

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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- **Industrial Product Price Index, 1997 annual and December 1997** 2  
In 1997, the annual change in industrial product prices remained under 1%. It edged up to +0.8% from +0.4% in 1996. An important contributor to this increase was the rise in the value of the U.S. dollar against the Canadian dollar.
  
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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Industrial Product Price Index

1997 annual and December 1997 (preliminary)

In 1997, the annual change in industrial product prices remained under 1%. It edged up to +0.8% from +0.4% in 1996. An important contributor to this increase was the rise in the value of the U.S. dollar against the Canadian dollar.

In December 1997, the Industrial Product Price Index edged down 0.2%. It dropped to 120.0 in December from 120.2 (revised) in November (1992=100). The 12-month price change fell to 0.8% in December from 1.4% in November. The rise in the value of the U.S. dollar against the Canadian dollar reduced the month-to-month fall and supported the 12-month change in industrial prices.

In 1997, the most significant annual price increases were in the motor vehicle industry (+3.5%), the meat and meat products industry (+4.3%) and the primary metal industries (+2.2%). The most significant decline was in the paper and allied products industries, where prices dropped 5.6%. (The annual indexes are obtained by averaging the indexes for the 12 months of the calendar year. The percentage changes calculated from such averages are referred to as annual changes.)

#### Note to readers

The Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) reflects the prices that producers receive as the goods leave the plant gate. It does not reflect what the consumer pays. Unlike the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the IPPI excludes indirect taxes and all the costs that occur between the time when a good leaves the plant and the time when the final user takes possession of it, including the transportation, wholesale, and retail costs.

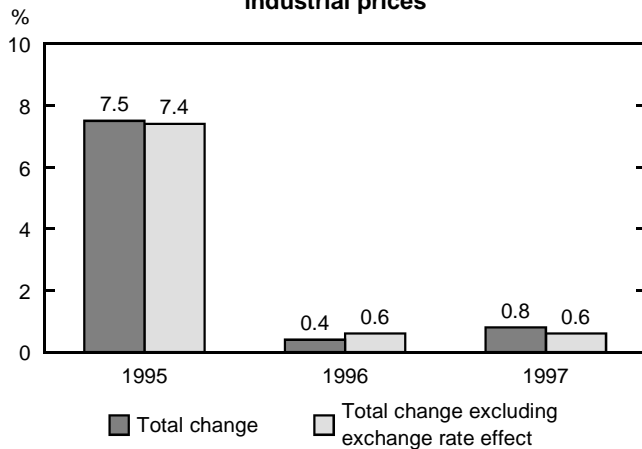
Canadian producers export many goods. They often quote their prices in foreign currencies, particularly for motor vehicles, pulp, paper, and wood products. A rise or fall in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar therefore affects the IPPI. A 1.0% change in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar has been estimated to change the IPPI by approximately 0.2%.

#### Exchange rate contributes to annual industrial product price increase in 1997

The price of the U.S. dollar rose to an average value of \$1.38 Canadian in 1997 from an average of \$1.36 Canadian in 1996. This had the effect of increasing the annual change in Canadian industrial prices from +0.6% (excluding the exchange rate effect) to +0.8%. An increase in the value of the U.S. dollar raises the worth in Canadian dollars of all prices quoted in U.S. dollars. The impact of changes in the exchange rate between the Canadian and U.S. dollar is most significant for motor vehicles, pulp, paper and wood products, because producers frequently quote export prices for these items in U.S. dollars.

During 1997, the value of the U.S. dollar gradually rose from a low of \$1.34 Canadian in January to \$1.42 Canadian in December. The monthly fluctuations in this process frequently had a noticeable impact on the month-to-month changes in industrial product price levels.

