

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Tuesday, November 10, 1998**

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **New Housing Price Index, September 1998** 2  
 The New Housing Price Index was 0.9% higher in September compared with the same period a year earlier. This was the 19th consecutive year-over-year increase after 31 consecutive declines from July 1994 to January 1997.

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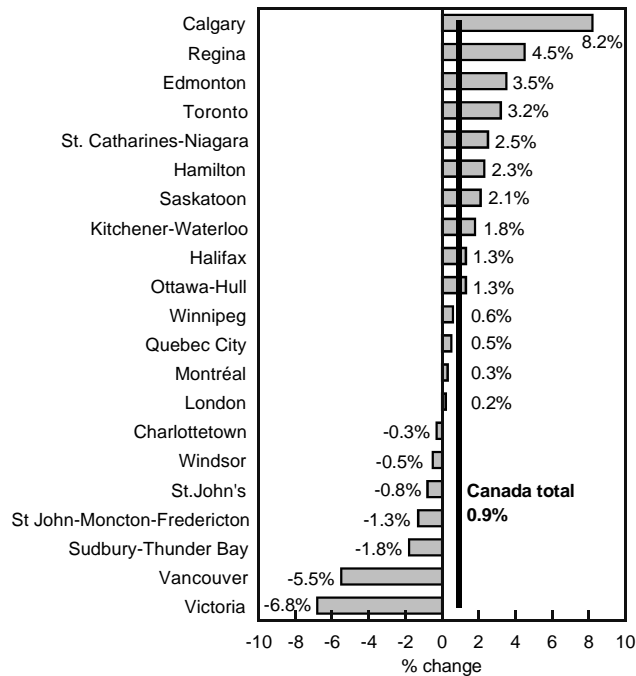
## MAJOR RELEASES

### New Housing Price Index

September 1998

The New Housing Price Index was 0.9% higher in September compared with the same period a year earlier. This was the 19th consecutive year-over-year increase after 31 consecutive declines from July 1994 to January 1997.

**New Housing Price Indexes (1992=100)  
 September 1997 to September 1998**



Annual changes varied considerably among the cities surveyed. The largest annual increase was in the strong Calgary market (+8.2%). The largest annual decreases were in Victoria (-6.8%) and Vancouver (-5.5%) where market conditions remain very competitive. With Toronto's significant impact on

the Canada level index, the annual increase in the active Toronto market (+3.2%) was a major factor in the annual increase for the Canada total index (+0.9%).

Between August and September 1998, the index decreased 0.1%. This signals a break from the generally upward movement since November 1996. The September decrease (-0.1%) was only the second monthly decrease in the last 23 months. The Canada level index declined despite increases in Ontario and the Prairie Provinces. This decline was due mainly to declines in British Columbia. Although there are areas of activity in the B.C. marketplace, generally, conditions remain extremely competitive and some builders are offering incentives to move inventory. It would seem that the general economic slowdown and additional concerns regarding current economic conditions in Asia, have combined to lower consumer confidence in British Columbia. Therefore, despite favourable interest rates and competitive pricing, consumers are reluctant to purchase major items such as new houses.

Despite the monthly decline in September, the general improvement in new housing markets in recent months has been attributable to higher consumer confidence in Ontario and the Prairies, favourable mortgage interest rates and strong activity in the resale market. However, despite the general feeling of optimism in some regions of Canada, the competitive nature of housing markets has moderated increases or has, in some cases, contributed to decreases in housing prices.

Nevertheless, the outlook for future new housing construction still appears positive even if expectations have been lowered compared with those expressed at the beginning of the year. According to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the total number of housing starts are forecasted to be virtually unchanged from 1997 and down from the 6.3% increase forecast for 1998 made in May of this year. Furthermore, annual housing construction intentions, as measured by Statistics Canada's data relating to the value of residential building permits, were down 3.3% for the first nine months of 1998 compared with the same period last year.

