



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, December 3, 1997

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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Short-term Expectations Survey

Every month, Statistics Canada canvasses a group of economic analysts for one-month-ahead forecasts of key economic indicators. Participants in this survey forecast the year-over-year changes in the Consumer Price Index, the unemployment rate, the participation rate, merchandise exports and imports, and the monthly change in gross domestic product at factor cost.

The mean forecast for the Consumer Price Index in November is a year-over-year increase of 1.5%, unchanged from the October outcome. The forecasts for November ranged from 1.2% to 1.7%. The mean forecast for October (+1.6%) overestimated the outcome of 1.5%.

The mean forecast for the unemployment rate in November is 9.0%, down slightly from October's actual figure of 9.1%. November estimates ranged from 8.9% to 9.3%. October's forecast (9.0%) slightly underestimated the actual outcome of 9.1%.

The mean forecast for the labour force participation rate is 64.9% in November. Forecasts ranged from 64.5% to 65.4%. The mean forecast for October (65.0%) slightly overestimated the outcome of 64.9%.

The mean forecast for exports in October is \$25.1 billion, up slightly from the September outcome of \$25.0 billion. Opinions for October ranged from \$24.0 billion to \$25.4 billion. At \$25.3 billion, September's forecast overestimated the outcome of \$25.0 billion. The mean forecast for imports for October is \$24.3 billion, compared with the September actual figure of \$24.1 billion. Forecasts range from \$23.5 billion to \$25.4 billion. Last month's forecast of \$23.9 billion underestimated the outcome of \$24.1 billion.

Real gross domestic product at factor cost in October is forecast, on average, to rise by 0.3%. Predictions range from -0.1% to 0.6%. The September forecast of 0.4% overestimated the outcome of 0.2%.

The next release will be on January 7, 1998. For a set of tables, or for further information on this release, contact Maria Mamaril-Faith (613-951-2991). ■

Energy supply and demand

First quarter 1997

Production of energy products in Canada totalled 3 810 petajoules in the first quarter of 1997, down 0.9% from the same quarter in 1996. The decline was widespread, with production of coal, natural gas, natural gas liquids

and primary electricity posting decreases. Production of crude oil increased over the same quarter in 1996.

In this quarter, total exports of energy products rose a strong 4.7% over the first quarter of 1996. Virtually all principal energy forms recorded gains. Total imports of energy products rose 9.1%, due largely to higher imports of crude oil and refined petroleum products.

Energy consumption in Canada edged up 0.5% during the first quarter of 1997 compared with the same quarter in 1996. Energy consumption by the industrial sector rose 6.4%, due to strong energy demand by manufacturing, and the mining and oil and gas extraction industries. Largely offsetting this gain were declines by the transportation, and residential and farm sectors. Lower energy use by the residential sector was as a result of near normal temperatures in the first three months of 1997, compared with last year's colder-than-normal readings.

Supply and demand of energy

	First quarter 1996	First quarter 1997	First quarter 1996 to first quarter 1997 %
	petajoules		change
Production	3 845	3 810	-0.9
Exports	1 926	2 017	4.7
Imports	523	571	9.1
Availability (supply)	2 817	2 784	-1.1
Non-energy use	174	176	1.1
Demand	2 080	2 090	0.5
Industrial	580	617	6.4
Transportation	509	501	-1.6
Residential and farm	604	573	-5.1
Government and commercial	387	399	3.1

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

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4945, 4946, 4950-4962 and 7976-8001.

The first quarter 1997 issue of *Quarterly report on energy supply/demand in Canada* (57-003-XPB, \$43/\$141) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Celia Kirlaw (613-951-4804; Internet:

kirlcel@statcan.ca), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Cement

October 1997

Manufacturers shipped 1 250 574 tonnes of cement in October, down 3.9% from 1 300 715 tonnes in October 1996, and down 6.3% from 1 340 877 tonnes (revised) in September 1997.

