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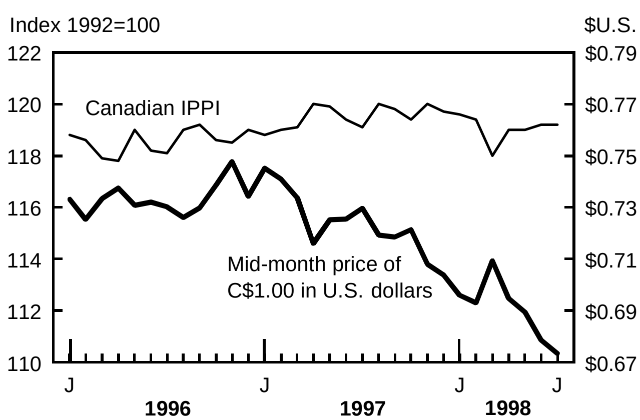
MAJOR RELEASES

Industrial Product Price Index
July 1998 (preliminary)

Industrial product prices rose 0.3% in July, as the value of the Canadian dollar continued to decline. The 12-month change in prices increased to 0.3%. The Industrial Product Price Index was 119.5 in July (1992=100), up from 119.2 (revised) in June.

In July, the most significant price increases were for exported automobiles and trucks, softwood lumber and primary products of several non-ferrous metals. The only significant price declines were for petroleum products.

Industrial prices edging up as value of Canadian dollar continues to decline



Exchange rate effects significant in July

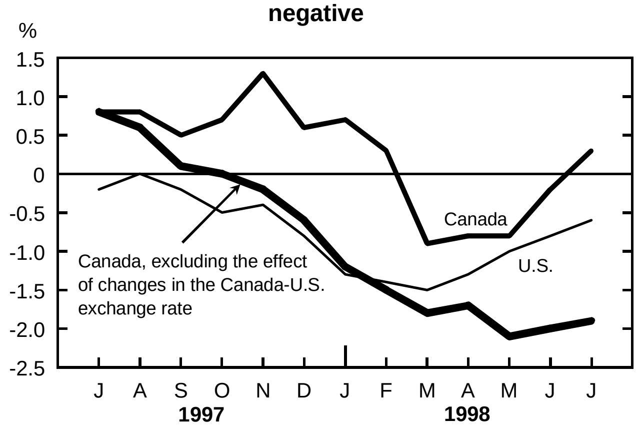
In mid-July, the value of the U.S. dollar had risen to about C$1.48 from about C$1.47 in mid-June. In mid-July 1997, it had been about C$1.37. If the effect of the changes in the value of the Canadian dollar are excluded, the price index would have remained unchanged from June and the 12-month change would have been -1.9%.

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 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.

The 12-month change in industrial prices remained negative



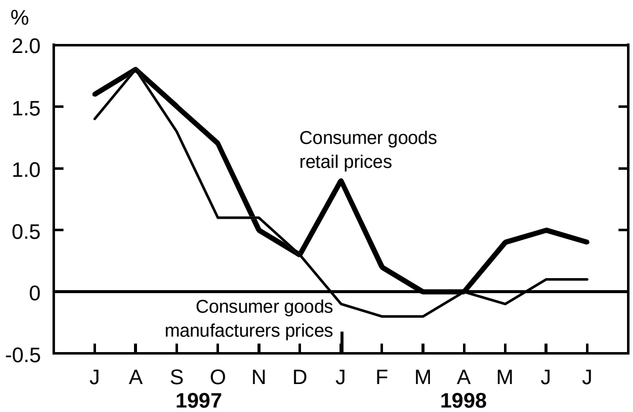
12-month change for consumer goods prices remains close to zero for manufacturers

The 12-month change in the prices of domestic consumer goods paid to manufacturers was just above zero in July. It has been close to zero throughout 1998.

At the retail level, the 12-month change in consumer prices for goods, based on the Consumer Price Index, continued at or below 0.5% for a sixth consecutive month.

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.

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



12-month change in manufacturing industry prices edging up in Canada and the United States

In the United States, manufacturers saw their overall price level remain unchanged in July. The 12-month change in U.S. manufacturing prices, however, went from -0.8% to -0.6%.