**New housing price indexes**  
(1992=100)

	Sept. 1997	Aug. 1998	Sept. 1998	Sept. 1997 to Sept. 1998	Aug. 1998 to Sept. 1998
					% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>99.2</b>	<b>100.2</b>	<b>100.1</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
House only	99.1	100.6	100.6	1.5	-
Land only	101.4	102.0	101.9	0.5	-0.1
St. John's	96.8	96.0	96.0	-0.8	-
Halifax	106.8	108.2	108.2	1.3	-
Charlottetown	103.6	101.3	103.3	-0.3	2.0
St. John-Moncton- Fredericton	94.3	93.2	93.1	-1.3	-0.1
Quebec City	97.9	98.9	98.4	0.5	-0.5
Montréal	102.0	102.3	102.3	0.3	-
Ottawa-Hull	97.0	98.2	98.3	1.3	0.1
Toronto	99.3	102.2	102.5	3.2	0.3
Hamilton	100.4	102.2	102.7	2.3	0.5
St. Catharines- Niagara	97.3	100.1	99.7	2.5	-0.4
Kitchener-Waterloo	98.6	100.6	100.4	1.8	-0.2
London	97.5	97.7	97.7	0.2	-
Windsor	105.2	105.2	104.7	-0.5	-0.5
Sudbury-Thunder Bay	102.0	100.3	100.2	-1.8	-0.1
Winnipeg	111.6	112.3	112.3	0.6	-
Regina	120.1	124.7	125.5	4.5	0.6
Saskatoon	110.4	112.5	112.7	2.1	0.2
Calgary	115.4	124.6	124.9	8.2	0.2
Edmonton	104.4	107.9	108.1	3.5	0.2
Vancouver	91.6	87.4	86.6	-5.5	-0.9
Victoria	83.6	78.4	77.9	-6.8	-0.6

- Nil or zero.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 9921.**

The third quarter 1998 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB,\$24/\$79) will be available in December. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Robert Gamson (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539; [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)), Client Services Unit, Prices Division. ■

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## OTHER RELEASES

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### University enrolment

Fall 1998 (preliminary)

The number of students enrolled in full-time undergraduate studies reached a new high of 507,195 registrants this fall. Over the past five years, full-time undergraduate enrolment has fluctuated between 500,000 and 504,000 students. Compared with preliminary figures of 1997, estimates of full-time undergraduate enrolment this fall have increased by 5,791 students or 1.2%.

Registrations in part-time undergraduate studies declined for the sixth-straight year to 200,050 students, a decline of 5,935 students, or 2.9%. As noted in the *Daily* release of October 14, 1998, the decline in part-time undergraduate studies may be partially explained by cutbacks in university funding. Universities appear to be concentrating resources on full-time students and, as a result, fewer part-time courses are being offered.

Preliminary estimates also confirmed the continued stability in graduate enrolment. This fall, the number of students enrolled on a full-time basis declined to 76,596 registrants, a decrease of 546 students or 0.7%. In comparison, the number of part-time graduate students rose slightly to 38,573 registrants, an increase of 360 students or 0.9%.

Among the provinces, British Columbia (+14.7%) and Alberta (+4.8%) recorded above-average increases in full-time undergraduate studies. In comparison, seven of 10 provinces showed declines in part-time undergraduate studies, with British Columbia

registering the highest decrease (-18.6%). Of those provinces recording an increase, Alberta led the way (+10.3%), followed by Saskatchewan (+4.9%) and Manitoba (+1.7%).

Despite the overall stability in graduate enrolment, the provinces showed a good deal of variation in part-time and full-time graduate studies. The variation in full-time graduate enrolment ranged from a 6.4% decline in Alberta to a 7.1% gain in New Brunswick. The change in part-time graduate enrolment ranged from a 6.4% decline in Manitoba to increases of over 10% in Prince Edward Island, British Columbia, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Preliminary data on the number of students in Canadian universities are obtained prior to the more detailed annual survey of enrolments and graduates, to provide a more timely overall view of enrolments. It should be noted that this October snapshot is an estimate of final enrolment counts as of December 1. While the preliminary and final enrolment counts may not vary significantly at the national level (1% to 8% in 1997/98), the difference could be substantially larger (20%) at the provincial level.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Nicola Paterson (613-951-1526), the Centre for Education Statistics. To obtain tables on enrolment and graduates, contact Sharon-Anne Gibbs (613-951-1503), the Centre for Education Statistics. □

## University enrolment

Fall 1998  
(preliminary)

