



The Daily

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **International travel account, third quarter 1998**

Canada's travel deficit fell to \$511 million during the third quarter of 1998, its lowest level in more than a decade, in the wake of near-record spending by Americans. This improvement occurred despite a record travel deficit of \$346 million with countries other than the United States.

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- **Characteristics of international travellers, second quarter 1998**

Americans made a record 3.9 million overnight trips to Canada during the second quarter of 1998, up 10.6% over the same quarter in 1997. The last time Canada recorded an increase exceeding 10% was in 1986, the year the World Exposition was held in Vancouver. A key stimulant to this growth was the decline in the value of the Canadian dollar which continued to decrease last spring, falling to US\$0.69 compared with US\$0.72 a year earlier.

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Dimensions series

1996 Census

This series from the 1996 Census demonstrates the analytical potential of census information.

Tables in the *Dimensions series* are organized into 26 themes, each dealing with a specific topic or population group. Released today are five themes: *Age, sex, marital status and common-law status-common-law union and marriage: A Portrait* (94F0032XDB, \$60); *Languages* (94F0034XDB, \$60); *Occupation profile* (94F0026XDB, \$60); *Industry profile* (94F0027XDB, \$60); and *Education-labour market experience of graduates* (94F0015XDB, \$60).

Seven CD-ROMs, each containing a collection of themes grouped by subject area, will be available in the future at a cost of \$60 per CD-ROM.

The series is packaged with the software Beyond 20/20. With many powerful features, the browser allows you to quickly and easily search and sort data, and to copy tables and charts to other Windows applications.

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



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MAJOR RELEASES

International travel account

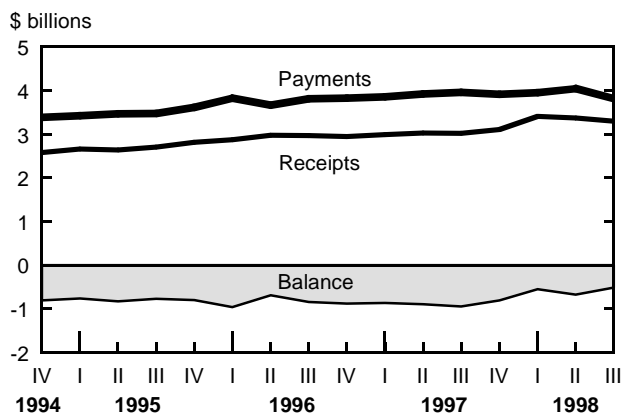
Third quarter 1998 (preliminary)

Canada's travel deficit fell to \$511 million during the third quarter of 1998, its lowest level in more than a decade, in the wake of near-record spending by Americans.

Between July and September, Canadians spent \$511 million more outside the country than foreigners spent here, a 23.9% decline from the second quarter of 1998. The third quarter deficit was the lowest since early 1988.

Canada's travel deficit with the United States alone also fell to its lowest level in more than a decade, while the deficit with overseas nations rose sharply to a record high.

Canada's international travel account deficit down to lowest level in over 10 years



Travel deficit with the United States lowest in over a decade

Americans spent a seasonally adjusted \$2.1 billion in Canada in the third quarter of 1998, just short of the record set in the first three months of the year. At the same time, Canadian spending south of the border declined 10.1% to \$2.3 billion, its lowest level since the third quarter of 1995.

As a result, Canada's travel deficit with the United States declined a sharp 64.0% to \$166 million, the lowest since early 1988. This deficit had peaked at \$1.9 billion during the last three months of 1991.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, quarterly data used in this release are seasonally adjusted. Amounts are in Canadian dollars and are not adjusted for inflation.

Receipts represent spending by foreigners travelling in Canada, including education-related spending and medical-related spending.

Payments represent spending by Canadians travelling abroad, including education-related spending and medical-related spending.

Overseas countries are countries other than the United States.