Exchange rate pushes up annual change in industrial prices



**Annual percentage change in manufacturing industry prices by rank in 1997**

	Weights	1997	1996
	%	percentage change	
Tobacco products industries	0.7	6.6	4.2
Leather and allied products industries	0.3	2.8	3.2
Transportation equipment industries	18.6	2.5	2.8
Beverage industries	2.1	2.5	2.8
Machinery industries	3.0	2.4	3.0
Primary metal industries	7.6	2.2	-7.2
Food industries	14.0	2.0	4.4
Wood industries	5.3	1.2	5.4
Fabricated metal products (excluding machinery) industries	4.8	1.1	1.6
Clothing industries	1.9	0.9	2.3
<b>All manufacturing industries</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Furniture and fixture industries	1.3	0.8	1.0
Primary textiles industries	0.9	0.7	1.2
Textile product industries	0.9	0.7	1.6
Non-metallic mineral products industries	2.1	0.6	1.3
Other manufacturing industries	2.0	0.6	1.7
Rubber products industries	1.0	0.6	0.8
Chemicals and chemical products industries	7.7	0.5	-1.9
Printing, publishing and allied industries	3.2	0.5	0.6
Refined petroleum and coal products industries	5.8	0.3	11.3
Plastic products industries	2.1	0.3	-1.5
Electrical and electronic product industries	7.1	-0.9	-1.2
Paper and allied product industries	7.5	-5.6	-11.8

*Note: Weights may not add to 100 due to rounding.*

**Slowdown in industrial product prices continues in 1997 as industrial output rises**

In 1994 and the first quarter of 1995, manufacturing industry prices increased quite steeply, rising 11.7% between December 1993 and March 1995. By the end of 1995, overall manufacturers' prices had increased a further 1.1%. However, during 1996, prices remained relatively stable. This continued in 1997 with the result that by December 1997, the overall price level in manufacturing was only 0.8% higher than it had been in December 1995.

Manufacturing industry shipments, after increasing throughout 1994, remained relatively flat until mid-1996. Shipments then tended to increase until July 1997, but fell back slightly for the August-to-November period. During the first 11 months of 1997, shipments were up about 7% over the same period of 1996. The most significant contributor to the increase was the motor vehicle industry, which was responsible for a little over a fifth of the total rise.

Unfilled orders in manufacturing rose throughout 1994 and into the second quarter of 1995. They then declined somewhat and did not begin increasing again until early 1997.

Following a substantial jump in 1994, exports continued to grow, but at a slower pace.

Retail sales grew slowly in 1994, 1995 and the first half of 1996, but have tended to grow more rapidly since then.

**Annual prices up for the motor vehicle, meat products and primary metal industries**

In the motor vehicle industry in 1997, the export sector was responsible for the greater part of the annual price increase, with the decline in the value of the Canadian dollar being the major contributor. The price level for exported automobiles was up 3.3% and that for exported trucks was up 4.2%. Domestically, the price level showed a 1.8% increase for automobiles and a 2.1% increase for trucks.

Last year was an outstanding year for the automotive industry. Based on the first 11 months of 1997, new vehicle sales were up 16.2% over the corresponding period in 1996. Total Canadian motor vehicle shipments for the period were up 12.8%, or 9.3% in constant dollar terms.

The higher automobile sales in 1997 have been attributed to the combination of an aging car fleet, quite low interest rates, manufacturer incentives, and an improving economy providing better employment prospects. The expanding economy has also strengthened the demand for trucking services and this, together with the relatively low interest rates, has led to considerable new investment in new vehicles by trucking firms.

Pork was the main contributor to the price increase in the meat and meat products industry. The 1997 annual price increase for pork was 7.7% compared with 3.8% for beef and veal. Prices for pork showed peaks in September 1995, May and August 1996, and May 1997. Pork prices, however, tended to decline throughout the second half of 1997. Meat product shipments, excluding poultry, were up 9.8% in the first 11 months of 1997, and up 3.9% in constant dollar terms.

Both ferrous and non-ferrous metals contributed to the increase in prices in the primary metal products industry. Although the annual price increase by iron foundries was 5.2%, the annual price change for the other ferrous segments of the industry ranged from 1.0% to 1.6%. For the non-ferrous smelting and casting industry, the annual price increase was 2.2%. Prices in

this industry recovered from October 1996 to May 1997, but then tended to decline during the remainder of the year. The 1997 annual price changes were: +10.4% for primary aluminum products, +0.1% for primary copper products, -7.9% for primary nickel products, +27.3% for refined zinc, and -13.7% for gold and gold alloys.