Year-to-date shipments totalled 9 938 086 tonnes (revised), up 3.9% from 9 564 467 tonnes during the same period in 1996.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 92 and 122 (series 35).

The October 1997 issue of *Cement* (44-001-XPB, \$7/\$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Roland Joubert (613-951-3527; Internet: rjoubert@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Farm taxation data

1996 (provisional data)

In 1996, average net operating income (before depreciation) of farm businesses decreased 0.2% to \$23,517 per farm. Average operating revenues fell 2.0% to \$136,012 and average operating expenses declined 2.4% to \$112,495.

Combination livestock farms posted the best results, with average net operating income of \$74,417, a 30.2% increase over 1995. Hog farms reported the largest rise in average net operating income (+43.7%). Net income for 1996 was \$39,969. This was mainly because operating revenues on hog farms rose by 12%, while operating expenses were up only 8.7%.

Poultry farms posted the largest decline in net operating income (-18.7%). Their average operating revenues in 1996 were \$409,092, down 9.6% from \$452,349 in 1995.

In 1996, the average net operating income of potato farms was \$57,262. The 2.2% drop in average net operating income of potato farms was due to the increase in average operating expenses (+8.8%), which outpaced the 7% hike in average operating revenues.

Producers in Saskatchewan reported the highest operating margin, at 22.6 cents per dollar of revenue. The lower average operating revenues (\$101,802) and

higher operating margins in Saskatchewan reflected the relative importance of grain and oilseed farms in this province. These farms, which accounted for 81.1% of farms in Saskatchewan in 1996, posted average operating revenues of \$99,050.

In 1996, New Brunswick farmers benefited from significant growth (+15.9%) in their average net operating income. This increase can be partly explained by lower operating expenses (-2.9%) since operating revenues were virtually unchanged.

The estimates cover unincorporated farms with gross operating revenues of \$10,000 and more, and incorporated farms with total farm sales of \$25,000 and over. However, agricultural activities on these farms must account for over 51% of sales to be included in the estimates. The estimates also include communal farming organizations.

Note: Net operating income refers to the profit (or loss) from farm operations based on total operating revenues — including all program payments less total operating expenses before depreciation. Operating margin is defined as one dollar less operating expenses per dollar of revenue. For tax purposes, farmers may deduct any amount up to the maximum after the calculation of the allowable depreciation. Depreciation data obtained from income tax returns are considered inappropriate for estimating actual depreciation expenses. For this reason, the net operating income is reported before depreciation. These estimates maintain their relevance only when compared with other statistics produced using the same definitions and concepts.

Average net operating income per farm (before depreciation) and operating margins

Type of farm	Average net operating income, 1996	1995 to 1996	Operating margins
	dollars	% change	cents
Livestock combination	74,417	30.2	23.2
Potato	57,262	-2.2	15.2
Tobacco	53,278	-11.7	23.1
Dairy	46,085	-5.1	23.4
Poultry and eggs	41,053	-18.7	10
Hogs	39,969	43.7	12.2
Greenhouse and nursery	37,186	-11.0	11
Grain and oilseed	25,868	4.4	24.1
Fruit and vegetable	18,391	-13.8	14.2
Other farm types	9,945	-15.1	12.5
Cattle	7,740	-11.8	6.9
Total	23,517	-0.2	17.3

For further information, contact Randy Roberts (613-951-3161), Agriculture Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Cereals and oilseeds review, September 1997
Catalogue number 22-007-XPB
(Canada: \$15/\$149; outside Canada: US\$15/US\$149).

Aviation: Service bulletin, Vol. 29, no. 11
Catalogue number 51-004-XPB
(Canada: \$11/\$109; outside Canada: US\$11/US\$109).

Coal and coke statistics, September 1997
Catalogue number 45-002-XPB
(Canada: \$12/\$114; outside Canada: US\$12/US\$114).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES



- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, 44.1% of Canadians took an average of about 20 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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Cereals and oilseeds review	September 1997	November 28, 1997
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