



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, May 8, 1998
For release at 8:30 a.m.

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- **Labour Force Survey, April 1998** 2
Employment surged by 72,000 in April, bringing the gain since the beginning of 1997 to 543,000 (+4.0%).

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RELEASE DATES: May 11 to 15, 1998

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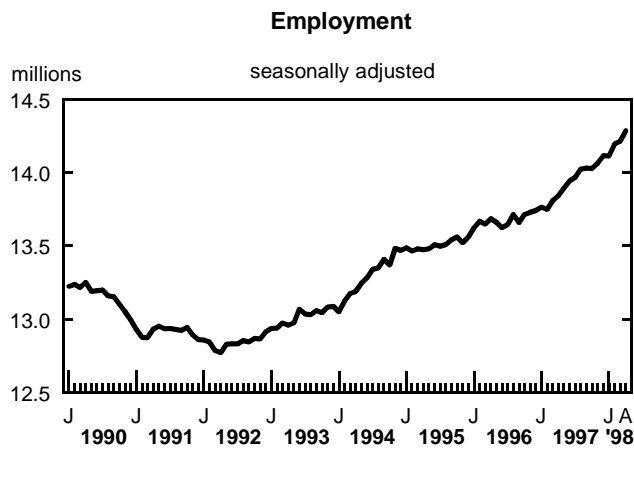


MAJOR RELEASES

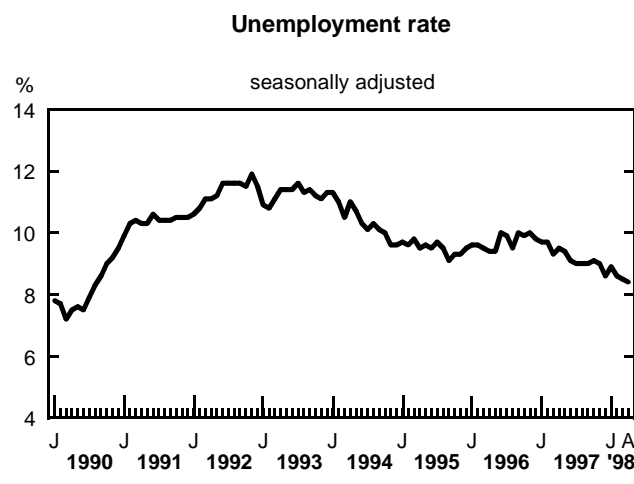
Labour Force Survey

April 1998

Employment surged by an estimated 72,000 in April, bringing the gain since the beginning of 1997 to 543,000 (+4.0%).



However, because of increased labour force participation, the unemployment rate edged down only 0.1 percentage points to 8.4% in April, the lowest since August 1990.



Recent gains in part-time jobs

In April, most of the job growth was in part-time employment (+54,000). This brings the part-time gains over the last two months to 73,000. Despite recent growth in part-time jobs, nearly all of the 543,000 employment gain since the beginning of 1997 has been full-time jobs (+504,000).

More adult men and youths employed

Employment among adult men grew by 38,000 in April and was concentrated in full-time jobs. This is the first significant employment increase for adult men this year, following strong growth of 3.1% during 1997.

For adult women, employment was little changed in April as part-time gains partly offset full-time losses. Despite little change in April, the overall job gain so far this year for adult women totals 88,000.

Employment for young people aged 15 to 24 grew in April by 26,000, mostly in part-time work. This brings the overall job gain for youths since January of this year to 66,000 (+3.3%), three times the increase observed for all of 1997. April's job growth was accompanied by a similar increase in the youth labour force, leaving their unemployment rate unchanged at 15.7%.

Continued job growth in the private sector

In April, the number of private sector employees increased by 43,000, continuing the strong upward trend that began in February 1997. Over this period, the growth in private-sector employees totals 533,000 (+5.8%).

Self-employment grew by 22,000 in April, the first increase in eight months. Self-employment had been trending down after rising sharply between late 1996 and August 1997. April's gain brings self-employment to about the same level as a year earlier.

The number of public sector employees changed little in April, leaving employment in that sector down slightly (-0.7%) from a year earlier.

