



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Industrial Product Price Index, June 1998** 3
Industrial product prices edged up 0.1% in June compared with May. For the fourth consecutive month, the 12-month change in prices continued to be negative (-0.3%).

- **Raw Materials Price Index, June 1998** 7
Manufacturers paid 3.2% less for raw material in June compared with May — mainly due to lower prices for crude oil, non-ferrous metals and animal and vegetable products.

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**National Population
Health Survey Overview
1996-97**



National Population Health Survey Overview 1996/97

The *National Population Health Survey Overview, 1996/97*, contains selected findings from the second cycle of the National Population Health Survey (NPHS). The first national survey of its kind in Canada, the NPHS re-interviews respondents every two years. (Data based on the overview were released in the *Daily* on May 29, 1998.)

With the second cycle, longitudinal data are now available. The overview covers general health, children's health, chronic disease incidence, activity limitations, depression, injuries, alcohol dependence, smoking, physical activity, medical check-ups, preventive measures (blood pressure monitoring, mammograms, Pap tests), supplemental health insurance, and home care.

The *National Population Health Survey Overview, 1996/97*, (82-567-XPB, \$35) is now available. An Internet version will be available shortly (82-567-XIB, \$26 www.statcan.ca) See *How to order publications*. Subscribers to *Health reports* will receive a complimentary copy of the NPHS overview in the Volume 10, no. 1 issue, which was released on July 27.

For more information, contact Larry Swain (613-951-3830; fax: 613-951-4198; swailar@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division.



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MAJOR RELEASES

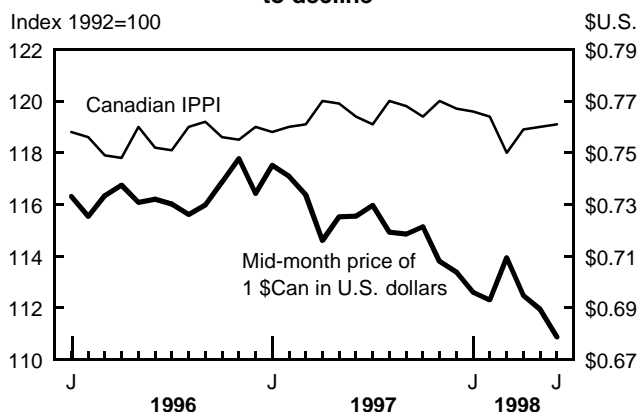
Industrial Product Price Index

June 1998 (preliminary)

Industrial product prices edged up 0.1% in June compared with May. For the fourth consecutive month, the 12-month change in prices continued to be negative (-0.3%). The Industrial Product Price Index in June was 119.1 (1992=100), up from 119.0 in May.

In June, the most significant price increases were for exported motor vehicles, pulp and newsprint. The most significant price declines were for gasoline and fuel oils and most non-ferrous primary metal products.

Canadian industrial prices continue to show relatively little change as value of Canadian dollar continues to decline



Exchange rate effects significant in June

The value of the U.S. dollar had risen to about C\$1.47 in mid-June from approximately C\$1.45 in mid-May. The U.S. dollar stood at about C\$1.38 in mid-June-1997. If the effect of the changes in the value of the Canadian dollar is excluded, June's month-to-month change would be -0.3% and the 12-month change would be -2.0%.

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. The effect of changes in the exchange rate between the Canadian and U.S. dollar are most significant for motor vehicles, pulp, paper and wood products. Prices for these products are frequently quoted in U.S. dollars when exported.

Note to readers

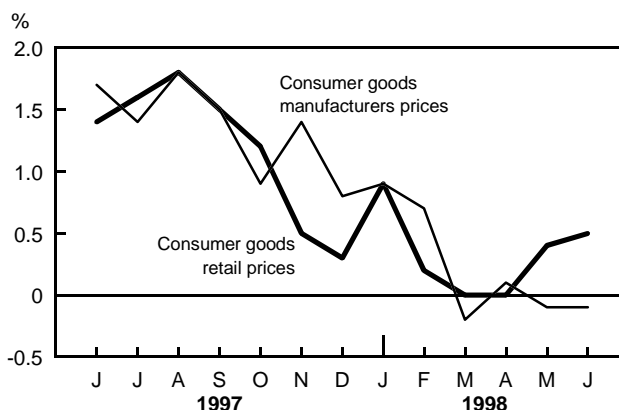
The Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) reflects the prices that producers in Canada receive as the goods leave the plant gate. It does not reflect what the consumer pays. Unlike the Consumer Price Index, the IPPI excludes indirect taxes and all the costs that occur between the time when a good leaves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

12-month change for consumer goods prices remains close to zero for Canadian manufacturers

For the fourth consecutive month, the 12-month change in the prices of domestic consumer goods paid to manufacturers in June remained close to zero.

