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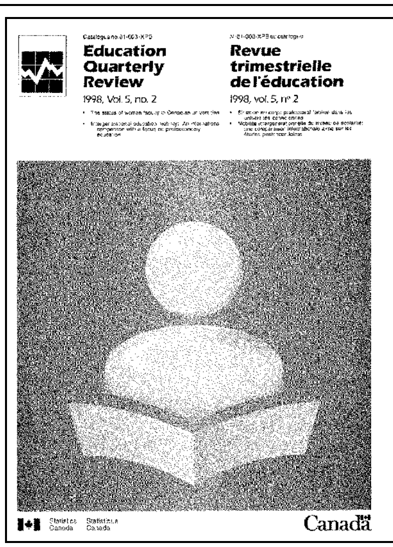
The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, December 7, 1998
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

(continued on following page)



Education quarterly review

Education quarterly review, released today, features the articles "Status of women faculty in Canadian universities" and "Intergenerational education mobility: An international comparison with a focus on postsecondary education".

Each issue of *Education quarterly review* also includes a series of social, economic and education indicators for Canada, the provinces and territories, and the G-7 countries.

Education quarterly review, Vol. 5, no. 2, is now available (81-003-XPB, $21/$68; Internet version: 81-003-XIB, $16/$51) versions. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Jim Seidle (613-951-1500; fax: 613-951-9040; *seidjim@statcan.ca*), Centre for Education Statistics.

OTHER RELEASES

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

RELEASE DATES: Week of December 7 to 11, 1998

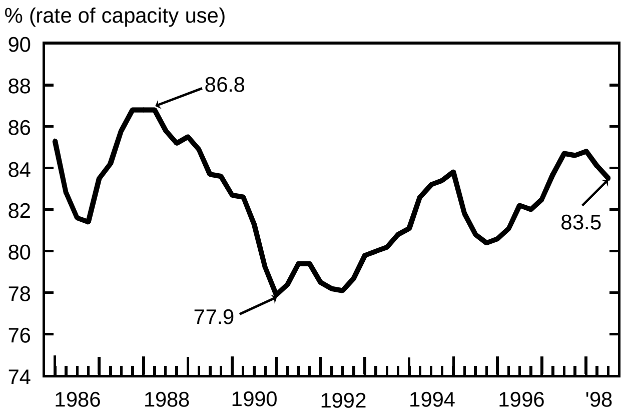
MAJOR RELEASES

Industrial capacity utilization rates

Third quarter 1998

Capacity use dropped for a second consecutive quarter as additional capacity coming on stream magnified a slight decrease in industrial production in the third quarter of 1998. Industries operated at 83.5% of capacity, down 0.6 of a percentage point from the previous quarter. This level was 3.3 percentage points below the 86.8% peak recorded during the 1988 economic expansion. (The rates of capacity use have been revised back to 1991 to incorporate revisions in source data.)

Capacity use down another notch



Industrial capital investment has been growing strongly in recent years, surging 11.2% in 1997. In 1998, businesses reported that they planned to spend nearly $50 billion, an increase of 5.6%. This growth in production capacity, together with the slight drop in industrial production, lowered the rate of capacity use during the third quarter of 1998.

Strikes in the automotive and pulp and paper industries were partly responsible for keeping manufacturing production unchanged from the second quarter. Strikes also reduced output in construction industries and production fell in the forestry and mining industries. Consumer spending and business investment grew only moderately during the third quarter.

Manufacturing production may increase during the rest of 1998 with the automotive industries returning to more normal production levels by September. The October results of the Business Conditions Survey indicated that manufacturers were planning to increase production during the fourth quarter, although the largest gains were restricted to the automotive sector. Non-residential construction will probably continue to show strength, according to the number of building permits issued, but the momentum in the sector has slowed over the last few months.