Employment growth concentrated in services

Employment rose in April by 59,000 in the service sector, led by trade (+30,000). April's employment growth in trade is the third consecutive monthly increase, bringing the gain to 50,000. Both retail and wholesale trade contributed to April's growth. However, all of the employment gain in trade over the past year

has come from the wholesale sector, which has grown by 31,000 or 4.7%.

Business and personal services employment rose slightly (+17,000), partly offsetting the decline in March. Since the start of 1997, employment in this industry has been particularly strong, up 234,000 (+8.3%).

In the goods-producing sector, employment increased in agriculture (+15,000). The gain in this industry since the beginning of the year is 44,000, offsetting the losses during 1997.

Little changed in April, manufacturing has been one of the fastest growing industries for more than a year. The job growth since February 1997, when the upward trend strengthened, totals 174,000 (+8.3%).

Strong job growth in Alberta and Ontario

Employment in Alberta increased by 29,000 in April, following slight declines in the previous two months. The strong growth continues the upward employment trend that began over four years ago. Alberta's unemployment rate now stands at 5.2%, the lowest since the early 1980s.

In Ontario, employment continued on its strong upward trend, increasing 23,000 in April. Employment in the province has grown steadily since February 1997, with the gain over this period totalling 286,000 (+5.4%). At 7.2%, the unemployment rate in Ontario is the lowest since September 1990.

April's employment gain of 4,000 in Newfoundland followed seven months of little change. Compared with a year earlier, employment in the province is up

9,000 (+4.9%). In New Brunswick, employment rose by 6,000, partly offsetting March's decline. Compared with April 1997, employment in the province is up 8,000 (+2.7%).

Employment was little changed in Quebec. This follows growth of 54,000 in the previous two months, when employment rebounded from the effects of January's ice storm. Employment in the province remains slightly above the December 1997 level.

In British Columbia, where employment was little changed in April, the gain since January totals 29,000. Labour market conditions in the rest of the provinces did not change significantly in April.

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

The latest LFS results are always available starting at 7 a.m. on the release date. See www.statcan.ca on the Internet. Click on "Latest news from Statistics Canada".

A summary publication, *Labour force information, for the week ending April 18, 1998* (71-001-PPB, \$11/\$103; fax version: 71-001-PFB, \$300/year) is available today. See *How to Order Publications*.

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on June 5.

For further information on this release, contact Deborah Sunter (613-951-4740) or Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750), Household Surveys Division. □

Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	March 1998	April 1998	March 1998 to April 1998	March 1998	April 1998	March 1998 to April 1998
seasonally adjusted						
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	15,527.1	15,590.8	0.4	64.9	65.1	0.2
Newfoundland	235.8	240.0	1.8	52.6	53.6	1.0
Prince Edward Island	69.8	71.2	2.0	65.1	66.5	1.4
Nova Scotia	449.9	455.3	1.2	60.3	61.0	0.7
New Brunswick	364.6	373.7	2.5	60.2	61.7	1.5
Quebec	3,684.4	3,700.9	0.4	61.9	62.1	0.2
Ontario	6,017.2	6,028.0	0.2	66.3	66.3	0.0
Manitoba	573.7	576.8	0.5	66.6	66.9	0.3
Saskatchewan	508.0	508.6	0.1	66.6	66.7	0.1
Alberta	1,580.1	1,601.1	1.3	71.7	72.5	0.8
British Columbia	2,043.7	2,035.3	-0.4	65.0	64.7	-0.3
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	14,214.5	14,286.2	0.5	59.5	59.7	0.2
Newfoundland	194.2	198.5	2.2	43.3	44.3	1.0
Prince Edward Island	60.7	60.8	0.2	56.6	56.8	0.2
Nova Scotia	404.9	406.2	0.3	54.3	54.5	0.2
New Brunswick	317.7	323.3	1.8	52.5	53.4	0.9
Quebec	3,310.4	3,313.4	0.1	55.6	55.6	0.0
Ontario	5,571.7	5,594.2	0.4	61.4	61.5	0.1
Manitoba	543.9	545.3	0.3	63.1	63.3	0.2
Saskatchewan	480.6	479.1	-0.3	63.0	62.8	-0.2
Alberta	1,489.6	1,518.6	1.9	67.6	68.8	1.2
British Columbia	1,840.8	1,846.8	0.3	58.6	58.7	0.1
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	1,312.6	1,304.6	-0.6	8.5	8.4	-0.1
Newfoundland	41.6	41.5	-0.2	17.6	17.3	-0.3
Prince Edward Island	9.2	10.4	13.0	13.2	14.6	1.4
Nova Scotia	45.1	49.1	8.9	10.0	10.8	0.8
New Brunswick	46.9	50.4	7.5	12.9	13.5	0.6
Quebec	373.9	387.5	3.6	10.1	10.5	0.4
Ontario	445.5	433.8	-2.6	7.4	7.2	-0.2
Manitoba	29.7	31.5	6.1	5.2	5.5	0.3
Saskatchewan	27.4	29.6	8.0	5.4	5.8	0.4
Alberta	90.5	82.5	-8.8	5.7	5.2	-0.5
British Columbia	203.0	188.4	-7.2	9.9	9.3	-0.6

