



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 29, 1997

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

OTHER RELEASES

| | |
|---|---|
| Employment, earnings and hours, March 1997 | 2 |
| Employment insurance, March 1997 | 5 |
| School Leavers Follow-up Survey, 1995 | 5 |
| Steel primary forms, week ending May 24, 1997 | 6 |
| Railway carloadings, seven-day period ending May 14, 1997 | 6 |
| Stocks of frozen meat products, May 1, 1997 | 6 |
| Electric power statistics, March 1997 | 7 |



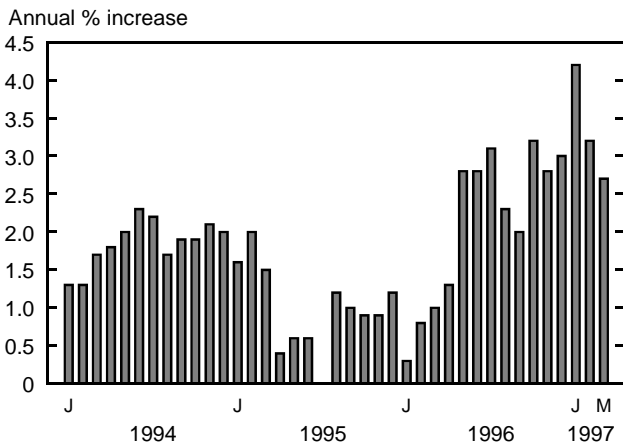
OTHER RELEASES

Employment, earnings and hours

March 1997 (preliminary)

In March, employees' average weekly earnings declined for the second consecutive month. The 0.3% drop in earnings was most notable for employees in construction, logging and forestry services, as well as accommodation and food services. Despite this drop, employees' earnings were 2.7% higher than in March 1996. During the past year, finance, insurance and real estate, mining, quarrying and oil wells, business services and the manufacturing sector contributed to the increase in earnings. Partly offsetting this, however, were public administration and education employees who registered little gains in earnings over the past 12 months.

Weekly earnings were 2.7% higher than in March 1996



For employees paid by the hour, the average number of hours worked per week declined for the first time since September 1996 to 31.0 hours. The number of hours worked by employees had maintained a peak level of 31.2 hours during the previous three

Note to readers

The Survey of Employment, Earnings and Hours (SEPH) is currently in the final phase of a major, multi-year re-engineering project to improve estimates of the level of business payrolls and paid employment, and to reduce reporting burden on businesses. With the change in methodology, there is a risk that employment estimates from the administrative records may show a different seasonal pattern than the previous questionnaire data, which can only be assessed within the context of a longer time period. Statistics Canada continues to monitor these impacts and will help users interpret its data. To minimize impacts, it is recommended that SEPH data, particularly employment data, be used in the context of longer time periods for the detailed industry distributions.

months. Reduced hours of work were noted in finance, insurance and real estate, retail trade and construction.

In manufacturing, the number of hours worked for employees paid by the hour has been at a high level for the past four months, despite a slight drop in March. The average hours worked by manufacturing employees peaked at 39.0 hours in February 1997 and declined slightly to 38.9 hours in March. Employees' average weekly earnings also declined in March, coincident with a slowdown in manufacturers' shipments and unfilled orders.

The preliminary estimate of the number of payroll employees in March was 18,000 higher than the February estimate.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4285-4466, 9438-9452, 9639-9664 and 9899-9911.

Detailed industry data and other labour market indicators are available through standard tables in the monthly publication *Employment, earnings and hours* (72-002-XPB, \$31/\$310), the historical publication *Annual estimates of employment, earnings and hours 1983-1995* (diskette: 72F0002XDE, \$120) and by custom tabulations.

For further information on this release, contact Stephen Johnson (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; Internet: labour@statcan.ca), Labour Division. □

