



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, December 4, 1998

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Labour Force Survey, November 1998**

Employment rose by an estimated 103,000 in November, the fifth consecutive month of growth, bringing gains so far this year to 425,000 (+3.0%). The unemployment rate edged down 0.1 percentage points to 8.0%.

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- **Building permits, October 1998**

The value of building permits for housing fell for the second straight month in October to its lowest level in two years. Combined with a sharp drop in non-residential construction intentions, the overall value of permits declined 7.9% to \$2.6 billion.

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StatCan: CANSIM directory disc

December 1998

The December 1998 *StatCan: CANSIM directory disc* is now available.

This CD-ROM contains the CANSIM Time Series Directory - a guide to the data contained in the CANSIM time series database, the Statistical Data Documentation System (SDDS) - a database of the surveys and statistical programs used in Statistics Canada, and the latest version of the Statistics Canada Thesaurus. Finding information in this Windows version of the CD-ROM is easier than ever. An entire CANSIM matrix or SDDS survey can be searched as a single entity and you can narrow a search to include only active series or those with a specific security level. Specially designed dialogue boxes guide users through the most typical searches. Hyperlinks between the CANSIM matrices and the SDDS surveys allow quick access to more detail for both.

The December 1998 edition of the *StatCan: CANSIM directory disc* (10F0005XCB) is now available in a Windows format on CD-ROM. An annual subscription of four quarterly issues is \$103.

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



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The Daily, December 4, 1998

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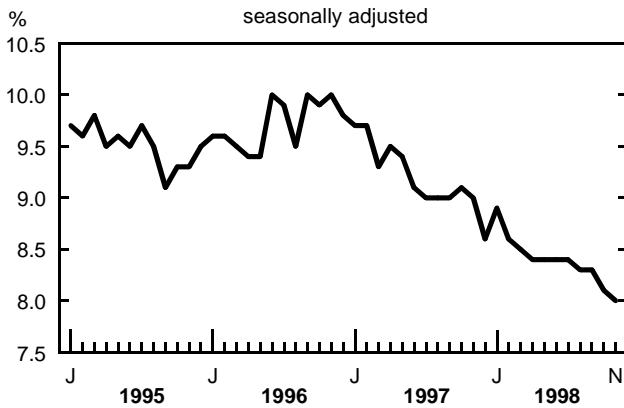
MAJOR RELEASES

Labour Force Survey

November 1998

Employment rose by an estimated 103,000 in November, the fifth consecutive month of growth, bringing gains so far this year to 425,000 (+3.0%). Despite the strong gain in employment in November, the number of unemployed was little changed due to an increase in labour force participation.

Unemployment rate



The unemployment rate edged down 0.1 percentage points to 8.0%. November's employment gain pushed the employment rate up to 60.3% (+0.4 percentage points), the first time since 1991 that the rate has been above 60%.

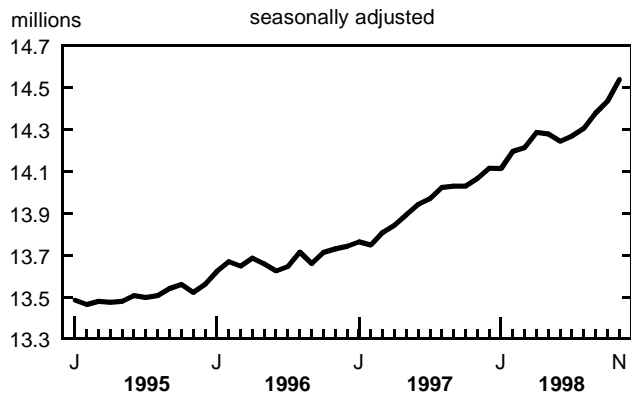
Gains in full-time employment

Most of the increase in employment in November was in full-time work. An increase of 75,000 in November followed a strong gain in October (+84,000) and brings the growth in full-time employment since the start of the year to 302,000 (+2.6%). Part-time employment rose by 29,000 in November, offsetting the decline in the previous month. Since December 1997, part-time employment has risen by 123,000 (+4.7%).

Note to readers

Beginning with the January survey, three important changes will affect the Labour Force Survey estimates. First, the coding of industry estimates will no longer be based on the 1980 Standard Industry Classification, instead the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) will be used. Second, the coding of occupation estimates will change from the 1980 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) to the 1991 SOC. Lastly, there will be some modification to the definition of the public sector. Data resulting from these three changes will not be comparable to previously published estimates. Therefore, revised historical data will be made available about two weeks following the release of December data. For more information, consult the Statistics Canada web site (www.statcan.ca) or contact Marc Lévesque (613-951-2793).