In Canada, the 12-month change in manufacturing prices rose from -0.2% in June to 0.3% in July. However, if the effect of the Canada-United States exchange rate were removed, the 12-month change in prices would have remained negative in Canada, but edged up from -2.0% in June to -1.9% in July.

Prices up for motor vehicles, softwood lumber and some non-ferrous primary metal products

July's increase in motor vehicle prices was due to the effect of the rise in the value of the U.S. dollar. Export prices advanced for both automobiles (+0.7%) and trucks (+0.8%). Meanwhile, domestic prices for automobiles edged up 0.1%, while truck prices slipped 0.1%. In both Canada and the United States, manufacturers continued their incentive programs to encourage vehicle sales.

Softwood lumber prices advanced 1.8% in July but remained 15.4% lower than a year earlier. Both domestic and export prices were up across the country. In Canada, the Ontario construction strike drew to an end. In the United States, there was a strong demand for lumber.

Quotas for lumber exports to the United States for British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec continue to reduce the ability of mills in these provinces to export their lumber to U.S. markets. The gap in the United States market between demand and supply is being met by imports, including imports from Canadian mills not in the quota limited provinces.

Among non-ferrous metal products, overall prices for primary aluminum products were up 2.9% in July. However, this increase had little impact on either secondary aluminum products or manufactured aluminum products. Primary aluminum product prices remain 5.1% below their level of a year earlier.

Prices for primary copper products were up 5.1% but remained 22.8% below their level in July 1997. However, prices for secondary copper products were unchanged and those for manufactured copper products fell 1.3% overall.

Other gains in primary metal products included refined zinc (+4.6%), primary gold and gold alloy forms (+3.6%) and refined silver and platinum (+6.3%).

Copper and zinc prices saw a mid-month spike in July. This spike was due to the temporary optimism caused by the change in Japanese political conditions.

Prices down for petroleum products

Prices in the Canadian refined petroleum product industries (-1.7% in July) continued to reflect high product inventories (especially for gasoline) and the continuing weakness in world crude oil prices. Although the demand for gasoline has been good, inventories remain high relative to demand. The price paid by refiners in July for crude oil fluctuated. For crude oil producers, mid-month hope was followed by month's end disappointment. At the consumer level, as reported by the Consumer Price Index, gasoline prices were down on average 1.5% in July.

Overview

In Canada, seasonally adjusted total employment in July recovered from most of June's decline. In manufacturing, however, employment was down by 34,000 — a sizeable proportion of which was related to the disruption of output by the General Motors strike.

In July, the residential housing market saw housing starts continue to decline, partly due to the construction strike in Ontario. Housing resales edged down marginally.

In June, shipments, imports, and both wholesale and retail sales were all down. For all these declines, the disruption caused by the General Motors strike in the United States was of great importance. Exports edged up marginally.

In the United States, Canada's major trading partner, industrial production continued to decline in July. However, if the automotive sector (which was heavily hit by the strike at General Motors) was excluded, industrial production recovered part of its drop in June. Non-agricultural payrolls continued to rise slightly in July and the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.5%. Housing starts were up sharply, as were building permits for both single residences and apartments.

In Japan, Canada's second largest national export market, monthly industrial production recovered 1.3% in June, but production during the second quarter was 5.2% below that of the first quarter. In June, the 12-month change in Japanese domestic wholesale prices was -2.2%.

Collectively, the European Union, which is dominated by the four European G7 members, is an even larger export market for Canada than Japan. For these countries, the most recent figures for the 12-month change in industrial prices were +0.8% in the United Kingdom (July), +0.4% in Italy (June), -0.7% in France (June) and -0.4% in Germany (July).

In June, German industrial production fell, dragged down by the manufacturing sector. Industrial production also fell in Italy. In Britain, however, industrial production recovered much of May's decline. In May, French industrial production registered a third increase in four months after posting a decline in April.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1870-1878.

