

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, July 16, 1998
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Consumer Price Index, June 1998**

In June, the Consumer Price Index was 1.0% higher than it was a year earlier. If the food and energy components were removed, the increase would still be 1.0% — the lowest annual advance this year.

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- **Travel between Canada and other countries, May 1998**

The number of overnight trips from the United States to Canada was up in May, when the American dollar reached a record high compared with the Canadian dollar. Since September 1996, the trend in overnight trips by Americans to Canada has been up, and the value of the U.S. dollar has advanced 5.5% from C\$1.37 to C\$1.44.

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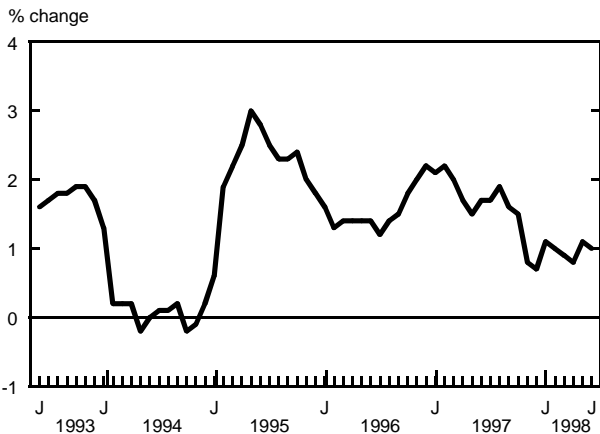
Consumer Price Index

June 1998

In June, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased 1.0% from the same month a year earlier. June marks the ninth consecutive month in which the year-over-year change was below the annual average of 1.6% recorded in 1997.

Higher costs for food and university tuition coupled with increases in charges for natural gas, telephone services and tobacco products contributed the most to the 1.0% annual rise in the June CPI. Partially offsetting these advances were reductions in the costs of gasoline, mortgage interest and computers.

**Consumer Price Index
from the same month of the previous year**



Consumer Price Index edged up 0.1% between May and June

The modest 0.1% increase in the June CPI was attributable to higher prices for fresh produce, meat, and women's clothing in tandem with seasonal increases in costs for traveller accommodation. Offsetting most of these advances were price declines for computers, telephone service, and men's and children's clothing.

On average, consumers paid 4.5% more for fresh fruit and 1.7% more for fresh vegetables in June than they did in May. While potato prices were up 14.5%, their influence on the fresh vegetable index was muted by price declines for lettuce and tomatoes. The weakness of the Canadian dollar vis-à-vis the U.S.

dollar, coupled with the effects of unusual weather in the southern United States earlier in the year, has put upward pressure on the fresh produce prices.

Led by an 8.4% jump in the cost of pork, meat prices rose 1.8% in June. The return to regular prices from earlier promotions and strong retail demand explained the leap in pork, ham and bacon prices. Even with the June increase, pork prices remain 7.8% lower than a year ago.

On average, prices for women's clothing rose 1.7% in June following declines of 2.4% in April and 2.6% in May. Most of June's increase was explained by the end of sale prices for many women's garments.

Traveller accommodation rates rose 6.1% in June after advancing 14.0% in May. These increases were seasonal in nature.

The price of computers and related equipment dropped 6.5% in June and have plunged 18.1% over the last year. Many large producers of personal computers have passed on reductions in the cost of components arising from weak Asian currencies. Also, demand for personal computers has slowed.

In June, consumers enjoyed the fourth consecutive month of lower telephone rates. The 1.5% decline in June was primarily due to reduced rates offered for long-distance service in this highly competitive market. Also, in Manitoba and British Columbia, there was a return to telephone rates comparable with those found earlier this year. A retroactive rate adjustment for local telephone service had forced the May index upward.

For the fourth consecutive year, the price of men's clothing declined in June (-1.7% in June 1998). This year's decrease was not as steep as those registered in June of the previous three years.

Provincial highlights

In June, the All-items indexes for Saskatchewan registered the highest annual rate of change among provinces (+1.8%), while Prince Edward Island was the only province with an average price decline (-0.7%).

In Saskatchewan, property tax rates have increased 6.4% since June 1997, while the average increase for Canada was 1.8%. The mortgage interest cost index also declined less in Saskatchewan over the past year than for the nation as a whole. Moreover, increases in telephone service and automobile insurance rates were much larger than corresponding national movements.