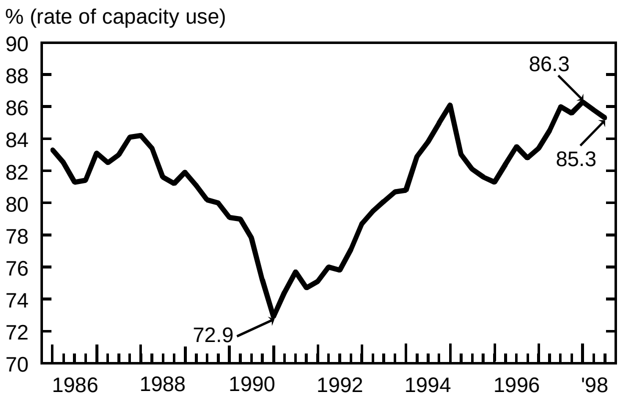
> ***Note to readers***
>
> *An industry's capacity use is the ratio of its actual output to its estimated potential output. Statistics Canada derives estimates of an industry's potential output from measures of its capital stock. In addition, since 1987, Statistics Canada has been surveying companies for their estimates of annual capacity use, in order to produce survey-based industry measures.*
>
> *A company's measure of its level of operation, as a percentage of potential, takes into account changes in the obsolescence of facilities, capital-to-labour ratios and other characteristics of production techniques. The surveyed rates anchor the calculated quarterly series and ensure they reflect such changes.*

Price pressures remained in check during the third quarter, as they have for some time. Industrial prices have remained at approximately the same levels since about 1995. Unit labour costs, although they have risen slightly during 1998, have not changed much for about two years. In October, the Consumer Price Index showed a 1.0% increase over October 1997. So far this year, the 12-month change has been between advances of 0.7% and 1.1%.

Strikes influence manufacturing

Manufacturers reduced their rate of capacity use by 0.5 percentage points for the second quarter in a row. Of the 22 industry groups in manufacturing, 12 raised their rates.

Capacity use in manufacturing cools off



In the transportation group of industries, the strike of GM auto workers in the United States, which led to shutdowns of Canadian plants, ended in July, but output was still reduced for the third quarter as a whole. Production capacity also increased with the result that the rate of capacity use fell 2.1 percentage points to 79.6%.

Labour disputes also affected output in the paper and allied group of industries. September marked the fourth month of a strike at several mills. The rate of capacity use fell 2.6 percentage points to 88.3%.

Machinery was another group of industries where a drop in production in the third quarter coincided with production capacity growth, bringing the rate of capacity use down 6.1 percentage points to 78.5%.

Manufacturers of chemicals and chemical products reduced their rate of capacity use by 1.2 percentage points to 88.6%, as a slight increase in production was more than absorbed by an increase in capacity.

On the positive side, producers of office machines and computers contributed to increased output in the electrical and electronic products group of industries. Capacity use rose 2.4 percentage points to 95.2%, a record high for this group.

Wood industries benefited from strong residential construction activity in the United States. Producers of lumber and other wood construction-related products helped boost output in the third quarter. The rate of capacity use went up 1.6 percentage points to 86.2%.

Distilleries and breweries were chiefly responsible for increased output in the beverage industries where the rate of capacity use climbed 1.7 percentage points to 87.9%.

The rubber products industries hit a record peak of 98.5% in the third quarter.

Utilities give non-manufacturing a boost

Rates of capacity use fell in all non-manufacturing industries except for electric power systems and gas distribution systems. Capacity use increased 2.0 percentage points to 87.6% in electric power systems where output grew in part due to increased demand from U.S. customers in August. In gas distribution systems, increased production raised capacity use 2.7 percentage points to 68.3%.

Weak commodity prices continued to depress the output from mines and to reduce oil and gas drilling and exploration. As a result, capacity use in the mining and quarrying industries sagged 4.7 percentage points to 76.5%. In the crude petroleum and natural gas industries, production decreased slightly and production capacity grew, leading to a decline of 1.4 percentage points in the rate of capacity use to 75.2%.

Reduced output in the construction industries was largely due to strikes in several trades affecting residential construction. Capacity use fell 0.9 percentage points to 83.8%.

Output in the logging and forestry industries declined for the third consecutive quarter and capacity use fell 3.7 percentage points to 74.6% in the third quarter.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 3140.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Susanna Wood (613-951-0655) or Richard Landry (613-951-2579), Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Industrial capacity utilization rates