Americans made 6.6 million overnight trips to Canada in the third quarter (a 10-year high) while Canadians made 4.2 million overnight trips south of the border (a 10-year low). A number of factors contributed to the increased level of travel to Canada including the exchange rate, the strength of the U.S. economy and the continuing impact of the Open Skies Agreement. During the third quarter of 1998, the Canadian dollar reached an all-time low compared with the American dollar, slipping below US\$0.66.

In fact, Americans were responsible for \$2 out of every \$3 spent on travel in Canada so far this year, compared with about \$1 out of every \$2 during all of 1997.

Record high deficit between Canada and overseas countries

Between July and September, Canadians spent far more in countries other than the United States than overseas residents spent here, resulting in a record high deficit of \$346 million, up 63.4% from the previous quarter.

Canadian spending in overseas countries increased 1.5% from the second quarter to a record \$1.5 billion. On the other hand, spending by overseas residents in Canada fell 8.7% to just under \$1.2 billion, the lowest since the second quarter of 1995.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Ed Lander (613-951-1513; fax: 613-951-2909; landedw@statcan.ca), International Travel Section, Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. □

International travel account receipts and payments

	First quarter 1997	Second quarter 1997	Third quarter 1997	Fourth quarter 1997	First quarter 1998 ^r	Second quarter 1998 ^r	Third quarter 1998 ^p	1996	1997
seasonally adjusted ¹									
\$ millions									
United States									
Receipts	1,645	1,725	1,730	1,800	2,125	2,086	2,124	6,485	6,901
Payments	2,511	2,554	2,526	2,421	2,474	2,546	2,290	9,871	10,012
Balance	-866	-828	-796	-621	-349	-460	-166	-3,386	-3,110
All other countries									
Receipts	1,347	1,300	1,287	1,307	1,281	1,286	1,174	5,273	5,240
Payments	1,346	1,365	1,433	1,493	1,478	1,498	1,519	5,251	5,637
Balance	1	-66	-147	-186	-197	-211	-346	23	-397
Total									
Receipts	2,992	3,025	3,017	3,107	3,406	3,372	3,298	11,759	12,141
Payments	3,856	3,919	3,960	3,914	3,952	4,044	3,809	15,122	15,649
Balance	-864	-894	-943	-807	-546	-672	-511	-3,363	-3,508
	First quarter 1997	Second quarter 1997	Third quarter 1997	Fourth quarter 1997	First quarter 1998	Second quarter 1998 ^r	Third quarter 1998 ^p	1996	1997
unadjusted ¹									
\$ millions									
United States									
Receipts	872	1,799	3,019	1,211	1,139	2,194	3,707	6,485	6,901
Payments	2,916	2,748	2,422	1,926	2,876	2,768	2,184	9,871	10,012
Balance	-2,044	-949	597	-715	-1,737	-574	1,523	-3,386	-3,110
All other countries									
Receipts	809	1,339	2,149	943	777	1,346	1,944	5,273	5,240
Payments	1,473	1,282	1,594	1,288	1,611	1,395	1,690	5,251	5,637
Balance	-664	57	555	-345	-835	-49	254	23	-397
Total									
Receipts	1,681	3,138	5,168	2,154	1,916	3,540	5,651	11,759	12,141
Payments	4,389	4,030	4,016	3,214	4,487	4,163	3,874	15,122	15,649
Balance	-2,708	-892	1,152	-1,060	-2,572	-623	1,777	-3,363	-3,508

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Data may not add to totals due to rounding.

Characteristics of international travellers

Second quarter 1998

Americans made a record 3.9 million overnight trips to Canada during the second quarter of 1998, up 10.6% over the same quarter in 1997. The last time Canada recorded an increase exceeding 10% was in 1986, the year the World Exposition was held in Vancouver. A key stimulant to this growth was the decline in the value of the Canadian dollar which continued to decrease last spring, falling to US\$0.69 compared with US\$0.72 a year earlier.

