



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Monday, January 19, 1998**

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Composite Index, December 1997** 2  
 The leading index rose by 0.3% in December, after a slightly downward revised gain of 0.4% in November. Growth has slowed steadily from 1% early in 1997, although a majority of components continued to expand.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Composite Index

December 1997

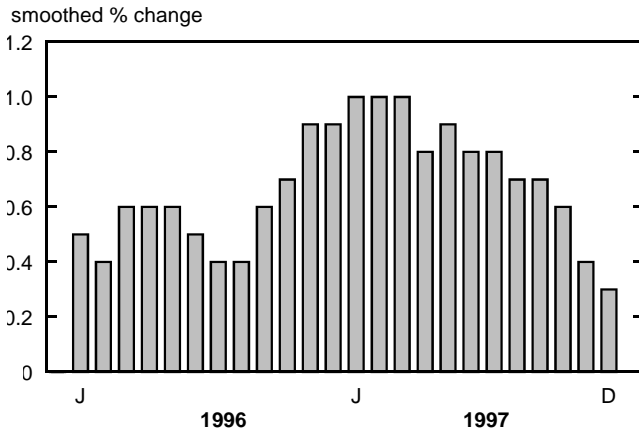
The leading index rose by 0.3% in December, after a slightly downward revised gain of 0.4% in November. Growth has slowed steadily from 1% early in 1997, although a majority (7 out of 10) of components continued to expand. Business spending remained the major engine of growth, while housing demand remained slow, and weak natural resource prices have hurt financial markets.

gains made last year, despite representing less than 10% of the economy. This strength augurs well for continued robust business spending. Investment in the third quarter had leaped ahead at its fastest pace in a decade, spurring most of the growth in new orders. Manufacturers responded to their growing labour needs by boosting payrolls, after extending the workweek to a 25-year high earlier this year.

The housing index continued to decrease, off 0.3%, its eighth straight decline. Slack demand was particularly evident in existing home sales, while housing starts continued to hover around 150,000 units. Durable goods sales remained positive, although growth has slowed considerably in recent months.

The stock market remained depressed by weak prices for natural resources, particularly gold, which tumbled to half its price early in 1997. The stock market accounted for half of the overall slowdown in the Composite Index since October.

Composite Index



**Available on CANSIM: matrix 191.**

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

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

Employment in business services ended 1997 on a firm note, having contributed one-third of all job

**Composite Index**

	July 1997	Aug. 1997	Sept. 1997	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1997	Last month of data
							% change
<b>Composite leading indicator (1981=100)</b>	<b>197.0</b>	<b>198.3</b>	<b>199.6</b>	<b>200.8</b>	<b>201.6</b>	<b>202.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>
Housing index (1981=100) <sup>1</sup>	132.6	131.4	130.2	129.8	129.4	129.0	-0.3
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,114	2,124	2,134	2,147	2,160	2,170	0.5
TSE 300 stock price index (1975=1,000)	6,340	6,462	6,611	6,730	6,770	6,784	0.2
Money supply, M1 (\$ millions, 1981) <sup>2</sup>	37,230	37,436	37,580	37,766	37,900	38,007	0.3
U.S. composite leading indicator (1967=100) <sup>3</sup>	221.7	222.0	222.3	222.7	223.0	223.3	0.1
<b>Manufacturing</b>							
Average work week (hours)	39.5	39.6	39.7	39.6	39.5	39.4	-0.3
New orders, durables (\$ millions, 1981) <sup>4</sup>	13,929	14,158	14,510	14,801	15,043	15,238	1.3
Shipments/inventories of finished goods <sup>4</sup>	1.68	1.68	1.69	1.69	1.69	1.69	0.00 <sup>5</sup>
<b>Retail trade</b>							
Furniture and appliance sales (\$ millions, 1981) <sup>4</sup>	1,241.3	1,254.1	1,265.3	1,278.3	1,289.3	1,297.3	0.6
Other durable goods sales (\$ millions, 1981) <sup>4</sup>	4,255.2	4,283.5	4,318.9	4,341.5	4,362.0	4,386.3	0.6
Unsmoothed composite	199.7	199.5	202.9	202.7	201.7	202.2	0.2

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

<sup>2</sup> Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.

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

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

<sup>5</sup> Difference from previous month.



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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Steel primary forms

Week ending January 10, 1998 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending January 10, 1998, totalled 272 751 metric tonnes, up 0.8% from the week-earlier 270 600 metric tonnes and up 9.6% from the year-earlier 248 904 metric tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 388 722 metric tonnes, down 3.7% compared with 403 808 metric tonnes for the same period in 1997.

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

### Construction type plywood

November 1997

Canadian firms produced 141 941 cubic metres of construction type plywood during November 1997, down 1.2% from the 143 670 cubic metres produced during November 1996.

