



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, February 6, 1998

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Labour Force Survey, January 1998** 2
 Employment was unchanged in January. The unemployment rate rose 0.3 percentage points to 8.9% due to both a rise in the number of temporary layoffs in areas affected by the January ice storm and an increase in the number of people entering the labour market in search of work.

OTHER RELEASES

- Production and disposition of tobacco products, December 1997 6
- Steel wire and specified wire products, December 1997 6
- Egg production, December 1997 6
- Annual Survey of Manufactures, 1996 6

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

RELEASE DATES: February 9 to February 13, 1998 9



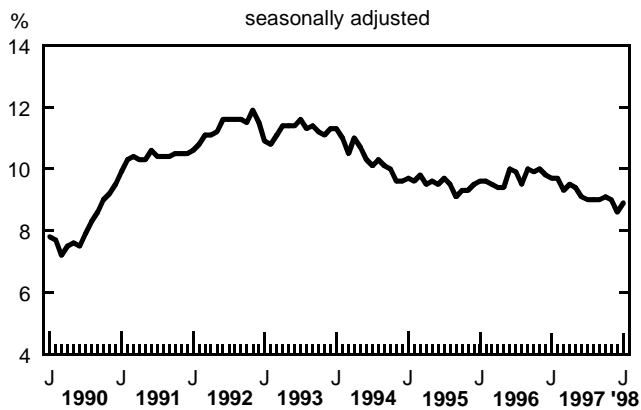
MAJOR RELEASES

Labour Force Survey

January 1998

Overall, employment was unchanged in January, following strong growth of 366,000 over the previous 10 months. Unemployment grew by an estimated 54,000, due both to a rise in the number of temporary layoffs in areas affected by the January ice storm and an increase in the number of people entering the labour market in search of work. As a result, the unemployment rate, which had dropped to its lowest level in seven years in December, rose 0.3 percentage points to 8.9%.

Unemployment rate

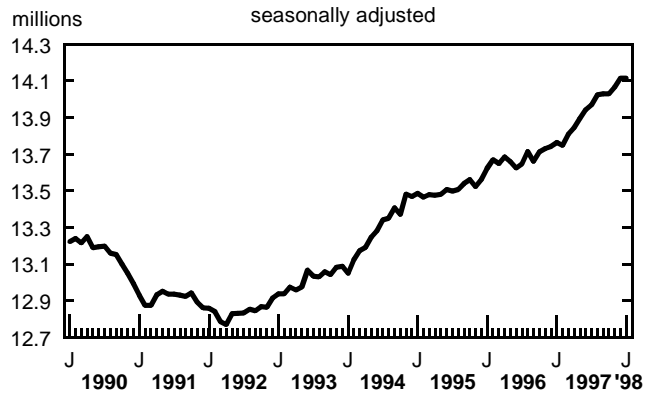


Recent ice storm affects the Quebec labour market

The reference week for the January 1998 Labour Force Survey coincided with the week immediately following the ice storm that knocked out the power supply to millions of residents and numerous businesses in Central Canada.

In January, employment fell sharply by 46,000 in Quebec, while unemployment increased by an estimated 30,000. As a result, Quebec's unemployment rate jumped 0.9 percentage points to 11.3%. The majority of these job losses were concentrated in the economic regions of Montréal and Montérégie where the impact of the storm was most severe.

Employment



Temporary business closures and workers unable to get to their place of work resulted in a sharp decline in the number of hours worked during the reference week. In the province of Quebec, hours worked fell 14% (-16.4 million), almost four times the usual December-to-January decline of 4%. In the Montréal region, work hours contracted by 20%, five times the normal drop, while in Montérégie, the decline was almost 30% — eight times the usual December-to-January change.

One of the cornerstones of data quality is response rates. Despite the difficult conditions, response rates remained at or above 90% in all economic regions of Quebec and Ontario, with the exception of Montérégie. Response in this area was 54%, resulting in a reduction in the reliability of the estimates for this region. However, the impact was negligible on the reliability of provincial and national estimates. Additional documentation on the impact of the ice storm on data quality and estimates, is available by contacting Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325).

Statistics Canada would like to express its appreciation to respondents in storm-affected areas and to the interviewers and regional office staff. Their cooperation and diligent efforts under extremely difficult conditions ensured the availability of high quality labour market data.

Strong job growth in Ontario and Alberta

In Ontario, where the effects of the storm were much more localized and involved a smaller proportion of the population, employment continued on a strong

upward trend, rising 39,000 in January. This brought gains since February 1997 to 225,000 (+4.2%).

