



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, June 19, 1998

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Consumer Price Index, May 1998**

In May, the CPI posted a 12-month increase of 1.1%. This followed an annual advance of 0.8% in April. After having registered no 12-month change in March or April, the index for goods recorded an annual advance of 0.4% in May.

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- **Violence committed by strangers, 1996**

In the majority of cases reported to police, victims of violent crime usually know their assailants. A stranger was responsible in only one out of three cases of violent crime reported to police in 1996.

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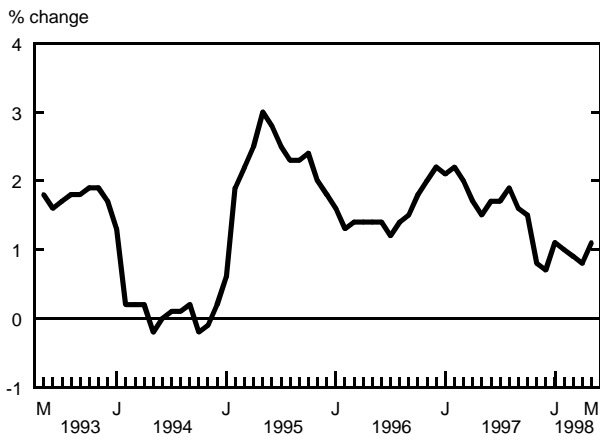
MAJOR RELEASES

Consumer Price Index

May 1998

Canadians paid 1.1% more in May for the goods and services in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket than they did in the corresponding month last year. This annual change represented a return to the January year-over-year movement in the CPI, and it was a slight increase over the 12-month rate of +0.8% recorded in April. In May, price changes for computers and gasoline did not pull the annual movement down as much as they did in April, whereas changes in traveller accommodation rates pushed the annual movement in the index up more.

Percentage change in the Consumer Price Index from the same month of the previous year



The 1.1 % annual rise in the May CPI was primarily due to higher prices for fresh vegetables, telephone services, food from restaurants, tuition, tobacco products and natural gas. Partially offsetting these were declines in gasoline prices, mortgage interest costs and computer prices.

A 0.4% rise between April and May

A strong rise in traveller accommodation rates was the largest contributor to the 0.4% advance in the CPI between April and May. Price increases for gasoline, fresh fruit and natural gas were also contributors. Offsetting influences were found in lower

Note to readers

May's issue of The Consumer Price Index features an analytical article titled "1997 consumer prices in review".

According to the article, in 1997, rising consumer confidence in the economy was reflected in the largest increase in real personal expenditure since 1988. This gain in personal spending contributed substantially to a strong increase in 1997 gross domestic product.

Even though growth in consumer demand was higher in 1997 than in 1996, a 1.6% rise in the 1997 Consumer Price Index only matched the change recorded in the previous year. Declining mortgage interest costs and a small increase in durable goods prices were primarily responsible for the low annual advance in the CPI in 1997.

Low inflation prevailed not only in Canada in 1997 but in most other G7 countries as well. In Canada, price inflation remained relatively unaffected by rising capacity utilization and stronger growth in consumer demand. Analysts explain this tendency by citing a trend toward increased global competition, greater competitiveness through deregulation of industries, a rapid rate of quality improvement in particular products, and lower inflationary expectations.

prices for women's clothing, bakery products and air transportation.

Traveller accommodation rates climbed a sharp 14.0% in May. High occupancy rates related to a number of large conventions in major cities contributed to the higher rates. The Canadian hotel industry benefited from a weak Canadian dollar attracting U.S. travellers combined with a strong North American economy.

The price of gasoline rose an average 2.1% in May. This represented the second increase in as many months, though consumers paid 6.3% less for gasoline in May than they did a year earlier. The crude oil price index showed a 3.7% increase in April after a five-month decline. This rise in the price of crude was due to increased demand for gasoline and to some uncertainty surrounding the political environment in the Middle East.

Fresh fruit prices jumped 8.5% in May. Unusual weather in parts of the United States continued to disrupt the supply of fresh fruit to Canada. Higher-priced fresh fruit from other countries was imported to help fill the supply gaps.

Rate increases for natural gas in Ontario were primarily responsible for a 2.7% rise in the natural gas index for Canada in May. The Ontario increases were largely related to higher costs for transporting gas from Western Canada.

The price of women's clothing declined 2.6% in May, after having fallen 2.4% in April. The price reduction was widespread in most categories of women's clothing. Usually, the price of this group of goods registers a modest drop in May.

The price of bakery products fell 3.2% in May. This decrease stemmed from various specials and promotions.

The air transportation index declined 1.9% in May, as lower fares were offered for many international flights. The drop in air travel rates followed the pattern of previous years for May, though prices were still 10.2% higher than a year earlier.