At the retail level, however, the 12-month change in the consumer price index for goods (based on the Consumer Price Index) showed a second consecutive increase. Major contributors to the overall increase in the 12-month change during the March-June period were natural gas (a raw material), gasoline (a manufactured product) and fresh fruits and vegetables (a group of raw materials, which were primarily imported during this period). In the case of fresh fruits and vegetables, the 12-month change jumped from 9.6% in March to 12.3% in June, with some impact coming from the decline in the Canadian dollar.

12-month price change for consumer goods prices remains close to zero for Canadian manufacturers



In Canada, only about half of what the consumer pays goes to manufacturers. The rest is divided among retailers, wholesalers, indirect taxes, and transportation

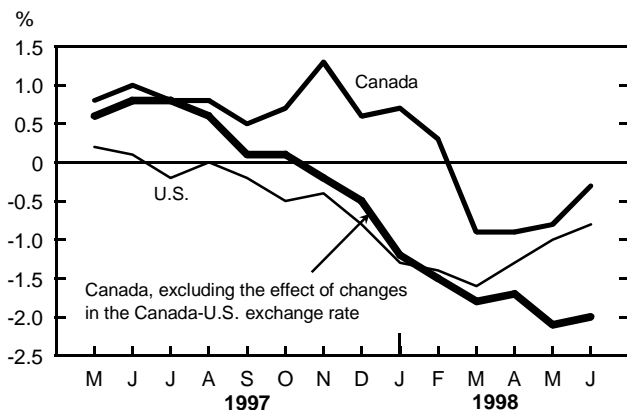
charges. Manufacturers' prices are, therefore, only one of several influences on consumer prices at the retail level. Imports, and fluctuations in the value of the Canadian dollar on the price of imports, are another.

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 down 0.1% in June. However, the 12-month change in U.S. manufacturing prices remained negative in June, advancing to -0.8% from -1.0%.

In Canada, the 12-month change in manufacturing prices rose from -0.8% in May to -0.3%. However, once the effect of the Canada-United States exchange rate was removed, the 12-month change in prices remained close to -2.0%.

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



Prices up for motor vehicles, pulp and newsprint

June'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 for both automobiles and trucks were up 1.6%. However, domestic prices for automobiles were unchanged, while those for trucks edged up 0.2%. In both Canada and the United States, manufacturers continued their incentive programs to encourage car sales.

Pulp (+3.8%) and newsprint (+1.6%) prices advanced in June. The decline of the dollar contributed noticeably to both increases.

Domestically, the price of bleached sulphate woodpulp (which accounts for a little over four-fifths of Canadian production) was up 1.8%, while the export

price advanced 3.1%. Although prices were up from a year earlier, they remain below those in the last quarter of 1997.

The export price for newsprint was up 1.8% while the domestic price fell 0.6% in June. However, export (+11.0%) and domestic (+7.8%) newsprint prices remain noticeably higher than a year earlier. Newsprint prices have been tending to recover since early 1997.

Prices down for petroleum products and non-ferrous metal products

Prices in the Canadian industries for refined petroleum products continued to reflect the weakness in the world price for crude oil. Overall prices for refined petroleum products in June were estimated to be down about 3.0%.

The weakness in world demand for non-ferrous metals continued to be felt in Canada. Price declines were quite general. Compared with May, prices were down for nickel products (-9.9%), copper and copper alloy products (-3.3%), refined zinc (-4.6%), and aluminum (-0.7%) products. Prices were also down for refined precious metals and their alloys. The 12-month decline has been particularly noticeable for products made from nickel (-31.4%) and from copper and copper alloys (-30.4%). Constant dollar shipments for primary metal products (seasonally adjusted) are down somewhat from the end of 1997, but remain above the June 1997 level.