Since June 1997, insurance rates for homeowners and new home prices have fallen in Prince Edward

Island, while most other Canadians faced higher charges for these items. Decreases in energy product prices such as electricity, fuel oil and gasoline in Prince Edward Island have also exceeded those recorded nationally. On the other hand, grocery shoppers in Prince Edward Island faced higher than average increases for beef, pork, chicken and fresh fruit.

Between May and June, Alberta registered the highest price increases (+0.6%) among provinces while at the other end of the spectrum, slight price declines occurred in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario.

Available at 7 a.m. on the Internet @ www.statcan.ca, under "Daily news".

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

The July 1998 Consumer Price Index will be released on August 19, 1998.

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

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9940-9970.

Consumer Price Index and major components, Canada, 1992=100

	Indexes			May to June 1998	June 1997 to June 1998
	June 1998	May 1998	June 1997		
	unadjusted				
All-items	108.8	108.7	107.7	0.1	1.0
Food	110.2	109.4	107.9	0.7	2.1
Shelter	103.5	103.5	103.3	0.0	0.2
Household operations and furnishings	108.0	108.4	106.4	-0.4	1.5
Clothing and footwear	103.2	103.1	102.5	0.1	0.7
Transportation	120.7	120.7	121.5	0.0	-0.7
Health and personal care	108.2	108.2	106.3	0.0	1.8
Recreation, education and reading	118.5	118.3	116.0	0.2	2.2
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	92.6	92.6	89.5	0.0	3.5
Goods	106.2	106.0	105.7	0.2	0.5
Services	111.9	111.8	110.1	0.1	1.6
All-items excluding food and energy	108.8	108.9	107.7	-0.1	1.0
Energy	105.1	105.2	108.4	-0.1	-3.0
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared with 1992	91.9	92.0	92.9		
All-items (1986=100)	139.4				

Consumer Price Index by province, Whitehorse and Yellowknife
1992=100

	Indexes			May to June 1998	June 1997 to May 1998
	June 1998	May 1998	June 1997		
	unadjusted				
Newfoundland	108.3	108.3	108.2	0.0	0.1
Prince Edward Island	105.7	105.6	106.4	0.1	-0.7
Nova Scotia	108.4	108.5	107.6	-0.1	0.7
New Brunswick	107.4	107.5	106.4	-0.1	0.9
Quebec	106.7	106.5	105.2	0.2	1.4
Ontario	108.8	108.9	108.0	-0.1	0.7
Manitoba	113.1	113.0	111.8	0.1	1.2
Saskatchewan	112.2	112.0	110.2	0.2	1.8
Alberta	111.3	110.6	109.6	0.6	1.6
British Columbia	110.4	110.3	110.0	0.1	0.4
Whitehorse	111.3	111.2	110.6	0.1	0.6
Yellowknife	108.6	108.3	108.7	0.3	-0.1



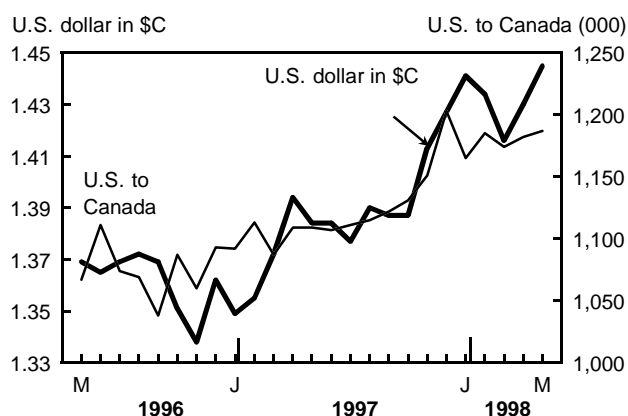
Travel between Canada and other countries

May 1998

The number of overnight trips from the United States to Canada was up in May, when the American dollar reached a record high compared with the Canadian dollar. Since September 1996, the trend in overnight trips by Americans to Canada has been up, and the value of the U.S. dollar has advanced 5.5% from C\$1.37 to C\$1.44.

In May, overnight travel between Canada and the United States increased slightly in both directions. Americans made 1.2 million overnight trips to Canada, up 0.5% from April.

Exchange rate and the number of overnight trips by Americans to Canada



Overnight air travel by Canadians to the United States at record level

Canadians made 1.2 million trips of at least one night to the United States in May, up 0.8% from April. A record 399,000 Canadians travelled to the United States by air in May, up 6.2% from April 1997. Overnight car trips, which represent the majority of trips made by Canadians to the United States (699,000), were down 1.5% in May.