Number of employees

| Industry group (1980 S.I.C.) | Jan. 1997 | Feb. 1997 ^r | Mar. 1997 ^p | Jan. to Feb. 1997 | Feb. to Mar. 1997 |
|---|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | | | | |
| | '000 | | | % change | |
| Industrial aggregate | 11,087 | 11,163 | 11,181 | 0.7 | 0.2 |
| Logging and forestry | 65 | 66 | 67 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Mining, quarrying and oil wells | 136 | 139 | 139 | 2.2 | 0.0 |
| Manufacturing | 1,768 | 1,778 | 1,784 | 0.6 | 0.3 |
| Construction | 472 | 479 | 477 | 1.5 | -0.4 |
| Transportation, communication and other utilities | 849 | 857 | 851 | 0.9 | -0.7 |
| Wholesale trade | 681 | 691 | 692 | 1.5 | 0.1 |
| Retail trade | 1,387 | 1,394 | 1,392 | 0.5 | -0.1 |
| Finance, insurance and real estate | 686 | 692 | 697 | 0.9 | 0.7 |
| Business services | 709 | 714 | 717 | 0.7 | 0.4 |
| Education-related services | 943 | 939 | 939 | -0.4 | 0.0 |
| Health and social services | 1,199 | 1,205 | 1,201 | 0.5 | -0.3 |
| Accommodation, food and beverage services | 800 | 804 | 804 | 0.5 | 0.0 |
| Public administration | 680 | 682 | 682 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| Provinces and territories | | | | | |
| Newfoundland | 142 | 141 | 142 | -0.7 | 0.7 |
| Prince Edward Island | 45 | 45 | 45 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Nova Scotia | 309 | 310 | 310 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| New Brunswick | 245 | 247 | 245 | 0.8 | -0.8 |
| Quebec | 2,665 | 2,688 | 2,680 | 0.9 | -0.3 |
| Ontario | 4,359 | 4,372 | 4,397 | 0.3 | 0.6 |
| Manitoba | 421 | 422 | 422 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Saskatchewan | 324 | 328 | 329 | 1.2 | 0.3 |
| Alberta | 1,120 | 1,146 | 1,138 | 2.3 | -0.7 |
| British Columbia | 1,433 | 1,444 | 1,441 | 0.8 | -0.2 |
| Yukon | 14 | 14 | 14 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Northwest Territories | 25 | 26 | 25 | 4.0 | -3.8 |

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

Average weekly earnings for all employees

| Industry group (1980 S.I.C.) | Mar. 1996 | Feb. 1997 ^r | Mar. 1997 ^p | Feb. to Mar. 1997 | Mar. 1996 to Mar. 1997 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | seasonally adjusted | | | | |
| | \$ | | | % change | |
| Industrial aggregate | 578.88 | 596.53 | 594.68 | -0.3 | 2.7 |
| Logging and forestry | 765.23 | 787.64 | 778.68 | -1.1 | 1.8 |
| Mining, quarrying and oil wells | 999.08 | 1053.03 | 1055.58 | 0.2 | 5.7 |
| Manufacturing | 699.71 | 728.16 | 724.21 | -0.5 | 3.5 |
| Construction | 686.17 | 687.01 | 678.59 | -1.2 | -1.1 |
| Transportation, communication and other utilities | 733.65 | 747.34 | 744.90 | -0.3 | 1.5 |
| Wholesale trade | 624.80 | 633.48 | 633.91 | 0.1 | 1.5 |
| Retail trade | 345.50 | 355.84 | 351.86 | -1.1 | 1.8 |
| Finance, insurance and real estate | 695.86 | 735.60 | 739.16 | 0.5 | 6.2 |
| Business services | 639.49 | 668.21 | 667.05 | -0.2 | 4.3 |
| Education-related services | 675.23 | 676.92 | 680.49 | 0.5 | 0.8 |
| Health and social services | 506.09 | 517.52 | 515.89 | -0.3 | 1.9 |
| Accommodation, food and beverage services | 239.21 | 237.39 | 232.78 | -1.9 | -2.7 |
| Public administration | 743.75 | 749.22 | 746.34 | -0.4 | 0.3 |
| Provinces and territories | | | | | |
| Newfoundland | 537.34 | 529.83 | 525.90 | -0.7 | -2.1 |
| Prince Edward Island | 480.34 | 486.22 | 481.40 | -1.0 | 0.2 |
| Nova Scotia | 490.78 | 496.62 | 499.92 | 0.7 | 1.9 |
| New Brunswick | 514.58 | 519.02 | 517.48 | -0.3 | 0.6 |
| Quebec | 555.64 | 560.96 | 557.00 | -0.7 | 0.2 |
| Ontario | 615.67 | 640.48 | 638.45 | -0.3 | 3.7 |
| Manitoba | 514.13 | 521.83 | 518.74 | -0.6 | 0.9 |
| Saskatchewan | 493.90 | 526.17 | 527.33 | 0.2 | 6.8 |
| Alberta | 559.26 | 592.09 | 596.06 | 0.7 | 6.6 |
| British Columbia | 598.60 | 611.16 | 607.64 | -0.6 | 1.5 |
| Yukon | 697.59 | 697.38 | 704.15 | 1.0 | 0.9 |
| Northwest Territories | 721.74 | 730.36 | 725.08 | -0.7 | 0.5 |

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.