Overview

In Canada, seasonally adjusted total employment declined somewhat in June. However, the decline was mainly a result of agricultural hirings having occurred earlier in the year than usual. In manufacturing, employment in June remained little changed.

In May, exports remained little changed while shipments declined. Wholesalers saw a decline in sales but retail sales continued to increase.

In the residential housing market in June, housing resales were up but housing starts continued to decline. In May, the value of both total building permits and total residential building permits had declined compared with the previous May.

In the United States (Canada's major trading partner) industrial production declined 0.6%, pulled down in large part by the effects of the strike at General Motors. Although U.S. non-agricultural payrolls continued to increase, the unemployment rate rose to 4.5%. Housing starts were up sharply.

In Japan, Canada's second largest national export market, industrial production was estimated to have

fallen a further 2.0% in May. In June, the 12-month change in Japanese domestic wholesale prices was -2.1%.

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: +1.0% in the United Kingdom (June), +0.6% in Italy (May), -0.1% in Germany (June) and 0.0% France (April).

Industrial production fell back in Germany for a second month in May after a sharp increase in March. Industrial production was also down in Britain in May

after two months of increases, but was up in Italy after three monthly declines. In April, French industrial production was down after two monthly increases.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1870-1878.

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

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

Industrial product price indexes
(1992=100)

	Relative importance	June 1997	May 1998 ^r	June 1998 ^p	June 1997 to June 1998	May 1998 to June 1998
					% change	
Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI)	100.00	119.4	119.0	119.1	-0.3	0.1
Intermediate goods¹	59.28	121.9	119.4	119.3	-2.1	-0.1
First-stage intermediate goods ²	7.91	125.8	120.0	119.9	-4.7	-0.1
Second-stage intermediate goods ³	51.37	121.3	119.3	119.2	-1.7	-0.1
Finished goods⁴	40.72	115.8	118.4	118.9	2.7	0.4
Finished foods and feeds	10.38	111.8	112.4	112.5	0.6	0.1
Capital equipment	10.21	117.5	122.0	122.9	4.6	0.7
All other finished goods	20.13	116.9	119.7	120.2	2.8	0.4
Aggregation by commodities						
Meat, fish and dairy products	7.27	121.1	118.2	118.4	-2.2	0.2
Fruit, vegetable, feed, miscellaneous food products	6.72	115.1	113.2	113.0	-1.8	-0.2
Beverages	2.12	110.1	112.3	112.3	2.0	0.0
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.72	127.3	130.3	130.3	2.4	0.0
Rubber, leather, plastic fabric products	3.01	113.9	113.0	113.2	-0.6	0.2
Textile products	1.82	109.6	110.1	110.3	0.6	0.2
Knitted products and clothing	1.93	107.6	109.2	109.2	1.5	0.0
Lumber, sawmill, other wood products	5.20	144.6	134.0	133.3	-7.8	-0.5
Furniture and fixtures	1.46	113.8	115.1	115.1	1.1	0.0
Pulp and paper products	7.65	123.8	129.6	131.4	6.1	1.4
Printing and publishing	3.05	125.9	130.8	131.2	4.2	0.3
Primary metal products	7.58	128.6	121.8	120.1	-6.6	-1.4
Metal fabricated products	4.11	119.4	122.2	122.6	2.7	0.3
Machinery and equipment	4.08	111.1	112.7	113.0	1.7	0.3
Autos, trucks, other transportation equipment	18.76	121.0	127.8	129.4	6.9	1.3
Electrical and communications products	6.03	105.9	106.0	106.2	0.3	0.2
Non-metallic mineral products	2.12	111.2	112.6	112.7	1.3	0.1
Petroleum and coal products ⁵	6.01	113.2	98.0	95.1	-16.0	-3.0
Chemicals and chemical products	7.60	118.0	114.3	114.1	-3.3	-0.2
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.45	115.4	116.6	116.4	0.9	-0.2
Miscellaneous non-manufactured commodities	0.31	125.1	116.7	115.4	-7.8	-1.1

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Intermediate goods are goods used principally to produce other goods.

² First-stage intermediate goods are items used most frequently to produce other intermediate goods.

³ Second-stage intermediate goods are items most commonly used to produce final goods.