Provincial highlights

Among the provinces, Saskatchewan exhibited the highest average price movement (+1.7%) between May 1997 and May 1998. Prince Edward Island was the only province where consumers enjoyed an average price decline (-0.8%). Weak price advances were recorded in both British Columbia (+0.3%) and Newfoundland (+0.4%).

In Saskatchewan, a number of commodities exhibited price movements that were higher than corresponding national changes. Many were related to the shelter component, such as replacement costs, property tax and homeowners' insurance. Telephone services, pet food, automotive vehicle insurance and health care goods also displayed price movements that exceeded national equivalents. Further, fuel oil charges fell only 2.2% in Saskatchewan, compared with a 10.0% drop for Canada as a whole. On the other hand, a number of commodities in Saskatchewan showed larger price decreases than did the corresponding commodities at the national level. Prices of beef, poultry and women's clothing fell

sharply in Saskatchewan compared with May 1997, while at the Canada level, prices of these commodities showed only slight changes.

Declines in gasoline and fuel oil prices in Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island between May 1997 and May 1998 were much larger than the corresponding national movements. The weak annual advance in the CPI of Newfoundland in May was due to rising food prices. This was dampened by the effect of the large decrease in energy product prices. In Prince Edward Island, the decline in energy prices was partially offset by higher poultry, fruit and soft drink prices. In addition, consumers in Prince Edward Island paid less for alcoholic beverages in the past year, whereas consumers in most other parts of Canada paid more. In British Columbia, new house prices, mortgage interest costs and homeowners' insurance rates exhibited annual decreases considerably larger than national equivalents.

From April to May 1998, the Manitoba CPI posted the highest average price movement (+0.6%) among the provinces. The price index for Prince Edward Island recorded the largest average price decrease (-0.7%).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9940-9956.

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

The June 1998 Consumer Price Index will be released on July 16. Available at 7:00 a.m. on release day at www.statcan.ca.

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

Consumer Price Indexes for the provinces, Whitehorse and Yellowknife
(1992=100)

	May 1998	April 1998	May 1997	April 1998 to May 1998	May 1997 to May 1998
	unadjusted				
	% change				
Newfoundland	108.3	108.4	107.9	-0.1	0.4
Prince Edward Island	105.6	106.3	106.5	-0.7	-0.8
Nova Scotia	108.5	108.4	107.7	0.1	0.7
New Brunswick	107.5	107.3	106.8	0.2	0.7
Quebec	106.5	106.2	104.8	0.3	1.6
Ontario	108.9	108.5	107.7	0.4	1.1
Manitoba	113.0	112.3	111.9	0.6	1.0
Saskatchewan	112.0	111.4	110.1	0.5	1.7
Alberta	110.6	110.3	109.2	0.3	1.3
British Columbia	110.3	109.8	110.0	0.5	0.3
Whitehorse	111.2	110.5	109.8	0.6	1.3
Yellowknife	108.3	107.8	108.3	0.5	0.0

Consumer Price Index and its major components
(1992=100)

	May 1998	April 1998	May 1997	April 1998 to May 1998	May 1997 to May 1998
	unadjusted				
	% change				
All-items	108.7	108.3	107.5	0.4	1.1
Food	109.4	108.9	107.5	0.5	1.8
Shelter	103.5	103.5	103.2	0.0	0.3
Household operations and furnishings	108.4	108.4	106.6	0.0	1.7
Clothing and footwear	103.1	103.8	103.1	-0.7	0.0
Transportation	120.7	120.2	121.1	0.4	-0.3
Health and personal care	108.2	107.7	106.0	0.5	2.1
Recreation, education and reading	118.3	116.4	114.7	1.6	3.1
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	92.6	92.2	89.3	0.4	3.7
Goods	106.0	105.6	105.6	0.4	0.4
Services	111.8	111.5	109.7	0.3	1.9
All-items excluding food and energy	108.9	108.7	107.4	0.2	1.4
Energy	105.2	103.7	107.9	1.4	-2.5
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared with 1992	92.0	92.3	93.0		
All-items (1986=100)	139.2				

Violence committed by strangers

1996

In the majority of violent crime cases reported to police, the victim usually knows the assailant, according to a new report from the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

In 1996, a stranger was responsible in only one out of three violent crime cases reported to police. In addition, violence committed by strangers was less likely than other types of violence to result in a physical injury.

The major exception to this pattern was robbery. In 1996, more than 8 in 10 robbery victims (83%) did not know the perpetrator. On the other hand, a total stranger to the victim was responsible in only about one in five cases of sexual assault and common assault.

Like most violent crimes, homicides are more likely to be committed by someone known to the victim rather than by a stranger. In 1996, only 14% of homicide victims were killed by a stranger.