The July 1998 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011-XPB, $22/$217) will be available at the end of September. 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	July 1997	June 1998[r]	July 1998[p]	July 1997 to July 1998	June 1998 to July 1998
					% change	
Industrial Product Price Index	**100.00**	**119.1**	**119.2**	**119.5**	**0.3**	**0.3**
Intermediate goods[1]	**59.28**	**121.6**	**119.3**	**119.7**	**-1.6**	**0.3**
First-stage intermediate goods[2]	7.91	126.6	119.9	120.5	-4.8	0.5
Second-stage intermediate goods[3]	51.37	120.8	119.2	119.5	-1.1	0.3
Finished goods[4]	**40.72**	**115.5**	**119.0**	**119.2**	**3.2**	**0.2**
Finished foods and feeds	10.38	111.8	112.5	112.3	0.4	-0.2
Capital equipment	10.21	117.5	123.0	123.4	5.0	0.3
All other finished goods	20.13	116.3	120.4	120.6	3.7	0.2
Aggregation by commodities						
Meat, fish and dairy products	7.27	121.0	118.4	118.2	-2.3	-0.2
Fruit, vegetable, feed, miscellaneous food products	6.72	114.4	113.0	112.9	-1.3	-0.1
Beverages	2.12	110.2	112.4	112.4	2.0	0.0
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.72	127.3	131.6	131.6	3.4	0.0
Rubber, leather, plastic fabric products	3.01	113.8	113.4	113.4	-0.4	0.0
Textile products	1.82	109.4	110.3	110.3	0.8	0.0
Knitted products and clothing	1.93	107.9	109.3	109.3	1.3	0.0
Lumber, sawmill, other wood products	5.20	145.0	132.7	134.8	-7.0	1.6
Furniture and fixtures	1.46	113.9	115.1	115.3	1.2	0.2
Pulp and paper products	7.65	124.6	131.7	131.7	5.7	0.0
Printing and publishing	3.05	126.5	131.3	131.5	4.0	0.2
Primary metal products	7.58	127.4	120.2	121.3	-4.8	0.9
Metal fabricated products	4.11	119.7	122.9	122.9	2.7	0.0
Machinery and equipment	4.08	111.2	113.2	113.3	1.9	0.1
Autos, trucks, other transportation equipment	18.76	120.4	129.4	130.2	8.1	0.6
Electrical and communications products	6.03	106.4	106.1	106.3	-0.1	0.2
Non-metallic mineral products	2.12	111.3	112.9	112.5	1.1	-0.4
Petroleum and coal products[5]	6.01	110.8	95.8	94.1	-15.1	-1.8
Chemicals and chemical products	7.60	117.5	114.2	114.4	-2.6	0.2
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.45	114.5	116.5	117.1	2.3	0.5
Miscellaneous non-manufactured commodities	0.31	122.8	115.5	116.5	-5.1	0.9

r Revised figures.
p Preliminary figures.
1 Intermediate goods are used principally to produce other goods.
2 First-stage intermediate goods are used most frequently to produce other intermediate goods.
3 Second-stage intermediate goods are most commonly used to produce final goods.
4 Finished goods are most commonly used for immediate consumption or for capital investment.
5 This index is estimated for the current month.

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Raw Materials Price Index

July 1998 (preliminary)

Manufacturers paid 0.3% more for raw materials in July compared with June, mainly due to higher prices for crude oil and non-ferrous metals. Lower prices for hogs and cattle greatly offset the overall increase in July's raw materials prices. The Raw Materials Price Index was 107.3 (1992=100) in July, up from 107.0 in June.

If the mineral fuels category (90% of which is crude oil) were excluded, raw material prices for July would actually have decreased 1.2% from June.

On a 12-month basis, manufacturers paid 15.4% less for raw materials compared with July 1997. The major contributors to the 12-month decline were crude oil, wood, animal products and non-ferrous metals. Higher prices for ferrous materials and non-metallic minerals marginally offset the overall decline. If mineral fuels were excluded, the 12-month decrease in July for raw material prices would have been 12.4%.