Employment insurance

March 1997 (preliminary; seasonally adjusted)

An estimated 591,000 Canadians received regular employment insurance benefits in March, down 1.1% from February. This was the sixth consecutive decline, which was led by a 2.6% drop in Ontario. The number of beneficiaries declined in nine provinces. Since September 1996, the number of regular beneficiaries has fallen by 15%.

Regular benefit payments declined for the third consecutive month — 1.0% in March to \$747 million. Again, nine provinces and territories recorded declines. On an unadjusted basis, regular benefits for the first quarter of 1997 were 11% lower than in 1996, due in part to a drop in the number of beneficiaries and a reduction in the maximum weekly benefit rate.

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

| | Mar. 1997 | Feb. to Mar. 1997 | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| | seasonally adjusted | | |
| | | | % change |
| Canada | 590,730 | | -1.1 |
| Newfoundland | 35,730 | | -1.1 |
| Prince Edward Island | 9,470 | | -1.3 |
| Nova Scotia | 32,370 | | -0.6 |
| New Brunswick | 36,490 | | -2.7 |
| Quebec | 208,140 | | -1.1 |
| Ontario | 149,500 | | -2.6 |
| Manitoba | 13,850 | | -0.4 |
| Saskatchewan | 9,590 | | -4.8 |
| Alberta | 31,310 | | -2.8 |
| British Columbia | 68,780 | | 0.7 |
| Yukon | 1,260 | | 2.1 |
| Northwest Territories | 1,150 | | 0.3 |

The number of individuals applying for employment insurance benefits in March increased slightly (+0.7%) to 228,000. Increased claims were registered in Alberta, Quebec and British Columbia, while claims in Ontario decreased. These provinces represent approximately 80% of claims. On an unadjusted basis, claims for the first quarter of 1997 were 12.6% lower than in 1996.

Employment insurance statistics

| | Feb. 1997 | Mar. 1997 | Feb. to Mar. 1997 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| | seasonally adjusted | | |
| | | | % change |
| Reg. beneficiaries ('000) | 597 ^P | 591 ^P | -1.1 |
| Reg. payments (\$ millions) | 754.8 | 747.1 | -1.0 |
| Claims ('000) | 226 | 228 | 0.7 |
| | Mar. 1996 | Mar. 1997 | Mar. 1996 to Mar. 1997 |
| | unadjusted | | |
| | | | % change |
| All beneficiaries ('000) | 1,155 | 973 ^P | -15.7 |
| Reg. beneficiaries ('000) | 915 | 763 ^P | -16.7 |
| Claims ('000) | 223 | 182 | -18.3 |
| Payments (\$ millions) | 1,379.0 | 1,187.7 | -13.9 |
| | Year-to-date (Jan. to Mar.) | | |
| | 1996 | 1997 | 1996 to 1997 |
| | | | % change |
| Claims ('000) | 817 | 714 | -12.6 |
| Payments (\$ millions) | 4,296.8 | 3,765.3 | -12.4 |

^P Preliminary figures.

Note: "All beneficiaries" includes all claimants paid regular benefits (e.g., due to layoff) or special benefits (e.g., due to illness).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 26 (series 1.6), 5700-5717, 5735-5736.

For further information on this release, contact Michael Scrim (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; Internet: labour@statcan.ca), Labour Division. ■

School Leavers Follow-up Survey 1995

The microdata file for the 1995 follow-up to the 1991 School Leavers Survey is now available. The School Leavers Follow-up Survey was conducted between September and December 1995 on behalf of Human Resources Development Canada.

Close to 10,000 young Canadians aged 18 to 20 were interviewed to establish a high-school leaver rate and identify factors associated with leaving school. The 1991 respondents were classified into one of three groups: continuers (those still in high school), graduates (those with a high school certificate or diploma), or leavers (those not in high school and who did not have a high school certificate or diploma). Four years later, the follow-up survey re-interviewed about two-thirds of the same respondents, then aged 22 to 24, to explore their education and work activities beyond high school. The follow-up examined the school-to-work transitions of young people; that is, it looked at the variety of movements that can occur between education, training and the labour market. Data are available at the national and provincial levels.

The data will help policy makers, researchers, community advocates, teachers, counsellors, and administrators explore education and youth employment issues. The microdata file (81M0016XDB, \$1,000) is available on diskette and is accompanied by a user's guide.

A preview of the findings from the 1995 School Leavers Follow-up Survey was previously released in *After high school: The first years* by Human Resources Development Canada (LM-419-09-96) and in the Winter 1996 issue of Statistics Canada's *Education quarterly review* (81-003-XPB, \$21/\$68). For a copy of *After high school: The first years*, contact Public Enquiries Centre, Communications Branch, Human Resources Development Canada, Ottawa, K1A 0J9 (fax: 819-953-7260) or access it on the Internet (<http://www.hrhc-drhc.gc.ca>).

