



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, October 1, 1998

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

OTHER RELEASES

Department store sales and stocks, August 1998	2
Steel primary forms, week ending September 26, 1998	2
Electric lamps, August 1998	3
Coal and coke statistics, July 1998	3

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED	4
------------------------------	----------



Statistics
Canada

Statistique
Canada

Canada

OTHER RELEASES

Department store sales and stocks

August 1998

Department store sales fell 1.7% to \$1,393.2 million (seasonally adjusted) in August, following a 4.9% advance in July 1998. After posting gains for the first three months of 1998, department store sales have declined in each of the past five months with the exception of July. Sales have been volatile since the second quarter of 1998. Department stores experienced a period of strong advances in sales from the last half of 1996 to the first quarter of 1998, following a period of more gradual advances from mid-1993.

The recent closure or conversion of a number of department stores may have contributed to the volatility in sales. There were 64 fewer departments stores in August compared with March 1998, the last peak in seasonally adjusted department store sales.

All provinces posted declines in the number of stores, with Ontario (-27) and British Columbia (-11) posting the greatest losses. The remaining provinces lost between 1 and 6 stores.

Unadjusted for seasonality, provincial sales levels in August 1998 compared with the same month last year were down in British Columbia (-6.3%), New Brunswick (-4.8%) and Nova Scotia (-0.6%). Saskatchewan (+5.5%), Alberta (+5.2%) and Manitoba (+4.7%) posted the largest year-over-year sales gains.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 111-113.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality in this release, contact Jeff Fritzsch (613-951-2812; fritjef@statcan.ca), Retail Trade Section, Distributive Trades Division.

Department store sales including concessions

	Aug. 1997	Aug. 1998	Aug. 1997 to Aug. 1998	Jan. to Aug. 1998	Jan.- Aug. 1997 to Jan.- Aug. 1998
Unadjusted					
	\$ millions	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
Canada	1,336.3	1,346.1	0.7	9,590.4	7.6
Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island ¹	26.0	26.2	0.5	172.3	7.6
Nova Scotia	42.6	42.3	-0.6	288.5	7.3
New Brunswick	33.6	32.0	-4.8	214.3	6.5
Quebec	243.0	248.5	2.3	1,792.1	7.5
Ontario	553.7	558.0	0.8	4,028.2	8.4
Manitoba	54.4	57.0	4.7	403.8	8.2
Saskatchewan	43.9	46.3	5.5	321.2	9.7
Alberta	156.8	164.9	5.2	1,128.6	12.2
British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories ¹	182.3	170.9	-6.3	1,241.4	0.8

¹ For reasons of confidentiality, data for Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, and British Columbia, the Yukon and Northwest Territories are combined.

Steel primary forms

Week ending September 26, 1998 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending September 26, 1998, totalled 303 328 metric tonnes, down 2.4% from the week-earlier 310 860 tonnes and

up 5.3% from the year-earlier 288 065 tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 12 019 555 tonnes, a 6.2% increase compared with 11 314 697 tonnes for the same period in 1997.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this

release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-7093; milsomg@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Electric lamps

August 1998

Light bulb and tube manufacturers sold 22.3 million light bulbs and tubes in August, down 5.5% from 23.6 million a year earlier. Year-to-date sales at the end of August totalled 182.2 million light bulbs and tubes, down 6.0% from 193.8 million a year earlier.

The August 1998 issue of *Electric lamps* (43-009-XPB, \$7/\$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Laurie Vincent (613-951-3523; vincwil@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Coal and coke statistics

July 1998

Declining exports overseas led to lower coal production in July. Coal production totalled 5 879 kilotonnes, down 12.6% from July 1997. Year-to-date production figure stood at 44 083 kilotonnes, down 1.1%.

Exports in July decreased 17.1% from July 1997 to 2 875 kilotonnes. Exports to Japan (the largest consumer of Canadian coal) decreased 6.8% to 1 731 kilotonnes during the same period, while exports to Europe fell 62.9% to 276 kilotonnes. Year-to-date figures show total exports of 20 092 kilotonnes, 5.0% below last year's level.

Coke production decreased to 257 kilotonnes in July, down 8.1% from July 1997.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9.

The July 1998 issue of *Coal and Coke Statistics* (45-002-XPB, \$12/\$114) will be available the first week of October. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, or to enquire about the methods, concepts and data quality of this release, contact André Lefebvre (613-951-3560; alefeba@statcan.ca), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Cereals and oilseeds review, July 1998

Catalogue number 22-007-XPB

(Canada: \$15/\$149; outside Canada: US\$15/US\$149).

Sawmills and planing mills, July 1998

Catalogue number 35-003-XPB

(Canada: \$12/\$114; outside Canada: US\$12/US\$114).

Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard, July 1998

Catalogue number 36-003-XPB

(Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

All prices exclude sales tax.

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; and -XPB or -XPE denote a paper version.

How to order publications

Simplify your data search with the *Statistics Canada Catalogue* (11-204-XPE, \$16; outside Canada: US\$16).

Its keyword index will guide you to statistics on Canada's social and economic activity.

Order publications by phone:

Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.

In Canada and the United States call:

1-800-267-6677

From other countries call:

1-613-951-7277

To fax your order:

1-800-889-9734

Address changes or account inquiries:

1-800-700-1033

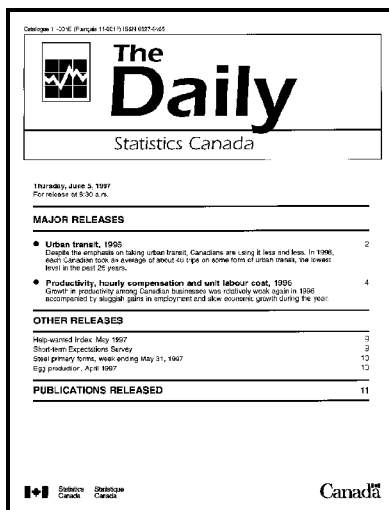
Internet:

order@statcan.ca

To order a publication by mail write: Statistics Canada, Circulation Management, Operations and Integration Division, Ottawa, K1A 0T6.

Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.



Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <http://www.statcan.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by E-mail, send an E-mail message to lstproc@statcan.ca. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Editor: Duncan Currie (613-951-1103, currddun@statcan.ca)

Head of Official Release: Chantal Prévost (613-951-1088, prevcha@statcan.ca)

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 1998. Citation in newsprint, magazine, radio, and television reporting is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source. Any other reproduction is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source on all copies as follows: Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, catalogue 11-001E, along with date and page references.