



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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Help-wanted Index, September 1998

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Short-term Expectations Survey

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Canada Year Book

1999

Today, Statistics Canada announces the release of the *1999 Canada Year Book*. Containing 15 chapters on the social, economic and cultural life of Canada, this edition provides 280 tables, charts and graphs with the latest socio-economic statistics available on Canada, including data from the 1996 Census. This edition also features the works of some of Canada's finest photographers, portraying many aspects of the nation through some 120 photographs.

The *Canada Year Book* is one of Canada's oldest and most reliable reference sources. First published in 1867, it provides an on-going record of life in Canada, with factual data and analytical observations about the trends and developments characterizing our national life. The 1999 edition is the 81st *Canada Year Book*.

The *1999 Canada Year Book* (11-402-XPE, \$54.95) is now available. The CD-ROM version will be available in early 1999. See *How to order publications*.

For further information about the *1999 Canada Year Book*, contact Jonina Wood (613-951-1114), Communications Division.



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Help-wanted Index

September 1998

The index that measures the number of help-wanted newspaper advertisements remained unchanged at 144 in September (1996=100). In the last five months, the index has leveled off following steady increases that began in July 1996.

The increases in Prince Edward Island (+3.7%), Quebec (+1.4%) and Manitoba (+1.3%) indices were somewhat offset by a decline in British Columbia (-1.6%). All other provincial indices remained relatively unchanged, fluctuating between -0.7% and 0.7%.

Help-wanted Index

(1996=100)

	Sept. 1998	Aug. 1998	Sept. 1997	Sept. 1997/ Sept. 1998	Aug. 1998/ Sept. 1998
	seasonally adjusted				
	% change				
Canada	144	144	129	11.6	0.0
Newfoundland	135	134	129	4.7	0.7
Prince Edward Island	141	136	127	11.0	3.7
Nova Scotia	137	138	129	6.2	-0.7
New Brunswick	152	151	140	8.6	0.7
Quebec	142	140	115	23.5	1.4
Ontario	151	150	132	14.4	0.7
Manitoba	158	156	141	12.1	1.3
Saskatchewan	135	136	137	-1.5	-0.7
Alberta	153	154	153	0.0	-0.6
British Columbia	122	124	121	0.8	-1.6

Note: The Help-wanted Index is compiled from the number of help-wanted ads published in 22 newspapers in 20 major metropolitan areas. The index is a measure of companies' intentions to hire new workers. The index has been seasonally adjusted and smoothed to ease month-to-month comparisons.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 105 (levels 8 to 10).

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Division. ■

Short-term Expectations Survey

The short-term expectations survey results of the third quarter show that little change is expected in the economy. However, analysts are beginning to revise some of their forecasts downwards, which is consistent with business cycle theory of a slowing economy.

The mean GDP monthly growth rate forecasts show that, even though economists are making downwards adjustments, they continue to overshoot the monthly changes. In July, the mean forecast was 0.1% compared with the actual decline of 0.3%. On average, forecasts for the mean monthly growth rates for August (+0.2%) and September (+0.1%) remain positive.

Forecasts for international trade show that expectations are for stability between August and October, with a forecast mean trade surplus of \$1.4 billion — slightly lower than the actual figure for July (\$1.5 billion). The forecasts for both exports and imports were slightly higher than the actual figures for July.

Forecasters are also expecting little change in the Consumer Price Index between September and November, but the forecasts have been adjusted downwards, albeit only slightly each month. Actual inflation has been lower than expected — the forecast average for August was 1.1% with an actual outcome of 0.8%.

While the economy has slowed, the labor market has held steady with even a slight decline in the unemployment rate in August to 8.3%. The participation rate has remained steady at 64.9%. Forecasters have been closer in predicting labour market indicators than the other economic indicators, with the mean forecast for the unemployment rate for July matching the outcome.

The next release will be on November 4, 1998. For a set of tables, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Jenny Grenier (613-951-1020; fax: 613-951-1572; grenjen@statcan.ca), Small Business and Special Surveys Division. □

Short-term Expectations Survey

	Forecasts					Actual figures	
	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	July	Aug.
	year/year %						
Consumer Price Index							
Initial forecast	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.8
First revision	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.0	..		
Second revision	...	1.1	0.9	..	..
	seasonally adjusted %						
Unemployment rate							
Initial forecast	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.3
First revision	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	..		
Second revision	...	8.4	8.4	..	..
Labour force participation rate							
Initial forecast	65.1	65.1	65.0	64.9	64.9	64.9	64.9
First revision	65.0	65.0	65.0	64.9	..		
Second revision	...	65.0	64.9	..	..
	\$ billion						
Exports							
Initial forecast	26.0	26.2	26.7	25.7	..	25.6	..
First revision	26.1	26.6	25.7	..	..
Second revision	26.2	25.6	..	..	..
Imports							
Initial forecast	25.1	24.3	24.4	24.3	..	24.1	..
First revision	24.1	24.5	24.3	..	..
Second revision	24.4	24.3	..	..	..
Balance							
Initial forecast	0.9	1.9	2.3	1.4	..	1.5	..A
First revision	2.0	2.1	1.4	..	..
Second revision	1.8	1.3	N/A	..	..
	seasonally adjusted month/month %, constant \$1992						
Gross domestic product							
Initial forecast	0.2	0.5	0.1	..	..	-0.3	..
First revision	0.1	0.2	..	..	..
Second revision	0.1	..	..	..	..

.. Not available.

... Not applicable.

Intellectual property management 1998/99 (preliminary)

Results from the intellectual property management annex to the Survey on Federal Science Expenditures and Personnel 1998/1999 are now available.

Results are also now available from the Survey of Intellectual Property Commercialization in the higher education sector.

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

release, contact Cathy Read (613-951-3838; readcat@statcan.ca; fax: 613-951-9920), Science and Technology Redesign Project.

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending September 21, 1998

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending September 21, 1998, increased 2.4% to 5.2 million tonnes from the

same period last year. The number of cars loaded also increased 1.9%.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totaled 346 000 tonnes, down 7.2% from the same period last year. The year-to-date figures show a decline of 2.8%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) increased 1.7% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 185.0 million tonnes, a decrease of 2.1% from the previous year.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486, fax: 613-951-0009; laroque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Steel pipe and tubing

August 1998

Steel pipe and tubing production for August totalled 183 170 tonnes, a 15.6% decrease from 216 980 tonnes a year earlier.

Year-to-date production to the end of August totalled 1 643 736 tonnes, up 7.3% from 1 532 356 tonnes during the same period in 1997.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 35.

The August 1998 issue of *Steel pipe and tubing* (41-011-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 Greg Milsom (613-951-7093; milsomg@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

1999 Canada Year Book

Catalogue number 11-402-XPE

(Canada: \$54.95; outside Canada: US\$54.95).

Production and disposition of tobacco products,

August 1998

Catalogue number 32-022-XPB

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

Cement, August 1998

Catalogue number 44-001-XPB

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

Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins,

August 1998

Catalogue number 46-002-XPB

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

All prices exclude sales tax.

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 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 20 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.

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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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