



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

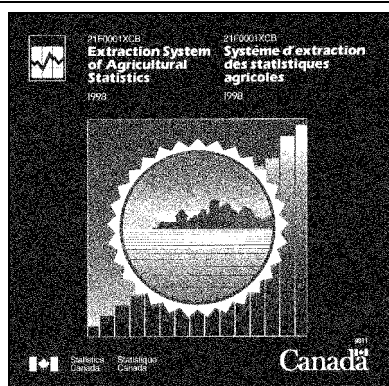
Friday, June 26, 1998

For release at 8:30 a.m.

## MAJOR RELEASES

- **Industrial Product Price Index, May 1998** 3  
 In May, industrial product prices remained unchanged from April. The 12-month change in prices continued to be negative (-0.8%) for a third consecutive month.
- **Raw Materials Price Index, May 1998** 6  
 In May, manufacturers' paid slightly less for their raw materials compared with April. Overall, raw material prices edged down 0.7% as lower prices for crude oil, non-ferrous metals and wood were greatly offset by higher prices for animal products.

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### Extraction system of agricultural statistics on CD-ROM 1998

The Extraction system of agricultural statistics (ESAS) on CD-ROM, a cooperative effort between Statistics Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, provides an extensive collection of the most requested physical and financial data on farming.

Now operating in a Windows 95 environment, this menu-driven system extracts data by census agricultural region, farm type and revenue class. The 1998 version of ESAS contains a full year of new data, as well as an online user's guide and reference manual. The flexibility of ESAS lets you reorganize your report, perform calculations and create graphs. You can also view selected tables on screen, print them or export them for use in other applications.

Whether you are interested in dairy production in Quebec or off-farm income in Saskatchewan, ESAS provides desktop access to all the data. ESAS replaces stacks of printouts with one easy-to-use CD-ROM.

*Extraction system of agricultural statistics* (21F0001XCB, \$625) is now available on CD-ROM. An update can be purchased for \$295. A 50% educational discount is also available. To order, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre or call toll-free 1 800 267-6677.

For further information, contact Alain Bertrand (613-951-5027; [bertala@statcan.ca](mailto:bertala@statcan.ca)) or call the Agriculture Division toll-free at 1 800 465-1991.



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## **RELEASE DATES: Week of June 29 to July 3, 1998**

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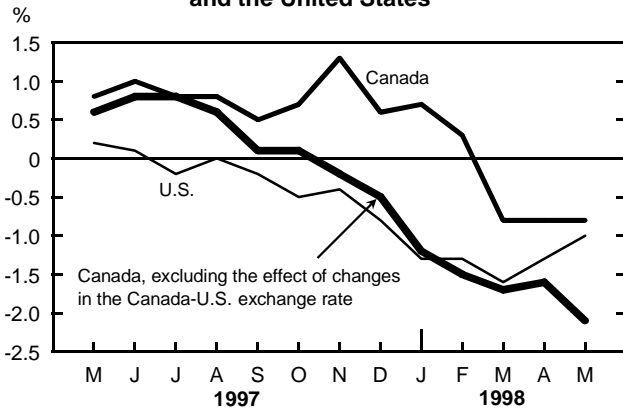
## MAJOR RELEASES

### Industrial Product Price Index

May 1998 (preliminary)

In May, industrial product prices remained unchanged from April. The 12-month change in prices continued to be negative (-0.8%) for a third consecutive month. The Industrial Product Price Index in May was 119.0 (1992=100), unchanged from April.

The 12-month change in manufacturing industry prices remains negative in both Canada and the United States



In May, the most significant price changes were declines for non-ferrous primary metal products and softwood lumber, along with price increases for exported motor vehicles and for meat.

#### Exchange rate effects significant in May

In mid-May, the value of the U.S. dollar rose to about \$1.45 Canadian from about \$1.44 in mid-April. In mid-May 1997, it had been about \$1.38. If the effect of the changes in the value of the Canadian dollar were excluded, May's month-to-month change would be -0.2% and the 12-month change would be -2.1%.