Meanwhile, Canadians made 3.5 million overnight trips to the United States in the spring of 1998, the lowest quarterly level since 1989.

Surge in spending by Americans staying overnight in Canada

American visitors injected \$1.7 billion into the Canadian economy in the second quarter of 1998, a 26.2% (\$361 million) increase over the same period in 1997. Americans spent 14.1% more per trip (or just over \$450). All provinces west of Quebec saw strong increases, while Quebec and the Atlantic provinces saw more moderate advances.

Spending by residents of the United States during overnight visits to Canada

	Second quarter 1997	Second quarter 1998	Second quarter 1997 to second quarter 1998
	millions of dollars		% change
Canada	1,377	1,738	26.2
Province visited			
Atlantic provinces	68	71	3.7
Quebec	199	206	3.4
Ontario	572	797	39.4
Manitoba and Saskatchewan	51	66	29.4
British Columbia, Alberta and Territories	486	597	22.9

Automobile trips increased by almost 12%, the largest increase since 1986, when many Americans crossed the border by car to attend the 1986 World Exposition in Vancouver. Air travel continued to climb as well (+13.6%), maintaining the trend that began with the implementation of the Open Skies agreement in February 1995. Air travel rose 50% from the second quarter of 1994 to the second quarter of 1998, from

643,000 trips to 958,000 trips. One out of every four overnight trips to Canada by Americans is now by air compared with one out of every five overnight trips in 1994. This increase in air travel has a significant economic impact, because air travellers (half of whom are on business trips) spend far more than double that of land travellers (138% more per trip in the second quarter).

About 40% of all overnight American travellers come from four states (New York, Michigan, California and Washington). Each of these originating states showed second quarter increases, with New York registering the largest growth (+17.9%).

Single-night trips increased 21.5%, while longer trips showed more moderate growth. Americans spent 6.5% more nights in Canada.

Selected characteristics of overnight trips by Americans to Canada

	Second quarter 1997	Second quarter 1998	Second quarter 1997 to second quarter 1998
	in thousands		% change
Trips total	3,480	3,850	10.6
Mode of transportation			
Automobile	2,118	2,367	11.8
Plane	843	958	13.6
Other	519	525	1.2
Purpose of trip			
Business	631	702	11.3
Leisure	1,883	2,098	11.4
Visit to friends or relatives	551	635	15.3
Other	415	414	-0.3
Length of trip			
1 night	735	893	21.5
2-6 nights	2,200	2,394	8.8
7-13 nights	457	473	3.7
14-20 nights	59	64	7.0
21 or more nights	28	25	-10.1
State of origin			
New York	427	504	17.9
Michigan	409	434	6.1
Washington	372	375	0.8
California	225	246	9.7
Spending (millions)	\$1,377	\$1,738	26.2
Average spending per trip	\$395.80	\$451.60	14.1
Average trip duration (nights)	3.84	3.7	-3.7

Fewer Canadians visited the United States

Canadians made 3.5 million overnight trips to the United States in the spring of 1998, a drop of 5.1% from the same period in 1997 and the lowest level since the spring of 1989. Leisure trips declined (-12.4%), while business trips, which are less affected by exchange rate fluctuations, increased 14.3%. The majority of destinations preferred by Canadians (such as New York State, Florida, California, Michigan, and Washington State) all saw fewer Canadian visitors.

Nonetheless, Canadians still spent the most in Florida in the spring of 1998, and reported an average trip duration of 38 nights. Canadians injected \$703 million into Florida's economy, almost four times more than California, which enjoyed the second highest level of Canadian spending.

More Canadians visited Europe

Canadians made a record 927,000 second quarter overseas trips, preferring the traditional European destinations like the United Kingdom and France, thanks to favourable exchange rates. France in fact, regained its second-place standing among the most popular overseas destinations and is again ahead of Mexico. The Caribbean and South America saw their popularity drop somewhat.