⁴ Finished goods are goods most commonly used for immediate consumption or for capital investment.

⁵ This index is estimated for the current month.

Raw Materials Price Index

June 1998 (preliminary)

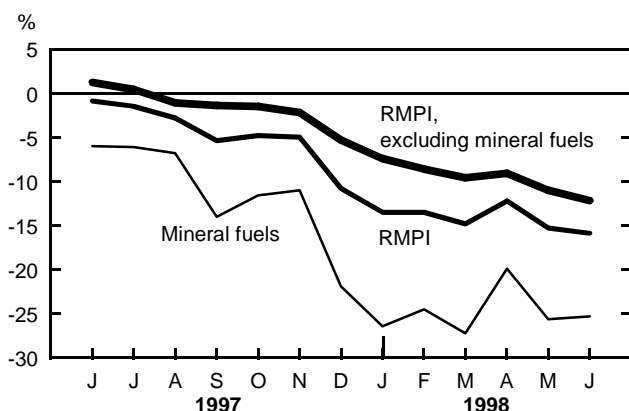
Manufacturers paid 3.2% less for raw material in June compared with May — mainly due to lower prices for crude oil, non-ferrous metals and animal and vegetable products. The Raw Materials Price Index stood at 107.0 in June (1992=100), down from 110.5 (revised) in May.

Excluding mineral fuels (this category is more than 90% crude oil), raw material prices would have shown a monthly decline of 1.7% in June.

Compared with 12-months earlier, raw material prices were down 15.9%. Again, if mineral fuels were excluded, raw material prices would be down 12.2% compared with June 1997. This was the 11th consecutive negative 12-month change for raw material prices excluding mineral fuels.

In June, lower monthly prices for crude oil, copper concentrates, aluminum materials, unrefined sugar, coffee, wheat, and cattle and calves for slaughter were marginally offset by higher prices for soybeans, oats, fish and iron ore concentrates.

12-month change in raw material prices (excluding mineral fuels) negative for 11th month



Compared with June 1997, lower prices for crude oil, logs, copper and nickel concentrates, aluminum materials, coffee, grains, unrefined sugar and hogs were marginally dampened by higher prices for natural gas, potatoes, canola, cattle for slaughter, ferrous materials, silver and platinum.

Crude oil prices down again

Crude oil prices fell 8.1% in June and are now 27.7% lower compared with the same period a year earlier.

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 a world market. Also, unlike the Industrial Product Price Index, the RMPI includes goods that are not produced in Canada.

The recent monthly decline in crude oil prices was due to the lack of world demand to take up the available supply of crude oil. This factor was further intensified by signs the United Nations may lift sanctions and allow Iraq to sell oil freely on the open market. The increasing cost of storing crude oil remains a serious problem due to the shortage of storage tanks.

Metal prices continue to fall

Non-ferrous metal prices were down in June (-3.8%) after falling 4.6% in May. The major contributors to lower metal prices in June were copper concentrates (-4.5%), aluminum materials (-4.8%), nickel concentrates (-10.0%) and zinc concentrates (-4.4%). Compared with 12 months ago, non-ferrous metal prices were down 19.0%. Lower prices for copper concentrates (-34.3%), nickel concentrates (-33.0%), aluminum materials (-14.5%) and zinc concentrates (-20.8%) were marginally offset by higher prices for silver and platinum (+12.7%).

The sharp decline in capital investment in Japan has contributed greatly to the weakening base metal prices. Industry analysts suggest that the latest fall in copper prices was caused by potential signs of a cooling U.S. economy (i.e., construction spending fell, the first time in six months in the United States and was the steepest drop since January 1994). The London Metal Exchange also recently announced that copper inventories were up. One of the major reasons for weak nickel prices was the excess supply of stainless steel in the Far East.

Hog prices down greatly over the year

The animals and animal product group saw prices decrease 1.6% in June compared with May. Lower prices for cattle and calves for slaughter (-6.9%) and chickens (-2.6%) were somewhat offset by higher prices for fish (+1.4%). The animals and animal products group prices were down 5.8% compared with June 1997. Lower prices for hogs (-23.3%) and chickens (-9.6%) were somewhat dampened by higher prices of cattle for slaughter (+2.1%) and molluscs and crustaceans (+13.1%). According to recent reports, the United States had its biggest herd of hogs this

spring since 1980. This may cause prices to dampen further, along with the already soft demand for hogs and bellies in the Asian market.