Total shipments of the primary metal industries were up 6.6% in the first 11 months of 1997, with shipments of the non-ferrous metal smelting and refining industries increasing 9.3%. In constant dollar terms, shipments rose 4.3% and 6.6% respectively. Average capacity utilization in the primary metal products industry was also up for the first three quarters of 1997 (91.6%) compared with the same period in 1996 (90.7%).

In all of these industries, international forces have been very important for prices. The United States, where much of Canada's motor vehicle output is sold, has also been enjoying a year of high demand for cars and trucks for reasons similar to those in Canada. Japanese demand for North American pork, which was stimulated in part by the epidemic that hit Taiwan's swine population, was generally perceived as the reason for much of the increase in pork prices in 1997.

World demand and supply for non-ferrous metals has been central to the movement of Canadian prices for these metals. The decline in copper product prices since June, for example, is the result of world oversupply relative to demand. Another example is that much of zinc's run up and run down in price in 1997 was due to a combination of speculation by Chinese traders and later actions by the London Metal Exchange to tighten disclosure rules and demand more information on futures and options positions.

#### **Annual price declines for the paper and allied products industries**

The paper and allied products industries saw an annual price decline of 5.6%. The declines were largest for the newsprint (-11.4%) and pulp (-4.1%) industries. The other segments of the paper and allied products industry saw declines of 1.2% to 3.9%. The only exception was the relatively small asphalt and roofing paper industry (+6.5%).

Although at first glance there seems to have been a decline in the shipments of paper and allied products this is deceiving. In current dollar figures, shipments by the paper and allied product industries in the first 11 months of 1997 were down 2.5% compared with the same period in 1996. The 5.8% increase in pulp shipments only partly offset the 11.0% decline in newsprint shipments. In constant dollar terms, however, there was an overall 4.0% increase in shipments by

the paper and allied product industries, with pulp shipments up 10.7% and even newsprint shipments securing a 0.8% increase. Capacity utilization in the paper and allied products was also up in the first three quarters of 1997 compared with the same period in 1996. In 1997, it was 92.1%, compared with 89.7% for 1996.

International demand and supply for paper and allied products has been key to the movement of pulp and paper prices with the Canadian industry tending to act as a price taker. As long as Canadian firms matched world prices, Canadian firms could continue to ship most of their potential output.

The strong North American economy has called forth large advertisement budgets that have created a strong demand for both paper and pulp. The high inventories, along with paper-saving actions of publishers, have, however, prevented the level of demand from creating a rise in annual prices.

#### **Dollar boosted industrial product prices in December**

If the effect of changes in the exchange rate were removed, December's month-to-month change in prices would have been -0.3% instead of -0.2%. The 12-month change would have declined to -0.1% instead of being +0.8%.

In December, the most significant price declines were copper and copper alloy products, petroleum products, ethylene, and pork. Partly offsetting the decline was the overall increase in automobile prices.

Prices for copper and copper alloy products dropped for a second month in December, falling 8.7%. Between October and December, prices for copper and copper alloy products fell 12.9%.

Gasoline and fuel oil prices were down 0.4% overall. Prices for other refined petroleum products dropped 2.0%.

Ethylene was mainly responsible both for the olefins' price index's fall of 10.2% in December and its jump of 16.2% in November.

Pork prices declined a further 4.5% in December. Since their peak in May 1997, pork prices had fallen 24.2% by mid-December.

The 0.5% price increase for motor vehicles was mainly due to the increase in the value of the U.S. dollar. Export prices were up 0.6% for both automobiles and trucks, despite domestic price declines of 2.5% for automobiles and 0.7% for trucks.

## 1997 Overview

In 1997, the annual price change in the Canadian manufacturing sector continued to be below 1.0%. In the United States, the annual price increase in manufacturing was also below 1.0%. It fell to 0.3% from 2.3% in 1996. At the consumer level, goods prices in Canada rose 1.6%, the same as the overall change in Canadian consumer prices (as measured by the Consumer Price Index).

In 1997, the annual change in capital expenditure (based on planned expenditure) was up sharply. The annual changes for retail sales and exports also showed noticeable increases, though they were not as dramatic as that for capital expenditure.