In contrast to Quebec, hours worked fell by only 4% (-7.6 million) in Ontario, matching the usual December-to-January decline, as hours lost in the areas affected by the storm were offset by gains made elsewhere in the province. Hours fell by 10% in the economic region of Ottawa and Eastern Ontario, and by 11% in the Kingston-Pembroke region.

For Canada as a whole, work hours fell 6% (-31.6 million) from the previous month, compared with a usual December-to-January decline of 4% (-18.7 million). The above average decline is almost entirely attributable to the extensive loss of work hours in storm-affected regions.

In Western Canada, a strong employment increase in Alberta (+22,000) continued a string of gains over the last year, leaving Alberta with the fastest growing work force of any province. This gain, however, was offset by a similar decline in jobs (-19,000) in British Columbia, a province where employment has faltered in recent months. Employment advanced in Nova Scotia (+5,000) in January, and was little changed in the rest of the provinces.

Youth job gap widens

Youth employment fell 22,000 in January, with losses in both full- and part-time jobs. This decline erased gains made during 1997. Consequently, the proportion of youths aged 15 to 24 with employment plunged 0.6 percentage points to 50.6%, while the youth unemployment rate jumped 0.7 percentage points to 16.5%.

In contrast, adult employment, which had been growing strongly over the previous 10 months, edged up slightly in January. However, the unemployment rate for both adult men and adult women also increased, as more entered the labour market in search of work.

Business and personal services continue to grow

Business and personal services, which contributed 38% to the employment gains of 1997, began the new year on a strong note, with an increase of 61,000. Employment also rose in agriculture (+13,000) and public administration (+12,000) in January, industries that showed marked declines over the previous year. Offsetting these gains were job losses in trade (-32,000), health and social services (-22,000), and finance, insurance and real estate (-21,000).

Public and private sectors hold steady

The number of jobs in the private sector was unchanged in January, as businesses held their payrolls steady and the number of self-employed was virtually unchanged from December 1997. This follows strong gains in both private sector employees and self-employment over the previous year. Public sector employment also held steady in January, despite a declining trend over the last few years.

Upcoming releases of Labour Force Survey products

The publication *Historical labour force statistics, 1997* (71-201-XPB, \$114), released today, contains monthly and annual average time series. Revised seasonally adjusted estimates for the years 1995, 1996 and 1997 reflect new seasonal factors and may therefore differ slightly from previously published estimates.

The next issue of *Labour force update: An overview of the 1997 labour market* (71-005-XPB, \$29/\$96), which will be released within the next few weeks, will provide a selection of annual average data along with analysis on major labour market developments in 1997.

The 1997 version of the *Labour force historical review* on CD-ROM (71F004XCB) will be available at the end of February. This popular compact disc contains a wealth of information (monthly, annual average and three-month moving average estimates) at the click of a mouse.

The 1997 annual averages are now available on CANSIM.

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

Available at 7 a.m. on the Internet @ www.statcan.ca on the *Daily News* button.

For a summary, *Labour force information, for the week ending January 17, 1998* (71-001-PPB, \$11/\$103, facsimile version 71-001-PPB, \$300 annually) is available today. See *How to order publications*.

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on March 13, 1998.

For further information on 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

	Dec. 1997	Jan. 1998	Dec. 1997 to Jan. 1998	Dec. 1997	Jan. 1998	Dec. 1997 to Jan. 1998
Seasonally adjusted						
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	15,436.1	15,490.2	0.4	64.8	64.9	0.1
Newfoundland	238.1	237.8	-0.1	53.1	53.1	0.0
Prince Edward Island	70.9	70.1	-1.1	66.1	65.5	-0.6
Nova Scotia	449.7	453.5	0.8	60.4	60.9	0.5
New Brunswick	369.1	368.1	-0.3	61.1	60.9	-0.2
Quebec	3,685.6	3,669.7	-0.4	62.0	61.7	-0.3
Ontario	5,959.6	6,011.1	0.9	65.9	66.4	0.5
Manitoba	577.5	575.2	-0.4	67.1	66.8	-0.3
Saskatchewan	505.0	510.8	1.1	66.3	67.0	0.7
Alberta	1,570.1	1,589.1	1.2	71.8	72.5	0.7
British Columbia	2,010.6	2,004.9	-0.3	64.2	64.0	-0.2
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	14,114.8	14,114.5	0.0	59.2	59.2	0.0
Newfoundland	196.3	196.0	-0.2	43.8	43.7	-0.1
Prince Edward Island	60.8	59.9	-1.5	56.7	55.9	-0.8
Nova Scotia	397.5	402.6	1.3	53.4	54.0	0.6
New Brunswick	323.1	320.4	-0.8	53.5	53.0	-0.5
Quebec	3,302.2	3,256.1	-1.4	55.6	54.7	-0.9
Ontario	5,493.9	5,533.0	0.7	60.8	61.1	0.3
Manitoba	542.6	542.4	0.0	63.0	63.0	0.0
Saskatchewan	479.3	482.4	0.6	62.9	63.3	0.4
Alberta	1,481.8	1,503.6	1.5	67.7	68.6	0.9
British Columbia	1,837.2	1,818.2	-1.0	58.7	58.0	-0.7
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	1,321.3	1,375.7	4.1	8.6	8.9	0.3
Newfoundland	41.8	41.9	0.2	17.6	17.6	0.0
Prince Edward Island	10.1	10.3	2.0	14.2	14.7	0.5
Nova Scotia	52.2	50.9	-2.5	11.6	11.2	-0.4
New Brunswick	45.9	47.7	3.9	12.4	13.0	0.6
Quebec	383.4	413.6	7.9	10.4	11.3	0.9
Ontario	465.6	478.1	2.7	7.8	8.0	0.2
Manitoba	34.9	32.8	-6.0	6.0	5.7	-0.3
Saskatchewan	25.7	28.4	10.5	5.1	5.6	0.5
Alberta	88.2	85.4	-3.2	5.6	5.4	-0.2
British Columbia	173.4	186.6	7.6	8.6	9.3	0.7