Vegetable product prices down for fourth consecutive month

On a month-to-month basis, vegetable product prices fell 2.7% in June — the fourth consecutive monthly decrease. Prices have declined 7.6% over this four-month period. Lower monthly prices for unrefined sugar (-14.3%), green coffee (-9.6%) and wheat (-3.5%) in June were the major contributors to the decline. Compared with 12 months earlier, vegetable product prices were down 13.0%. Lower prices for coffee (-54.1%), grains (-6.8%) and unrefined sugar (-23.7%) were marginally offset by higher prices for canola (+7.3%) and potatoes (+45.1%).

The recent record sugar harvest in Brazil and slack Asian demand may further weaken sugar prices. Also, coffee prices may tend to decline further with the slowing coffee demand in the United States (the world's largest coffee market) and with the largest projected coffee harvest in Brazil in 11 years.

Log prices show little change in June

Wood prices fell marginally in June (-0.4%), due to lower prices for logs (-0.4%) and pulpwood (-0.4%).

Compared with 12 months ago, wood prices were down 19.4%, lower prices were noted for logs (-23.6%) and pulpwood (-1.9%).

Log prices have declined over the last 11 months. Log prices have fallen 24.1% from July 1997 to June of this year. The troubled Asian market has played havoc with log prices, leaving more logs and lumber for domestic consumption. The British Columbia government reduced stumpage rates effective June 1, 1998. The B.C. coast has already lost a large part of their business in Japan and is unable to actively switch to the United States, due to the lack of sufficient quota under the 1996 Canada-U.S. softwood agreement. The decline in the stumpage rate was much more significant for firms on the B.C. coast than for those in the interior of the province.

Other notable monthly price changes in June were soybeans (+3.0%), iron ore concentrates (+1.6%) and gold (-3.6%).

Available on CANSIM: matrice 1879.

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Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)

	Relative importance	June 1997	May 1998 ^r	June 1998 ^p	June 1997 to June 1998	May 1998 to June 1998
Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI)	100.00	127.2	110.5	107.0	-15.9	-3.2
Mineral fuels	31.47	110.5	89.0	82.5	-25.3	-7.3
Vegetable products	9.41	151.9	135.8	132.2	-13.0	-2.7
Animals and animal products	24.41	118.2	113.2	111.4	-5.8	-1.6
Wood	14.88	159.5	129.0	128.5	-19.4	-0.4
Ferrous materials	3.17	132.6	137.5	138.2	4.2	0.5
Non-ferrous metals	13.81	131.5	110.7	106.5	-19.0	-3.8
Non-metallic minerals	2.85	111.0	114.3	114.3	3.0	0.0
RMPI excluding mineral fuels	68.53	134.8	120.4	118.3	-12.2	-1.7

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.



OTHER RELEASES

Employment, earnings and hours

May 1998 (preliminary)

Average weekly earnings fell \$1.08 in May to \$607.09. However, average weekly earnings were 0.8% higher compared with May 1997. Annual average earnings growth has been less than 2% since June 1997.

By province, average weekly earnings in British Columbia declined 0.4% in the last 12 months. Average weekly earnings for workers in logging and forestry, construction, and finance, insurance and real estate declined significantly in the past year. Workers in logging and forestry experienced significant layoffs — reflecting weak demand and lower exports of wood products in the past year. Average earnings for construction workers were down, reflecting weakness in that industry (building permits down 26% in British Columbia in the past 12 months). Finance, insurance and real estate earnings were down due to a substantial decline in earnings of commissioned salespersons, reflecting a weakening Vancouver stock market and weakness in housing resales in the greater Vancouver area.

By contrast, workers in Alberta experienced relatively strong earnings growth (average weekly earnings were up 1.8% in the past year and 1.0% above the national average). The three strongest industries for earnings growth in Alberta were durable goods manufacturing, wholesale trade, and finance, insurance and real estate.

For Canada, average hourly earnings for hourly rated employees were up \$0.06 to \$15.17. Average hourly earnings have increased 1.3% in the last 12 months.