A rise in the value of the U.S. currency increases the value in Canadian dollars of any commodity price quoted in U.S. dollars. Changes in the Canada-U.S. exchange rate are most significant for motor vehicles, pulp, paper and wood products. Prices for these products are frequently quoted in U.S. dollars when they are exported.

#### Note to readers

The Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) reflects the prices that producers in Canada receive as the goods leave the plant gate. It does not reflect what the consumer pays. Unlike the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the IPPI excludes indirect taxes and all the costs that occur between the time when a good leaves the plant and the time when the final user takes possession of it, including the transportation, wholesale, and retail costs.

#### 12-month change in manufacturing industry prices remains negative in Canada and the United States

In the United States, manufacturers saw their overall price level edge up again in May, increasing another 0.2%. This reduced the 12-month change in U.S. manufacturing prices to -1.0% from -1.3%.

Although, in the United States, the 12-month change in manufacturing prices rose from -1.3% in April to -1.0% in May, it remained constant at -0.8% in Canada. As noted earlier, it even would have declined further in Canada if the effect of the Canada-U.S. exchange rate were removed.

#### Prices up for motor vehicles and meat

Almost all of May's increase in motor vehicle prices was due to the effect of the rise in the value of the U.S. dollar in terms of the Canadian dollar.

Export prices were up for automobiles (+0.8%) and trucks (+0.9%). However, domestic prices were down for automobiles (-0.6%) and trucks (-0.1%). The drop in domestic prices for automobiles reflect various sale incentives offered in May. Industry reports indicated that overall Canadian automobile sales rose quite strongly in May, supported by the incentive programs in place.

Prices for meat products were up 1.6% in May. This was mainly due to a 3.7% increase in the price of pork and a 2.3% increase in the prices of beef and veal, reflecting higher prices paid by manufacturers for swine and cattle for slaughter.

#### Prices down for softwood lumber and non-ferrous metal products

Overall softwood lumber prices fell 3.4% in May following a 3.1% increase in April. Softwood lumber prices have been moving down since April 1997, and by May 1998 had fallen 19.3%.

In May, softwood lumber export prices were down 3.3% while domestic prices fell 4.7%. Prices were down across the country. The largest decline was in Ontario (-4.8%), and the smallest drop was on the coast of British Columbia (-1.6%).

Between the second quarter of 1997 and the first quarter of 1998, exports of lumber in volume terms declined about 15.6%. For the same period, total shipments of sawmill, planing and shingle mills dropped 8.2% (in constant dollars).

Most non-ferrous primary metal products saw declines in May. Prices declined for the three most important groups: -6.5% for copper and copper alloy products, -5.5% for nickel products and -0.9% for aluminum products. Zinc products (-2.7%) and lead primary forms (-4.9%) also had price declines.

Compared with a year earlier, price declines for the three most important groups of non-ferrous metal products were -30.1% for nickel products, -26.8% for copper and copper alloy products, and -4.6% for aluminum products. Other declines include zinc products (-15.4%) and lead primary forms (-6.5%).

Non-ferrous metal prices, in general, seem to be feeling the effect of the drop in gross domestic product along the Asian Pacific Rim. However, despite the drop in prices, the export volume indexes for these metal product groups showed relatively little overall change during 1997 and the first part of 1998.

## Overview

In Canada, May's total employment remained almost unchanged following April's surge. Manufacturing employment in May showed little change following March's increase.

In April, both shipments and exports had edged down slightly. However, retail and wholesale sales were up.

In the residential housing market in May, housing starts continued to decline, but housing resales continued to increase. In April, the value of both total building permits and total residential building permits had declined compared with March.

In the United States, Canada's major trading partner, industrial production continued to rise in May, as did manufacturing. Both seem to have recovered somewhat from the slowdown early in the year. Although U.S. non-agricultural payrolls rose again, manufacturing payrolls did not. The unemployment rate remained at 4.3%. Housing starts, however, were down.

In Japan, Canada's second largest national export market, industrial production was estimated to have fallen a further 1.1% in May. Following the release of GDP figures for the first quarter of 1998, the Japanese economy is now known to be in recession. The weakness of the Japanese economy worsens, and is worsened by, the weakness of other Asian Pacific Rim economies. In May, the 12-month change in Japanese domestic wholesale prices continued to decline, falling to -2.7%.