	Third quarter 1997	Second quarter 1998	Third quarter 1998	Third quarter 1997 to Third quarter 1998	Second to Third quarter 1998
				percentage point change	
Total non-farm goods-producing industries	**84.7**	**84.1**	**83.5**	**-1.2**	**-0.6**
Logging and forestry	85.3	78.3	74.6	-10.7	-3.7
Mining (including milling), quarrying and oil wells	81.5	78.3	75.7	-5.8	-2.6
Mining (including milling) and quarrying	87.9	81.2	76.5	-11.4	-4.7
Crude petroleum and natural gas	77.7	76.6	75.2	-2.5	-1.4
Manufacturing	86.0	85.8	85.3	-0.7	-0.5
Durable goods	86.9	85.3	84.5	-2.4	-0.8
Wood	87.4	84.6	86.2	-1.2	1.6
Furniture and fixture	87.6	94.4	92.1	4.5	-2.3
Primary metal	92.3	88.8	88.0	-4.3	-0.8
Fabricated metal products	83.7	82.7	83.3	-0.4	0.6
Machinery	91.7	84.6	78.5	-13.2	-6.1
Transportation equipment	88.2	81.7	79.6	-8.6	-2.1
Electrical and electronic products	84.2	92.8	95.2	11.0	2.4
Non-metallic mineral products	81.3	87.5	88.6	7.3	1.1
Other manufacturing	81.7	81.1	82.3	0.6	1.2
Non-durable goods	85.0	86.4	86.3	1.3	-0.1
Food	81.2	84.2	85.2	4.0	1.0
Beverage	78.3	86.2	87.9	9.6	1.7
Tobacco products	71.6	72.5	69.4	-2.2	-3.1
Rubber products	94.7	98.2	98.5	3.8	0.3
Plastic products	80.4	81.6	82.3	1.9	0.7
Leather and allied products	80.0	79.7	80.7	0.7	1.0
Primary textile	88.5	84.4	83.9	-4.6	-0.5
Textile products	79.1	80.1	79.9	0.8	-0.2
Clothing	88.8	88.3	86.7	-2.1	-1.6
Paper and allied products	89.9	90.9	88.3	-1.6	-2.6
Printing, publishing and allied	84.2	84.4	84.8	0.6	0.4
Refined petroleum and coal products	94.6	94.9	97.3	2.7	2.4
Chemical and chemical products	90.3	89.8	88.6	-1.7	-1.2
Construction	83.2	84.7	83.8	0.6	-0.9
Electric power and gas distribution systems	84.5	83.1	85.2	0.7	2.1
Electric power	85.5	85.6	87.6	2.1	2.0
Gas distribution	77.7	65.6	68.3	-9.4	2.7

■

Estimate of production of principal field crops

November 1998

During the drought of July and August, farmers and industry analysts expected much lower yields than last year for all major crops. Wet weather arrived just before harvest, however, resulting in yields that were better than last year and the averages of the last 10 years.

November production

	1997	1998	1997 to 1998
	millions of tonnes		% change
Total wheat	**24.3**	**24.4**	**0.4**
Spring wheat	19.0	16.8	-11.6
Barley	13.5	12.7	-5.9
Canola	6.4	7.6	18.8
Oats	3.5	4.0	14.3
Corn	7.2	8.9	23.6
Soybeans	2.7	2.7	0.0
Durum wheat	4.4	6.1	38.6
Field peas	1.8	2.3	27.8
Flaxseed	0.9	1.1	22.2

Record canola production

There will be lots of canola to meet increased domestic processing capacity this year. A record 7.6 million tonnes broke the previous record of 7.2 million tonnes set in 1994. The rise in production was due to an increase in both seeded area and yield. Planted area jumped by 1.4 million acres this year to 13.5 million acres, the second highest total on record. Yield rose 1.6 bushels per acre over last year and 2.3 bushels per acre over the 10-year average.

Durum wheat production highest ever

Durum wheat production hit a record 6.1 million tonnes in the prairie provinces. Farmers planted a record 7.3 million acres of durum wheat, up 1.7 million acres over last year. Of the total acreage, 83% was planted in Saskatchewan, which contributed 1.5 million acres of the increase. Yield was 1.7 more bushels per acre than last year.

Record yields responsible for highest grain corn production on record

A record corn harvest of 8.9 million tonnes was set this year, 1.4 million tonnes more than the previous record of 7.5 million tonnes set in 1996. The seeded area for grain corn of 2.8 million acres was just 76 thousand acres short of the 1984 record. An early spring planting season coupled with hot dry weather in July, just enough rainfall in August, and a dry harvest period in October and November were ideal conditions for corn. Average yield for the last 10 years had been 105.6 bushels per acre but this year a record yield of 127.0 bushels per acre was achieved. The previous high yield was 117.7 bushels per acre in 1994. Record yields were established in both Ontario and Quebec, the two major producing provinces. Ontario produces two-thirds of the total corn produced in Canada.