Canadian shipments rose strongly in both current and constant dollar terms. Orders were also up significantly. Employment in manufacturing rose sharply and average weekly earnings in manufacturing continued to increase at about their 1996 pace of about 3%.

## Comparative economic conditions

	1995	1996	1997
	Annual % change		
Canadian industrial product prices (IPI)	7.4	0.4	0.8
U.S. manufacturing industry prices	2.9	2.3	0.3
Canadian consumer prices:			
Consumer Price Index (CPI)	2.1	1.6	1.6
CPI goods component	1.8	1.7	1.6
Shipments	12.5	2.4	6.5 <sup>1</sup>
(in constant dollars)	4.8	2.0	5.7 <sup>1</sup>
New orders	10.6	2.6	8.7 <sup>1</sup>
Manufacturing, average weekly earnings	1.3	3.0	3.1 <sup>2</sup>
Average employment in manufacturing	5.7	1.0	4.0
Retail sales	2.3	2.6	6.9 <sup>1</sup>
Exports	16.7	4.4	6.9 <sup>1</sup>
Public and private capital expenditure	-1.8	2.8	11.6 <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Based on 11-months.

<sup>2</sup> Based on 10-months.

<sup>3</sup> Planned.

### Available on CANSIM: matrices 1870-1878.

The December 1997 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011-XPB, \$22/\$217) will be available at the end of February. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-2848; Internet: [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)), Prices Division. □

**Industrial product price indexes**  
(1992=100)

	Relative importance	Dec. 1996	Nov. 1997 <sup>r</sup>	Dec. 1997 <sup>p</sup>	Dec. 1996 to Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997 to Dec. 1997
					% change	
<b>Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI)</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>119.0</b>	<b>120.2</b>	<b>120.0</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>Intermediate goods<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>59.28</b>	<b>121.6</b>	<b>122.0</b>	<b>121.7</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
First-stage intermediate goods <sup>2</sup>	7.91	122.8	129.0	127.4	3.7	-1.2
Second-stage intermediate goods <sup>3</sup>	51.37	121.5	120.9	120.8	-0.6	-0.1
<b>Finished goods<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>40.72</b>	<b>115.1</b>	<b>117.4</b>	<b>117.5</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Finished foods and feeds	10.38	110.4	111.8	111.7	1.2	-0.1
Capital equipment	10.21	116.2	120.0	120.2	3.4	0.2
All other finished goods	20.13	116.9	119.1	119.2	2.0	0.1
<b>Aggregation by commodities</b>						
Meat, fish and dairy products	7.27	117.8	117.9	117.2	-0.5	-0.6
Fruit, vegetable, feed, miscellaneous food products	6.72	113.3	115.6	115.1	1.6	-0.4
Beverages	2.12	108.7	111.5	111.5	2.6	0.0
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.72	122.4	127.3	127.3	4.0	0.0
Rubber, leather, plastic fabric products	3.01	113.2	113.5	113.5	0.3	0.0
Textile products	1.82	108.9	109.7	109.8	0.8	0.1
Knitted products and clothing	1.93	107.4	108.3	108.3	0.8	0.0
Lumber, sawmill, other wood products	5.20	146.7	138.5	138.1	-5.9	-0.3
Furniture and fixtures	1.46	113.2	114.2	114.2	0.9	0.0
Pulp and paper products	7.65	124.9	130.2	130.4	4.4	0.2
Printing and publishing	3.05	125.6	127.8	127.9	1.8	0.1
Primary metal products	7.58	121.6	126.1	125.3	3.0	-0.6
Metal fabricated products	4.11	118.0	120.4	120.5	2.1	0.1
Machinery and equipment	4.08	109.8	111.5	111.6	1.6	0.1
Autos, trucks, other transportation equipment	18.76	119.7	124.7	125.2	4.6	0.4
Electrical and communications products	6.03	106.4	106.9	107.0	0.6	0.1
Non-metallic mineral products	2.12	111.1	111.5	111.5	0.4	0.0
Petroleum and coal products <sup>5</sup>	6.01	127.0	114.2	113.3	-10.8	-0.8
Chemicals and chemical products	7.60	116.5	117.8	117.1	0.5	-0.6
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.45	114.6	115.3	115.2	0.5	-0.1
Miscellaneous non-manufactured commodities	0.31	130.4	129.7	125.6	-3.7	-3.2

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

<sup>1</sup> Intermediate goods are used principally to produce other goods.