Year-to-date production totalled 1 681 020 cubic metres, an increase of 0.4% from the 1 674 414 cubic metres produced during the same period in 1996.

#### Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (level 1).

The November 1997 issue of the *Construction type plywood* (35-001-XPB, \$6/\$60) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Ted Brown (604-666-3694), Pacific Region. ■

### Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins

November 1997

Chemical firms produced 188 896 tonnes of polyethylene synthetic resins in November, up 4.2% from 181 244 tonnes in November 1996.

Year-to-date production totalled 1 992 042 metric tonnes, down 0.9% from 2 009 699 metric 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 1997 issue of *Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins* (46-002-XPB, \$7/\$62) 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](mailto:desrosi@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### Oil pipeline transport

October 1997

Net receipts of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons totalled 13 241 568 cubic metres in October, up 7.0% from October 1996. Year-to-date receipts to the end of October 1997 (124 667 924 cubic metres) rose 7.1% over the same period in 1996. Net receipts of liquefied petroleum gases and refined petroleum products in October (6 683 776 cubic metres) increased 1.5% from October 1996. Year-to-date receipts decreased 0.4% to 63 189 890 cubic metres.

Pipeline exports of crude oil (5 747 122 cubic metres) advanced 3.5% from October 1996, and pipeline imports (1 421 828 cubic metres) increased 35.6%. Year-to-date exports (56 714 247 cubic metres) were up 9.6% from 1996. Year-to-date imports (13 691 432 cubic metres) increased 26.0%. Canadian crude oil has found a ready market in the United States, where indigenous production has been declining in recent years.

October deliveries of crude oil by pipeline to Canadian refineries totalled 5 978 416 cubic metres, up 6.1% from 1996. October deliveries of liquefied petroleum gases and refined petroleum products fell 21.0% to 571 359 cubic metres. Year-to-date deliveries of crude oil to refineries at the end of October totalled 56 199 636 cubic metres, up 3.8% from the same period in 1996.

#### Available on CANSIM: matrices 181 and 591-595.

The October 1997 issue of *Oil pipeline transport* (55-001-XPB, \$12/\$114) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Gérard O'Connor (613-951-3562; Internet: [oconger@statcan.ca](mailto:oconger@statcan.ca)), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## Dairy statistics

November and December 1997 (preliminary)

Dairy statistics for November and December are now available.

These data will be included in the October-December 1997 issue of *The dairy review* (23-001QXPB, \$36/\$119), which will be released in February. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, contact Debbie Dupuis (1 800 465-1991; fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division. ■

## Basic summary tabulations

1996 Census

This series from the 1996 Census provides summary information for small geographic areas of the country in tabulations using two or more inter-related census variables. The entire series comprises 66 basic tabulations. Released today are seven tabulations on age, sex, marital status and common-law status, and families.

One tabulation on age and sex was released on July 29, 1997. Tabulations for other census variables will be released monthly, from now until September 1998. Prices begin with a flat fee of \$60,

plus \$1 for each of the first 100 geographic areas, and \$.05 for each additional area.

For further information, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre. ■

## Annual Survey of Manufactures

1996

The Annual Survey of Manufactures provides information on over 200 different industries. Principal statistics for each industry are released on CANSIM as they become available. Data for the industries listed in the following table are now available.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 5471 and 6250.**

Data for the industries listed in the table will appear in *Products shipped by Canadian manufacturers* (31-211-XPB, \$67), *Wood industries* (35-250-XPB, \$55) and *Fabricated metal products industries* (41-251-XPB, \$40). The 1995 issue of *Products shipped by Canadian manufacturers* is now available. The 1995 issues of the remaining publications will be released shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, look under *Contact* in the following table (fax: 613-951-9499; Internet: [desrosi@statcan.ca](mailto:desrosi@statcan.ca)). □

**Value of shipments**

	1995	1996	1995 to 1996	Publication	Contact
	\$ millions		% change		
<b>Industry (Standard Industrial Classification)</b>					
Wafer board (2593)	996.3	761.5	-23.6	35-250-XPB	G. Simard (613-951-3516)
Upholstery and coil spring industry (3051)	34.5	27.6	-20.1	41-251-XPB	E. Saint-Pierre (613-951-9837)



## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Oils and fats** November 1997  
**Catalogue number 32-006-XPB**  
(Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

**Railway carloadings**, November 1997  
**Catalogue number 52-001-XPB**  
(Canada: \$11/\$103; outside Canada: US\$11/US\$103).

**Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard**, November 1997  
**Catalogue number 36-003-XPB**  
(Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

**All prices exclude sales tax.**

**Cement**, November 1997  
**Catalogue number 44-001-XPB**  
(Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

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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 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4  
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
- **Steel primary forms, sales ending May 31, 1997** 12
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