Collectively the European Union (EU) is an even larger export market for Canada than Japan. The EU is dominated by the European members of the G7. For these countries, the most recent figures for the 12-month change in industrial prices were: +0.9% in the United Kingdom (May), +0.9% in Italy (April), +0.3% in Germany (April) and +0.5% France (March).

In April, German industrial production fell back somewhat after a sharp increase in March. British industrial production was up in April and had more than recovered from its decline of January and February. Italian industrial production was down slightly in April. In March, French industrial production had continued to show a healthy increase. Indications are, though, that it declined slightly in April.

## Available on CANSIM: matrices 1870-1878.

The May 1998 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011-XPB, \$22/\$217) will be available at the end of July. See *How to order publications*.

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

**Industrial product price indexes**  
(1992=100)

Index	Relative importance	May 1997	April 1998 <sup>r</sup>	May 1998 <sup>p</sup>	May 1997 to May 1998	April 1998 to May 1998
						% change
<b>Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI)</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>119.9</b>	<b>119.0</b>	<b>119.0</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Intermediate goods<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>59.28</b>	<b>122.6</b>	<b>119.7</b>	<b>119.5</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
First-stage intermediate goods <sup>2</sup>	7.91	126.6	120.8	120.9	-4.5	0.1
Second-stage intermediate goods <sup>3</sup>	51.37	122.0	119.5	119.3	-2.2	-0.2
<b>Finished goods<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>40.72</b>	<b>116.0</b>	<b>117.9</b>	<b>118.3</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>0.3</b>
Finished foods and feeds	10.38	112.1	112.0	112.2	0.1	0.2
Capital equipment	10.21	117.5	121.4	121.8	3.7	0.3
All other finished goods	20.13	117.2	119.2	119.6	2.0	0.3
<b>Aggregation by commodities</b>						
Meat, fish and dairy products	7.27	121.9	116.1	117.0	-4.0	0.8
Fruit, vegetable, feed, miscellaneous food products	6.72	116.1	113.7	113.4	-2.3	-0.3
Beverages	2.12	110.1	112.0	112.1	1.8	0.1
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.72	127.3	130.3	130.3	2.4	0.0
Rubber, leather, plastic fabric products	3.01	114.0	113.3	113.0	-0.9	-0.3
Textile products	1.82	109.4	110.2	110.3	0.8	0.1
Knitted products and clothing	1.93	107.7	109.1	109.1	1.3	0.0
Lumber, sawmill, other wood products	5.20	147.2	136.9	134.5	-8.6	-1.8
Furniture and fixtures	1.46	113.8	114.9	115.0	1.1	0.1
Pulp and paper products	7.65	123.2	128.9	129.8	5.4	0.7
Printing and publishing	3.05	125.8	130.3	130.7	3.9	0.3
Primary metal products	7.58	129.1	123.6	122.0	-5.5	-1.3
Metal fabricated products	4.11	119.2	122.2	122.3	2.6	0.1
Machinery and equipment	4.08	111.1	112.5	112.7	1.4	0.2
Autos, trucks, other transportation equipment	18.76	121.0	126.9	127.7	5.5	0.6
Electrical and communications products	6.03	107.3	105.5	105.7	-1.5	0.2
Non-metallic mineral products	2.12	111.5	112.2	112.2	0.6	0.0
Petroleum and coal products <sup>5</sup>	6.01	115.2	98.2	98.6	-14.4	0.4
Chemicals and chemical products	7.60	118.7	115.2	115.1	-3.0	-0.1
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.45	115.5	116.7	116.5	0.9	-0.2
Miscellaneous non-manufactured commodities	0.31	128.6	119.5	117.1	-8.9	-2.0

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

<sup>1</sup> Intermediate goods are used principally to produce other goods.

<sup>2</sup> First-stage intermediate goods are used most frequently to produce other intermediate goods.

<sup>3</sup> Second-stage intermediate goods are most commonly used to produce final goods.

<sup>4</sup> Finished goods are most commonly used for immediate consumption or for capital investment.