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

Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	April 1997	April 1998	April 1997 to April 1998	April 1997	April 1998	April 1997 to April 1998
unadjusted						
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	15,076.9	15,360.0	1.9	63.8	64.2	0.4
Newfoundland	223.4	229.8	2.9	49.5	51.3	1.8
Prince Edward Island	69.0	68.5	-0.7	64.4	64.0	-0.4
Nova Scotia	434.4	444.7	2.4	58.7	59.6	0.9
New Brunswick	349.4	359.8	3.0	58.0	59.4	1.4
Quebec	3,615.0	3,641.4	0.7	61.1	61.1	0.0
Ontario	5,814.7	5,945.8	2.3	65.0	65.4	0.4
Manitoba	569.3	570.6	0.2	66.1	66.2	0.1
Saskatchewan	498.6	501.8	0.6	65.7	65.8	0.1
Alberta	1,511.2	1,578.7	4.5	70.4	71.5	1.1
British Columbia	1,991.8	2,018.9	1.4	64.5	64.2	-0.3
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	13,583.5	14,031.4	3.3	57.5	58.6	1.1
Newfoundland	176.0	185.3	5.3	39.0	41.4	2.4
Prince Edward Island	54.7	55.1	0.7	51.0	51.4	0.4
Nova Scotia	370.0	388.2	4.9	50.0	52.0	2.0
New Brunswick	295.1	303.2	2.7	49.0	50.1	1.1
Quebec	3,185.3	3,252.9	2.1	53.8	54.6	0.8
Ontario	5,291.5	5,517.2	4.3	59.1	60.7	1.6
Manitoba	527.8	536.5	1.6	61.3	62.3	1.0
Saskatchewan	463.3	468.7	1.2	61.1	61.4	0.3
Alberta	1,413.3	1,494.1	5.7	65.9	67.7	1.8
British Columbia	1,806.5	1,830.2	1.3	58.5	58.2	-0.3
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	1,493.3	1,328.6	-11.0	9.9	8.6	-1.3
Newfoundland	47.4	44.4	-6.3	21.2	19.3	-1.9
Prince Edward Island	14.3	13.5	-5.6	20.7	19.7	-1.0
Nova Scotia	64.4	56.5	-12.3	14.8	12.7	-2.1
New Brunswick	54.4	56.7	4.2	15.6	15.8	0.2
Quebec	429.7	388.4	-9.6	11.9	10.7	-1.2
Ontario	523.2	428.7	-18.1	9.0	7.2	-1.8
Manitoba	41.5	34.1	-17.8	7.3	6.0	-1.3
Saskatchewan	35.3	33.1	-6.2	7.1	6.6	-0.5
Alberta	97.9	84.6	-13.6	6.5	5.4	-1.1
British Columbia	185.4	188.7	1.8	9.3	9.3	0.0

OTHER RELEASES

Greenhouse, sod and nursery industries 1997

Total greenhouse sales surpassed the billion dollar mark in 1997, rising 13% from \$980 million in 1996 to \$1.103 billion. This continues the annual growth experienced by the greenhouse industry over the last 20 years. In 1997, the total area of greenhouse operations increased 4% over 1996, adding 5.3 million square feet for a total of 138.7 million square feet.