Crude oil prices up with expected cuts to world inventory

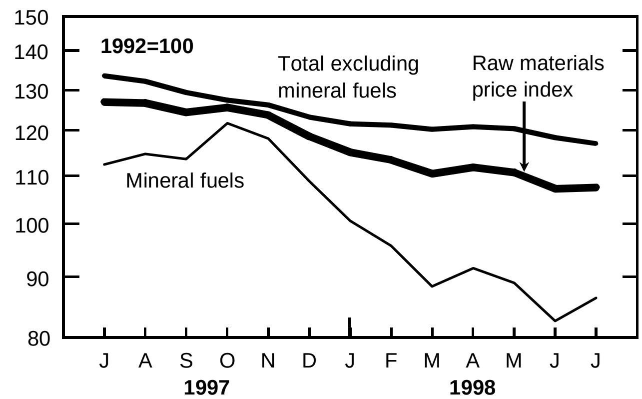
Crude oil prices increased 5.4% in July, but remain 15.2% lower than six months earlier. Crude oil prices were also down 25.1% compared with July 1997. On the other hand, natural gas prices were 15.8% higher compared with 12 months earlier.

The higher price for crude oil in July was mostly due to the pledges by OPEC members to potentially cut output by almost 4.4% of world consumption. The expectation that refiners would buy more cheap oil to replenish declining supplies of gasoline during the summer driving season, and the political unrest in Nigeria, which produces 3% of the world's supply of crude oil, also pushed up prices.

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.

Crude oil prices turn up



Non-ferrous metal prices advance

On a month-to-month basis, non-ferrous metal prices increased 2.3% in July. Higher prices for copper concentrates (+5.1%), zinc concentrates (+4.7%), aluminum materials (+1.3%), and gold (+3.6%) were the major contributors to the gain.

Compared with July 1997, non-ferrous metal prices were down 14.2%. Lower prices for copper concentrates (-23.0%), nickel concentrates (-31.2%) and zinc concentrates (-23.8%) were somewhat offset by higher prices for silver and platinum. Silver has been subject to increased speculation — sending silver exchange inventories to a 16-year low.

Copper prices in July showed strong upward movement after declining in both May and June. The higher price recorded in July was probably due to a stronger yen at that time and the subsequent prospects for increased Japanese demand. As well, the decision by China (the world's fifth-largest copper producer and third-largest copper consumer) to reduce output had some bearing on the higher copper prices in July. The decision by China to significantly reduce zinc exports also helped to boost zinc prices in July.

Hog and cattle prices down

Animals and animal product prices fell 3.7% in July and were 9.9% lower compared with 12 months earlier. Lower prices in July for hogs (-13.6%), and cattle (-3.6%) were the major contributors to the overall monthly decline for this group.

Compared with July 1997, significantly lower prices for hogs (-35.0%) and moderate price declines for cattle and chickens contributed to the 12-month decline for the animals and animal products group. Hog prices remain weak due to declining demand and large herd sizes. The weak Asian demand for imported meat due to their economic problems contributes greatly to lower hog prices. As well, the expectations of high beef and poultry output this year will also add to the competitive aspects of selling pork at the meat counters.

Sugar prices bounce back

On a month-to-month basis, vegetable product prices fell 2.1% in July. Lower prices for canola (-11.0%), coffee (-6.4%) and grains (-0.8%) were somewhat offset by higher prices for unrefined sugar (+11.6%). The July increase in sugar prices may weaken, as Russia, the world's largest sugar importer introduced significantly higher import taxes on sugar for the remainder of the year. Compared with 12-months earlier, vegetable product prices were down 10.8%. Lower prices for coffee (-51.0%), soybeans (-17.6%), corn (-9.3%) and unrefined sugar (-11.0%) were the major contributors. Coffee prices were down as rising supplies of newly harvested beans were coming to market at the same time of weak roaster and consumer demand due to the summer weather.

The impact of El Nino on world grain and oilseed production over the last 15 to 20 months was probably positive overall. El Nino was responsible for ideal growing conditions in South America, Europe and the important U.S. soybean-corn states. The world surplus of grains dampened prices accordingly. The phase following El Nino, La Nina, brings the exact opposite weather conditions and its impact on weather in agriculturally important countries will not be known until the spring of 1999. Therefore, surpluses of grains and oilseeds in 1998 may be held for potentially higher prices in 1999.

Wood prices remain soft

In July, wood prices edged up 0.2%. Compared with July 1997, wood prices have fallen 19.8%. Contributing to the 12-month decline was logs (-24.2%) and pulpwood (-0.2%). The depressed Asian market for lumber and potentially lower cost producers in Scandinavia, Europe and South America make it difficult for Canadian lumber companies to bounce back to the higher prices prevalent even last year.

