



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Consumer Price Index, January 1998**

The annual change in the Consumer Price Index rebounded to 1.1% from the rates recorded in December and November, but was still lower than any other annual advance reported since January 1995.

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- **International travel account, 1997 and fourth quarter 1997**

The international travel account deficit grew for the second consecutive year in 1997. It reached \$3.2 billion, up 6.7% from 1996.

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**RELEASE DATES: March 1998** 14

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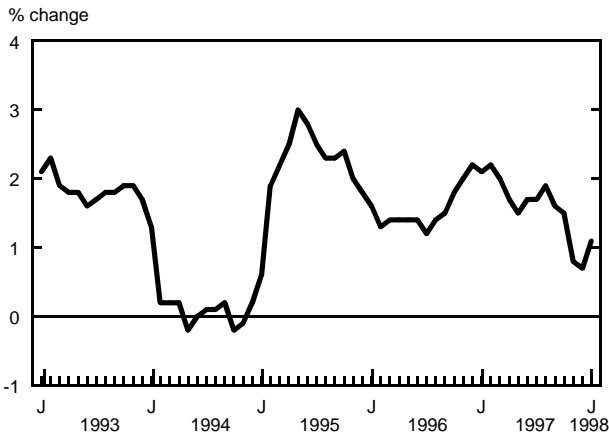
## MAJOR RELEASES

### Consumer Price Index

January 1998

The annual change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rebounded somewhat from the rates recorded in December and November but was still lower than any other annual advance reported since January 1995. Consumer prices in January 1998 were on average 1.1% higher than they were in January 1997. The 12-month advance was 0.7% in December, 0.8% in November, and 1.5% in October.

**Change in the Consumer Price Index  
from the same month of the previous year**



Why did the annual rate of price change increase from 0.7% in December to 1.1% in January? Four components (fresh vegetables, clothing, new cars, and mortgage interest costs) were primarily responsible for the increase. A fifth component (energy) partially offset the effect.

Commodities that showed significant price increases between January 1997 and January 1998 included fresh vegetables, restaurant meals, local telephone service and tuition fees. Over the same 12-month period, Canadians benefited from declining charges for mortgage interest, energy and computers.

#### The CPI rose by 0.6% between December and January

The CPI was 0.6% higher in January than in the previous month. This was the largest monthly increase since the same movement was recorded in

#### Note to readers

January is the first month the Consumer Price Index has been presented on the time base 1992=100. Some price movements in this text differ slightly from movements previously published on the time base 1986=100 as a result of rounding.

November 1994. A rise in the Quebec sales tax from 6.5% to 7.5% accounted for about one-sixth of the increase. Around half of the remaining advance was a result of a jump in prices for fresh vegetables and fruit. Higher telephone rates were another important factor. Consumers also paid more for clothing and new vehicles, but benefited somewhat from lower prices for gasoline, travel tours and footwear and from falling mortgage interest charges.

Fresh vegetable prices leaped by an exceptional 26.5% between December and January. One factor was cold and stormy weather in the southwestern United States and Mexico during December, which ruined some field crops and delayed transportation of fresh produce to market. Another factor was the continuing decline in the value of the Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar. Fresh fruit prices were less affected by these factors, rising a more moderate 3.4%. Grocery shoppers also paid higher prices for soft drinks (holiday season sales ended), but less for beef, pork and bakery products.

Residents of many provinces saw an increase for local telephone service. This was the third of three annual rate increases approved by the federal government.

In January, both men's and women's clothing showed price gains as December sale prices for many items were discontinued. The rise in Quebec sales tax played a small role in the increase. The increase in clothing prices was larger than usual for January. A dip in footwear prices in January was seasonal in nature.

Consumers purchasing automotive vehicles in January were required to pay 0.8% more, on average, than in December. A small part was due to the sales tax increase in Quebec. The selling prices of cars are traditionally established with the introduction of the new models in the fall of each year, then adjusted in following months depending on supply and demand conditions and marketing strategies. Vehicle sales strengthened in 1997, particularly in December. This may have contributed to the decision to raise prices. The selling price of cars dipped between December and January a year ago.

Gasoline led the group of commodities exhibiting offsetting price declines in January. The price of crude oil on world markets fell in January to levels unseen in nearly four years. A year ago, gasoline prices rose slightly between December and January.