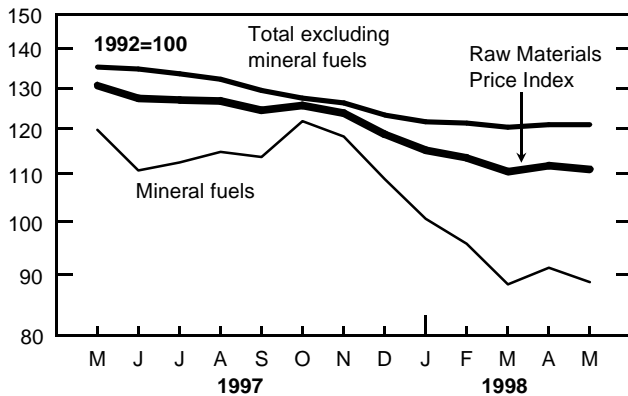
<sup>5</sup> This index is estimated for the current month.

## Raw Materials Price Index

May 1998 (preliminary)

In May, manufacturers' paid slightly less for their raw materials compared with April. Overall raw material prices edged down 0.7% as lower prices for crude oil, non-ferrous metals and wood were greatly offset by higher prices for animal products.

**Crude oil prices down in May**



The Raw Materials Price Index stood at 110.7 in May (1992=100), down from 111.5 in April (revised). If the mineral fuels category (90% of which is crude oil) were excluded, raw material prices for May would actually have shown no change from the previous month.

Compared with 12 months earlier, raw material prices were down 15.1% in May. Lower prices for crude oil, wood, non-ferrous metals and vegetable and animal products were marginally offset by higher prices for ferrous materials and non-metallic minerals. Again, if mineral fuels were excluded, raw material prices would have been down 10.7% from May 1997.

### Crude oil prices down in May

Crude oil prices fell 3.3% in May and were 27.8% lower than the same month a year earlier. Prices have remained weak due to a glut of crude oil on the world market combined with the economic problems in Southeast Asia and Japan. However, some forces are at work that may strengthen crude oil prices in the future. First, heating oil demand in North America, which was lower last winter due to El Nino, should

#### Note to readers

The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) reflects the prices paid by Canadian manufacturers for key raw materials. Many of these prices are set in world markets. Also, unlike the Industrial Product Price Index, the RMPI includes goods that are not produced in Canada.

return to normal in the next cycle. Also, the potential agreement to lower crude oil production by OPEC and non-OPEC countries and the eventual return to healthier economic days in Southeast Asia and Japan would tend to firm up crude oil prices.

In Canada, natural gas producers are probably more upbeat these days. The availability of new export pipeline capacity should help strengthen Canadian domestic prices. Also, the demand for natural gas as an alternative to coal and other fuels (for co-generation of electricity) should strengthen prices further. Natural gas prices were up 12.2% in May, compared with 12 months earlier.

### Metal prices remain under downward pressure from Asian economic crisis

The slowing industrial production in Asia has caused metal inventories to rise, thereby putting downward pressure on prices. Japan is the second largest consumer of metals after the United States. The slowdown in car sales and housing construction in Japan has greatly lessened the demand for metals, not to mention logs and lumber from British Columbia.

Non-ferrous metal prices fell 4.1% in May compared with April. Lower prices for copper concentrates (-8.1%), nickel concentrates (-5.6%) and aluminum materials (-3.7%) were the major contributors to the decline. Compared with 12 months earlier, non-ferrous metal prices were 16.7% lower this May. Copper concentrates (-29.4%), nickel concentrates (-30.7%) and other non-ferrous metals contributed to the lower metal prices.

### Log prices down almost 23% over last 12 months

Wood prices fell 2.3% in May, as lower log prices (-3.2%) were marginally offset by slightly higher pulpwood prices. Compared with 12 months earlier, wood prices were down 18.4%. This was mainly reflected in the lower prices for logs, (-22.6%). Log supplies have increased as log exports to Japan have declined greatly. The weak Japanese lumber market (even with their low inventory levels) shows few signs of requiring much if any new additional sawmill production in the near future. At this time, the lumber

industry is comparable to the crude oil industry — too much production for current market demand.

