



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, March 11, 1998

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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There are no major releases today.

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**OTHER RELEASES**

**Help-wanted Index**

February 1998

After a one month pause, the index that measures the number of help-wanted newspaper advertisements advanced 2.3% in February to 136. Seven of the provincial indexes recorded increases. Since March 1996 the index has increased by nearly 39% and now stands at its highest level since November 1990. Recent movements in the number of help-wanted advertisements are in line with other economic indicators, especially employment growth.

Ontario's index advanced 3.7% to 139, its highest level since October 1990. In Quebec, the number of help-wanted advertisements grew by 5.0% to 126. British Columbia's index dropped 1.7% to 117, its second consecutive monthly decline. In February, two of the Prairie province indexes increased; Manitoba advanced 2.0% to 150 and Alberta edged up 0.6% to 159. Led by Prince Edward Island (+5.6%), three Atlantic provincial indexes advanced in February.

**Help-wanted Index**  
(1996=100)

	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1997	Feb. 1997 to Feb. 1998	Jan. 1998 to Feb. 1998
	seasonally adjusted				
	_____ % change				
<b>Canada</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Newfoundland	136	135	112	21.4	0.7
Prince Edward Island	132	125	121	9.1	5.6
Nova Scotia	133	132	111	19.8	0.8
New Brunswick	146	147	111	31.5	-0.7
Quebec	126	120	103	22.3	5.0
Ontario	139	134	116	19.8	3.7
Manitoba	150	147	121	24.0	2.0
Saskatchewan	139	142	118	17.8	-2.1
Alberta	159	158	130	22.3	0.6
British Columbia	117	119	112	4.5	-1.7

**Note:** The Help-wanted Index is compiled from the number of help-wanted ads published in 22 newspapers in 20 major metropolitan areas. The index is a measure of companies' intentions to hire new workers. These indices have been seasonally adjusted and smoothed to ease month-to-month comparisons.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 105 (levels 8 to 10)**

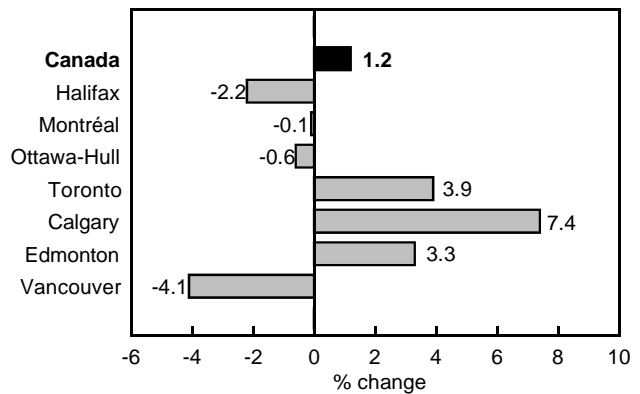
For further information on this release, contact Michael Scrim, Labour Division (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; Internet: [labour@statcan.ca](mailto:labour@statcan.ca)) ■

**New Housing Price Index**

January 1998

In January 1998, the New Housing Price Index was 1.2% higher compared with the same period a year earlier. From December 1997 to January 1998, this index of contractors' selling prices for new houses increased 0.1%.

**New housing price indexes**  
January 1997 to January 1998



The largest monthly increases were in Calgary (+1.4%) and Edmonton (+0.9%) as some builders passed on increases in construction costs to home buyers in these active markets. Smaller increases were noted in several other Canadian cities as builders reacted to higher consumer confidence and favourable interest rates. However, these increases were offset by significant monthly decreases registered in Charlottetown (-1.1%), Victoria (-1.0%) and Vancouver (-0.9%). Generally, contractors attributed these decreases to very competitive market conditions.

**Note:** Beginning in January 1998, new housing price indexes (formerly matrix 2032) will be shown on a

1992=100 time base in matrix 9921, retroactively to January 1981.

### New housing price indexes (1992=100)

	Jan. 1998	Jan. 1997 to Jan. 1998	Dec. 1997 to Jan. 1998
	% change		
<b>Canada</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>
House only	100.0	1.8	0.2
Land only	101.6	0.3	-
St. John's	96.8	-2.3	-
Halifax	106.9	-2.2	0.1
Charlottetown	100.1	-2.8	-1.1
Saint John-Moncton-Fredericton	94.4	-4.5	-0.1
Québec	98.7	0.6	-
Montréal	102.2	-0.1	0.2
Ottawa-Hull	96.9	-0.6	-0.2
Toronto	101.0	3.9	0.3
Hamilton	100.9	5.2	0.4
St. Catharines-Niagara	98.9	3.5	0.2
Kitchener-Waterloo	99.7	2.5	-
London	97.5	0.6	-
Windsor	105.3	1.3	-
Sudbury-Thunder Bay	101.3	-1.7	-0.2
Winnipeg	111.6	0.7	-
Regina	122.2	5.2	0.6
Saskatoon	111.3	2.4	0.5
Calgary	120.1	7.4	1.4
Edmonton	106.3	3.3	0.9
Vancouver	89.7	-4.1	-0.9
Victoria	82.6	-2.4	-1.0

- Nil or zero.

### Available on CANSIM: matrix 9921.

The first quarter 1998 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in June 1998. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release contact Elvira Marinelli (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-2848; Internet: [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)), Client Services Unit, Prices Division. ■

### Short-term Expectations Survey

Every month, Statistics Canada canvasses a group of economic analysts for one-month-ahead forecasts of key economic indicators. Participants in this survey forecast the year-over-year changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the unemployment rate, the participation rate, merchandise exports and imports, and the monthly change in gross domestic product at factor cost.

The mean forecast for February's CPI is a year-over-year increase of 1.0%, down marginally from January's increase of 1.1%. The forecasts for February ranged from advances of 0.8% to 1.3%. The mean forecast for January (+0.8%) underestimated the outcome (+1.1%).