Travel tour packages are priced in January, February and March of each year when Canadians generally travel to southern destinations. January is the least popular of the three months. This was reflected in the 4.6 % price drop this January compared with March 1997 when packages were last priced. Compared with last January, prices increased 10.9%. Annual increases for travel tours have exceeded the rise in the All-items CPI for almost four years. This corresponds to a period of time in which the value of the Canadian dollar had been falling relative to the U.S. dollar.

Homeowners continued to enjoy the benefits of lower mortgage interest costs in January. The speed of the decline has slowed recently, both because interest rates have remained low for an extended period, and because rates have shown recent increases.

Cablevision prices showed only a minor increase in January. A number of companies, which had introduced new channels for a free trial period, decided to extend this promotion.

### Provincial highlights

Between January 1997 and January 1998, increases in the CPIs of the provinces ranged from a high of 1.9% in Quebec to a low of 0.3% for Prince Edward Island. In Quebec, consumers saw a price advance larger than the average due to two factors; the increase in the provincial sales tax and a large increase in vegetable and fruit prices. Commodities in Prince Edward Island that held back corresponding price movements at the national level were new homes, electricity, fuel oil and clothing.

From a monthly viewpoint, consumers in all provinces except Quebec experienced an average price increase of 0.3% to 0.6%. In Quebec, with the effects of the sales tax increase and the jump in fresh vegetable and fruit prices, the increase was 1.2%.

### Available on CANSIM: matrices 9940-9970.

Available at 7 a.m. on the Internet @ [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca).

The January 1998 issue of the *Consumer Price Index* (62-001-XPB, \$11/\$103) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

The February 1998 *Consumer Price Index* will be released on March 24, 1998.

For further information on this release, contact Sandra Shadlock (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-2848; Internet: [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)), Prices Division. □

**Consumer Price Index and major components**  
1992=100

	Jan. 1998	Dec. 1997	Jan. 1997	Dec. 1997 to Jan. 1998	Jan. 1997 to Jan. 1998
	unadjusted				
				% change	
<b>All-items</b>	<b>108.2</b>	<b>107.6</b>	<b>107.0</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Food	109.7	107.9	107.2	1.7	2.3
Shelter	103.4	103.3	103.5	0.1	-0.1
Household operations and furnishings	108.5	106.9	106.4	1.5	2.0
Clothing and footwear	102.9	101.7	100.5	1.2	2.4
Transportation	121.3	121.3	121.6	0.0	-0.2
Health and personal care	107.0	106.7	104.8	0.3	2.1
Recreation, education and reading	114.0	114.2	112.0	-0.2	1.8
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	90.5	90.1	88.3	0.4	2.5
Goods	106.3	105.5	105.4	0.8	0.9
Services	110.6	110.1	109.0	0.5	1.5
All-items excluding food and energy	108.0	107.5	106.7	0.5	1.2
Energy	106.6	107.5	109.4	-0.8	-2.6
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared with 1992	92.4	92.9	93.5		
All-items (1986=100)	138.6				

**Consumer Price Index by province, Whitehorse and Yellowknife**  
1992=100

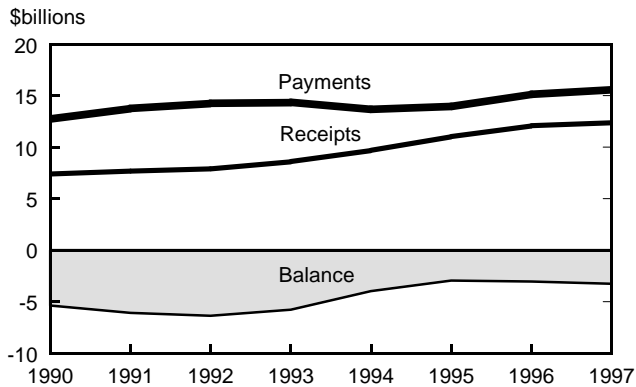
	Jan. 1998	Dec. 1997	Jan. 1997	Dec. 1997 to Jan. 1998	Jan. 1997 to Jan. 1998
	unadjusted				
				% change	
Newfoundland	108.5	107.9	107.6	0.6	0.8
Prince Edward Island	106.4	106.1	106.1	0.3	0.3
Nova Scotia	108.7	108.0	107.1	0.6	1.5
New Brunswick	107.6	107.2	106.4	0.4	1.1
Quebec	106.2	104.9	104.2	1.2	1.9
Ontario	108.4	107.9	107.4	0.5	0.9
Manitoba	112.1	111.7	111.0	0.4	1.0
Saskatchewan	110.8	110.4	110.0	0.4	0.7
Alberta	110.0	109.7	108.9	0.3	1.0
British Columbia	109.7	109.4	109.3	0.3	0.4
Whitehorse	110.3	110.4	108.2	-0.1	1.9
Yellowknife	107.7	107.6	108.3	0.1	-0.6