For further information on how to order the microdata file or the *Education quarterly review* contact Daniel Perrier (613-951-1503; fax: 613-951-9040), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

For further information on the content of the School Leavers Follow-up Survey microdata file, contact Lynn Barr-Telford (613-951-1518; fax: 613-951-9040; Internet: barrlyn@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending May 24, 1997 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending May 24, 1997, totalled 299 756 tonnes, up 5.9% from the week-earlier 283 146 tonnes and up 7.1% from the year-earlier 279 777 tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 5 973 818 tonnes, a 2.8%

increase compared with 5 811 178 tonnes for the same period in 1996.

For further information on this release, contact Andy Shinnan (613-951-3515; Internet: shinand@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending May 14, 1997

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending May 14, 1997, increased 3.5% to 4.7 million tonnes from the same period of last year. The number of cars loaded increased 4.2%.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totalled 323 000 tonnes, a 2.4% increase from the same period of last year. The year-to-date figures show an increase of 15.3%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) increased 3.4% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 92.8 million tonnes, 3.0% higher than a year earlier.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For further information on this release, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2528; fax: 613-951-0579), Railway Transport Unit, Transportation Division. ■

Stocks of frozen meat products

May 1, 1997 (preliminary)

Estimates of frozen meat products in cold storage are available for May 1, 1997.

Total stocks of frozen meat in cold storage at the opening of the first business day of May totalled 40 448 tonnes compared with 36 065 tonnes last month and 37 571 tonnes a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 87 and 9517-9525.

Available free on the Internet: <http://www.statcan.ca>, under *Products and services, Downloadable publications, Index of downloadable publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Sandra Jarrett at (613-951-3847; Internet: jarrsan@statcan.ca), Livestock and Animal Products Section, Agriculture Division. ■

Electric power statistics

March 1997

In March, net generation of electricity increased to 49 822 gigawatt hours (GW-h), up 1.1% from March 1996. Exports increased 3.2% to 3 339 GW-h, and imports increased from 485 GW-h to 681 GW-h.


Generation of hydro electricity increased 3.3% to 32 062 GW-h. Newfoundland supplied the bulk of the increase. Thermal conventional generation was up 14.4% to 10 075 GW-h, while production from nuclear sources was down 18.5% to 7 685 GW-h. Utilities in the three provinces with nuclear generating stations (New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario) have temporarily reduced nuclear capacity due to the temporary shutdown of some of their facilities. The production shortfall was mostly replaced by higher output from thermal conventional generation.

Year-to-date net generation at the end of March 1997 totalled 151 518 GW-h, down 0.8% from the previous year. Year-to-date exports (9 579 GW-h) rose 6.3% and year-to-date imports (2 243 GW-h) rose 41.5% from the previous year.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3987-3999.

The March 1997 issue of *Electric power statistics* (57-001-XPB, \$11/\$110) will be available shortly.

For further information on this release, contact André Lefebvre (613-951-3560; Internet: alefeba@statcan.ca), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

|  | |
|---|---|
| Tuesday, June 03, 1997 For releases at 8:30 a.m. | |
| MAJOR RELEASES | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic dependency profiles, 1992 Canadians who filed tax returns for the 1992 tax year received an average \$25.80 in transfer payments for every \$100 of employment income. This was an increase of almost 10% from 1991 in the ratio of transfer payments to employment income. Monthly survey of manufacturing, April 1994 After two months of lackluster performance, the value of manufacturers' shipments grew to \$27.7 billion, up 1.7% in April after a 2.1% surge in March. The backlog of unfilled orders has increased by \$2.5 billion in the latest five months. Industrial product price index, May 1994 Driven by higher prices for processed raw materials, the year-over-year change in prices for manufactured goods jumped to +4.0% in May, the highest rate among members of the G7. Raw materials price index, May 1994 The index rose 3.2% in May. Crude oil prices climbed up 10.2% and were the major contributor to the change. | <p>2</p> <p>6</p> <p>8</p> <p>12</p> |
| DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of refined petroleum products, May 1994 Cold and cold equivalent, April 1994 Electric power statistics, April 1994 Cigarette products, May 1994 Process cheese and instant skim milk powder, May 1994 Business services, 1995-1997 | <p>13</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>14</p> <p>14</p> |
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Editor: Duncan Currie (613-951-1103)
 Head of Official Release: Chantal Prévost (613-951-1088)

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