



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index

April 1998

The index that measures the number of help-wanted newspaper advertisements advanced 2.9% in April to 142 (1996=100). Since March 1996, the index has increased nearly 45%. It now stands at its highest level since October 1990. The recent upward movement is in line with other economic indicators, especially employment growth.

Help-wanted Index

(1996=100)

	April 1998	March 1998	April 1997	April 1997 to April 1998	March 1998 to April 1998
	seasonally adjusted				
					% change
Canada	142	138	119	19.3	2.9
Newfoundland	141	142	117	20.5	-0.7
Prince Edward Island	141	140	126	11.9	0.7
Nova Scotia	133	134	116	14.7	-0.7
New Brunswick	142	145	121	17.4	-2.1
Quebec	137	131	108	26.9	4.6
Ontario	147	143	121	21.5	2.8
Manitoba	157	152	127	23.6	3.3
Saskatchewan	139	138	124	12.1	0.7
Alberta	156	157	140	11.4	-0.6
British Columbia	117	114	115	1.7	2.6

Led by Quebec and Ontario, six of the provincial indexes rose in April. In Quebec, the index grew 4.6% to 137. In the first four months of 1998, the Quebec index has risen by more than 15%, just short of the growth recorded for all of 1997. Ontario's index advanced 2.8% to 147, its highest level since September 1990. Gains in the indexes for Manitoba (+3.3%) and British Columbia (+2.6%) also made a significant contribution to the rise in the overall index. All other provincial indexes (except New Brunswick's) were little changed.

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 indexes have been seasonally adjusted and smoothed to ease month-to-month comparisons.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 105 (levels 8, 9 and 10).

For further information on this release, contact Michael Scrim (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; labour@statcan.ca), Labour 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 and participation rates of the labour force, the level of merchandise exports and imports, and the monthly change in gross domestic product (GDP).

These economic forecasts show an outlook for a slight increase in economic activity with a minimal impact on the labour market.

The forecasts for February GDP were slightly lower (+0.4%) than the actual monthly increase of 0.9%. The forecasts for February ranged from 0.1% to 0.6%.

For March exports, the mean forecast is for a slight increase to \$26.5 billion; the forecasts range from \$25.3 billion to \$26.8 billion. The mean forecast for March imports is \$24.6 billion, also a slight increase compared with February (\$24.5 billion). The forecasts for March imports range from \$24.2 billion to \$25.0 billion. These mean forecasts show a surplus of \$1.9 billion, slightly larger than in January.

The mean forecast for April's CPI is an annual increase of 1.0%, up slightly from March's actual figure of 0.9%. The forecasts for April range from 0.7% to 1.2%.

The mean forecast for April's unemployment rate is 8.5%, no change from March's rate. The forecasts for April range from 8.3% to 8.6%. Similarly, the mean forecast for April's labour force participation rate is 65.0%, compared with the actual March figure of 64.9%. The forecasts for April participation rates range from 64.9% to 65.1%.

The next release will be on June 3. For a set of tables, or for further information on this release, contact Jenny Grenier (613-951-1020), Small Business and Special Surveys Division. ■

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending April 21, 1998

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending April 21, 1998,

decreased 2.8% to 5.0 million metric tonnes from the same period last year. The number of cars loaded decreased 3.2%.

Intermodal (piggyback) traffic totalled 314 000 tonnes, a 13.8% drop from the same seven-day period last year. The year-to-date figures show a decline of 8.0% from the 1997 period.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) decreased 3.5% compared with the seven-day period a year earlier. The 1998 year-to-date total was 79.6 million tonnes, an increase of 5.6% 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; larocque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Shipments of solid fuel-burning heating products

First quarter 1998

In the first quarter of 1998, shipments of solid fuel-burning heating products totalled \$9.0 million, nearly double (+91%) the \$4.7 million shipped during the first quarter of 1997.

Data on the quantities of these shipments are also available.

The first quarter 1998 issue of *Shipments of solid fuel-burning heating products* (25-002-XPB, \$8/\$25) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

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

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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

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

Wholesale trade, February 1998
Catalogue number 63-008-XIB
(Canada: \$14/\$140; outside Canada: US\$14/US\$140).

Canada's international transactions in securities,
February 1998
Catalogue number 67-002-XPB
(Canada: \$18/\$176; outside Canada: US\$18/US\$176).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, 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, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Manufactured Index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
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- **Egg production, April 1997** 12

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