<sup>2</sup> First-stage intermediate goods are used most frequently to produce other intermediate goods.

<sup>3</sup> Second-stage intermediate goods are most commonly used to produce final goods.

<sup>4</sup> Finished goods are most commonly used for immediate consumption or for capital investment.

<sup>5</sup> This index is estimated for the current month.

## Raw Materials Price Index

1997 annual and December 1997 (preliminary)

Manufacturers paid 1.7% less for raw materials in 1997 than in 1996. This decline was the first after five years of annual increases. Most of the annual 1997 decline came from lower prices for crude oil, vegetable products, non-ferrous metals and wood. Higher prices for animals and animal products partly offset the overall annual change in 1997.

However, if the mineral fuels category (more than 90% of which is crude oil) were excluded, raw material prices for 1997 would actually have declined 0.7% compared with 1996. (Annual indexes are obtained by averaging the 12 monthly indexes for the calendar year. The percentage changes calculated from such averages are referred to as annual changes.)

### December 1997 highlights

On a monthly basis, manufacturers paid 4.1% less in December for raw materials than they did in November. The Raw Materials Price Index stood at 118.4 in December (1992=100), down from the revised November level of 123.5.

Lower monthly prices for crude oil (-8.7%), copper concentrates (-10.5%), aluminum materials (-5.9%), cattle for slaughter (-7.9%), logs (-2.2%) and oilseeds (-4.2%) were somewhat offset by higher prices for coffee (+7.6%) and silver and platinum (+13.8%). Silver stockpiles in the warehouses monitored by the New York Commodity Exchange Division of the New York Mercantile Exchange showed levels at their lowest since 1985. There is some concern as to why stockpiles have fallen so fast in such a short time; however, increased interest in photography in China and other countries and ongoing demand for jewellery have supported the silver market. As well, prices in December were 10.9% lower than in December 1996.

### Annual price change declines for first time in more than five years

The annual price change for raw materials declined for the first time in more than five years in 1997. The annual change in raw material prices progressed from 1.0% in 1992 to 8.8% in 1995, then slowed to 3.5% in 1996, falling to -1.7% in 1997.

#### Note to readers

The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) reflects the prices paid by Canadian manufacturers for key raw materials. Many of these prices are set in a world market. Unlike the Industrial Product Price Index, the RMPI includes goods that are not produced in Canada.

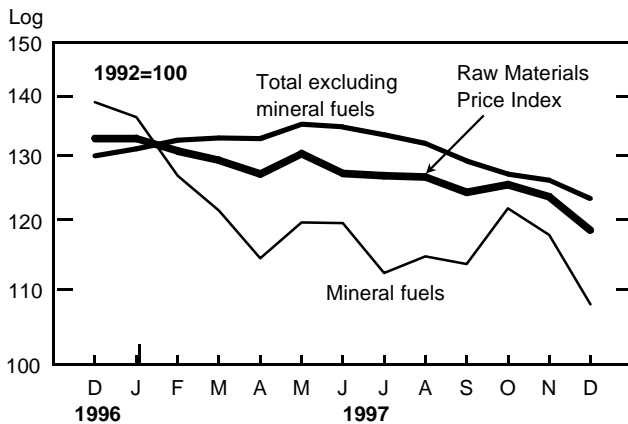
### Annual change in raw material prices by rank in 1997

	1997	1996
	%	
Non-metallic mineral products	3.0	1.0
Animal products	1.8	6.7
Ferrous materials	-0.1	-3.4
Wood	-0.8	-7.3
<b>Raw Materials Price Index</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>3.5</b>
Non-ferrous metals	-1.4	-13.9
Mineral fuels	-3.9	19.0
Vegetable products	-5.3	9.4
Raw materials excluding mineral fuels	-0.8	-1.9

### Crude oil prices fall in 1997

The annual price change for crude oil was -4.3% in 1997. The crude oil supply situation in 1997 was bolstered by the wavering but seemingly increased quota system of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). This upward supply tendency was also enhanced from time to time by the actual or perceived re-entry of Iraq into the world supply equation for crude oil. As well, demand for crude was partly dampened by milder weather (El Nino factor), thereby lowering demand for such fuels as heating oil.