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

Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	Jan. 1997	Jan. 1998	Jan. 1997 to Jan. 1998	Jan. 1997	Jan. 1998	Jan. 1997 to Jan. 1998
Unadjusted						
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	14,919.8	15,163.2	1.6	63.4	63.6	0.2
Newfoundland	225.2	224.2	-0.4	49.9	50.0	0.1
Prince Edward Island	68.0	66.9	-1.6	63.6	62.5	-1.1
Nova Scotia	432.7	439.7	1.6	58.5	59.0	0.5
New Brunswick	338.6	347.1	2.5	56.3	57.4	1.1
Quebec	3,591.8	3,585.4	-0.2	60.9	60.3	-0.6
Ontario	5,743.6	5,901.2	2.7	64.4	65.2	0.8
Manitoba	573.1	565.3	-1.4	66.7	65.7	-1.0
Saskatchewan	482.4	497.4	3.1	63.7	65.3	1.6
Alberta	1,504.6	1,561.9	3.8	70.5	71.2	0.7
British Columbia	1,959.8	1,974.1	0.7	63.9	63.0	-0.9
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	13,341.6	13,684.9	2.6	56.7	57.4	0.7
Newfoundland	177.1	182.0	2.8	39.2	40.6	1.4
Prince Edward Island	54.3	54.6	0.6	50.7	51.0	0.3
Nova Scotia	371.9	387.0	4.1	50.3	51.9	1.6
New Brunswick	289.4	296.4	2.4	48.1	49.0	0.9
Quebec	3,106.7	3,131.6	0.8	52.6	52.7	0.1
Ontario	5,191.5	5,402.2	4.1	58.2	59.7	1.5
Manitoba	526.2	528.2	0.4	61.3	61.4	0.1
Saskatchewan	447.6	466.8	4.3	59.1	61.2	2.1
Alberta	1,392.6	1,471.1	5.6	65.3	67.1	1.8
British Columbia	1,784.2	1,765.2	-1.1	58.1	56.3	-1.8
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	1,578.2	1,478.3	-6.3	10.6	9.7	-0.9
Newfoundland	48.1	42.3	-12.1	21.4	18.9	-2.5
Prince Edward Island	13.6	12.3	-9.6	20.0	18.4	-1.6
Nova Scotia	60.7	52.7	-13.2	14.0	12.0	-2.0
New Brunswick	49.2	50.7	3.0	14.5	14.6	0.1
Quebec	485.1	453.7	-6.5	13.5	12.7	-0.8
Ontario	552.1	498.9	-9.6	9.6	8.5	-1.1
Manitoba	46.9	37.2	-20.7	8.2	6.6	-1.6
Saskatchewan	34.8	30.7	-11.8	7.2	6.2	-1.0
Alberta	112.0	90.7	-19.0	7.4	5.8	-1.6
British Columbia	175.6	208.9	19.0	9.0	10.6	1.6

OTHER RELEASES

Production and disposition of tobacco products

December 1997

Cigarette shipments by Canadian manufacturers increased strongly in December, but total year shipments for 1997 ended up below the 1996 level. December sales, which are normally high, increased 35% from November to 4.7 billion cigarettes (the same level as December 1996).

Total shipments for 1997 reached 47.8 billion cigarettes, 5% below 1996 levels. The domestic portion, at 45.5 billion cigarettes, was 3% lower than last year. Exports, which now make up only a very small portion of total shipments, were 1.6 billion in 1997, down 34% from 1996.