## International travel account

1997 and fourth quarter 1997 (preliminary)

The international travel account deficit grew for the second consecutive year in 1997. It reached \$3.2 billion, up 6.7% from 1996. The deficit peaked at \$6.4 billion in 1992.

**Second consecutive annual increase of Canada's international travel account deficit**



Spending by Canadians abroad and receipts from foreign visitors reached unprecedented levels in 1997. Canadians spent \$15.6 billion during their international trips, up 3.2% from the previous year. Meanwhile, foreigners travelling to Canada injected \$12.4 billion directly into the country's economy, 2.3% more than in 1996.

### New deficit in Canada's travel account with overseas countries

After having been in a surplus position the previous two years, the travel account balance between Canada and overseas countries showed a deficit again in 1997. This deficit reached \$134 million compared with a surplus of \$335 million in 1996.

The strengthening of the Canadian dollar compared with most European currencies and the Japanese yen was an important factor in the deterioration of Canada's travel account balance with countries other than the United States.

Canada became more expensive in the eyes of residents of these countries, which may have deterred them from choosing Canada as a travel destination as much as in 1996. In 1997, the number of overnight trips overseas residents made to Canada decreased

#### 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 and medical-related spending.

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

Overseas countries are countries other than the United States.

by 3.4%. Furthermore, those who came may have been inclined to spend less. Meanwhile, Europe has become a more attractive destination for Canadians. Canadians made a record number of trips to overseas destinations in 1997.

Another factor has been the financial crisis in Asia, one of Canada's tourism markets, which had experienced major growth in the last few years. According to preliminary results from the World Tourism Organization (WTO), residents of Asian countries travelled less in 1997, contributing to slower growth for global tourism.

Residents of overseas countries spent \$5.5 billion in Canada in 1997, down 1.6% from 1996. It was the first annual decrease since 1983.

Meanwhile, Canadians spent 7.3% more during their trips in countries other than the United States in 1997 compared with a year earlier, bringing the total to \$5.6 billion — the highest on record.

### Lower deficit in travel account between Canada and the United States

In 1997, Americans travelled more to Canada and spent more money while here. Spending by Americans increased by 5.6% to \$6.9 billion. Meanwhile, Canadians travelling to the United States spent 1.0% more than during the previous year (\$10.0 billion). The net result was a decrease in the travel account deficit between Canada and the United States, which reached \$3.1 billion.

### Fourth quarter of 1997

In the fourth quarter of 1997, a record \$1.7 billion in receipts from American travellers combined with lower spending by Canadians in the United States contributed to a 13.8% drop in the travel account between Canada and the United States. This deficit of \$672 million was the smallest since the first quarter of 1995.

Meanwhile, the travel account with countries other than the United States showed a deficit for the second consecutive quarter (\$142 million). This travel account showed a surplus from the third quarter of 1995 to the second quarter of 1997.

Spending by Canadians in overseas countries reached a new high of \$1.5 billion in the fourth quarter of 1997. Meanwhile, spending by residents of overseas countries was at its lowest level (\$193 million) since

the fourth quarter of 1995. Overall, the international travel account deficit was down 4.7% in the fourth quarter to \$815 million.