**Crude oil prices down in 1997**



**Wood prices weaken in 1997**

Wood prices weakened 0.8% on an annual basis in 1997. Lower prices for logs (-0.4%) and pulpwood (-2.9%) contributed to the annual change. Pulpwood prices have shown some relative strength in the latter part of 1997, due to the demand for newsprint in the United States caused by increased advertising lineage and greater circulation for many major newspapers. Log prices, however, have been subject to a weakened Asian economy, particularly in Japan, where the housing sector was in the doldrums for a large part of 1997. Recent personal income tax reductions in Japan may ultimately instill new demand for housing and hence put upward pressure on the prices for logs.

The annual price change for animals and animal products was +1.8% in 1997. Higher annual prices for cattle (+6.1%), furs, hides and skins (+10.8%) and milk (+1.7%) were somewhat offset by lower annual prices for hogs (-0.8%) and eggs (-3.6%). Hog prices may weaken further in the upcoming months as world demand wanes, particularly in Japan and South Korea due to slowing economies.

In 1997, the annual price change for ferrous materials stood at -0.1%, compared with -3.4% for the previous year. Iron ore prices increased 0.8% in 1997, whereas prices for iron and steel scrap fell 0.7%.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 1879.**

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**Grain prices down in 1997**

Vegetable product prices showed an annual decline of 5.3% in 1997. This decline was led by the annual change in grain prices, grinding down to an annual decrease of 22.8%. Positive annual price changes for raw tobacco (+17.2%) and coffee (+66.7%) partly offset the overall annual decline for vegetable products. Wheat and soybeans experienced strong supply levels in 1997, thereby pressuring prices downward. Coffee prices perked up in 1997, as rain in South America, labour problems in Columbia and the reliance of just-in-time inventory practices by coffee roasters pushed prices up.

**Non-ferrous metal prices edge down in 1997**

The annual price change for non-ferrous metals was -1.4% in 1997. This appears very mild, however, compared with the annual price change of -13.9% for 1996. Lower annual price changes for gold (-13.7%), nickel concentrates (-6.4%) and radioactive concentrates (-25.2%) were partly offset by higher annual price changes for zinc concentrates (+27.2%) and aluminum materials (+10.8%). Gold prices took a severe downward hit in 1997. Many central banks all over the world decided to liquidate a portion, and in some cases a significant portion of their gold reserves. Banks are liquidating gold for other assets that bear returns and are easier to buy and sell. Central banks presently hold about a quarter of the world's bullion reserves.



**Raw Materials Price Index**  
(1992=100)

	Relative importance	Dec. 1996	Nov. 1997 <sup>r</sup>	Dec. 1997 <sup>p</sup>	Dec. 1996 to Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997 to Dec. 1997
					% change	
<b>Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI)</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>132.9</b>	<b>123.5</b>	<b>118.4</b>	<b>-10.9</b>	<b>-4.1</b>
Mineral fuels	31.47	139.1	117.7	107.9	-22.4	-8.3
Vegetable products	9.41	138.5	144.5	143.1	3.3	-1.0
Animals and animal products	24.41	114.8	113.5	110.5	-3.7	-2.6
Wood	14.88	160.4	141.2	138.7	-13.5	-1.8
Ferrous materials	3.17	126.4	135.9	136.1	7.7	0.1
Non-ferrous metals	13.81	123.6	120.2	114.3	-7.5	-4.9
Non-metallic minerals	2.85	110.4	112.6	114.2	3.4	1.4
<b>RMPI excluding mineral fuels</b>	<b>68.53</b>	<b>130.0</b>	<b>126.1</b>	<b>123.2</b>	<b>-5.2</b>	<b>-2.3</b>

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.



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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Employment, earnings and hours

November 1997 (preliminary)

The total number of employees on business payrolls rose by 75,000 in November as the work resumption by Ontario's teachers was partly offset by a national strike of Canada Post workers. Employment levels by province were either little changed or down from the previous month in all provinces except Ontario, where employment increased by 117,000 (see *Note to readers*).