Places most visited by Canadians for an overnight stay

	Second quarter 1997	Second quarter 1998	Second quarter 1997 to second quarter 1998
	in thousands		% change
United States			
New York	636	588	-7.5
Florida	542	442	-18.4
Washington	493	410	-16.8
Michigan	375	357	-4.6
California	228	214	-6.5
Europe			
United Kingdom	183	207	13.3
France	99	114	15.8
Germany	70	68	-3.3
Netherlands	51	50	-1.0
Other			
Dominican Republic	26	24	-4.2
Cuba	40	42	6.1
Mexico	99	99	-0.5

Drop in overseas visitors to Canada

The 5.6% drop in the number of visits from overseas travellers in the second quarter of 1998 was the fifth consecutive quarterly decline. These visits had been climbing from 1986 until the middle of 1990, only to decline continually for the seven quarters following the Persian Gulf War and the economic recession that hit most of Canada's major markets. Between the spring of 1992 and the spring of 1997, favourable economic conditions and exchange rates supported an upward trend.

Selected characteristics of overnight trips to Canada from overseas countries

	Second quarter 1997	Second quarter 1998	Second quarter 1997 to second quarter 1998
	in thousands		% change
Total	1,131	1,068	-5.6
Entry type			
Direct	687	684	-0.5
Via the U.S.	444	384	-13.5
Land	209	146	-30.1
Other	235	238	1.2
Purpose of trip			
Business	256	227	-11.2
Visit to friends or relatives	297	286	-3.7
Leisure	531	496	-6.5
Other	48	58	22.9
Origin			
Europe	595	594	-0.2
United Kingdom	199	213	7.3
France	111	96	-13.6
Germany	99	102	2.1
Netherlands	36	32	-10.8
Switzerland	24	24	0.6
Italy	23	22	-6.6
Asia	377	307	-18.7
Japan	149	129	-13.0
South Korea	42	16	-62.9
Hong Kong	35	41	17.0
Taiwan	39	33	-14.3
Other	159	167	5.0
Australia	43	42	-2.1
Mexico	22	29	33.9

Beginning in 1997, several foreign currencies lost their value in relation to the Canadian dollar, and several of our leading travel markets in Europe and Asia were strongly affected. The financial crisis that hit Asia later only worsened matters. Mexico is bucking the

downward travel trend by showing a strong increase in trips to Canada.

Western provinces not hurt by drop in overseas visitors

Overseas visitors spent \$13 million more in the second quarter of 1998 than in the second quarter of 1997, despite the drop in overseas visits. Almost all regions saw lower spending by overseas visitors. Surprisingly, despite the sharp drop in travellers from Asia to Canada, the western provinces saw spending by all overseas travellers increase by almost 20%. This increase is partly attributable to British and German travellers, who respectively spent 79% and 52% more in the West this year than they did last year during the same quarter.

Spending by overseas travellers during overnight visits to Canada

	Second quarter 1997	Second quarter 1998	Second quarter 1997 to second quarter 1998 %
	millions of dollars		change
Canada	1,189	1,202	1.1
Province visited			
Atlantic provinces	55	46	-17.3
Quebec	236	230	-2.6
Ontario	477	428	-10.3
Manitoba and Saskatchewan	23	19	-17.6
British Columbia, Alberta and Territories	397	479	20.7

This release presents a brief overview of data now available from the International Travel Survey. The tables upon which this analysis is based, and various statistical profiles and micro data files of characteristics of international travellers for the second quarter of 1998 are now available on request.

To order one or more of these products, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Danielle Shaienks (613-951-5095; fax: 613-951-2909; shaidan@statcan.ca) International Travel Section, Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Employment, earnings and hours

September 1998 (preliminary)

In September, average weekly earnings decreased by an estimated \$1.36 to \$604.28. Earnings declined slightly in almost all industries. Year-over-year gains in average weekly earnings for the first nine months of 1998 have averaged 1.3%, down from an average earning gain of 2.6% for the same period in 1997.

