



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, July 17, 1997

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Consumer Price Index, June 1997** 2  
The Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 1.8% between June 1996 and June 1997, in line with the low CPI movement since 1992.

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## OTHER RELEASES

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- Steel primary forms, week ending July 12, 1997 5
- Railway carloadings, nine-day period ending June 30, 1997 5
- International scheduled air passenger origin and destination statistics, 1995 5

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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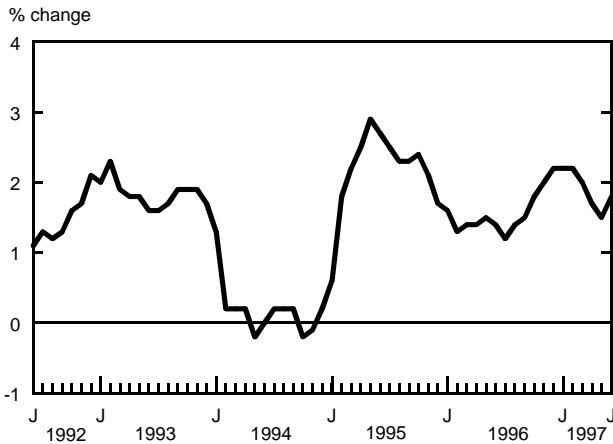
## MAJOR RELEASES

### Consumer Price Index

June 1997

In June, Canadian consumers paid 1.8% more than they did a year earlier for the goods and services contained in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket. The increase was primarily related to higher prices for such big-budget items as new vehicles, vehicle insurance, clothing and postsecondary tuition, as well as meat products. However, consumers paid substantially less in mortgage interest payments.

**Percentage change in the Consumer Price Index from the same month of the previous year**



June's annual rate of change in the CPI was slightly higher than April's (+1.7%) and May's (+1.5%), but lower than the rates in the five preceding months (+2.0% to +2.2%). The rise in the annual rate between May and June was due partly to the higher gasoline component and partly to the inclusion of June prices for traveller accommodation.

#### The CPI rose 0.2% between May and June

In monthly terms, the CPI rose by 0.2% in June. Higher traveller accommodation rates had the most impact. Other price increases were noted for food, gasoline, air travel and a number of personal-care products. Clothing and recreational equipment prices declined.

Traveller accommodation charges rose 12.0% over May. This rise was due in part to the introduction of higher summer rates. Also contributing were special

#### Note to readers

*In the past, the collection of traveller accommodation rates for the Consumer Price Index was undertaken in May and July. No price movement was reflected for June. However, because this component has shown large seasonal movements in recent years, a decision was made to collect prices in June as well. The index for June 1997 suggests that prices were 14.9% higher than in June 1996. However, the index for June 1996 reflected May 1996 prices. Considering that there was a 22.1% price increase between May and July 1996, it can be assumed that the June 1996 index was lower and the June 1997 annual movement was larger than they would have been had pricing taken place in June last year.*

events like the Formula One auto race in Montreal and the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of John Cabot's landing in Newfoundland.

Consumers paid 0.4% more for food. Higher prices for fresh vegetables, poultry and coffee were the most important factors in advancing grocery prices. Lower prices for fresh fruit and soft drinks offset part of the increase. The cost of dining out also rose, partly due to higher coffee prices.

Gasoline prices rose 0.9% on average between May and June. Motorists in Saskatchewan and Alberta saw the largest increases, while drivers in British Columbia and Prince Edward Island saw the largest declines. Air transportation cost 2.2% more as fares increased on routes to the U.S.

Men's clothing and footwear buyers saw reduced prices for many items. Women's and children's clothing prices were generally higher. The net effect was a drop of 0.6% in the clothing and footwear index between May and June. June declines are often this large or larger. This component's overall movement still suggests that prices are strengthening after several years of weakness.

Owned accommodation charges showed no overall change. Lower mortgage interest costs were offset by higher charges for maintenance and repairs, partly due to higher labour rates in recent months.

#### Provincial highlights

Among the provinces, Prince Edward Island showed the smallest annual movement (+0.7%), replacing British Columbia (+0.9%), which had recorded the lowest movement for 11 straight months. Consumers in Prince Edward Island paid considerably less than they did a year ago for food, clothing and footwear. The province with the largest annual inflation

rate was Manitoba. Manitobans experienced large increases in food, natural gas, clothing and new vehicle prices, as well as in property taxes.

Compared to last month, Québec and Alberta recorded overall price increases of 0.4% while New Brunswick recorded a decline of the same amount. In Québec, the prices of food from stores, gasoline and car rentals went up more than the national average. Albertans saw larger-than-average price increases for new homes, gasoline and traveller accommodation. New Brunswick residents saw significant price reductions for food, clothing and gasoline.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 7440-7454, 7477 and 7478.**

Available at 7 a.m. on the Internet at <http://www.statcan.ca> under "Latest news from Statistics Canada".

The June 1997 issue of the *Consumer Price Index* (62-001-XPB, \$11/\$103) is now available. See *How to order publications*. The July 1997 Consumer Price Index will be released August 19.