American tourists drove to Canada for the majority of their overnight trips in May (749,000), up 1.1% from April. Americans also made 291,000 overnight air trips to Canada in May, up 0.4% from April but down from the peak of 296,000 in December 1997.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise specified, data in this release are seasonally adjusted (that is, adjusted for variations that repeat annually and for variability caused by the different volumes of travellers associated with different days of the week).

Month-to-month comparisons use seasonally adjusted data. Year-over-year comparisons use unadjusted data (the actual traffic counts).

An excursion is a same-day trip. A tourist is a person who stays at least one night in a place visited.

Number of overseas tourists to Canada the lowest in three years

The trend in overnight travel by overseas residents to Canada has been downward since peaking at 401,000 trips in February 1997. These tourists made 319,000 trips to Canada in May, 0.5% fewer than in April and the lowest number in the last three years.

Number of trips of one or more nights to Canada by residents of selected overseas countries

	May 1998 ^P	May 1997 to May 1998
	unadjusted	
	'000	% change
Europe	205	-0.8
Germany	35	-4.2
France	35	-8.7
United Kingdom	77	4.2
Other European countries	57	0.3
Asia	103	-20.2
South Korea	5	-61.2
Hong Kong	14	9.8
Japan	42	-14.5
Taiwan	12	-20.7
Other Asian countries	29	-23.3
Other regions	54	4.9
Australia	15	7.3
Mexico	8	19.8
Other countries	30	0.5

^P Preliminary figures

Although the value of the currency of many of Canada's main European markets was up in May compared with the Canadian dollar, the number of European tourists to Canada fell slightly from May 1997 (-0.8%, unadjusted). The yen continued to lose value in May compared with the Canadian dollar and the Asian market remains affected by economic problems.

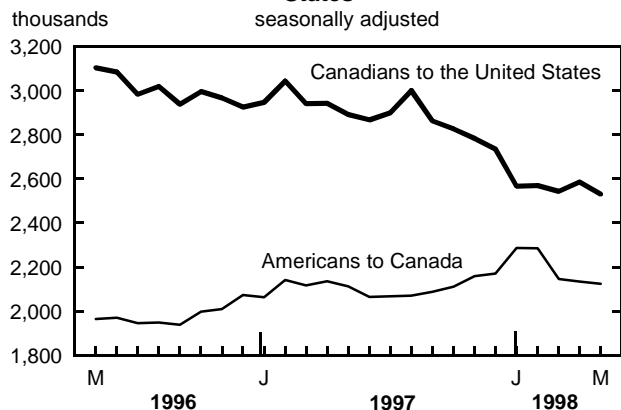
Meanwhile, the number of trips made by Canadians to countries other than the United States decreased

slightly (-0.2%) in May, after peaking at 348,000 in April 1998.

Drop in same-day car trips between Canada and the United States

Same-day cross-border car trips by Americans dropped slightly (-0.5%) in May to 2.1 million after peaking at 2.3 million in January 1998.

Car excursions between Canada and the United States



Meanwhile, Canadians made the fewest (down 2.1% from April to 2.5 million) number of same-day car trips to the United States since March 1987. The monthly number of same-day car trips by Canadians to the United States has been decreasing since November 1991 (5.4 million).

On a provincial basis, unadjusted data show large increases in travel to and from Manitoba this May compared with a year earlier. Manitoba experienced

major floods in April 1997 and the increases recorded in 1998 are more or less a return to normal levels.

Car excursions between Canada and the United States

	Americans to Canada		Canadians to the United States	
	May 1998 ^P	May 1997 to May 1998	May 1998 ^P	May 1997 to May 1998
	unadjusted			
	'000	%change	'000	%change
Canada	2,259	1.8	2,724	-11.4
Place of entry/re-entry				
New Brunswick	133	2.0	443	-7.7
Quebec	103	3.8	241	-6.6
Ontario	1,746	0.5	1,260	-9.5
Manitoba	34	36.9	55	11.7
Saskatchewan	7	26.7	17	-10.8
Alberta	9	9.6	13	-10.4
British Columbia	222	6.3	691	-19.7
Yukon	4	8.5	6	68.7

^P Preliminary figures.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2661-2697, 5780-6048 and 8200-8329.