For further information on this release, contact Luc Dubois (613-951-1674; fax: 613-951-2909, Internet: [duboluc@statcan.ca](mailto:duboluc@statcan.ca)), International Travel Section, Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. □

**International travel account receipts and payments**

	First quarter 1996	Second quarter 1996	Third quarter 1996	Fourth quarter 1996	First quarter 1997 <sup>r</sup>	Second quarter 1997 <sup>r</sup>	Third quarter 1997 <sup>r</sup>	Fourth quarter 1997 <sup>p</sup>	1996	1997
seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>										
\$ millions										
<b>United States</b>										
Receipts	1,616	1,668	1,596	1,626	1,660	1,733	1,736	1,742	6,506	6,870
Payments	2,506	2,380	2,508	2,476	2,503	2,535	2,516	2,414	9,870	9,968
Balance	-890	-712	-912	-850	-843	-802	-780	-672	-3,364	-3,098
<b>All other countries</b>										
Receipts	1,318	1,402	1,398	1,468	1,418	1,382	1,363	1,335	5,586	5,498
Payments	1,285	1,292	1,305	1,369	1,356	1,361	1,438	1,478	5,251	5,633
Balance	34	110	93	99	62	20	-74	-142	335	-134
<b>Total</b>										
Receipts	2,934	3,070	2,994	3,094	3,077	3,115	3,099	3,077	12,092	12,368
Payments	3,790	3,672	3,813	3,846	3,859	3,897	3,954	3,891	15,122	15,601
Balance	-856	-602	-819	-752	-781	-782	-854	-815	-3,029	-3,232
	First quarter 1996	Second quarter 1996	Third quarter 1996	Fourth quarter 1996	First quarter 1997	Second quarter 1997	Third quarter 1997 <sup>r</sup>	Fourth quarter 1997 <sup>p</sup>	1996	1997
unadjusted <sup>1</sup>										
\$ millions										
<b>United States</b>										
Receipts	865	1,704	2,851	1,087	883	1,797	3,026	1,163	6,506	6,870
Payments	2,930	2,573	2,395	1,973	2,902	2,736	2,413	1,916	9,870	9,968
Balance	-2,065	-869	456	-886	-2,019	-939	613	-753	-3,364	-3,098
<b>All other countries</b>										
Receipts	874	1,422	2,226	1,063	920	1,403	2,181	995	5,586	5,498
Payments	1,411	1,215	1,460	1,165	1,472	1,281	1,593	1,287	5,251	5,633
Balance	-537	207	766	-102	-552	122	590	-293	335	-134
<b>Total</b>										
Receipts	1,739	3,126	5,077	2,150	1,803	3,200	5,207	2,158	12,092	12,368
Payments	4,341	3,788	3,855	3,138	4,374	4,017	4,006	3,203	15,122	15,601
Balance	-2,602	-662	1,222	-988	-2,571	-817	1,203	-1,046	-3,029	-3,232

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

<sup>1</sup> Data may not add to totals due to rounding.



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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Employment, earnings and hours

December 1997 (preliminary)

Growth in average weekly earnings continued to be moderate in December, rising 0.2% to \$601.79. Compared with one year ago, average earnings increased by 1.0%. There were significant variations in earnings growth between industries. In the past year, average earnings declined for employees working in education, health and social services and public administration, reflecting ongoing public sector budget restraints. Employees working in mining, wholesale trade, and finance, insurance and real estate realized increases in average earnings of more than 3%.

Average weekly hours for hourly paid employees fell 0.7% to 31.0 hours in December, virtually unchanged from December 1996 levels. Overtime hours fell more sharply (-25%) during the past year as businesses increased employment levels.

The return to work of Canada Post employees accounted for most of the estimated 50,000 increase in the total number of employees on business payrolls in December. In other industries, employers in durable goods manufacturing and mining, quarrying and oil wells also added to company payrolls, while there were slight reductions in forestry, retail, finance and public administration.

For the year, payroll employment increased steadily through the year as employers added an estimated 429,000 employees to company payrolls. Increases were widespread across most industries with the exception of construction, education and public administration. The strongest gains were in manufacturing industries and wholesale and retail trade and were coincident with increases in shipments and sales.

#### **Note to readers**

*The Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours (SEPH) is currently in the final phase of a major, multi-year re-engineering project to improve estimates of the level of business payrolls and paid employment, and to reduce reporting burden on businesses. With the change in methodology, there is a risk that employment estimates from the administrative records may show a different seasonal pattern than the previous questionnaire data, which can only be assessed within the context of a longer time period. Statistics Canada continues 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 or for detailed industry distributions.*

*Beginning in October 1997, employers with a total of \$12,000 or less per year in income tax withholdings, Canada/Quebec Pension Plan contributions and Employment Insurance premiums were allowed to make remittances to Revenue Canada on a quarterly basis. Accordingly, slight modifications to the survey methodology have been made and although quarterly remitters represent only a small fraction of total employment and payroll, estimates for both employment and earnings in the last quarter may be affected by this change in reporting procedures.*

**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 March 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* 1984-1996 (diskette: 72F0002XDE, \$120) and by custom tabulations.