Average paid hours for hourly rated employees were virtually unchanged in September at 31.1 hours per week. Compared with September 1997, average paid hours were down 0.2 hours due to a decline in overtime hours.

For the second consecutive month, annual growth for average hourly earnings for hourly employees remained at 2.0% in September. Average hourly earnings growth is up slightly compared with last year. The average growth for average hourly earnings was 1.8% in the first nine months of 1998, up from 1.4% for the first nine months of 1997.

Payroll employment growth bounced back in September following a small gain in August. Manufacturers of durable goods, wholesalers, and employers in business services accounted for two-thirds of the 39,000 employees added to payrolls in September. For durable goods, the main contributors to employment growth were manufacturers of motor vehicle parts and motor vehicle assembly. This is consistent with strong manufacturing shipments growth in those industries. Employment additions by wholesalers were not concentrated in a specific industry. Employment in business services increased — particularly in employment agencies and computer services industries.

Beginning with the May 1998 release, the Labour Division has completed the third phase of its redesign in the use of administrative records for the production of employment, earnings and hours estimates. In addition, a new sample for the Business Payrolls Survey has been drawn to produce estimates of paid hours, and average weekly and hourly earnings.

With the change in methodology, employment estimates derived from administrative records may show a different seasonal pattern than the previous data, which was derived from survey questionnaires. This can only be assessed within the context of a longer time period. Statistics Canada will continue to monitor these impacts and will help users interpret its data. To minimise impacts, it is recommended that SEPH data, particularly employment data, be used in the context of longer time periods for detailed industry distributions. A description of the methodological changes and their impacts on the data is available in the May issue of *Employment, Earnings and Hours*.

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 December 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 1985-1997* (diskette: 72F0002XDB, \$120) and by custom tabulations.

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

Number of employees

Industry group (1980 Standard Industrial Classification)	July 1998	Aug. 1998 ^r	Sept. 1998 ^p	July to Aug. 1998	Aug. to Sept. 1998
seasonally adjusted					
	thousands			% change	
Industrial aggregate	11,608	11,619	11,658	0.1	0.3
Logging and forestry	67	65	63	-3.0	-3.1
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	142	140	139	-1.4	-0.7
Manufacturing	1,870	1,873	1,884	0.2	0.6
Construction	499	494	491	-1.0	-0.6
Transportation and storage	487	486	490	-0.2	0.8
Communication and other utilities	383	383	385	0.0	0.5
Wholesale trade	726	727	734	0.1	1.0
Retail trade	1,433	1,429	1,429	-0.3	0.0
Finance and insurance	519	519	520	0.0	0.2
Real estate operators and insurances agencies	201	200	201	-0.5	0.5
Business services	793	800	809	0.9	1.1
Education-related services	934	927	923	-0.7	-0.4
Health and social services	1,209	1,214	1,218	0.4	0.3
Accommodation, food and beverage services	848	850	852	0.2	0.2
Public administration	667	668	668	0.1	0.0
Miscellaneous services	689	690	692	0.1	0.3
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland	150	149	149	-0.7	0.0
Prince Edward Island	48	47	48	-2.1	2.1
Nova Scotia	321	322	321	0.3	-0.3
New Brunswick	258	255	257	-1.2	0.8
Quebec	2,772	2,767	2,775	-0.2	0.3
Ontario	4,546	4,557	4,571	0.2	0.3
Manitoba	438	438	441	0.0	0.7
Saskatchewan	349	354	354	1.4	0.0
Alberta	1,207	1,201	1,207	-0.5	0.5
British Columbia	1,480	1,482	1,484	0.1	0.1
Yukon	15	15	15	0.0	0.0
Northwest Territories	26	25	26	-3.8	4.0

^p Preliminary estimates.