Injuries less common when strangers involved

Somewhat surprisingly, victims of violent crime were less likely to sustain physical injury when the offender was a stranger than when the victim knew the offender.

In 1996, 41% of incidents involving total strangers resulted in either major or minor injuries, compared with 52% of incidents where the victim knew the perpetrator.

Use of weapons more common in incidents involving strangers

Although injury was not as common for those victimized by a stranger, the presence of weapons was greater among violent crimes involving strangers. Weapons were present in 39% of violent crimes in which a stranger was involved, compared with 28% of cases in which the accused knew the victim.

Firearms were a factor in only 1% of all violent crimes involving individuals known to the victim, compared with 12% for strangers. The higher proportion of firearms involvement for strangers is related to the predominance of strangers involved in robbery offences.

Definitions

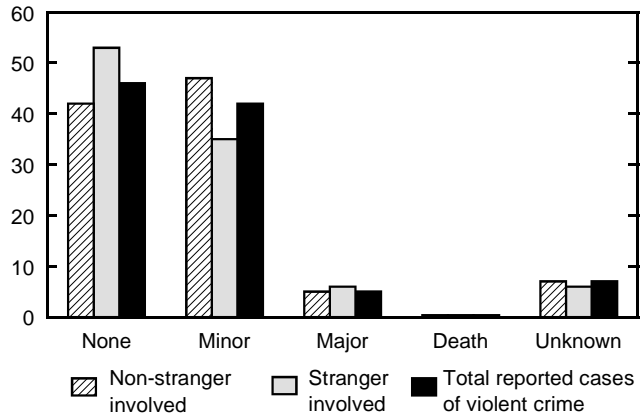
"Stranger" refers to someone who is not known to the victim in any way.

"Non-stranger" refers to someone who is known to the victim.

"Unknown" refers to cases in which the identity of the accused is not known or the relationship could not be established. For example, in some homicide cases, the identity of the accused may not be known.

Injuries less common when strangers involved

% of victims in 1996



Young men most likely to be victims of total strangers

Almost one-quarter (24%) of individuals victimized by strangers were young men aged 15 to 24—the largest proportion of all age groups—according to data reported by police.

The next largest group was men between the ages of 25 and 34, who accounted for 17% of all individuals victimized by strangers. This group was followed by young women between the ages of 15 and 24, who accounted for 11% of the total.

A number of lifestyle factors help to explain why younger age groups are at greater risk of violent victimization, especially by strangers. For example, unattached individuals have more available leisure time to pursue activities in public places, which increases their risk of attack by a stranger.

Violent crimes in homes not likely to involve strangers

Although the most common location for the occurrence of a violent crime is in the home, a

relatively low proportion (9%) involve strangers. Strangers are more likely to be implicated in incidents that occur at commercial or corporate places, or outdoors.

Available data on fear of crime demonstrate that one in four Canadians are very or somewhat worried when alone in their homes in the evening or at night. This anxiety is highest among individuals recently victimized by sexual assault, robbery, or break and enter.

One in four Canadians fearful of crime

Despite decreases in reported violent crime and despite the relatively small proportion of violent crimes committed by strangers, recent victimization surveys indicate that approximately one in four Canadians are fearful of crime.

Fear levels are not the same for all segments of the population, since certain socio-demographic characteristics appear to be linked to fear. Some of the factors associated with level of fear are lifestyle, gender, social circumstances, and the environment to which an individual is exposed.

"Violence committed by strangers" is the title of the Vol. 18, no. 9 issue of *Juristat* (85-002-XPE, \$10/\$93 in print; 85-002-XIE, \$8/\$70 on the Internet), released today. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Information and Client Services (613-951-9023 or 1 800 387-2231) or Derek Janhevich (613-951-0038), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. □

**Type of offence by relationship of accused to victim
1996**

Offence	Victims		Relationship of accused to victim		
	number	% ¹	Stranger	Non-stranger	Unknown ²
			%		
Total³	130,051	100	34	60	6
Total excluding robbery	109,948	100	26	69	5
Homicide ⁴	314
Attempted murder	580	100	28	57	15
Sexual assault					
Level 3	139	100	23	71	6
Level 2	291	100	41	53	6
Level 1	9,037	100	19	76	6
Assault					
Level 3	1,526	100	33	55	12
Level 2	18,168	100	32	62	6
Level 1	65,743	100	22	74	4
Abduction/kidnapping	1,876	100	39	53	7
Robbery	20,103	100	83	9	9
Other violent ⁵	12,274	100	38	54	8

¹ Figures may not add to 100 due to rounding.

² The identity of the accused is not known or the relationship cannot be established.

³ Represents all victim records.