For further information on this release, contact Robert Frindt (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; Internet: [labour@statcan.ca](mailto:labour@statcan.ca)), Labour Division. □



**Average weekly earnings for all employees**

Industry group (1980 Standard Industrial Classification)	Dec. 1996	Nov. 1997 <sup>r</sup>	Dec. 1997 <sup>p</sup>	Nov. 1997 to Dec. 1997	Dec. 1996 to Dec. 1997
	seasonally adjusted				
	\$			% change	
<b>Industrial aggregate</b>	<b>595.78</b>	<b>600.32</b>	<b>601.79</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Logging and forestry	796.09	782.53	777.59	-0.6	-2.3
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	1059.42	1077.71	1091.43	1.3	3.0
Manufacturing	733.59	740.43	745.66	0.7	1.6
Construction	691.57	713.92	724.73	1.5	4.8
Transportation and storage	715.08	723.50	724.26	0.1	1.3
Communication and other utilities	780.87	835.32	797.24	-4.6	2.1
Wholesale trade	627.98	656.54	651.10	-0.8	3.7
Retail trade	353.35	356.55	355.34	-0.3	0.6
Finance and insurance	773.56	792.84	800.94	1.0	3.5
Real estate operators and insurance agencies	606.31	637.12	639.98	0.4	5.6
Business services	673.39	674.43	676.36	0.3	0.4
Education-related services	675.07	673.03	674.88	0.3	0.0
Health and social services	520.08	515.28	515.73	0.1	-0.8
Accommodation, food and beverage services	239.58	230.92	231.20	0.1	-3.5
Public administration	743.74	738.66	738.60	0.0	-0.7
<b>Provinces and territories</b>					
Newfoundland	539.92	519.39	526.76	1.4	-2.4
Prince Edward Island	487.66	460.79	483.31	4.9	-0.9
Nova Scotia	498.98	498.71	503.77	1.0	1.0
New Brunswick	516.04	517.79	520.02	0.4	0.8
Quebec	562.32	568.21	569.82	0.3	1.3
Ontario	635.87	642.82	644.01	0.2	1.3
Manitoba	520.30	525.08	527.37	0.4	1.4
Saskatchewan	523.79	527.81	529.29	0.3	1.1
Alberta	593.99	603.88	607.57	0.6	2.3
British Columbia	619.50	610.75	615.44	0.8	-0.7
Yukon	702.25	713.07	712.24	-0.1	1.4
Northwest Territories	729.92	732.96	744.42	1.6	2.0

<sup>r</sup> Revised estimates.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary estimates.

## Number of employees

Industry group (1980 Standard Industrial Classification)	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1997 <sup>r</sup>	Dec. 1997 <sup>p</sup>	Oct. 1997 to Nov. 1997	Nov. 1997 to Dec. 1997
	seasonally adjusted				
	'000			% change	
<b>Industrial aggregate</b>	<b>11,316</b>	<b>11,449</b>	<b>11,499</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Logging and forestry	69	69	68	0.0	-1.4
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	146	146	149	0.0	2.1
Manufacturing	1,818	1,821	1,835	0.2	0.8
Construction	478	477	477	-0.2	0.0
Transportation and storage	472	475	481	0.6	1.3
Communication and other utilities	381	337	384	-11.5	13.9
Wholesale trade	727	728	733	0.1	0.7
Retail trade	1,432	1,438	1,434	0.4	-0.3
Finance and insurance	513	514	514	0.2	0.0
Real estate operators and insurances agencies	200	200	200	0.0	0.0
Business services	760	760	764	0.0	0.5
Education-related services	794	935	938	17.8	0.3
Health and social services	1,214	1,212	1,212	-0.2	0.0
Accommodation, food and beverage services	838	837	838	-0.1	0.1
Public administration	670	670	669	0.0	-0.1
<b>Provinces and territories</b>					
Newfoundland	147	148	148	0.7	0.0
Prince Edward Island	46	47	47	2.2	0.0
Nova Scotia	321	319	319	-0.6	0.0
New Brunswick	258	258	260	0.0	0.8
Quebec	2,731	2,726	2,734	-0.2	0.3
Ontario	4,349	4,475	4,504	2.9	0.6
Manitoba	429	429	432	0.0	0.7
Saskatchewan	339	343	344	1.2	0.3
Alberta	1,186	1,191	1,200	0.4	0.8
British Columbia	1,465	1,467	1,474	0.1	0.5
Yukon	15	15	15	0.0	0.0
Northwest Territories	26	25	25	-3.8	0.0