^r Revised estimates.

Average weekly earnings for all employees

Industry group (1980 Standard Industrial Classification)	Sept. 1997	Aug. 1998 ^r	Sept. 1998 ^p	Aug. to Sept. 1998	Sept. 1997 to Sept. 1998
	seasonally adjusted				
	\$			% change	
Industrial aggregate	596.98	605.64	604.28	-0.2	1.2
Logging and forestry	781.23	778.08	753.88	-3.1	-3.5
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	1050.53	1136.41	1108.30	-2.5	5.5
Manufacturing	731.43	752.77	748.27	-0.6	2.3
Construction	709.77	681.97	691.22	1.4	-2.6
Transportation and storage	729.41	732.95	737.29	0.6	1.1
Communication and other utilities	791.12	802.60	804.59	0.2	1.7
Wholesale trade	645.21	665.07	662.01	-0.5	2.6
Retail trade	353.54	368.68	366.71	-0.5	3.7
Finance and insurance	790.75	806.22	802.88	-0.4	1.5
Real estate operators and insurance agencies	640.01	626.58	637.82	1.8	-0.3
Business services	675.27	691.54	691.79	0.0	2.4
Education-related services	668.45	656.25	651.06	-0.8	-2.6
Health and social services	516.42	524.82	522.93	-0.4	1.3
Accommodation, food and beverage services	234.80	227.33	229.55	1.0	-2.2
Public administration	736.91	740.77	736.85	-0.5	0.0
Miscellaneous services	402.35	403.91	408.82	1.2	1.6
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland	520.02	527.73	526.84	-0.2	1.3
Prince Edward Island	460.06	475.90	478.65	0.6	4.0
Nova Scotia	497.91	511.11	507.02	-0.8	1.8
New Brunswick	520.36	532.25	524.71	-1.4	0.8
Quebec	565.72	569.14	564.67	-0.8	-0.2
Ontario	638.13	643.55	643.54	0.0	0.8
Manitoba	521.01	542.32	544.73	0.4	4.6
Saskatchewan	526.19	536.71	541.34	0.9	2.9
Alberta	600.79	615.83	610.74	-0.8	1.7
British Columbia	614.33	620.03	618.79	-0.2	0.7
Yukon	722.89	676.43	684.20	1.1	-5.4
Northwest Territories	713.89	719.50	735.76	2.3	3.1

^p Preliminary estimates.

^r Revised estimates.

Crude oil and natural gas

September 1998

In September, crude oil production was 2.9% higher compared with September 1997. This gain followed a 0.4% year-over-year decrease in August. Hibernia production was a major contributor to the overall increase in September, with output reaching 385 100 cubic metres or 3.6% of total production. Exports, which accounted for 58.0% of total production, continued their upward trend, increasing a marginal 0.2% from a year earlier and stand 27.4% higher than during 1996. Exports, still driven by strong demand in the United States, have been increasing steadily for 28 consecutive months.

For the first three quarters of 1998, exports of crude oil were up 13.0% over the same period in 1997 while production was 5.4% higher.

Natural gas production increased 3.6% from September 1997. Canadian domestic sales continued dropping with a decrease of 3.8%, the 11th consecutive monthly year-over-year decrease. The decline is mainly attributable to a decline in sales to the residential and commercial sectors. In contrast, exports continued to increase strongly, posting a 10.5% gain from September 1997.

Year-to-date exports of natural gas were up 8.1% over the same period in 1997. Year-to-date Canadian sales were down 6.4% compared with the same period in 1996, as a result of unseasonably mild temperatures during the first three quarters of 1998.