Employment



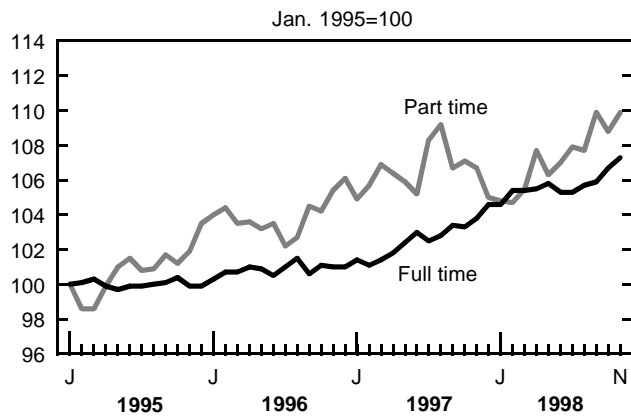
Employment growth in November was shared among youths and adult women. Among youths, employment rose by 52,000 with two-thirds of the gain in part-time work. This brings the increase for this group to 139,000 (+6.8%) since the start of the year.

For adult women, employment rose by 45,000, with most of the increase in full-time jobs (+38,000). Since December 1997, employment has risen by 185,000 (+3.4%) with more than three-quarters of the gains in full-time work.

A slight increase in full-time employment (+18,000) offset a decrease in part-time employment (-12,000) for adult men in November. Since the beginning of the year, employment has risen by 102,000 for this group, with the entire gain consisting of full-time jobs. So far this year, employment has grown by 1.5% for adult

men, far less than the growth rate for youths (+6.8%) and adult women (+3.4%).

Index of full- and part-time employment



Private sector employment increases

In November, the number of employees in the private sector increased by 87,000. This strong increase, combined with the gain of 40,000 in October, more than offset losses observed over the summer. So far this year, the number of private sector employees has risen by 229,000 (+2.4%), just over half of the overall employment growth.

The number of self-employed rose slightly in November, continuing the upward trend of the past five months and bringing total gains since the start of the year to 134,000 (+5.4%).

In the public sector, employment remained unchanged in November.

Gains widely spread among several industries

Job gains in November were in both the goods (+48,000) and service-producing sectors (+55,000). Employment in construction continued to grow in November, with an estimated increase of 27,000. This brought gains since the beginning of the year to 70,000, the best showing for this industry since 1994.

Employment in manufacturing edged up in November, bringing gains for the past two months to 57,000 and recovering half of the losses observed from July to September. Employment in manufacturing is now only slightly higher than at the end of last year (+16,000).

In other primary industries, employment rose by 7,000 in November. This gain follows three consecutive

declines, leaving employment down 32,000 (-10.8%) since the start of the year.

Employment in trade climbed by 43,000 in November, more than offsetting the loss in October. This increase brings gains so far this year to 83,000 (+3.5%), mostly in retail trade.

Business and personal services led employment growth in 1997, and continued to put in a strong performance in 1998. Employment in this industry rose by 42,000 in November. Gains so far this year total 189,000 (+6.4%), with business services up 11.0% and personal services up 3.6%.

After a sharp increase in October, employment in transportation, storage and communications fell by an estimated 22,000 in November. Employment in this industry is only 16,000 (+1.7%) above the level at the start of the year.

Note: A new industry classification system will be implemented at the beginning of 1999. Please see Note to readers.

Employment increases in most provinces

In November, employment in New Brunswick grew by 4,000, the fourth consecutive monthly increase. The gains of recent months offset losses earlier in the year and brought job growth since December 1997 to 9,000 (+2.9%). Most of the employment gains over this period have been in business and personal services. In the other Atlantic provinces, employment was little changed in November.

In Quebec, employment rose by 31,000, continuing the upward trend that began in July. The increase in November brings job gains so far this year to 84,000 (+2.5%). November's employment gain was accompanied by a slight rise in the number of unemployed and the unemployment rate rose to 9.9% (+0.2 percentage points).

Employment rose by 21,000 in Ontario, the third consecutive monthly increase and brings total gains so far this year to 194,000 (+3.5%). The unemployment rate edged down 0.1 percentage points in November to 6.9%, the lowest since September 1990.