### Hog prices up

Prices in the animal and animal products group were up 4.2% in May compared with April, led by higher prices for hogs (+26.4%) and cattle (+1.6%). Compared with May 1997, the animals and animal products group prices were down 3.6%. Lower prices for hogs (-22.6%) were somewhat dampened by higher prices for cattle (+7.4%).

Hog prices were up in May, as current and expected supplies were not meeting demand. Demand for the available stock of hogs remains constant, if not even more intense. After contract fulfilment, only a small percentage of animals remain available to buyers, pushing up demand pricing. As well, meatpackers stock up at this time of year for the summer season.

### Coffee prices down

On a month-to-month basis, vegetable product prices edged down 0.7% in May. Lower prices for green coffee (-11.0%), corn (-2.4%) and soybeans (-1.3%)

were almost offset by higher prices for wheat (+2.4%) and canola (+1.1%). Compared with 12 months earlier, vegetable product prices were down 12.3%. Lower prices for coffee (-46.3%), soybeans (-26.6%), corn (-12.3%) and raw tobacco (-14.0%) were partly offset by higher prices for potatoes (+44.5%).

There are strong expectations that Brazil, the world's largest coffee grower, will have high inventories at a time of lessening roaster demand. One prominent beverage association has noted that coffee consumption will drop 1.3% this year in favour of soft drinks and other beverages.

Other notable monthly price changes in May were: precious metals (-4.1%), and iron and steel scrap (+3.2%).

### Available on CANSIM: matrix 1879.

The May 1998 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011-XPB, \$22/\$217) will be available at the end of July. See *How to order publications*.

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

### Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)

Index	Relative importance	May 1997	April 1998 <sup>r</sup>	May 1998 <sup>p</sup>	May 1997 to May 1998	April 1998 to May 1998
					% change	
<b>Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI)</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>130.4</b>	<b>111.5</b>	<b>110.7</b>	<b>-15.1</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
Mineral fuels	31.47	119.6	91.3	88.8	-25.8	-2.7
Vegetable products	9.41	155.0	136.8	135.9	-12.3	-0.7
Animals and animal products	24.41	118.2	109.4	114.0	-3.6	4.2
Wood	14.88	158.1	132.1	129.0	-18.4	-2.3
Ferrous materials	3.17	132.3	133.9	136.9	3.5	2.2
Non-ferrous metals	13.81	133.3	115.8	111.0	-16.7	-4.1
Non-metallic minerals	2.85	111.5	116.3	116.3	4.3	0.0
<b>RMPI excluding mineral fuels</b>	<b>68.53</b>	<b>135.3</b>	<b>120.8</b>	<b>120.8</b>	<b>-10.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.



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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Employment, earnings and hours

April 1998 (preliminary)

Average weekly earnings increased by \$2.47 in April to \$609.49. Compared with April 1997, average weekly earnings were 1.6% higher. Year-over-year growth for average earnings has been between 1.5% and 2.0% for the last four months.

During the past 12 months, average earnings in the goods-producing industries have increased by almost 3% while average earnings in the services-producing industries increased by approximately 1%. Year-to-year earnings growth in the goods-producing industries was widespread across the industries except for forestry. Growth was led by strong average weekly earnings gains for salaried employees. Growth in earnings for hourly paid employees was lower than that of salaried employees. Overtime hours for hourly paid employees also declined slightly over the past year.

Earnings growth in service producing industries remained stable in April, with little or no earnings growth in the education, health and public administration sectors. Business services, accommodation and food and miscellaneous services also recorded weak year-over-year earnings growth.

Average weekly hours for employees paid by the hour edged up to 31.0 from 30.9 in April, and have remained relatively stable since the fall of 1997. In the past year, average hours have declined slightly due to a drop in paid overtime.

For a third consecutive month, paid employment was virtually unchanged in April, as all industries except wholesalers (-7,600) maintained March employment levels.

The Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours (SEPH) is in the final phase of a major, multi-year

project to improve estimates of business payrolls and paid employment, and to reduce the reporting burden on businesses. With the change in methodology, employment estimates from the administrative records may show a different seasonal pattern than the previous questionnaire data, which can only be assessed within the context of a longer time period.