Undergraduate	Full-time	% change since fall 1997	Part-time	% change since fall 1997
<b>Canada</b>	<b>507,195</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>200,050</b>	<b>-2.9</b>
Newfoundland	12,075	-0.2	1,917	-0.6
Prince Edward Island	2,425	-0.2	472	-2.1
Nova Scotia	28,854	0.0	5,331	-4.1
New Brunswick	17,226	-0.7	3,458	-2.2
Quebec	107,992	0.8	76,735	-3.3
Ontario	197,678	-1.4	64,686	-1.2
Manitoba	20,770	-1.2	7,108	1.7
Saskatchewan	21,908	-1.2	5,969	4.9
Alberta	50,401	4.8	16,207	10.3
British Columbia	47,866	14.7	18,167	-18.6

Graduate	Full-time	% change since fall 1997	Part-time	% change since fall 1997
<b>Canada</b>	<b>76,596</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>38,573</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Newfoundland	1,202	-6.2	618	-3.3
Prince Edward Island	37	0.0	12	140.0
Nova Scotia	2,367	2.5	1,499	12.4
New Brunswick	1,031	7.1	600	11.9
Quebec	23,661	-0.3	18,173	-4.5
Ontario	28,341	0.3	9,925	3.7
Manitoba	2,309	-1.6	846	-6.4
Saskatchewan	1,796	0.7	1,247	3.7
Alberta	5,814	-6.4	2,990	2.8
British Columbia	10,038	-1.9	2,663	27.7

## Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending October 21, 1998

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending October 21, 1998, decreased 8.0% to 4.9 million tonnes from the same period last year. The number of cars loaded also decreased 7.0%.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totalled 388 000 tonnes, a 1.0% decrease from the same period last year. The year-to-date figures show a decline of 2.3%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) decreased 7.5% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 207.0 million tonnes, a decrease of 2.4% 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](mailto:laroque@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division.

## Sugar sales

Third quarter 1998

Sales by sugar refiners totalled 286 179 metric tonnes for all types of sugar in the third quarter of 1998, comprising 285 228 tonnes in domestic sales and 951 tonnes in export sales. The 1998 year-to-date sales reported for all types of sugar totalled 824 783 tonnes (819 337 tonnes in domestic sales and 5 446 tonnes in export sales).

This compares with total sales of 309 713 tonnes in the third quarter 1997, of which 307 663 tonnes were domestic sales and 2 050 tonnes were export sales. The 1997 year-to-date sales reported for all types

of sugar totalled 875 052 (revised) tonnes (revised: 868 573 tonnes in domestic sales and 6 479 tonnes in export sales).

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 141.**

The third quarter 1998 issue of *The sugar situation* (32-013QXPB, \$13/\$41) 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 Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511; [zylspet@statcan.ca](mailto:zylspet@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction, and Energy Division. ■

**Steel wire and specified wire products**

September 1998

Shipments of steel wire and specified wire products totalled 70 411 tonnes in September, down 3.7% from 73 094 tonnes in September 1997. Production and export market data for selected commodities are also available.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (series 19).**

The September issue of *Steel wire and specified wire products* (41-006-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 Etienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-9837;

[saineti@statcan.ca](mailto:saineti@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

**Pulpwood and wood residue statistics**

July 1998

Pulpwood receipts in July totalled 2 259 658 cubic metres, down 19.8% from 2 818 588 cubic metres in July 1997. Wood residue receipts totalled 5 903 484 cubic metres, down 2.7% from 6 070 645 cubic metres in July 1997. Consumption of pulpwood and wood residue totalled 8 727 186 cubic metres, down 7.4% from 9 425 963 cubic metres in July 1997.

The closing inventory of pulpwood and wood residue increased 8.0% to 11 979 012 cubic metres, up from 11 090 057 cubic metres in July 1997. Year-to-date consumption of pulpwood and wood residue (60 491 192 cubic metres) was down 6.9% from 65 008 822 cubic metres a year earlier. Figures for 1997 have been revised.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 54.**

The July 1998 issue of *Pulpwood and wood residue statistics* (25-001-XPB, \$8/\$73) 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 Gilles Simard (613-951-3516; [simales@statcan.ca](mailto:simales@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing, September 1998**  
**Catalogue number 41-011-XPB**  
(Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

**Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins, September 1998**  
**Catalogue number 46-002-XPB**  
(Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

**All prices exclude sales tax.**

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**The Daily**  
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 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the last 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4  
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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Editor: Duncan Currie (613-951-1103, [currdun@statcan.ca](mailto:currdun@statcan.ca))

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

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