The May 1998 issue of *International travel, advance information* (66-001-PPB, \$8/\$73) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Ed Lander (613-951-1513; fax: 613-951-2909; landedw@statcan.ca), International Travel Section, Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. □

Travel between Canada and other countries

	March 1998 ^r	April 1998 ^r	May 1998 ^p	April 1998 to May 1998 ^p
seasonally adjusted				
	'000			% change
Canadian trips abroad				
Same-day car trips to the United States	2,543	2,584	2,530	-2.1
Total trips, one or more nights	1,495	1,541	1,550	0.6
United States ¹	1,154	1,194	1,203	0.8
Car	683	709	699	-1.5
Plane	367	376	399	6.2
Other modes of transportation	104	108	105	-3.3
Other countries ²	342	348	347	-0.2
Travel to Canada				
Same-day car trips from the United States	2,146	2,134	2,124	-0.5
Total trips, one or more nights	1,493	1,502	1,506	0.3
United States ¹	1,174	1,182	1,187	0.5
Car	743	740	749	1.1
Plane	284	290	291	0.4
Other modes of transportation	146	151	147	-2.7
Other countries ²	320	320	319	-0.5
	May 1998 ^p	May 1997 to May 1998 ^p	Jan.- May 1998 ^p	Jan.-May 1997 to Jan.-May 1998 ^p
unadjusted				
	'000		% change	
Canadian trips abroad				
Same-day car trips to the United States	2,724	-11.4	11,821	-13.4
Total trips, one or more nights	1,556	0.2	7,595	-3.3
United States ¹	1,243	-2.3	5,535	-6.4
Car	710	-5.8	2,870	-10.0
Plane	391	4.4	2,253	-2.1
Other modes of transportation	143	-1.3	412	-2.8
Other countries ²	313	11.7	2,060	6.1
Travel to Canada				
Same-day car trips from the United States	2,259	1.8	9,564	5.0
Total trips, one or more nights	1,635	5.2	4,994	4.9
United States ¹	1,273	9.1	3,903	9.7
Car	771	9.4	2,343	10.8
Plane	309	12.9	1,114	9.9
Other modes of transportation	194	2.3	446	3.6
Other countries ²	362	-6.5	1,091	-9.2

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.

² Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.

OTHER RELEASES

Industrial monitor on CD-ROM

July 1998

The *Industrial monitor on CD-ROM* offers up-to-date data on more than 150 manufacturing industries and 33 other industries covering construction, wholesale and retail trade. This information is offered for 24 sectors, and can be purchased by individual sector or as a complete package.

For each industry, up to 50 variables are organized in the "Table viewer" according to five table types: supply, demand, price, labour/employment, and investment/capital stock. The underlying database is also available via the "Series browser" for more extensive time series analysis and inter-industry comparisons.

The *Industrial monitor on CD-ROM* is linked to the *Standard Industrial Classification* manual, provides pop-up textual descriptions for every series and embodies consistent data conventions — all features designed to make analysis easy and accurate. State-of-the-art functions offer searching, graphing, viewing, exporting and transforming capabilities — providing you the information quickly and easily.

The July 1998 issue of the *Industrial monitor on CD-ROM* is now available. An annual subscription (one CD-ROM per month) to the full package (15F0015XCB) costs \$995, a savings of more than 80% off the annual subscription price of \$258 per individual sector.

For further information, or to request a free demonstration CD-ROM, contact Kim Lauzon (613-951-9417; fax: 613-951-3688; lauzonk@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division, or contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending July 11, 1998 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending July 11, 1998, totalled 310 613 metric tonnes, up 3.7% from the week-earlier 299 427 metric tonnes and up 14.4% from the year-earlier 271 569 metric tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 8 628 107 metric tonnes, a 6.7% increase compared with 8 089 569 metric tonnes for the same period in 1997.

For further information on this release, contact Huguette Montcalm (613-951-9827; monthug@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Residential Telephone Service Survey

November 1997

Data from the questions added to the November 1997 Residential Telephone Service Survey are now available. The new information in this microdata file refers to types of telephone services used in the provinces in November 1997.

To order the microdata file (56M0001XDB, \$500), contact Carol Nusum-Sol (613-951-4598; 1 800 461-9050), Special Surveys Division.

For further information on this release, contact Marc Hamel (613-951-2495; hamemar@statcan.ca), Special Surveys Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Communications: Service bulletin, Vol. 28, no. 2
Catalogue number 56-001-XIB
(Canada: \$10/\$32; outside Canada: US\$10/US\$32).

Consumer Price Index, June 1998
Catalogue number 62-001-XPB
(Canada: \$11/\$103; outside Canada: US\$11/US\$103).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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