Statistics Canada continues to monitor these impacts and will help users interpret its data. To minimize impacts, it is recommended that SEPH data, particularly employment data, be used in the context of longer time periods or for detailed industry distributions.

Beginning with the May 1998 reference month, Labour Division will increase the use of administrative records in the production of paid employment estimates. In addition, a new sample survey will be used to produce estimates of paid hours, and average weekly and hourly earnings. May data (released in July) will describe how these methodological changes will affect the data. For more information on the survey redesign, contact Jean Leduc (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; [labour@statcan.ca](mailto:labour@statcan.ca)), Labour Division.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 4285-4466, 9438-9452, 9639-9664 and 9899-9911.**

Detailed industry data and other labour market indicators will be available in July through standard tables in the monthly publication *Employment, earnings and hours* (72-002-XPB, \$32/\$320), the historical publication *Annual estimates of employment, earnings and hours 1984-1996* (diskette: 72F0002XDE, \$150) and by custom tabulations.

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



**Average weekly earnings for all employees**

Industry group (1980 SIC)	April 1997	March 1998 <sup>r</sup>	April 1998 <sup>p</sup>	March 1998 to April 1998	April 1997 to April 1998
	seasonally adjusted				
	\$			% change	
<b>Industrial aggregate</b>	<b>599.94</b>	<b>607.03</b>	<b>609.49</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Logging and forestry	799.05	777.89	782.82	0.6	-2.0
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	1057.23	1121.50	1129.97	0.8	6.9
Manufacturing	737.72	753.85	758.47	0.6	2.8
Construction	705.68	694.66	713.73	2.7	1.1
Transportation and storage	721.67	735.59	736.10	0.1	2.0
Communication and other utilities	793.19	811.41	810.90	-0.1	2.2
Wholesale trade	638.47	663.29	670.96	1.2	5.1
Retail trade	360.00	366.20	367.65	0.4	2.1
Finance and insurance	776.44	793.40	805.66	1.5	3.8
Real estate operators and insurance agencies	625.20	634.36	634.62	0.0	1.5
Business services	694.47	682.67	690.42	1.1	-0.6
Education-related services	671.69	676.24	673.29	-0.4	0.2
Health and social services	514.24	511.70	517.11	1.1	0.6
Accommodation, food and beverage services	239.66	233.33	235.46	0.9	-1.8
Public administration	748.32	739.28	740.97	0.2	-1.0
Miscellaneous services	415.58	406.15	410.09	1.0	-1.3
<b>Provinces and territories</b>					
Newfoundland	524.93	521.02	528.10	1.4	0.6
Prince Edward Island	490.86	485.13	496.61	2.4	1.2
Nova Scotia	501.21	507.09	513.56	1.3	2.5
New Brunswick	519.75	522.72	529.77	1.3	1.9
Quebec	562.41	571.91	580.78	1.6	3.3
Ontario	639.71	649.68	651.99	0.4	1.9
Manitoba	527.57	534.00	539.56	1.0	2.3
Saskatchewan	532.13	534.05	535.09	0.2	0.6
Alberta	609.08	614.46	618.56	0.7	1.6
British Columbia	615.50	616.71	615.70	-0.2	0.0
Yukon	719.02	688.64	687.25	-0.2	-4.4
Northwest Territories	720.36	720.17	725.06	0.7	0.7

<sup>r</sup> Revised estimates.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary estimates.