Employees earned an average of \$601.64 per week in November. Compared with 1996, average weekly earnings increased by 1.5%. Employees in construction, wholesale trade, and finance, insurance and real estate had increases in earnings greater than the all-industries average. Meanwhile, employees in education, health and social services, accommodation, food and beverage services, and public administration recorded year-over-year average declines in earnings since November 1996.

Following the return to work by Ontario teachers in November, average weekly earnings in education and related services returned to usual levels, rising 5.5% from October. Average weekly earnings in transport, communications and other utilities were affected by the strike by Canada Post workers in November. Earnings in this industry are expected to return to trend levels in December.

Employers in manufacturing and business services continued to expand their paid work force in November. Manufacturers added 4,000 employees and business services added 3,000 workers to company payrolls. These industries have combined for an increase of more than 100,000 jobs since January. Employment gains in these industries are coincident with increases in manufacturing shipments and activity levels in business services over the same time period.

The average number of hours paid per week, for employees paid by the hour, rose slightly to 31.2

#### *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 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 or for detailed industry distributions.*

*The effects of the work stoppages by Ontario teachers in October and the postal workers in November had significant impacts on employment and average weekly earnings estimates measured by SEPH. The effects of irregular movements of this nature make it somewhat difficult to interpret the underlying seasonal patterns in the data. Caution should be used when analysing data for October and November.*

hours in November. Average weekly hours have been steady since November 1996 with small month-to-month changes showing no persistent trend. Total overtime hours are down since the fall of 1996, after recording substantial increases earlier in that year.

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

Detailed industry data and other labour market indicators will be available in February 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.

For further information on this release, contact Robert Frindt (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; Internet: [labour@statcan.ca](mailto:labour@statcan.ca)), Labour Division. □

**Average weekly earnings for all employees**

Industry group (1980 Standard Industrial Classification)	Nov. 1996	Oct. 1997 <sup>r</sup>	Nov. 1997 <sup>p</sup>	seasonally adjusted	
				Oct. 1997 to Nov. 1997	Nov. 1996 to Nov. 1997
	\$			% change	
<b>Industrial aggregate</b>	<b>592.65</b>	<b>596.25</b>	<b>601.64</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Logging and forestry	783.85	783.83	795.33	1.5	1.5
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	1045.34	1073.29	1084.72	1.1	3.8
Manufacturing	731.86	737.75	737.19	-0.1	0.7
Construction	694.92	707.49	723.65	2.3	4.1
Transportation and storage	707.51	732.39	730.78	-0.2	3.3
Communication and other utilities	785.35	803.32	845.58	5.3	7.7
Wholesale trade	626.27	650.37	653.96	0.6	4.4
Retail trade	352.14	357.42	356.63	-0.2	1.3
Finance and insurance	760.97	797.67	797.04	-0.1	4.7
Real estate operators and insurance agencies	601.05	639.51	637.02	-0.4	6.0
Business services	665.90	676.98	677.94	0.1	1.8
Education-related services	676.81	637.87	672.94	5.5	-0.6
Health and social services	517.39	516.72	516.28	-0.1	-0.2
Accommodation, food and beverage services	237.10	233.09	232.27	-0.4	-2.0
Public administration	744.77	738.09	737.37	-0.1	-1.0
<b>Provinces and territories</b>					
Newfoundland	538.60	522.08	523.15	0.2	-2.9
Prince Edward Island	492.46	461.40	463.40	0.4	-5.9
Nova Scotia	500.35	503.52	500.30	-0.6	0.0
New Brunswick	517.97	529.75	528.61	-0.2	2.1
Quebec	556.94	567.59	569.33	0.3	2.2
Ontario	633.14	634.52	642.90	1.3	1.5
Manitoba	520.25	526.74	527.06	0.1	1.3
Saskatchewan	519.05	531.48	531.67	0.0	2.4
Alberta	590.94	602.42	607.06	0.8	2.7
British Columbia	615.58	612.00	613.12	0.2	-0.4
Yukon	726.03	726.62	717.69	-1.2	-1.1
Northwest Territories	727.53	730.20	739.98	1.3	1.7

<sup>r</sup> Revised estimates.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary estimates.