⁴ The number of homicides is included in the total; however, figures for relationship are excluded because the Homicide Survey provides more accurate information. Figures drawn from the Homicide Survey reveal that 14% of victims were killed by strangers and 86% by non-strangers.

⁵ Includes the following categories: criminal harassment, other sexual crimes, unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharge of firearm with intent, assault against peace/public officer, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, other assaults, and other violent violations.

... Figures not appropriate or applicable.

Source: UCR II: Non-random sample of 154 police agencies accounting for 47% of the national volume of crime. The data are not nationally representative.

OTHER RELEASES

Aboriginal Business Survey—errata 1996

The actual percentage of Aboriginal business owners who cited financing as a priority for achieving business success is 67%, not 76% as was reported in *The Daily* yesterday.

For further information on this release, contact Tony Labillois (613-951-1478; labiton@statcan.ca), Small Business and Special Surveys Division, or Jay Illingworth (613-954-5814; Illingworth.Jay@ic.gc.ca), Aboriginal Business Canada. ■

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending June 7, 1998

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending June 7, 1998, decreased 4.0% to 4.7 million metric tonnes from the same period last year. The number of cars loaded decreased 3.6%.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) traffic totalled 357 000 tonnes, a 4.8% increase from the same seven-day period of last year. The year-to-date figures show a decline of 5.0% from the 1997 period.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal) during the seven days decreased 3.4% from the same period in 1997. The 1998 year-to-date total was 112.8 million tonnes, an increase of 1.6% 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; laroque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Construction Union Wage Rate Index

May 1998

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) increased 0.5% from April's level to 111.6 (1992=100) in May. The composite index increased 1.3% compared with May 1997.

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and the rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes on a 1992=100 time base are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 956, 958 and 9922-9927.

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

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

Selected Financial Indexes

May 1998

Data from May 1998 are now available for the Selected Financial Indexes (1992=100).

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9928.

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

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

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation

May 1998

Manufacturers shipped 1 931 443 square metres of R12 factor (RSI 2.1) mineral wool batts in May 1998, down 11.6% from 2 185 874 square metres a year earlier and down 0.6% from 1 943 573 square metres a month earlier.

Year-to-date shipments to the end of May 1998 totalled 12 742 274 square metres, a 17.9% increase from the same period in 1997.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 40 and 122 (series 32-33).

The May 1998 issue of *Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation* (44-004-XPB, \$7/\$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Roland Joubert (613-951-3527; rjoubert@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

International Adult Literacy Survey

1994

A report from the 1994 International Adult Literacy Survey is being released today. It presents findings on literacy in New Brunswick. This study includes literacy comparisons with the other Atlantic provinces and with Canada as a whole.

International Adult Literacy Survey: A New Brunswick Snapshot (89-565-XPB, \$45) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Scott Murray (613-951-9035), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Infomat—A weekly review, June 19, 1998
Catalogue number 11-002-XIE
(Canada: \$3; outside Canada: US\$3).

Infomat—A weekly review, June 19, 1998
Catalogue number 11-002-XPE
(Canada: \$4/\$145; outside Canada: US\$4/US\$145).

Gross domestic product by industry, March 1998
Catalogue number 15-001-XPB
(Canada: \$15/\$145; outside Canada: US\$15/US\$145).

Production of poultry and eggs, 1997
Catalogue number 23-202-XIB
(Canada: \$29/\$; outside Canada: US\$28/US\$).

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, April 1998
Catalogue number 31-001-XPB
(Canada: \$20/\$196; outside Canada: US\$20/US\$196).

Juristat: Violence committed by strangers, Vol. 18,
no. 9, June 1998
Catalogue number 85-002-XIE
(Canada: \$8/\$70; outside Canada: US\$8/US\$70).

Juristat: Violence committed by strangers, Vol. 18,
no. 9, June 1998
Catalogue number 85-002-XPE
(Canada: \$10/\$93; outside Canada: US\$10/US\$93).

**International Adult Literacy Survey: A New
Brunswick Snapshot**, June 1998
Catalogue number 89-565-XPB
(Canada: \$45; outside Canada: US\$45).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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Thursday, June 9, 1998
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 noticeably weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow nominal growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
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RELEASE DATES

June 22 to 26, 1998
(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
22	Income after tax, distribution by size in Canada	1996
23	Canada's international transactions in securities	April 1998
23	Composite Index	May 1998
23	Employment Insurance	April 1998
24	Wholesale trade	April 1998
24	Report on the demographic situation in Canada	1997
25	Retail trade	April 1998
25	Perspectives on labour and income	Summer 1998
26	Industrial Product Price Index	May 1998
26	Raw Materials Price Index	May 1998
26	Employment, earnings and hours	April 1998