## Number of employees

Industry group (1980 SIC)	Feb. 1998	March 1998 <sup>r</sup>	April 1998 <sup>p</sup>	Feb. 1998 to March 1998	March 1998 to April 1998
seasonally adjusted					
	thousands			% change	
<b>Industrial aggregate</b>	<b>11,598</b>	<b>11,601</b>	<b>11,586</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Logging and forestry	68	69	70	1.5	1.4
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	150	146	146	-2.7	0.0
Manufacturing	1,870	1,867	1,863	-0.2	-0.2
Construction	492	499	501	1.4	0.4
Transportation and storage	487	489	488	0.4	-0.2
Communication and other utilities	382	381	383	-0.3	0.5
Wholesale trade	734	734	726	0.0	-1.1
Retail trade	1,421	1,409	1,405	-0.8	-0.3
Finance and insurance	516	517	516	0.2	-0.2
Real estate operators and insurances agencies	201	201	203	0.0	1.0
Business services	788	785	780	-0.4	-0.6
Education-related services	935	934	938	-0.1	0.4
Health and social services	1,216	1,217	1,216	0.1	-0.1
Accommodation, food and beverage services	842	841	838	-0.1	-0.4
Public administration	669	668	671	-0.1	0.4
Miscellaneous services	685	684	686	-0.1	0.3
<b>Provinces and territories</b>					
Newfoundland	149	149	151	0.0	1.3
Prince Edward Island	48	47	46	-2.1	-2.1
Nova Scotia	322	320	321	-0.6	0.3
New Brunswick	263	262	263	-0.4	0.4
Quebec	2,758	2,761	2,756	0.1	-0.2
Ontario	4,561	4,559	4,556	0.0	-0.1
Manitoba	434	436	433	0.5	-0.7
Saskatchewan	347	347	346	0.0	-0.3
Alberta	1,212	1,207	1,208	-0.4	0.1
British Columbia	1,476	1,472	1,472	-0.3	0.0
Yukon	15	15	15	0.0	0.0
Northwest Territories	25	25	24	0.0	-4.0

<sup>r</sup> Revised estimates.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary estimates.

## Manufacturing industries

1996

Following strong growth in 1994 and 1995, manufacturing shipments edged up 2.5% to \$406.5 billion. Increases in the food and refined petroleum and coal products industries maintained the upward trend in the manufacturing sector, which started in 1992. The deceleration was mainly due to a drop in shipments in the paper and allied products industries and a small rate of growth in the automobile sector.

In 1996, manufacturer's shipments increased in 18 of the 22 major groups, which accounted for more

than 85% of the manufacturing shipments. Refined petroleum and coal products (+16%) and furniture and fixture industries (+12%) registered the largest increases. However, a drop in the price of paper led to a 14.4% decline in manufacturing shipments in paper and allied products.

In 1996, manufacturer's shipment increased in most provinces. With the exception of British Columbia, the Western provinces recorded growth of more than 7%. After two years of record growth, manufacturer's shipments slowed in Ontario and in Quebec.

*Manufacturing industries of Canada: national and provincial areas, 1996* (31-203-XPB, \$68) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, contact Jean-Marie Houle (613-951-9497; [manufact@statcan.ca](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction, and Energy Division.

## Crude oil and natural gas

April 1998

In April, crude oil production was 9.4% higher than April 1997. This was the 11th consecutive monthly year-over-year increase. Exports, which accounted for 63.9% of total production, continued their upward trend in April, climbing 28.9% from the year earlier level. Exports, driven by strong demand in the United States and shipments from Hibernia, have increased for 23 consecutive months. Year-to-date exports of crude oil were up 19.5% over the same period in 1997.

Imports of crude oil rose 1.5% from April 1997. For the first four months of 1998, imports were up by 2.8%.

Natural gas production increased 2.5% from a year earlier. Domestic sales continued falling with a decrease of 8.8% in April. This was the sixth consecutive monthly year-over-year decline. The decline in domestic sales was largely due to a much warmer-than-normal winter. However, exports, which accounted for 53.0% of total production, advanced 6.9% in April. This was 10th consecutive month to show a year-over-year increase in natural gas exports. Year-to-date exports of natural gas were up 5.7% over the same period in 1997.

## Crude oil and natural gas

	April 1997	April 1998	April 1997 to April 1998
	thousands of cubic metres		% change

### Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons<sup>1</sup>

Production	9 440.9	10 324.4	9.4
Exports	5 121.5	6 601.0	28.9
Imports <sup>2</sup>	3 336.0	3 384.9	1.5
Refinery receipts	7 162.9	6 941.0	-3.1

	millions of cubic metres		% change
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### Natural gas<sup>3</sup>

Marketable production	13 028.1	13 359.3	2.5
Exports	6 624.4	7 081.2	6.9
Canadian domestic sales <sup>4</sup>	6 111.9	5 575.9	-8.8

	Jan. 1997 to April 1997	Jan. 1998 to April 1998	Jan.-April 1997 to Jan.-April 1998
	thousands of cubic metres		% change

### Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons<sup>1</sup>

Production	39 420.8	42 231.4	7.1
Exports	21 598.7	25 799.7	19.5
Imports <sup>2</sup>	14 258.7	14 664.5	2.8
Refinery receipts	31 193.0	30 847.9	-1.1

	millions of cubic metres		% change
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### Natural gas<sup>3</sup>

Marketable production	53 345.7	54 779.6	2.7
Exports	27 694.0	29 275.1	5.7
Canadian domestic sales <sup>4</sup>	29 389.3	27 478.0	-6.5

<sup>1</sup> Disposition may differ from production due to inventory change, industry own-use, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Crude oil received by Canadian refineries from foreign countries for processing. Data may differ from International Trade Division (ITD) estimates due to timing differences and the inclusion of crude oil landed in Canada for future re-export in the ITD data.

<sup>3</sup> Disposition may differ from production due to inventory change, usage as pipeline fuel, pipeline losses, line-pack fluctuations, etc.

<sup>4</sup> Includes direct sales.

## Available on CANSIM: matrices 530 and 539.

The April 1998 issue of *Crude petroleum and natural gas production* (26-006-XPB, \$19/\$186) will be available in July. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Gérard O'Connor (613-951-3562; [oconger@statcan.ca](mailto:oconger@statcan.ca)), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

### **Air charter statistics**

Third quarter 1997 (preliminary)

Air charter data for the third quarter of 1997 are now available.

The June issue of the *Aviation statistics centre service bulletin* (51-004-XIB, \$8/\$82) will be available shortly. See *How to order a publications*.

For more information on this release, contact Francesca Thibeault (613-951-0123), Aviation Statistics Centre, Transportation Division. ■

### **Restaurant caterer and tavern receipts**

May to December 1997

Restaurant, caterer and tavern industry data are now available from May to December 1997.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 52.**

For further information, consult the monthly publication *Restaurant, caterer and tavern statistics* (63-011-XPB, \$8/73). See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact W. H. Birbeck (613-951-3506; fax: 613-951-6696) in Services Division. ■

### **Cereals and oilseeds review**

April 1998

Data from the April issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* are now available. The information includes data on production, stocks, cash and futures prices, crop quality, domestic processing, exports, farmers' deliveries and supply-disposition analyses.

The May situation report, an overview of current marketing conditions (both domestic and international) is also included in the April issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149), which will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Rick Burroughs (613-951-2890; [burrir@statcan.ca](mailto:burrir@statcan.ca)) or Les Macartney (613-951-8714; [macales@statcan.ca](mailto:macales@statcan.ca)), Grain Marketing Unit, Agriculture Division. ■

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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**Infomat - A weekly review** June 26, 1998  
**Catalogue number 11-002-XIE**  
(Canada: \$3; outside Canada: US\$3).

**Infomat - A weekly review** June 26, 1998  
**Catalogue number 11-002-XPE**  
(Canada: \$4/\$145; outside Canada: US\$4/US\$145).

**Electric lamps, light bulbs and tubes**, May 1998  
**Catalogue number 43-009-XPB**  
(Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

**Surface and marine transport service bulletin**, Vol. 14, no. 2  
**Catalogue number 50-002-XIB**  
(Canada: \$10/\$62; outside Canada: US\$10/US\$62).

**Exports, merchandise trade**, 1997  
**Catalogue number 65-202-XMB**  
(Canada: \$103; outside Canada: US\$103).

**Exports, merchandise trade**, 1997  
**Catalogue number 65-202-XPB**  
(Canada: \$258; outside Canada: US\$258).

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- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4  
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**OTHER RELEASES**

- **High-wire index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 13
- **EGG predictor, April 1997** 12

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**Week of June 29 to July 3, 1998**

(Release dates are subject to change.)

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<b>Release date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference period</b>
29	<b>National tourism indicators</b>	First quarter 1998
29	<b>Canada's international transactions in services</b>	1997
30	<b>Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry</b>	April 1998
30	<b>Field crop reporting series: Seeded area, principal field crops</b> <b>Field crop reporting series: Seeded area, principal field crops</b>	

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