Production fell to 2.8 billion cigarettes in December, a drop of 44% from November. This brought production for the total year to 48.1 billion or 4% less than 1996.

Low production during December, together with increased sales, drew down inventories, which had built up during October and November. Closing inventory was reduced to 3.4 billion cigarettes in December, 37% lower than the previous month and 14% lower than a year ago.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 46.

The December 1997 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, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511; Internet: zylspet@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Steel wire and specified wire products

December 1997

Shipments of steel wire and specified wire products totalled 51 652 tonnes in December, up 11.5% from 46 341 tonnes in December 1996. Production and export market data for selected commodities are also available.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (series 19).

The November 1997 issue of *Steel wire and specified wire products* (41-006-XPB, \$7/\$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Etienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-9837; Internet: saineti@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Egg production

December 1997 (preliminary)

Egg production estimates for December are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1145, 1146 and 5689-5691.

To order *Production of eggs* (23-003-XPB, \$110/year), contact Julie Gordon (613-951-5039), Agriculture Division.

For further information on this release, contact Sandy Giefeldt (613-951-2505), Livestock and Animal Product Section, Agriculture Division. ■

Annual Survey of Manufactures

1996

The Annual Survey of Manufactures provides information on over 200 different industries. Principal statistics for each industry are released on CANSIM as they become available. Data for the industries listed in the following table are now available. Data for 21 industries have now been released.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5420, 5444, 5448, 5461, 6849 and 6858.

Data for the industries listed in the table will appear in *Leather and allied products industries* (33-251-XPB, \$40), *Clothing industries* (34-252-XPB, \$40), *Wood industries* (35-250-XPB, \$55) and *Non-metallic mineral products industries* (44-250-XPB, \$40), which will be available shortly. The 1995 issue of *Products shipped by Canadian manufacturers* (31-211-XPB, \$67) is now available. The 1995 issues of the remaining publications will be released shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, look under *Contact* in the following table (fax: 613-951-9499; Internet: Pentlii@statcan.ca).

Value of shipments

	1995	1996	1995 to 1996	Publication	Contact
	\$ millions		% change		
Industry (Standard Industrial Classification)					
Leather tanneries (1711)	184.7	179.9	-2.6	33-251-XPB	L. Shinder (613-951-7293)
Men's and boys' clothing contractors (2435)	162.2	142.0	-12.4	34-252-XPB	R. Kowaluk (613-951-0600)
Women's blouse and shirt (2444)	89.1	87.7	-1.7	34-252-XPB	R. Kowaluk (613-951-0600)
Hardwood veneer and plywood (2521)	548.4	557.2	1.6	35-250-XPB	G. Simard (613-951-3516)
Clay products (from domestic clay) (3511)	91.3	101.9	11.6	44-250-XPB	R. Sheldrick (613-951-7199)
Abrasives (3571)	300.1	298.2	-0.6	44-250-XPB	R. Sheldrick (613-951-7199)



PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Infomat — A weekly review, February 6, 1998
Catalogue number 11-002-XPE
(Canada: \$4/\$145; outside Canada: US\$4/US\$145).

Asphalt roofing, December 1997
Catalogue number 45-001-XPB
(Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

Labour force information, for the week ending
January 17, 1998
Catalogue number 71-001-PPB
(Canada: \$11/\$103; outside Canada: US\$11/US\$103).

Historical labour force statistics, 1997
Catalogue number 71-201-XPB
(Canada: \$114; outside Canada: US\$114).

All prices exclude sales tax.

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 1998. Citation in newsprint, magazine, radio, and television reporting is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source. Any other reproduction is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source on all copies as follows: Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, catalogue 11-001E, along with date and page references.

How to order publications

Simplify your data search with the *Statistics Canada Catalogue* (11-204-XPE, \$16; outside Canada: US\$16).

Its keyword index will guide you to statistics on Canada's social and economic activity.

Order publications by phone:

Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.

In Canada and the United States call:

1-800-267-6677

From other countries call:

1-613-951-7277

To fax your order:

1-800-889-9734

Address changes or account inquiries:

1-800-700-1033

Internet:

order@statcan.ca

To order a publication by mail write: Statistics Canada, Circulation Management, Operations and Integration Division, Ottawa, K1A 0T6.

Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.

RELEASE DATES

February 9 to February 13, 1998
(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
9	Department store sales and stocks	December 1997
11	New motor vehicle sales	December 1997
11	New Housing Price Index	December 1997
12	Family expenditure in Canada	1996
12	Machine and equipment price indexes	Fourth quarter 1997