<sup>r</sup> Revised estimates.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary estimates.

## Electric power statistics

1997 and December 1997

Net generation of electricity increased to 52 016 gigawatt hours, up 2.3% from December 1996. Exports increased 17.0% to 3 933 gigawatt hours and imports increased from 828 to 900 gigawatt hours.

Generation of hydro electricity increased 2.7% to 33 218 gigawatt hours. Most of the increase can be linked to colder temperatures in Quebec, where electricity is the main source of energy for the

residential and commercial sectors. The temporary closing of seven nuclear reactors at Ontario Hydro's Pickering and Bruce plants and the shutdown for maintenance of New Brunswick's Point Lepreau plant led to a 14.7% drop in nuclear generation, which totalled 6 652 gigawatt hours. Thermal conventional generation was up 13.7% to 12 146 gigawatt hours, mainly to compensate for the loss of nuclear generating capability in Ontario and New Brunswick. Higher imports and lower exports also helped to compensate

for Ontario's loss of generating capacity in order to meet its domestic demand.

For 1997, net generation totalled 550 008 gigawatt hours, down 0.2% from 1996. Low reservoir levels in most provinces reduced hydroelectric power generation by 1.6%, with capacity shutdowns in Ontario and New Brunswick caused nuclear power generation to drop 11.0%. To compensate, generation from thermal sources rose 12.4%. Exports rose 3.0% to 45 202 gigawatt hours, while most of the growth coming from provinces west of Ontario. Imports rose 50.9% to 9 374 gigawatt hours from the previous year, mainly to compensate for lower generation in Ontario and British Columbia.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 3987-3999.**

The December 1997 issue of *Electric power statistics* (57-001-XPB, \$12/\$114) will be available the first week of March. See *How to order publications*.

For detailed information on this release, contact André Lefebvre (613-951-3560; Internet: [alefeba@statcan.ca](mailto:alefeba@statcan.ca)), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending February 14, 1998

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending February 14, 1998, increased 3.8% to 4.9 million tonnes from the same period of last year. The number of cars loaded increased 2.5%.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totalled 324 000 tonnes, a 7.9% decrease from the same period of last year. The year-to-date figures show a decrease of 6.1%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) increased 3.0% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 30.5 million tonnes, an increase of 10.3% from the previous year.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For further information on this release, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; Internet: [larocque@statcan.ca](mailto:larocque@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

## Stocks of frozen meat products

February 1998

Total frozen meat in cold storage at the opening of the first business day of February amounted to 35,527 tonnes compared with 40,584 tonnes last month and 37,154 tonnes a year ago.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 87 and 9517-9525.**

Available free on the Internet @ [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca). The menu path is "Products and services", "Downloadable publications", "Index of downloadable publications".

For further information on this release, contact Sandra Jarrett (613-951-3847; Internet: [jarrsan@statcan.ca](mailto:jarrsan@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## Fruit and vegetable production

February 1998

The most recent updates to data on the area, production and value of fruits and vegetables are now available.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 1371, 1372, 1375-1380, 1383-1389, 1392, 1393, 1395, 1399, 1401-1405, 5614 and 5615.**

*Fruit and vegetable production* (22-003SXPB, \$31/\$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, contact Bill Parsons (613-951-8727), Agriculture Division. ■

## Average prices of selected farm inputs

February 1998 (preliminary)

Estimates of average prices for selected farm inputs for February 1998 are now available by geographic regions.