Employment rose by 6,000 in Manitoba, after changing little in the previous three months. The province now has 10,000 more workers than in December 1997. In November, the increase in employment, combined with a decline in the number of unemployed, caused the unemployment rate to fall 0.6 percentage points to 5.5%.

In Saskatchewan, employment rose by 7,000, offsetting the losses earlier in the year. Since

December, employment has edged up 3,000 (+0.6%). The number of unemployed fell slightly in November, causing the unemployment rate to decline from 6.4% to 5.9%.

Employment in Alberta rose by 16,000 in November, offsetting losses of the previous two months. November's increase brings gains since the start of the year to 46,000 (+3.1%). The unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage points in November to 6.2%.

In British Columbia, employment grew by 20,000, continuing the upward trend of recent months. Gains so far this year total 66,000 (+3.6%). The unemployment rate edged down 0.1 percentage points in November to 7.9%.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3450-3471 and 3483-3502 and table 00799999.

Available at 7 a.m. on the Internet (www.statcan.ca) on the "Latest news from Statistics Canada" button.

For a summary, *Labour force information*, for the week ending November 14, 1998 (71-001-PPB, \$11/\$103) is available today.

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on Friday January 8, 1999.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Deborah Sunter (613-951-4740), Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750), Household Surveys Division. □

Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	Oct. 1998	Nov. 1998	Oct. to Nov. 1998	Oct. 1998	Nov. 1998	Oct. to Nov. 1998
Seasonally adjusted						
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	15,701.5	15,807.6	0.7	65.2	65.6	0.4
Newfoundland	249.6	248.1	-0.6	56.2	55.9	-0.3
Prince Edward Island	69.7	70.4	1.0	65.1	65.6	0.5
Nova Scotia	452.3	453.7	0.3	60.5	60.7	0.2
New Brunswick	370.7	375.5	1.3	61.2	61.9	0.7
Quebec	3,715.6	3,756.7	1.1	62.1	62.8	0.7
Ontario	6,091.8	6,112.4	0.3	66.5	66.6	0.1
Manitoba	581.3	584.4	0.5	67.3	67.6	0.3
Saskatchewan	508.3	512.9	0.9	66.4	67.0	0.6
Alberta	1,615.6	1,628.2	0.8	71.9	72.3	0.4
British Columbia	2,046.7	2,065.2	0.9	64.8	65.3	0.5
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	14,436.4	14,539.8	0.7	59.9	60.3	0.4
Newfoundland	204.5	202.8	-0.8	46.0	45.7	-0.3
Prince Edward Island	59.9	60.5	1.0	55.9	56.4	0.5
Nova Scotia	404.0	403.7	-0.1	54.1	54.0	-0.1
New Brunswick	328.5	332.5	1.2	54.2	54.8	0.6
Quebec	3,355.1	3,386.4	0.9	56.1	56.6	0.5
Ontario	5,667.2	5,688.2	0.4	61.9	62.0	0.1
Manitoba	546.2	552.4	1.1	63.2	63.9	0.7
Saskatchewan	475.9	482.4	1.4	62.2	63.0	0.8
Alberta	1,512.2	1,527.9	1.0	67.3	67.8	0.5
British Columbia	1,882.9	1,902.9	1.1	59.6	60.2	0.6
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	1,265.0	1,267.8	0.2	8.1	8.0	-0.1
Newfoundland	45.1	45.2	0.2	18.1	18.2	0.1
Prince Edward Island	9.8	9.9	1.0	14.1	14.1	0.0
Nova Scotia	48.4	49.9	3.1	10.7	11.0	0.3
New Brunswick	42.1	42.9	1.9	11.4	11.4	0.0
Quebec	360.4	370.2	2.7	9.7	9.9	0.2
Ontario	424.5	424.2	-0.1	7.0	6.9	-0.1
Manitoba	35.2	32.0	-9.1	6.1	5.5	-0.6
Saskatchewan	32.4	30.5	-5.9	6.4	5.9	-0.5
Alberta	103.3	100.4	-2.8	6.4	6.2	-0.2
British Columbia	163.8	162.4	-0.9	8.0	7.9	-0.1

Note: Provincial estimates may differ from the national totals due to independent seasonal adjustment.

Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

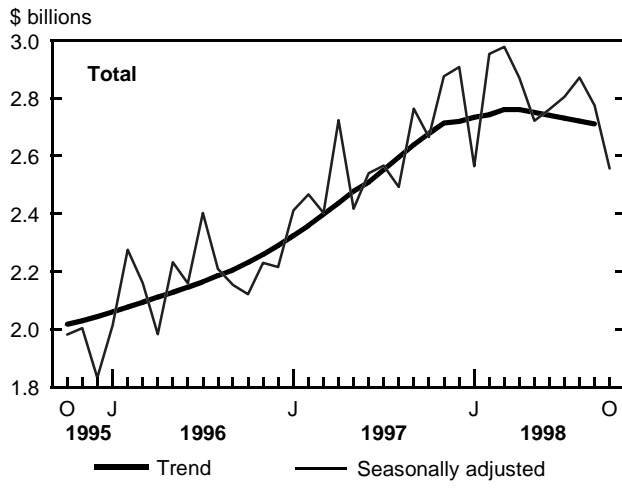
	Nov. 1997	Nov. 1998	Nov. 1997 to Nov. 1998	Nov. 1997	Nov. 1998	Nov. 1997 to Nov. 1998
Unadjusted						
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	15,333.5	15,708.6	2.4	64.4	65.2	0.8
Newfoundland	230.5	243.0	5.4	51.4	54.7	3.3
Prince Edward Island	69.4	68.6	-1.2	64.6	63.9	-0.7
Nova Scotia	442.8	449.1	1.4	59.5	60.1	0.6
New Brunswick	360.7	370.5	2.7	59.7	61.1	1.4
Quebec	3,633.6	3,716.9	2.3	61.2	62.1	0.9
Ontario	5,944.2	6,101.0	2.6	65.8	66.5	0.7
Manitoba	573.5	581.5	1.4	66.6	67.3	0.7
Saskatchewan	502.3	505.3	0.6	65.9	66.0	0.1
Alberta	1,563.0	1,618.1	3.5	71.6	71.9	0.3
British Columbia	2,013.6	2,054.6	2.0	64.4	65.0	0.6
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	14,010.3	14,493.4	3.4	58.8	60.1	1.3
Newfoundland	193.9	202.5	4.4	43.2	45.6	2.4
Prince Edward Island	58.8	58.4	-0.7	54.7	54.4	-0.3
Nova Scotia	395.7	402.4	1.7	53.2	53.8	0.6
New Brunswick	317.3	330.1	4.0	52.6	54.4	1.8
Quebec	3,233.8	3,346.9	3.5	54.4	55.9	1.5
Ontario	5,489.3	5,709.0	4.0	60.8	62.2	1.4
Manitoba	538.3	550.8	2.3	62.5	63.7	1.2
Saskatchewan	474.5	476.8	0.5	62.3	62.3	0.0
Alberta	1,477.4	1,522.6	3.1	67.7	67.6	-0.1
British Columbia	1,831.3	1,893.9	3.4	58.6	59.9	1.3
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	1,323.2	1,215.2	-8.2	8.6	7.7	-0.9
Newfoundland	36.6	40.5	10.7	15.9	16.7	0.8
Prince Edward Island	10.7	10.2	-4.7	15.4	14.9	-0.5
Nova Scotia	47.0	46.7	-0.6	10.6	10.4	-0.2
New Brunswick	43.4	40.3	-7.1	12.0	10.9	-1.1
Quebec	399.8	369.9	-7.5	11.0	10.0	-1.0
Ontario	454.9	392.0	-13.8	7.7	6.4	-1.3
Manitoba	35.1	30.8	-12.3	6.1	5.3	-0.8
Saskatchewan	27.8	28.5	2.5	5.5	5.6	0.1
Alberta	85.6	95.6	11.7	5.5	5.9	0.4
British Columbia	182.2	160.7	-11.8	9.0	7.8	-1.2

Building permits

October 1998

The value of building permits for housing fell for the second straight month in October to its lowest level in two years. Combined with a sharp drop in non-residential construction intentions, the overall value of permits declined 7.9% to \$2.6 billion.

Total value of permits down 7.9%



Municipalities issued \$1.4 billion in housing permits in October, down 5.8% from September. It was the lowest level for residential construction intentions since October 1996.

In the non-residential sector, declines in commercial and institutional intentions more than offset an increase in the industrial component, resulting in a third consecutive monthly decline. The value of permits dropped 10.2% to \$1.2 billion.

