



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Composite Index, August 1997** 2
The Composite Index maintained its steady growth in August, rising 0.6%.
-

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MAJOR RELEASES

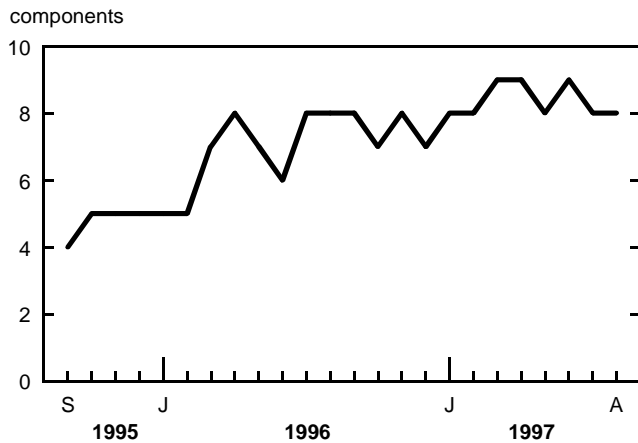
Composite Index

August 1997

The Composite Index continued to grow in August, rising 0.6%. Overall, eight components were up (the same as in July) due to strength in investment and consumer spending, while only two were down.

Employment in services continued to rise at a steady rate, as demand from firms returned to the peak rates seen in the spring. This upturn followed a sharp rebound in demand for imported investment goods, after a brief slump in June.

Number of components rising



The marked improvement in the labour market so far in the third quarter has helped to trigger solid gains

in durable goods sales and a recovery in housing starts. This is encouraging for continued growth in consumer spending, which posted its fastest year-over-year increase since 1989 in the second quarter, although partly at the expense of a savings rate of under 1%.

Temporary problems in the supply of auto parts and the strike at Inco worked to slow new orders and contributed to the first drop in the ratio of stocks to shipments in six months. The nine-month old extension of the average workweek continued, its longest period of uninterrupted growth since 1983, which augurs well for the resumption of growth in manufacturing output.

The Toronto stock market index slumped in August. Energy stocks were spared this correction, however, and have led the turnaround so far in September.

The U.S. leading indicator continued to grow overall and in a majority of its components. It was led by a substantial improvement in unemployment insurance demands, which fell to one of its lowest levels in 20 years, while demand also picked up in several of Canada's important export markets.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 191.

For further information on the economy, the September issue of *Canadian economic observer* (11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Economic Analysis Group. □

Composite Index

	March 1997	April 1997	May 1997	June 1997	July 1997	Aug. 1997	Last month of data available
							% change
Composite leading indicator (1981=100)	190.6	192.1	193.9	195.4	196.6	197.7	0.6
Housing index (1981=100) ¹	134.9	135.3	135.1	133.9	132.6	131.3	-1.0
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,069	2,076	2,089	2,105	2,114	2,123	0.4
TSE 300 stock price index (1975=1,000)	5,966	6,021	6,101	6,194	6,340	6,462	1.9
Money supply, M1 (\$ millions, 1981) ²	36,137	36,521	36,904	37,107	37,230	37,549	0.9
U.S. composite leading indicator (1967=100) ³	220.3	220.7	221.1	221.4	221.7	222.0	0.1
Manufacturing							
Average work week (hours)	38.8	38.9	39.2	39.3	39.4	39.5	0.3
New orders, durables (\$ millions, 1981) ⁴	12,906	13,068	13,253	13,533	13,747	13,798	0.4
Shipments/inventories of finished goods ⁴	1.67	1.67	1.67	1.68	1.68	1.67	-0.01 ⁵
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales (\$ millions, 1981) ⁴	1,191.8	1,206.1	1,217.1	1,227.6	1,238.8	1,249.1	0.8
Other durable goods sales (\$ millions, 1981) ⁴	4,110.1	4,145.7	4,174.4	4,208.6	4,254.2	4,284.5	0.7
Unsmoothed composite	193.8	194.4	198.6	197.8	197.6	199.0	0.7

¹ Composite Index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).

² Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.

³ The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.

⁴ The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for two preceding months.

⁵ Difference from previous month.