Available on CANSIM: 1879.

The July 1998 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011-XPB, $22/$217) will be available at the end of September. 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. □

Raw Materials Price Index
(1992=100)

	Relative importance	July 1997	June 1998[r]	July 1998[p]	July 1997 to July 1998	June to July 1998
					% change	
Raw materials price index (RMPI)	**100.00**	**126.8**	**107.0**	**107.3**	**-15.4**	**0.3**
Mineral fuels	31.47	112.2	82.6	86.4	-23.0	4.6
Vegetable products	9.41	145.1	132.2	129.4	-10.8	-2.1
Animals and animal products	24.41	119.0	111.3	107.2	-9.9	-3.7
Wood	14.88	160.1	128.2	128.4	-19.8	0.2
Ferrous materials	3.17	133.7	138.6	137.9	3.1	-0.5
Non-ferrous metals	13.81	127.1	106.5	109.0	-14.2	2.3
Non-metallic minerals	2.85	111.7	114.6	114.7	2.7	0.1
RMPI excluding mineral fuels	**68.53**	**133.5**	**118.3**	**116.9**	**-12.4**	**-1.2**

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Crude oil and natural gas
June 1998

Crude oil production was 9.1% higher in June compared with the same month a year earlier — the 13th consecutive monthly year-over-year increase. Hibernia crude oil production, which reached a record 2.9% of the total, contributed to the overall increase. Exports, which accounted for 64.8% of total production, continued their upward trend — climbing 21.4% from a year earlier and 26.0% higher compared with the same period in 1996. Still driven by strong demand in the United States, exports have increased steadily for 25 straight months. Year-to-date exports of crude oil were up 18.3% over the same period in 1997.

Imports of crude oil rose 18.0% from June 1997, a fifth consecutive monthly year-over-year increase. Imports were up 5.5% for the first six months of 1998.

Natural gas production increased 5.1% compared with June 1997. Canadian domestic sales continued falling in June (-4.4%). The decline is attributable to a drop in sales to the industrial sector — the eighth consecutive monthly year-over-year decline in total natural gas sales. Exports, which accounted for 55.7% of total production, posted a 10.7% increase in June — the 12th consecutive monthly year-over-year increase in natural gas exports.

Year-to-date exports of natural gas were up 5.9% over the same period in 1997. Year-to-date Canadian sales were down 8.2% compared with the same period a year earlier due to the warm winter weather.

Crude oil and natural gas

	June 1997	June 1998	June 1997 to June 1998
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons[1]			
Production	10,012.9	10,921.5	9.1
Exports	5,832.4	7,080.0	21.4
Imports[2]	3,266.5	3,853.5	18.0
Refinery receipts	7,318.8	8,369.6	14.4
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas[3]			
Marketable production	11,944.9	12,558.9	5.1
Exports	6,319.1	6,995.8	10.7
Canadian domestic sales[4]	3,698.9	3,534.9	-4.4

	Jan. 1997 to June 1997	Jan. 1998 to June 1998	Jan.-June 1997 to Jan.-June 1998
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons[1]			
Production	58,991.1	64,017.5	8.5
Exports	33,439.9	39,556.5	18.3
Imports[2]	21,082.2	22,236.4	5.5
Refinery receipts	46,205.9	46,949.2	1.6
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas[3]			
Marketable production	78,134.3	80,309.5	2.8
Exports	40,567.9	42,966.6	5.9
Canadian domestic sales[4]	38,011.3	34,888.5	-8.2

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.*
4 *Includes direct sales.*

Available on CANSIM: matrices 530 and 539.

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

For further information on this release, contact Gérard O’Connor (613-951-3562;

oconger@statcan.ca), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Seniors' income

1996

After accounting for inflation, the median total income of seniors remained virtually stable in 1996. Individual taxfilers aged 65 and over reported a median total income of $15,900 in 1996, up only $50 from 1995. (Median income represents the middle point at which half the incomes are above and half below.)

Only seniors in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia had median total incomes higher than the national level.