Note to readers

The November Crops Survey of 34,100 farm operators was conducted by telephone interviews between the 26th of October and the 18th of November. Farmers were asked to report their seeded areas, harvested areas, and yields of all grains and oilseeds.

Record field pea production for the second consecutive year

An increase of 583 thousand acres of field peas and better yields established a second consecutive record of production (2.3 million tonnes). The previous record was set last year at 1.8 million tonnes. Overall, yields were about 1.3 bushels per acre more than last year and 3.6 bushels per acre over the 10-year average. Field peas appear to have become a stronger contender for land in crop rotations with the major grain crops. Industry analysts feel that this trend is in response to a need to diversify in times of low world prices for wheat and barley, whose export sales are controlled by the Canadian Wheat Board. The upward production trend has been in evidence since 1990. Western Europe and Asia are the major target countries for two-thirds of field pea production, where it is used principally as a livestock feed supplement.

Soybeans approach record

The soybean crop of 2.7 million tonnes will be the second largest crop ever harvested, down only one thousand tonnes from last year’s record production. Soybean seeded area was down 200 thousand acres from last year but the yield of 41.5 bushels per acre, an increase of 3.1 bushels per acre, was the major reason for the high production.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1025-1043, 1046-1051 and 3541-3565.

Field crop reporting series no. 8: November estimate of production of principal field crops, Canada (22-002-XPB, $15/$88) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact David Burroughs (613-951-5138; *burrdav@statcan.ca*), Crops Section, Agriculture Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Farm taxation statistics
1997 (preliminary)

Farm taxation statistics for 1997 are now available. Average operating revenues, expenses and net income are available by province and farm type.

For custom data requests, contact Client Services (613-951-5027). For general information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release contact Bruce Orok (613-951-8722), Agriculture Division. ■

Railway carloadings
Seven-day period ending November 21, 1998

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending November 21, 1998, decreased 10.2% to 4.7 million tonnes from the same period last year. The number of cars loaded also decreased 8.1%.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totalled 372 000 tonnes, a 4.4% increase from the same period last year. The year-to-date figures show a decline of 1.8%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) decreased 9.3% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 229.6 million tonnes, a decrease of 3.1% 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. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Field crop reporting series, no. 8
Catalogue number 22-002-XPB
(Canada: $15/$88; outside Canada: US$15/US$88).

Coal and coke statistics, September 1998
Catalogue number 45-002-XPB
(Canada: $12/$114; outside Canada: US$12/US$114).

Electric power statistics, September 1998
Catalogue number 57-001-XPB
(Canada: $12/$114; outside Canada: US$12/US$114).

Education quarterly review, 1998, Vol. 5, no. 2
Catalogue number 81-003-XIB
(Canada: $16/$51; outside Canada: US$16/US$51).

Education quarterly review, 1998, Vol. 5, no. 2
Catalogue number 81-003-XPB
(Canada: $21/$68; outside Canada: US$21/US$68).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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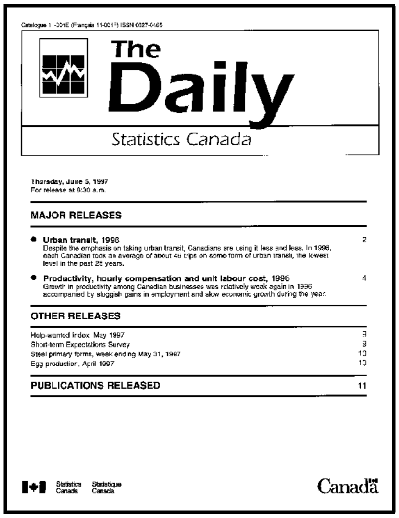

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Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** — 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 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.

OTHER RELEASES

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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RELEASE DATES

Week of December 7 to 11, 1998

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
8	**Preliminary release of Canadian Social Trends: Paying off student loans**	1997
9	**Perspectives on labour and income**	Winter 1998
10	**Where are the high tech firms?**	
10	**New Housing Price Index**	October 1998
11	**New motor vehicle sales**	October 1998