, largely due to the labour dispute at General Motors Canada.

Note: Labour income consists of wages and salaries (87%), plus supplementary labour income (13%). Wages and salaries include items such as bonuses, gratuities, taxable allowances and retroactive wage payments. Supplementary labour income is employers' contributions to employee welfare, pension, workers' compensation and unemployment insurance plans. Labour income accounts for about 54% of gross domestic product.

Wages and salaries and supplementary labour income

	Sept. 1996 ^r	Oct. 1996 ^p	Sept. to Oct. 1996
seasonally adjusted			
	\$ millions		% change
Agriculture, fishing and trapping	268.1	277.2	3.4
Logging and forestry	274.3	270.0	-1.6
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	658.1	666.9	1.3
Manufacturing	5,802.8	5,761.0	-0.7
Construction	1,707.2	1,722.0	0.9
Transportation, storage, communications and other utilities	2,886.3	2,903.3	0.6
Trade	4,448.5	4,466.4	0.4
Finance, insurance and real estate	2,679.5	2,713.2	1.3
Commercial and personal services	4,700.4	4,709.1	0.2
Educational and related services	2,720.8	2,754.4	1.2
Health and social services	2,787.8	2,812.1	0.9
Federal administration and other government services	916.3	911.8	-0.5
Provincial administration	706.3	702.3	-0.6
Local administration	674.8	675.6	0.1
Total wages and salaries	31,264.3	31,369.1	0.3
Supplementary labour income	4,651.0	4,690.9	0.9
Labour income	35,915.3	36,060.0	0.4

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1791 and 1792.

For further information on this release, contact Jean Lambert (613-951-4051; fax: 613-951-3618), National Accounts and Environment Division. ■

Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins

November 1996

Chemical firms produced 181 244 tonnes of polyethylene synthetic resins in November, a 2.1% increase from 177 525 tonnes in November 1995.

From January to November 1996, production totalled 2 009 699 tonnes, up 5.7% from 1 894 492 tonnes a year earlier.

Data are also available on production of 3 other types of synthetic resins and 24 industrial chemicals.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 951.

The November 1996 issue of *Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins* (46-002-XPB, \$6/60) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Suzette DesRosiers (613-951-9836; Internet: desrosi@statcan.ca), Industry Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Infomat, a weekly review, January 10, 1997
Catalogue number 11-002-XPE
 (Canada: \$4/\$140; United States: US\$5/US\$168; other countries: US\$5/US\$196).

Primary textile industries, 1994
Catalogue number 34-250-XPB
 (Canada: \$38; United States: US\$46; other countries: US\$54).

How to order publications

Simplify your data search with *Statistics Canada Catalogue*, 1994 (11-204E, \$15; United States: US\$18; other countries: US\$21). Its keyword index will guide you to statistics on Canada's social and economic activity.

Order *The Daily* and other publications by phone:

Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.

In Canada and the United States call: **1-800-267-6677**
 From other countries call: **1-613-951-7277**
 Or fax your order to us: **1-613-951-1584**

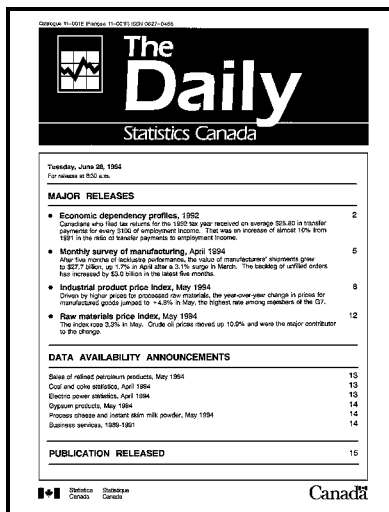
For address changes: Please refer to your customer account number.

To order a publication by mail write: Sales and Service, Marketing Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, K1A 0T6. Include a cheque or money order payable to Receiver General of Canada/Publications. Canadian customers add 7% GST.

Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centres provide a full range of the Agency's products and services.

For the reference centre nearest you, check the blue pages or your telephone directory under Statistics Canada.

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.



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. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Editor: Anne Beutler (613-951-1103)
 Head of Official Release: Andrée Hébert (613-951-1088)

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.

RELEASE DATES

January 13 to 17
(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
13	Building permits	November 1996
13	New motor vehicle sales	November 1996
17	Canadian international trade	November 1996
17	Travel between Canada and other countries	November 1996