The major source of income for individual seniors was government pensions, such as Old Age Security benefits, net federal supplements and the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans — all of which accounted for 43% of their total income. Other major sources of income were other pensions (23%) and investment income (17%).

Husband-wife families with a spouse aged 65 or over had a median total income of $34,900, up about $150 after accounting for inflation. Median total income for these families was above the national level in Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon. (Husband-wife families include married couples and those living common-law, with or without children.) Government pensions accounted for one-third (33%) of total income for these families. Other contributors were other pensions (22%), employment income (20%), investment income (15%), other income (7%) and RRSP income (3%).

Seniors in lone-parent families, and non-family persons, had a median total income of $16,000 in 1996, which kept pace with inflation. Lone parent families consist of one parent (male or female) with at least one child at home. A non-family person is an individual who is not living with a spouse, child or parent.

Median total income of seniors and senior families with a person 65 years of age or over
1996

	Individuals	Husband-wife families	Lone-parent families and non-family persons
		$	
Canada	**15,900**	**34,900**	**16,000**
Newfoundland	12,200	24,100	12,700
Prince Edward Island	13,400	30,500	13,800
Nova Scotia	14,500	31,600	14,600
New Brunswick	13,600	29,600	14,100
Quebec	14,200	30,800	14,500
Ontario	18,000	38,800	18,300
Manitoba	15,600	33,500	15,900
Saskatchewan	15,200	33,100	15,400
Alberta	16,000	35,300	16,100
British Columbia	16,800	36,500	16,700
Yukon	15,300	38,800	15,200
Northwest Territories	13,400	30,800	14,800

Data for *Seniors' income* (89C0022) are available for Canada, the provinces and territories, cities, towns, census metropolitan areas, census divisions, as well as for areas as small as forward sortation areas (the first three characters of the postal code), and for letter carrier routes. Data are available for five age groups: 55 to 64, 65 to 74, 55 and over, 65 and over, and 75 and over.

For further information on this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9720; fax: 613-951-4745; *saadinfo@statcan.ca*), Small Area and Administrative Data Division. ■

Mental health statistics

1995/96

The rate at which patients were discharged for mental disorders from general and psychiatric hospitals in Canada in 1995/96 was down 2% from 1994/95 and 5% below 10 years earlier. Most provinces followed the national trend, with decreases ranging from less than 1% in Quebec to 13% in Prince Edward Island. Only Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Yukon reported increases in their discharge rate. Provincial/territorial differences may be attributable to factors such as the availability of alternative treatment facilities (i.e., residential care institutions for the psychiatrically disabled) and by admission and discharge practices. Declines in the discharge rate may also reflect the shift in treatment strategies for the mentally ill — with more emphasis on outpatient treatment in hospitals and community clinics.

Most of the mental disorders that require hospitalization were treated in general hospitals (85%), compared with 15% in psychiatric hospitals. Discharges for mental disorders from both types of institutions have fallen. The rate for general hospitals in 1995/96 was 603 per 100,000 population, down from 608 the previous year. Similarly, discharge rates from psychiatric hospitals fell from 115 to 106 per 100,000.

General and psychiatric hospitals reported 210,775 mental disorder discharges in 1995/96, 23% of which were related to mood disturbances such as manic depression. Another 15% involved schizophrenia, 13% pertained to neurotic and personality disorders and 11% were related to alcohol and drug disorders.

Total patient-days in general and psychiatric hospitals declined 5% to 13.9 million days. However, most of the decline in patient-days was from psychiatric hospitals, down 7% to 8.2 million days. The largest declines in psychiatric patient-days occurred in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Ontario.

The average stay in general hospitals (32 days) was much shorter than in psychiatric hospitals (261 days), which are more likely to treat long-term care patients.

Mental disorder discharges by province

	1995/96		1994/95 to 1995/96
	Number	Rate[1]	% change in rate
Canada	**210,775**	**709**	**-1.8**
Newfoundland	4,301	748	+6.0
Prince Edward Island	1,606	1,178	-12.8
Nova Scotia	7,034	748	-0.7
New Brunswick	6,505	855	+4.3
Quebec	52,051	707	-0.3
Ontario	75,618	678	-1.6
Manitoba	9,708	853	-1.0
Saskatchewan	8,083	794	-2.6
Alberta	17,843	646	-9.9
British Columbia	27,287	719	-1.3
Yukon	202	653	+6.8
Northwest Territories	537	814	-17.1

[1] *Rates are calculated based on 100,000 population.*

The 1995/96 mental health data were collected by the Canadian Institute for Health Information. For further information on the 1995/96 data, contact Karen McCarthy (613-241-7860, ext. 4026: fax: 613-241-8120), Canadian Institute for Health Information.