For the fourth consecutive month, paid employment was virtually unchanged in May, as all industries and provinces maintained April employment levels. Employment remains unchanged from January levels, but advanced by 346,000 since May 1997.

Note: Beginning with this release, the Labour Division has completed the third phase of its redesign in the use of administrative records for the production of employment, earnings, and hours estimates. In addition, a new sample for the Business Payrolls Survey has been drawn to produce estimates of paid hours, and average weekly and hourly earnings. With the change in methodology, employment estimates derived from administrative records may show a different seasonal pattern than the previous data, which was derived from survey questionnaires. This can only be assessed within the context of a longer time period. Statistics Canada will continue to monitor these impacts and will help users interpret the data. To minimise impacts, it is recommended that SEPH data, particularly employment data, be used in the context of longer time periods for detailed industry distributions. A description of the methodological changes and their impacts on the data will be available in the May publication of *Employment, payrolls and hours* (72-002-XPB) or may be obtained immediately by fax or via the Internet by contacting Jean Leduc (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; 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 August 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: 72F0002XDB, \$120) and by custom tabulations.

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

Average weekly earnings for all employees

Industry group (1980 SIC)	May 1997	April 1998 ^r	May 1998 ^p	April 1998 to May 1998	May 1997 to May 1998
seasonally adjusted					
	\$			% change	
Industrial aggregate	602.36	608.17	607.09	-0.2	0.8
Logging and forestry	836.57	779.67	785.15	0.7	-6.1
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	1,057.56	1,120.39	1,080.79	-3.5	2.2
Manufacturing	751.13	761.98	763.83	0.2	1.7
Construction	724.15	699.62	697.83	-0.3	-3.6
Transportation and storage	731.75	739.95	737.20	-0.4	0.7
Communication and other utilities	795.71	811.05	811.38	0.0	2.0
Wholesale trade	643.07	669.30	666.76	-0.4	3.7
Retail trade	358.04	366.15	365.04	-0.3	2.0
Finance and insurance	787.55	808.64	808.10	-0.1	2.6
Real estate operators and insurance agencies	620.60	634.06	624.55	-1.5	0.6
Business services	703.17	683.35	683.48	0.0	-2.8
Education-related services	675.36	671.99	668.33	-0.5	-1.0
Health and social services	518.86	515.47	512.98	-0.5	-1.1
Accommodation, food and beverage services	240.23	233.83	229.60	-1.8	-4.4
Public administration	736.75	741.44	749.87	1.1	1.8
Miscellaneous services	411.90	410.22	411.62	0.3	-0.1
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland	532.85	528.12	533.36	1.0	0.1
Prince Edward Island	497.54	490.51	486.93	-0.7	-2.1
Nova Scotia	501.94	510.60	515.28	0.9	2.7
New Brunswick	528.16	527.87	525.64	-0.4	-0.5
Quebec	569.19	576.10	573.16	-0.5	0.7
Ontario	642.31	650.76	647.00	-0.6	0.7
Manitoba	524.27	536.65	544.99	1.6	4.0
Saskatchewan	526.64	534.96	541.28	1.2	2.8
Alberta	601.76	616.28	612.68	-0.6	1.8
British Columbia	622.78	617.98	620.00	0.3	-0.4
Yukon	690.19	686.56	681.26	-0.8	-1.3
Northwest Territories	727.03	730.93	744.25	1.8	2.4