The mean forecast for February's unemployment rate is 8.8%, down slightly from January's actual figure of 8.9%. February estimates ranged from 8.4% to 9.0%. The previous month's forecast (8.8%) slightly underestimated the actual outcome of 8.9%.

The mean forecast for February's labour force participation rate is 64.9%, unchanged from January. Forecasts for February ranged from 64.8% to 65.0%. The mean forecast for January (64.9%) correctly estimated the outcome.

The mean forecast for exports in January is \$26.6 billion, down slightly from the December outcome of \$26.7 billion. Opinions for January ranged from \$25.9 billion to \$27.2 billion. At \$25.6 billion, December's forecast underestimated the actual outcome of \$26.7 billion. The mean forecast for imports for January is \$25.0 billion, equal to the December actual figure. Forecasts range from \$24.5 billion to \$25.6 billion. Last month's forecast of \$24.7 billion underestimated the outcome of \$25.0 billion.

Real gross domestic product at factor cost in January is forecast, on average, to rise by 0.1%. Predictions range from a decline of 0.1% to an advance of 0.5%. The December forecast (+0.3%) underestimated the outcome (+1.0%).

The next release will be on April 8, 1998. For a set of tables, or for further information on this release, contact Roger Purdue (613-951-3425). ■

### Railway carloadings

January 1998

Carload freight (excluding intermodal traffic) loaded by railways in Canada totalled 19.0 million tonnes in January 1998, an increase of 13.4% from January 1997. The carriers received an additional 2.0 million tonnes from United States connections during January.

Intermodal (piggyback) tonnage of 1.2 million tonnes represented a decrease of 7.3% compared with the same month of 1997.

Total traffic, consisting of carload freight and intermodal traffic, increased by 11.9% during the reference month.

Cumulative data for 1997 have been revised.

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**Available on CANSIM: matrix 1431.**

The January 1998 issue of *Railway carloadings* (52-001-XPB, \$11/\$103) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

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

**Steel primary forms**

January 1998

Steel primary forms production for January 1998 totalled 1 344 683 metric tonnes, up 13.8% from 1 181 137 metric tonnes in January of 1997.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 58 (level 2, series 3).**

The January 1998 issue of *Primary iron and steel* (41-001-XPB, \$7/\$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Andy Shinnan (613-951-3515; Internet: [shinand@statcan.ca](mailto:shinand@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

**Civil aviation financial statistics**

Fourth quarter 1997

Canadian Airlines International Ltd. (CAI) reported a seasonally adjusted basic income of \$40 million in the fourth quarter of 1997, and \$8 million for the year. Basic income or loss is measured by combining the operating income, (before capital gains, miscellaneous items and tax) with interest expenses and interest income.

Aside from a few quarters when CAI reported basic incomes between \$4 million and \$8 million, the fourth quarter of 1997 represented the only substantial quarterly income reported by CAI since the first quarter of 1988, when an income of \$47 million was reported.

Air Canada reported a seasonally adjusted basic income of \$2 million in the fourth quarter of 1997, and \$250 million for the full year. However, Air Canada's results were reduced due to a repayment of fuel tax rebates received in 1993. If not for the repayment of these rebates, Air Canada's basic income for the quarter would have been close to \$60 million.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 385.**

Civil aviation financial data for the fourth quarter 1997 will be published in the March issue of *Aviation*:

*Service bulletin* (51-004-XPB, \$11/\$109). See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact R. Lund (613 951-0125), Aviation Statistics Centre, Transportation Division. ■

**Low income measures**

1996

Low income data for 1996, based on an alternative measure to the traditional low income cut-offs (LICOs), are now available in *Low income measures, 1996* (13-582-XPB, \$30), a report from the Survey of Consumer Finances.

This report presents rates, estimated numbers and distributions of low income persons and families based on Low Income Measures. These lines are set at one-half median adjusted family income, where "adjusted" indicates a consideration of different needs for families of varying sizes.

Estimates based on the traditional LICOs were released last December in *Income distributions by size in Canada, 1996* (13-207-XPB, \$46) and in *Low income persons, 1980 to 1996* (13-569-XPB, \$32). Estimates based on after-tax LICOs and LIMs (LICO-IAT and LIM-IAT) will be released later in *Low income after tax, 1996* (13-592-XPB).

For further information, or to order the publication, contact the Dissemination Unit (613-951-7355; 1 888 297-7355; fax 613-951-3012; Internet: [income@statcan.ca](mailto:income@statcan.ca)), or your nearest Regional Reference Centre. ■

**Consulting engineers**

1995

Data on consulting engineering services for 1995 are now available. The industry generated \$6.3 billion in revenues in 1995, up 11% from a year earlier. Foreign fee income accounted for 11% of total industry revenue in 1995.

These data provide information on revenues, the percentage distribution of revenue by type of project and by type of specialization, and expenses by category.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 41 and 42**

For further information on this release, contact Diane Lake (613-951-3489), Services Division. ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Cement**, January 1998  
**Catalogue number 44-001-XPB**  
(Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

**Export by commodity**, December 1997 (microfiche version)  
**Catalogue number 65-004-XMB**  
(Canada: \$37/\$361; outside Canada: US\$37/US\$361).

**Export by commodity**, December 1997 (paper version)  
**Catalogue number 65-004-XPB**  
(Canada: \$78/\$773; outside Canada: US\$78/US\$773).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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Statistics Canada	
Thursday, June 5, 1997 For release at 9:30 a.m.	
<b>MAJOR RELEASES</b>	
• <b>Urban transit, 1995</b> Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, 68% of Canadians took the average of about six trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.	2
• <b>Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996</b> 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.	4
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### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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