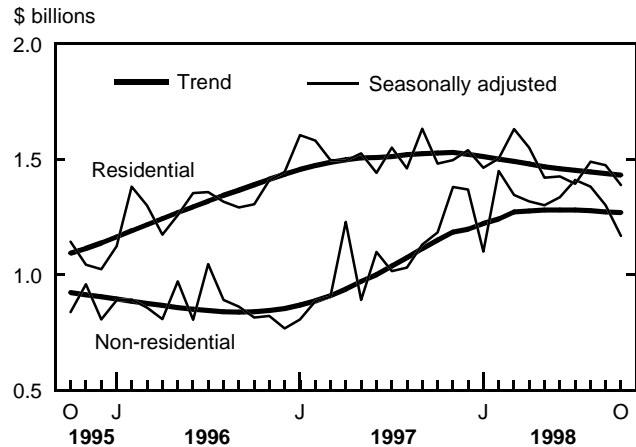
Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

The Building and demolitions permits monthly survey covers 2,600 municipalities representing 94% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 6% of the population are very small, and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total.

The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (e.g., waterworks, sewers, culverts, etc.) and land. The annual rate is a monthly figure that has been seasonally adjusted and multiplied by 12 to reflect annual levels.

Both sectors declined in October



Both components contributed to monthly decline in housing

Both single- and multi-family housing components contributed to October's decline in the residential sector.

Permits for multi-family housing fell a sharp 20.2% to \$323 million, the lowest level since April 1996. The single-family sector dipped 0.4% to \$1.1 billion. Traditionally, the multi-family component shows significant monthly fluctuations because of large individual projects.

Activity in the residential sector has been slowing since the beginning of the year. The decline has been the result of lagging single-family dwelling construction intentions, which represent about 70% of the residential

sector. Municipalities issued \$10.6 billion in permits for single-family dwellings during the first 10 months of the year, down 4.4% compared with 1997. On the other hand, permits for multi-family housing edged down 0.8% to \$4.1 billion.

The slowdown in intentions since the beginning of 1998 is reflected in the cumulative number of housing starts, down 5.2% for the first 10 months of the year. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) predicts, however, a moderate growth in residential construction activity over the next few months as low mortgage rates continue to offset the negative impact of slower economic growth. The CMHC reported a 3.6% rise in housing starts in October.

According to the Canadian Real Estate Association, housing resales continued to edge down in October. This is consistent with softening consumer confidence and with the trend and outlook for the general economy.

Some market indicators remain encouraging. Housing prices and mortgage rates have been stable. Furthermore, the unemployment rate fell to its lowest level in eight years in October, and an increase in employment was concentrated in full-time jobs among those aged 25 to 54, which is the key group in terms of future impact on building intentions.

Provincially, the largest increases in housing permits in October occurred in Quebec (+6.1% to \$242 million) and Manitoba (+15.0% to \$37 million). The most significant declines were in Ontario (-6.0% to \$613 million), Alberta (-10.3% to \$235 million) and British Columbia (-13.1% to \$174 million).

Housing permits in British Columbia have declined 34.2% compared with their October 1997 level, and were at their lowest level since December 1990.

Momentum easing off in non-residential sector

Following an active first half of the year, momentum in the non-residential sector has slowed noticeably in the last three months. The value of non-residential building permits declined for a third consecutive month, leaving it at \$1.2 billion in October (its lowest level since January 1998).

Even so, for the first 10 months of 1998, the total value of non-residential building permits reached \$13.1

billion, up 28.8% compared with the same period in 1997. This was the best performance spanning the first 10 months of a year since 1989.

The commercial component registered a decline for the second month in a row in October, falling 14.8% to \$602 million, its lowest level since January 1998. Most of the reduction reflected a decrease in projects for trade and services, and office buildings.

The institutional component registered the largest decline, falling 27.0% to \$211 million in October, its lowest level since early 1997. This decline was due to slowdowns in medical and government buildings.

The industrial component was the only one to increase in October. The value of permits for industrial buildings jumped 16.2% to \$356 million. Most of the increased activity came from large projects in the utilities and transportation category.

On a provincial basis, monthly decreases occurred in Quebec (-38.9% to \$173 million), Ontario (-16.1% to \$445 million) and British Columbia (-12.3% to \$145 million). In all three provinces, the commercial component led the decrease.

On the other hand, Alberta registered an increase of 36.8% to \$221 million, reflecting a large jump in industrial intentions, while non-residential permits in Saskatchewan were up 103.6% to \$55 million, reflecting increases in all three major components.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 80 (levels 3-7 and 33-48), 129, 137, 443, 989-992, 994, 995 and 4073.