For further information, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-9606), Prices Division. ■

## Asphalt roofing

January 1998

Production of asphalt shingles totalled 2 514 875 metric bundles in January, down 32.0% from 3 696 606 metric bundles produced a year earlier.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 32 and 122 (series 27).**

The January 1998 issue of *Asphalt roofing* (45-001-XPB, \$7/\$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Liisa Pent (613-951-3531; Internet: [pentlii@statcan.ca](mailto:pentlii@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## Cereals and oilseeds review

December 1997

Data from the December issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* are now available. The information includes data on production, stocks, cash and futures prices, crop quality, domestic processing, exports, farmers' deliveries and supply-disposition analyses.

The January situation report, an overview of current marketing conditions, both domestic and international, is also included in the December issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149), which will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Rick Burroughs (613-951-2890; Internet: [burrri@statcan.ca](mailto:burrri@statcan.ca)) or Les Macartney (613-951-8714), Grain Marketing Unit, Agriculture Division. ■

## Coal mines

1996

Increased demand from external and domestic markets contributed to the growth of the coal mining industry in 1996. Coal production for the year totalled 75 860 kilotonnes, up 1.2% from 1995. The value of the coal production increased 5.5% from 1995 to \$1.936 billion due to higher coal prices on foreign markets.

Exports of coal rose 1.3% from 1995 to 34 448 kilotonnes. Japan is the destination for more than half (54%) of Canada's coal exports. The rest of Asia represents 22% of the foreign market for Canadian coal, while Europe's share amounts to 15% of the exports. Most of the exports are from British Columbia and are shipped from the Vancouver port. Canada is the world's fifth-largest coal exporter.

Employment in coal mines increased 1.3% to 9 177 employees, while wages and salaries rose 7.1% from 1996. Employment in mines increased 4.2% in the export-driven British Columbia mines. Employment declined 4.5% in the Atlantic provinces, where coal is produced to supply nearby electric power generating stations.

The 1996 issue of *Coal mines* (26-206-XPB, \$24) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Serge Grenier (613-951-3566; Internet: [grenser@statcan.ca](mailto:grenser@statcan.ca)), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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

**Consumer Price Index**, January 1998  
**Catalogue number 62-001-XPB**  
(Canada: \$11/\$103; outside Canada: US\$11/US\$103).

**Livestock statistics update**, Issue 97-004  
**Catalogue number 23-603-UPE**  
(Canada: \$45/\$149; outside Canada: US\$45/US\$149).

**Annual demographic statistics**, 1997  
**Catalogue number 91-213-XPB**  
(Canada: \$67; outside Canada: US\$67).

**Trucking in Canada**, 1996  
**Catalogue number 53-222-XPB**  
(Canada: \$52; outside Canada: US\$52).

**All prices exclude sales tax.**

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**The Daily**  
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997  
For release at 9:30 a.m.

**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, 44.8% of Canadians 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 notably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- **Metropolitan Index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 21, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, April 1997** 12

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Statistics Canada Canada

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

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**RELEASE DATES: MARCH 1998**

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(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
2	National economic and financial accounts	Fourth quarter 1997
2	Balance of international payments	Fourth quarter 1997
2	Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry	December 1997
6	Building permits	January 1998
9	Heritage institutions	1995/96
10	Industrial capacity utilization rates	Fourth quarter 1997
10	Breaking and entering in Canada	1996
11	Help-wanted Index	February 1998
11	New Housing Price Index	January 1998
12	New motor vehicle sales	January 1998
12	Deposit-taking institutions: Their economic performance	1996
13	Labour Force Survey	February 1998
13	Canada's international investment position	1997
16	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	January 1998
16	Canadian attitudes to divorce	Spring 1998
17	Labour activities, occupation and industry, household activities, place of work, mode of transportation	1996 Census
18	Travel between Canada and other countries	January 1998
19	Canadian international merchandise trade	January 1998
19	Wholesale trade	January 1998
20	Retail trade	January 1998
24	Consumer Price Index	February 1998
24	Canada's international transactions in securities	January 1998
24	Employment insurance	January 1998
25	Composite Index	February 1998
25	Perspectives on labour and income	Spring 1998
26	Industrial Product Price Index	February 1998
26	Raw Materials Price Index	February 1998
27	Canadian cancer statistics	1998
27	Employment, earnings and hours	January 1998
30	National tourism indicators	Fourth quarter 1997
31	Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry	January 1998

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