For further information, contact Paul-Roméo Danis (613-951-9606; fax: (613) 951-2848; Internet: [danipau@statcan.ca](mailto:danipau@statcan.ca)), Prices Division. □

**Consumer Price Index and major components**  
1986=100

	June 1997	May 1997	June 1996	May 1997 to June 1997	June 1996 to June 1997
unadjusted					
	% change				
<b>All-items</b>	<b>138.0</b>	<b>137.7</b>	<b>135.6</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Food	130.4	129.9	128.6	0.4	1.4
Shelter	134.5	134.4	134.0	0.1	0.4
Household operations and furnishings	125.5	125.7	124.5	-0.2	0.8
Clothing and footwear	132.7	133.5	129.4	-0.6	2.6
Transportation	148.0	147.5	143.8	0.3	2.9
Health and personal care	139.6	139.2	136.5	0.3	2.3
Recreation, education and reading	151.4	149.7	145.8	1.1	3.8
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	151.3	151.0	146.5	0.2	3.3
Goods	131.0	130.9	129.2	0.1	1.4
Services	146.6	146.0	143.4	0.4	2.2
All-items excluding food and energy	140.4	140.1	137.6	0.2	2.0
Energy	133.9	133.2	133.0	0.5	0.7
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared with 1986	72.5	72.6	73.7		
All-items (1981=100)	182.7				

**Consumer Price Index by province, Whitehorse and Yellowknife**  
1986=100

	June 1997	May 1997	June 1996	May 1997 to June 1997	June 1996 to June 1997
unadjusted					
	% change				
Newfoundland	132.1	131.8	129.5	0.2	2.0
Prince Edward Island	135.0	135.2	134.0	-0.1	0.7
Nova Scotia	135.0	135.2	132.9	-0.1	1.6
New Brunswick	133.0	133.5	130.9	-0.4	1.6
Quebec	135.4	134.9	133.4	0.4	1.5
Ontario	139.3	138.9	136.4	0.3	2.1
Manitoba	141.8	141.9	138.2	-0.1	2.6
Saskatchewan	140.0	139.8	138.2	0.1	1.3
Alberta	138.5	138.0	135.2	0.4	2.4
British Columbia	139.9	139.9	138.6	0.0	0.9
Whitehorse	136.2	135.2	132.3	0.7	2.9
Yellowknife	135.3	134.8	134.3	0.4	0.7

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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Steel primary forms

Week ending July 12, 1997 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending July 12, 1997, totalled 271 569 tonnes, up 9.1% from the week-earlier 248 847 tonnes and down 2.3% from the year-earlier 277 894 tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 8 064 872 tonnes, a 2.3% increase compared with 7 884 191 tonnes for the same period in 1996.

For further information, contact Huguette Montcalm (613-951-9827; Internet: [monthug@statcan.ca](mailto:monthug@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### Railway carloadings

Nine-day period ending June 30, 1997

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the nine-day period ending June 30, 1997, increased 10.5% to 5.9 million tonnes from the same period last year. The number of cars loaded increased 6.8%.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totalled 393 000 tonnes, a 5.6% increase from the same period last year. The year-to-date figures show an increase of 15.1%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) increased 10.1% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 126 million tonnes, a 4.0% increase from the previous year.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

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

### International scheduled air passenger origin and destination statistics

1995 (preliminary)

A record 17.9 million passengers travelled between Canada and a foreign country on a scheduled flight in 1995, up 11.7% from the previous year. This followed a 1.5% increase in 1994 and a 4.7% gain in 1993.

The largest absolute gain from 1994 to 1995 was in the Canada–United States market (+1,182,000 passengers or +13.2%); the largest percentage increase was in the Canada–Asia market (+20.4% or +437,000 passengers). Four regions (Asia, Europe, Pacific and United States) showed an increase in passenger volume both to and from Canada. The largest decrease was in the Canada–Africa market, which lost 9,000 passengers for a decline of 3.6%.

In 1995, the United States remained Canada's most important international market by far, with 56.6% of all international scheduled passengers. Europe was the second-largest international market (20.6% of international traffic), while Asia (at 14.4%) was the third-largest market for scheduled traffic.

Data on international scheduled air passenger origin and destination will be published in the July 1997 issue of *Aviation: Service bulletin* (51-004-XPB, \$11/\$109). See *How to order publications*.

For further information, contact Lisa Di Piétro (819-997-6176), Aviation Statistics Centre, Transportation Division. ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

New motor vehicle sales, April 1997

Catalogue number 63-007-XPB

(Canada: \$17/\$165; outside Canada: US\$17/US\$165).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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 Statistics Canada	
Thursday, June 5, 1997 For release at 9:30 a.m.	
<b>MAJOR RELEASES</b>	
• <b>Urban transit, 1995</b>	2
<small>Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, 65% of Canadian households on average of about no trip on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.</small>	
• <b>Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995</b>	4
<small>Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.</small>	
<b>OTHER RELEASES</b>	
• <b>Measuring Index, May 1997</b>	3
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