For further information on mental health trends, contact Peter Morrison (613-951-1637), Health Statistics Division, Statistics Canada. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending August 22, 1998 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending August 22, 1998, totalled 314 099 metric tonnes, up 3.0% from the week-earlier 305 078 tonnes and up 5.5% from the year-earlier 297 636 tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 10 507 062 tonnes, a 7.1% increase compared with 9 813 708 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. ■

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending August 14, 1998

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending August 14, 1998, decreased 7.6% to 4.5 million metric tonnes from the same period of last year. The number of cars loaded also decreased 8.3%.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totalled 307 000 tonnes, a 10.5% decrease from the same period of last year. The year-to-date figures show a decline of 2.7%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) decreased 7.7% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 158.1 million tonnes, a decrease of 1.5% 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. ■

Crushing statistics

July 1998

Oilseed processors crushed 248 703 metric tonnes of canola in July. Oil production totalled 104 471 tonnes, while meal production totalled 153,682 tonnes.

The July crush decreased 3.2% from the June crush of 256 882 tonnes. In the 1997/98 crop year, processors crushed 3 238 816 tonnes of canola, eclipsing the previous crop-year record of 2 752 927 tonnes established in 1995/96.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5687.

The July 1998 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XPB, $15/$149) will be released in October. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release contact Karen Gray (204-983-2856) or Les Macartney (613-951-8714), Grain Marketing Unit, Agriculture Division. ■

Basic summary tabulations

1996 Census

This series from the 1996 Census provides summary information for small geographic areas of the country in tabulations using two or more inter-related census variables.

The entire series comprises 66 basic tabulations. Released today are four tabulations on sources of income, earnings and total income, and family and household income. Geographies include census divisions and subdivisions; census metropolitan areas, tracted census agglomerations and census tracts; federal electoral districts (1996 Representation Order); federal electoral districts (1987 Representation Order) and enumeration areas; and forward sortation areas. All geographies include data for Canada, provinces and territories.

Prices begin with a flat fee of $60, plus $1 for each of the first 100 geographic areas, and $.05 for each additional area.

For further information, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre. ■

Telecommunication Services Price Index

1996 and 1997

An annual, Canada-level price index (1996=100) for business long distance telephone services is now available for 1996 and 1997. The index measures change over time in prices for the long distance calls of businesses. This index may be revised.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9933.

For further information on this release, contact François Bordé (613-951-3370; fax: 613-951-2848; *bordfra@statcan.ca*) Goods and Services Section, Prices Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation, July 1998
Catalogue number 44-004-XPB
(Canada: $7/$62; outside Canada: US$7/US$62).

Energy statistics handbook, August 1998
Catalogue number 57-601-XDE
(Canada: $284; outside Canada: US$284).

Energy statistics handbook, August 1998
Catalogue number 57-601-UPB
(Canada: $387; outside Canada: US$387).

Financial and taxation statistics for enterprises, 1996
Catalogue number 61-219-XPB
(Canada: $57; outside Canada: US$57).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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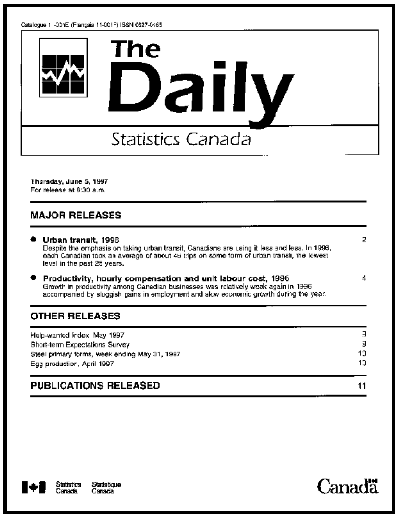

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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

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- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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