Income from the sales of greenhouse vegetables climbed 23% from \$218 million in 1996 to \$269 million in 1997. Once again, tomatoes were the largest income earner, generating half of the total greenhouse vegetable income.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 1058.

The 1997 issue of *Greenhouse, sod and nursery industries* (22-202-XPB, \$34) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

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

Steel pipe and tubing March 1998

In March, steel pipe and tubing production totalled 225 734 tonnes, 29.8% growth from 173 884 tonnes a year earlier.

Year-to-date production to the end of March 1998 totalled 653 828 tonnes, up 21.0% from 540 169 tonnes during the same period in 1997.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 35.

The March 1998 issue of *Steel pipe and tubing* (41-011-XPB, \$7/\$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

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

Electric lamps March 1998

Light bulb and tube manufacturers sold 26.9 million light bulbs and tubes in March, up 0.7% from 26.7 million in March 1997.

Year-to-date sales at the end of March 1998 totalled 77.5 million light bulbs and tubes, a 3.7% decrease from 80.5 million a year earlier.

The March 1998 issue of *Electric lamps* (43-009-XPB, \$7/\$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Laurie Vincent (613-951-3523; vincwil@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Electric lamps First quarter 1998

Data on manufacturers' imports, production and inventories of electric lamps are now available for the first quarter of 1998.

For further information on this release, contact Laurie Vincent (613-951-3523; vincwil@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Electric Utility Construction Price Index 1997 (preliminary) and 1996 (final)

Construction costs for all electric utility installations increased from 1996 to 1997. Costs of distribution systems were almost unchanged in 1997 (+0.1%), after a 0.5% increase the previous year. Transformer station costs reversed a 0.3% decline in 1996 with a 0.5% increase in 1997. Costs of transmission lines were up by 1.3% in 1997, but that was less than the 1.8% increase in 1996. In 1997, construction costs for steam-electric and hydro-electric generation facilities rose 2.2% and 1.4% respectively, compared with rises of 2.4% and 1.0% in 1996.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 2022.

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

For further information on this release, contact Elvira Marinelli (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-2848; infounit@statcan.ca), Client Services Unit, or contact the subject-matter analyst, Adrian Fisher (613-951-9612; fax: 613-951-2848; fishadr@statcan.ca), Prices Division. ■

Footwear

First quarter 1998

In the first quarter of 1998, footwear makers produced 4,013,787 pairs of footwear, a 1.5% increase from 3,954,801 pairs (revised) in the first quarter of 1997.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 8.

The first quarter 1998 issue of *Footwear statistics* (33-002-XPB, \$8/\$25) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Sharon Boyer (613-951-5669; boyesha@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Egg production

March 1998 (preliminary)

Preliminary data on egg production are now available for March 1998.

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 Products Section, Agriculture Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Infomat—a weekly review, May 8, 1998
Catalogue number 11-002-XIE
(Canada: \$3/\$109; outside Canada: US\$3/US\$109).

Infomat—a weekly review, May 8, 1998
Catalogue number 11-002-XPE
(Canada: \$4/\$145; outside Canada: US\$4/US\$145).

Greenhouse, sod and nursery industries, 1997
Catalogue number 22-202-XPB
(Canada: \$34; outside Canada: US\$34).

Livestock statistics updates, May 1998
Catalogue number 23-603-UPE
(Canada: \$45/\$149; outside Canada: US\$45/US\$149).

Labour force information, week ending April 18, 1998
Catalogue number 71-001-PPB
(Canada: \$11/\$103; outside Canada: US\$11/US\$103).

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Thursday, June 9, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.



MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 60 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 nominal growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **High-wire index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 13
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RELEASE DATES

May 11 to 15, 1998
(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
11	Field crop reporting series: Grain stocks at March 31	
11	New Housing Price Index	March 1998
12	Sources of income, earnings, total income, family income and household income	1996 Census
13	New motor vehicle sales	March 1998
13	International student participation in Canadian education	1993-95
14	Consumer Price Index	April 1998
14	Provincial economic accounts	1992-97
15	Travel between Canada and other countries	March 1998
15	Composite Index	April 1998