## Number of employees

Industry group (1980 Standard Industrial Classification)	Sept. 1997	Oct. 1997 <sup>r</sup>	Nov. 1997 <sup>p</sup>	Sept. 1997 to Oct. 1997	Oct. 1997 to Nov. 1997
	seasonally adjusted				
	'000			% change	
<b>Industrial aggregate</b>	<b>11,399</b>	<b>11,316</b>	<b>11,392</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Logging and forestry	69	69	67	0.0	-2.9
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	146	146	146	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing	1,808	1,818	1,821	0.6	0.2
Construction	472	478	475	1.3	-0.6
Transportation and storage	477	472	468	-1.0	-0.8
Communications and other utilities	381	381	333	0.0	-12.6
Wholesale trade	720	727	721	1.0	-0.8
Retail trade	1,415	1,432	1,418	1.2	-1.0
Finance and insurance	513	513	511	0.0	-0.4
Real estate operators and insurances agencies	199	200	199	0.5	-0.5
Business services	755	760	763	0.7	0.4
Education-related services	931	794	931	-14.7	17.3
Health and social services	1,212	1,214	1,203	0.2	-0.9
Accommodation, food and beverage services	835	838	836	0.4	-0.2
Public administration	668	670	672	0.3	0.3
<b>Provinces and territories</b>					
Newfoundland	146	147	146	0.7	-0.7
Prince Edward Island	45	46	47	2.2	2.2
Nova Scotia	318	321	317	0.9	-1.2
New Brunswick	257	258	258	0.4	0.0
Quebec	2,713	2,731	2,718	0.7	-0.5
Ontario	4,445	4,349	4,466	-2.2	2.7
Manitoba	427	429	428	0.5	-0.2
Saskatchewan	342	339	335	-0.9	-1.2
Alberta	1,181	1,186	1,176	0.4	-0.8
British Columbia	1,461	1,465	1,455	0.3	-0.7
Yukon	14	15	15	7.1	0.0
Northwest Territories	25	26	25	4.0	-3.8

<sup>r</sup> Revised estimates.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary estimates.

## Residential Telephone Service Survey

November 1997

Data are now available for the November 1997 Residential Telephone Service Survey. Information in this microdata file refers to telephone service penetration rates in Canada's 10 provinces in November 1997. Information about types of telephone services used, which was part of the November 1997 survey, will be released later this spring.

To order the microdata file (56M0001XDB, \$500), contact Micheal Sivyer (613-951-4598; 1 800 461-9050), Special Surveys Division.

For further information on this release, contact Marc Hamel (613-951-2495; Internet: [hamemar@statcan.ca](mailto:hamemar@statcan.ca)), Special Surveys Division. ■

### **Electric power selling price indexes**

September to December 1997

Electric Power Selling Price Indexes (1992=100) are now available for the September-to-December 1997 period.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 1880.**

The December 1997 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011-XPB, \$22/\$217) will be available at the end of February. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Elvira Marinelli (613 951-3350; fax: 613-951-2848), Client Service Unit, Prices Division. ■

### **Average prices of selected farm inputs**

January 1998 (preliminary)

Estimates of average prices for selected farm inputs for January 1998 are now available by geographic region.

For further information, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-2848; Internet: [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)), Prices Division. ■

### **National Packaging Survey**

1996

Data are now available from the National Packaging Survey, which was conducted in 1996. The survey was conducted on behalf of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.

For further information on this release, contact Elaine Wilson (613-951-7529), Small Business and Special Surveys Division. ■

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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**Catalogue number 35-001-XPB**  
(Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

**Sawmills and planing mills**, November 1997  
**Catalogue number 35-003-XPB**  
(Canada: \$12/\$114; outside Canada: US\$12/US\$114).

**Telephone statistics**, November 1997  
**Catalogue number 56-002-XPB**  
(Canada: \$10/\$93; outside Canada: US\$10/US\$93).

**Energy statistics handbook**, January 1998  
(paper version)  
**Catalogue number 57-601-UPB**  
(Canada: \$387; outside Canada: US\$387).

**Energy statistics handbook**, January 1998  
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(Canada: \$284; outside Canada: US\$284).

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