The October 1998 issue of *Building permits* (64-001-XIB, \$19/\$186) will be available shortly on the Internet. See *How to order publications*.

The November 1998 building permits estimate will be released on January 12, 1999. For further information or to enquire about methods, concepts or data quality of this release, contact Joanne Bureau (613-951-9689; burejoa@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Ginette Gervais (613-951-2025; gervgin@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Value of building permits

	Sept. 1998 ^r	Oct. 1998 ^p	Sept. to Oct. 1998	Oct. 1997 to Oct. 1998
seasonally adjusted				
	\$ millions		% change	
Canada	2,775.4	2,557.1	-7.9	-4.0
Residential	1,474.2	1,388.5	-5.8	-6.3
Non-residential	1,301.3	1,168.6	-10.2	-1.3
Newfoundland	16.1	22.5	39.9	66.4
Residential	9.1	8.9	-2.3	-9.1
Non-residential	7.0	13.6	94.8	263.0
Prince Edward Island	16.4	12.1	-26.3	72.6
Residential	4.2	5.9	40.8	75.4
Non-residential	12.2	6.2	-49.1	70.0
Nova Scotia	50.7	54.9	8.3	7.8
Residential	33.8	29.1	-13.9	-7.3
Non-residential	16.8	25.8	52.9	32.1
New Brunswick	40.5	37.4	-7.5	-8.0
Residential	20.3	17.9	-11.8	-22.0
Non-residential	20.2	19.5	-3.2	10.1
Quebec	511.3	415.0	-18.8	-2.2
Residential	227.8	241.7	6.1	10.4
Non-residential	283.5	173.3	-38.9	-15.6
Ontario	1,182.7	1,058.1	-10.5	-9.8
Residential	652.5	613.1	-6.0	-6.4
Non-residential	530.2	445.0	-16.1	-14.2
Manitoba	107.6	96.0	-10.8	51.6
Residential	32.1	36.9	15.0	46.6
Non-residential	75.5	59.0	-21.8	54.8
Saskatchewan	56.6	77.0	36.0	47.3
Residential	29.5	21.8	-26.0	-3.7
Non-residential	27.1	55.2	103.6	86.3
Alberta	423.2	455.8	7.7	25.3
Residential	261.7	234.8	-10.3	4.6
Non-residential	161.5	221.0	36.8	58.8
British Columbia	364.7	318.2	-12.8	-31.7
Residential	199.8	173.6	-13.1	-34.2
Non-residential	165.0	144.7	-12.3	-28.4
Yukon	2.9	3.0	5.2	-54.0
Residential	1.9	1.5	-20.7	-50.7
Non-residential	1.0	1.5	53.4	-56.8
Northwest Territories	2.7	7.1	159.4	129.1
Residential	1.6	3.3	109.5	461.9
Non-residential	1.2	3.8	227.2	51.1

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

Note: Data may not add to totals due to rounding.

OTHER RELEASES

Longitudinal administrative databank 1982 to 1996

Data for 1996 have been added to the Longitudinal Administrative Databank (LAD). This databank now spans the years 1982 to 1996 and contains information about individuals and census families.

The LAD consists of a 10% longitudinal sample of Canadian taxfilers and helps researchers and analysts study the changes in income that Canadians and their families experience. The LAD contains a wide variety of income and demographic variables such

as employment income, self-employment income, Registered Retirement Savings Plan contributions, alimony, age, sex, and census family composition. The large sample (2.2 million persons in 1996) ensures reliable estimates for Canada, the provinces, census metropolitan areas, and some subprovincial regions, based on aggregations of postal codes.

Custom tabulations including 1996 data can now be provided. For further information, contact Client Services (613-951-9720; fax 613-951-4745; saadinfo@statcan.ca), Small Area and Administrative Data Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Infomat - A weekly review, December 4, 1998
Catalogue number 11-002-XIE
(Canada: \$3/\$109; outside Canada: US\$3/US\$109).

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

Asphalt roofing, October 1998
Catalogue number 45-001-XPB
(Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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Catalogue 11-001E (P) (English) 11001E13150840307-0-00

The Daily
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 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 211 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was modest weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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December 7 to 11, 1998
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Release date	Title	Reference period
7	Field crop reporting series: November crop production estimates	November 1998
7	Industrial capacity utilization rates	Third quarter 1998
8	Preliminary release of Canadian social trends - Paying off student loans	1997
10	Where are the high tech firms?	
10	New Housing Price Index	October 1998
11	New motor vehicle sales	October 1998