OTHER RELEASES

Employment, earnings and hours

July 1997 (preliminary)

In July, employees' average weekly earnings rose by \$5.58 (+0.9%) to \$603.69. This gain more than offset the decline reported the previous month. Construction, logging, forestry services, real estate operators and insurance agencies, as well as mining, quarrying and oil wells posted the most significant increases.

Compared with the same month last year, employees' average weekly earnings were 2.6% higher, a gain of \$15.05. Employees working in the construction industry, finance, insurance and real estate, business service establishments, and logging and forestry services profited the most from the growth in earnings. Compared with July 1996, average weekly earnings remained stable for public administration employees and declined in the mining, quarrying and oil wells sector. Despite this decline, employees in this latter group continued to be the highest paid of all the major industrial sectors.

In July, the average number of hours worked per week for employees paid by the hour continued the upward trend that began a year ago. Employees paid by the hour worked on average 31.8 hours per week — a recent high for hours of work. Employees working in the goods-producing industries were mainly responsible for the increase in hours worked between June and July.

The number of employees on business payrolls expanded by 62,000 in July, continuing its growth trend. The monthly increase was concentrated among manufacturers, retailers and wholesalers and health and social services.

Since January 1997, businesses have added 246,000 workers to their payrolls. With the exception of the Northwest Territories, all provinces and the Yukon

Note to readers

The Survey of Employment, Payrolls 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 data from the previous questionnaire, 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 or for detailed industry distributions.

registered gains over this period. Of particular note, businesses in Ontario, Quebec and Alberta contributed the most to the overall growth in 1997. In Ontario, employment gains were led by business services, accommodation and food services, and retail trade while the gains in Quebec were in the manufacturing sector.

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, \$32/\$320), the historical publication *Annual estimates of employment, earnings and hours, 1984-1996* (diskette: 72F0002XDE, \$120) and by custom tabulations. See *How to order publications*.

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

Average weekly earnings for all employees

Industry group (1980 SIC)	July 1996	June 1997 ^r	July 1997 ^p	June 1997 to July 1997	July 1996 to July 1997
	seasonally adjusted				
	\$			% change	
Industrial aggregate	588.64	598.11	603.69	0.9	2.6
Logging and forestry	788.29	807.34	825.27	2.2	4.7
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	1,083.20	1,040.53	1,055.23	1.4	-2.6
Manufacturing	722.36	736.55	740.42	0.5	2.5
Construction	703.06	723.68	747.80	3.3	6.4
Transportation and storage	689.53	723.19	720.76	-0.3	4.5
Communications and other utilities	774.18	794.54	785.20	-1.2	1.4
Wholesale trade	635.79	641.19	649.10	1.2	2.1
Retail trade	348.43	350.57	356.07	1.6	2.2
Finance and insurance	755.22	789.62	785.78	-0.5	4.0
Real estate operators and insurance agencies	597.34	624.07	641.96	2.9	7.5
Business services	653.98	688.40	691.24	0.4	5.7
Education-related services	669.74	673.25	672.91	-0.1	0.5
Health and social services	502.57	518.74	522.61	0.7	4.0
Accommodation, food and beverage services	238.14	237.28	243.65	2.7	2.3
Public administration	740.58	732.34	741.85	1.3	0.2
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland	538.26	539.67	542.52	0.5	0.8
Prince Edward Island	502.60	481.03	477.69	-0.7	-5.0
Nova Scotia	498.26	509.20	513.54	0.9	3.1
New Brunswick	510.84	527.24	538.90	2.2	5.5
Quebec	546.73	565.67	568.15	0.4	3.9
Ontario	630.16	638.90	643.01	0.6	2.0
Manitoba	511.76	521.56	530.00	1.6	3.6
Saskatchewan	516.55	523.86	528.84	1.0	2.4
Alberta	584.85	599.05	604.61	0.9	3.4
British Columbia	613.76	615.30	616.23	0.2	0.4
Yukon	689.78	690.45	687.36	-0.4	-0.4
Northwest Territories	745.74	721.53	733.24	1.6	-1.7