Crude oil and natural gas

	Sept. 1997	Sept. 1998	Sept. 1997 to Sept. 1998
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹			
Production	10,308.3	10,608.8	2.9
Exports	6,144.9	6,157.3	0.2
Imports ²	3,403.1	3,915.3	15.1
Refinery receipts	7,780.1	8,431.8	8.4
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas³			
Marketable production	12,174.5	12,610.6	3.6
Exports	6,562.1	7,249.6	10.5
Canadian domestic sales ⁴	3,885.4	3,736.2	-3.8
	Jan. 1997 to Sept. 1997	Jan. 1998 to Sept. 1998	Jan.-Sept. 1997 to Jan.-Sept. 1998
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹			
Production	91,039.1	95,964.5	5.4
Exports	51,698.4	58,433.8	13.0
Imports ²	32,324.5	33,355.1	3.2
Refinery receipts	70,997.0	71,330.5	0.5
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas³			
Marketable production	115,420.1	118,720.8	2.9
Exports	60,281.0	65,170.6	8.1
Canadian domestic sales ⁴	49,060.6	45,939.8	-6.4

¹ Disposition may differ from production due to inventory change, industry own-use, etc.

² Crude oil received by Canadian refineries from foreign countries for processing. Data may differ from International Trade Division (ITD) estimates due to timing differences and the inclusion of crude oil landed in Canada for future re-export in the ITD data.

³ Disposition may differ from production due to inventory change, usage as pipeline fuel, pipeline losses, line-pack fluctuations, etc.

⁴ Includes direct sales.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 530 and 539.

The September 1998 issue of *Crude petroleum and natural gas production* (26-006-XPB, \$19/\$186) 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 Gérard Desjardins (613-951-4368; desjger@statcan.ca), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Production and disposition of tobacco products

October 1998

In October, tobacco product manufacturers increased cigarette production substantially for a third consecutive month. Sales fell well below production, causing inventories to turn up. Inventories are usually built up during October and November in preparation for holiday season sales.

October production of 4.8 billion cigarettes advanced 20% and was also 18% more than production during the same month last year. Year-to-date production reached 41 billion cigarettes, which was slightly ahead (1%) of last year's level.

During October, 3.9 billion cigarettes were shipped, down 10% from September but 9% higher than the same month a year earlier. Year-to-date shipments of 40 billion cigarettes were marginally more than a year earlier (+1%).

Inventories had been brought down from 6.2 billion cigarettes in May and June to 3.5 billion at the end of September. They rose again in October, to 3.9 billion, up 12% from September but still 14% below the closing inventory of October 1997.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 46.

The October 1998 issue of *Production and disposition of tobacco products* (32-022-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 Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511; zylspet@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Stocks of frozen meat products

November 1998

Total frozen meat in cold storage at the opening of the first business day of November totalled 38 943 tonnes compared with 39 551 tonnes last month and 39 306 tonnes a year ago.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 87 and 9518-9525.

Data for stocks of frozen meat are available on the Internet (www.statcan.ca, 23-009-XIE, free). The menu path is "Products and services, "Downloadable publications" and "Index of downloadable publications".

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

release, contact Tony Dupuis (613-951-2511; duputon@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Infomat - A weekly review, November 27, 1998
Catalogue number 11-002-XIE
(Canada: \$3/\$109; outside Canada: US\$3/US\$109).

Infomat - A weekly review, November 27, 1998
Catalogue number 11-002-XPE
(Canada: \$4/\$145; outside Canada: US\$4/US\$145).

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation,
October 1998
Catalogue number 44-004-XPB
(Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

Traveller accommodation statistics, 1996-97
Catalogue number 63-204-XPB
(Canada: \$28; outside Canada: US\$28).

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Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and also moderate growth during the year.

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- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, steel ending May 31, 1997** 12
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Release date	Title	Reference period
30	National economic and financial accounts	Third quarter 1998
30	Balance of international payments	Third quarter 1998
30	Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry	September 1998
1	Film and video production	1996 and 1997
2	RRSP contributors	1997
2	Help-wanted Index	November 1998
3	Charitable donors	1997
4	Labour Force Survey	November 1998
4	Building permits	October 1998