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

Number of employees

Industry group (1980 SIC)	March 1998	April 1998 ^r	May 1998 ^p	March 1998 to April 1998	April 1998 to May 1998
seasonally adjusted					
	thousands			% change	
Industrial aggregate	11,601	11,589	11,578	-0.1	-0.1
Logging and forestry	69	70	71	1.4	1.4
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	146	146	146	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing	1,867	1,862	1,864	-0.3	0.1
Construction	499	503	500	0.8	-0.6
Transportation and storage	489	488	490	-0.2	0.4
Communication and other utilities	381	382	382	0.3	0.0
Wholesale trade	734	725	723	-1.2	-0.3
Retail trade	1,409	1,411	1,412	0.1	0.1
Finance and insurance	517	518	516	0.2	-0.4
Real estate operators and insurances agencies	201	203	203	1.0	0.0
Business services	785	782	784	-0.4	0.3
Education-related services	934	937	938	0.3	0.1
Health and social services	1,217	1,214	1,213	-0.2	-0.1
Accommodation, food and beverage services	841	841	845	0.0	0.5
Public administration	668	670	668	0.3	-0.3
Miscellaneous services	684	689	691	0.7	0.3
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland	149	151	151	1.3	0.0
Prince Edward Island	47	47	47	0.0	0.0
Nova Scotia	320	320	319	0.0	-0.3
New Brunswick	262	263	261	0.4	-0.8
Quebec	2,761	2,759	2,749	-0.1	-0.4
Ontario	4,559	4,555	4,559	-0.1	0.1
Manitoba	436	434	431	-0.5	-0.7
Saskatchewan	347	345	343	-0.6	-0.6
Alberta	1,207	1,210	1,209	0.2	-0.1
British Columbia	1,472	1,474	1,473	0.1	-0.1
Yukon	15	15	15	0.0	0.0
Northwest Territories	25	25	24	0.0	-4.0

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

Crude oil and natural gas

May 1998

Crude oil production advanced 9.8% compared with May 1997. This was the 12th consecutive monthly year-over-year increase. Exports, which accounted for 63.6% of total production, continued their upward trend in May (up 11.1% from May 1997 and 26.5% higher than May 1996). Canada is one of the major suppliers of crude oil to the United States along with Venezuela, Mexico and Saudi Arabia. Benefitting from healthy U.S. demand, Canadian exports have increased steadily over the last 24 months. Year-to-date exports of crude oil advanced 17.6% over the same period in 1997 and were 25.0% higher than the same period in 1996.

Imports of crude oil rose 5.1% compared with May 1997. This was the fourth consecutive monthly year-over-year gain. For the first five months of 1998, imports advanced 3.3%.

Natural gas production increased a marginal 0.4% compared with May 1997, while domestic sales fell 18.0%. This was the seventh consecutive monthly year-over-year decline in domestic sales. The decline is attributable to drops in sales to the commercial and residential sectors, reflecting unusually warm temperatures during the 1997/98 heating season. In contrast, exports, which accounted for 54.2% of total production, advanced 6.7% in May. This was the 11th consecutive monthly year-over-year increase in natural gas exports. Year-to-date exports of natural gas advanced 5.0% over the same period in 1997.

Crude oil and natural gas

	May 1997	May 1998	May 1997 to May 1998
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹			
Production	9,557.4	10,496.6	9.8
Exports	6,008.8	6,673.4	11.1
Imports ²	3,557.0	3,737.6	5.1
Refinery receipts	7,694.1	7,818.5	1.6
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas³			
Marketable production	12,843.7	12,901.0	0.4
Exports	6,554.8	6,992.7	6.7
Canadian domestic sales ⁴	4,923.1	4,038.4	-18.0
	Jan. 1997 to May 1997	Jan. 1998 to May 1998	Jan.-May 1997 to Jan.-May 1998
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹			
Production	48,978.2	52,847.3	7.9
Exports	27,607.5	32,476.4	17.6
Imports ²	17,815.7	18,402.1	3.3
Refinery receipts	38,887.1	38,547.9	-0.9
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas³			
Marketable production	66,189.4	67,762.3	2.4
Exports	34,248.8	35,970.8	5.0
Canadian domestic sales ⁴	34,312.4	31,711.7	-7.6

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

² 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.

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

⁴ Includes direct sales.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 530 and 539.

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

For further information on this release, contact Eleonore Harding (613-951-5708; hardele@statcan.ca) or Michel Palardy (613-951-7174; palamic@statcan.ca), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Fluid power products 1997

Data from the Survey on Fluid Power Products Manufactured in Canada are now available.

For further information on this release, contact Sylvie Auger (613-951-5310), Small Business and Special Surveys Division. ■

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Catalogue number 22-007-XPB
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Sawmills and planing mills, May 1998
Catalogue number 35-003-XPB
(Canada: \$12/\$114; outside Canada: US\$12/US\$114).

Telephone statistics, May 1998
Catalogue number 56-002-XIB
(Canada: \$8/\$70; outside Canada: US\$8/US\$70).

New motor vehicle sales, May 1998
Catalogue number 63-007-XIB
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National population health survey overview,
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Catalogue number 82-567-XPB
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