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

Number of employees

Industry group (1980 SIC)	May 1997	June 1997 ^r	July 1997 ^p	May 1997 to June 1997	June 1997 to July 1997
	seasonally adjusted				
	'000			% change	
Industrial aggregate	11,232	11,271	11,333	0.3	0.6
Logging and forestry	64	65	64	1.6	-1.5
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	143	144	143	0.7	-0.7
Manufacturing	1,789	1,795	1,807	0.3	0.7
Construction	469	469	466	0.0	-0.6
Transportation and storage	472	479	478	1.5	-0.2
Communications and other utilities	378	377	377	-0.3	0.0
Wholesale trade	701	711	720	1.4	1.3
Retail trade	1,401	1,413	1,423	0.9	0.7
Finance and insurance	506	512	513	1.2	0.2
Real estate operators and insurance agencies	195	195	197	0.0	1.0
Business services	725	734	739	1.2	0.7
Education-related services	939	935	939	-0.4	0.4
Health and social services	1,210	1,204	1,212	-0.5	0.7
Accommodation, food and beverage services	833	826	830	-0.8	0.5
Public administration	679	672	670	-1.0	-0.3
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland	142	143	145	0.7	1.4
Prince Edward Island	44	46	47	4.5	2.2
Nova Scotia	311	315	318	1.3	1.0
New Brunswick	247	252	254	2.0	0.8
Quebec	2,680	2,689	2,704	0.3	0.6
Ontario	4,428	4,434	4,455	0.1	0.5
Manitoba	422	422	423	0.0	0.2
Saskatchewan	330	331	333	0.3	0.6
Alberta	1,138	1,152	1,157	1.2	0.4
British Columbia	1,445	1,449	1,450	0.3	0.1
Yukon	14	14	14	0.0	0.0
Northwest Territories	25	25	25	0.0	0.0

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending September 7, 1997

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending September 7, 1997, increased 3.6% to 4.6 million tonnes from the same period of last year. The number of cars loaded increased 2.4%.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totalled 258 000 tonnes, down 15.1% from the same period of last year. The year-to-date figures were up by 10.9%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) increased 2.4% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 178 million tonnes, 6.8% higher 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. ■

Deliveries of major grains

August 1997

Data on August grain deliveries are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 976-981.

The delivery data are contained in the August 1997 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149), which will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-2856) or Les Macartney (613-951-8714), Grain Marketing Unit, Agriculture Division. ■

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation

August 1997

Manufacturers shipped 2 459 987 square metres of R12 factor (RSI 2.1) mineral wool batts in August, up 1.6% from 2 420 813 square metres a year earlier and up 6.5% from the 2 310 980 (revised) square metres a month earlier.

Year-to-date shipments to the end of August 1997 totalled 16 215 067 (revised) square metres, down 0.3% from the same period in 1996.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 40 and 122 (series 32-33).

The August 1997 issue of *Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation* (44-004-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. ■

Electric lamps

August 1997

Light bulb and tube manufacturers sold 23.6 million light bulbs and tubes in August 1997, down 4.5% from the 24.7 million a year earlier.

Year-to-date sales at the end of August 1997 totalled 193.8 million light bulbs and tubes, up 1.2% from the 191.6 million a year earlier.

The August 1997 issue of *Electric lamps* (43-009-XPB, \$7/\$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Laurie Vincent (613-951-3523; Internet: vincwil@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Business and other services industries

1994

The 1994 data on selected business and other services industries are now available. These data provide information such as revenue, salaries and wages, profit margin, the percentage distribution of revenue by type of service, expenditures and client base for selected industries.

Data are now available for the following categories: employment agencies and personnel suppliers; accounting and bookkeeping services; advertising services; machinery and equipment rental and leasing services; automobile and truck rental and leasing services; photographers; services to buildings and dwellings; and, travel services.

For further information on this release, contact Randy Smadella (613-951-3472), Services Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Gross domestic product by industry, June 1997
Catalogue number 15-001-XPB
 (Canada: \$15/\$145; outside Canada: US\$15/US\$145).

Canadian international merchandise trade, July 1997
Catalogue number 65-001-XPB
 (Canada: \$19/\$188; outside Canada: US\$19/US\$188).

Exports by country, January-June 1997 (microfiche version)
Catalogue number 65-003-XMB
 (Canada: \$62/\$206; outside Canada: US\$62/US\$206).

Exports by country, January-June 1997 (paper version)
Catalogue number 65-003-XPB
 (Canada: \$124/\$412; outside Canada: US\$124/US\$412).

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Editor: Duncan Currie (613-951-1103, currdun@statcan.ca)
 Head of Official Release: Chantal Prévost (613-951-1088, prevcha@statcan.ca)

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