



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, August 7, 1998

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Labour Force Survey, July 1998** 2  
Employment increased slightly in July (+27,000), offsetting most of the loss in June. The unemployment rate was unchanged at 8.4% for the fourth consecutive month.
- **Farm Input Price Index, second quarter 1998** 6  
Falling prices helped push the all-Canada Farm Input Price Index down 0.8% in the second quarter — a time when farmers normally face price increases.

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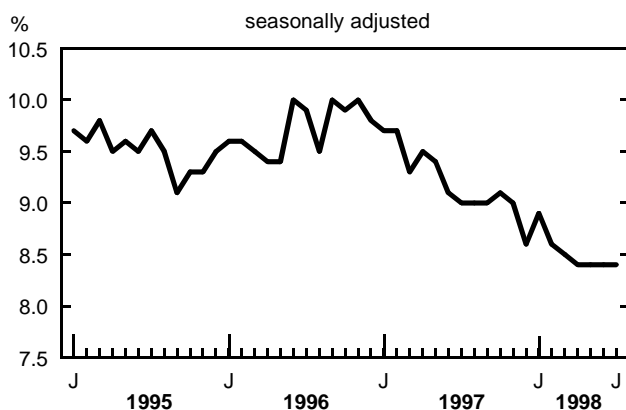
## MAJOR RELEASES

### Labour Force Survey

July 1998

Employment increased slightly in July (+27,000), offsetting most of the loss in June. There has also been little change in employment since April, following a strong upward trend in 1997 and early 1998. Unemployment has also remained unchanged since April, following a drop of 188,000 during the period of strong employment growth. The unemployment rate remained at 8.4% for the fourth consecutive month.

Unemployment rate



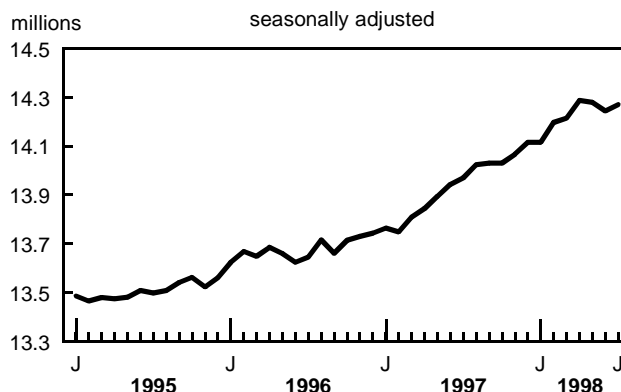
#### Increase in youth employment

In July, the number of full- and part-time workers was almost unchanged. Over the last five months, there has been little change in full-time employment whereas it accounted for almost all of the growth during the preceding year.

Youth employment increased by 25,000 in July, reversing most of the loss in June. The number of unemployed youths fell by 14,000, lowering the unemployment rate by 0.6 percentage points to 15.3%.

Among adults, employment was little changed in July.

Employment



#### Summer labour market improves for teenagers

From May to August, the Labour Force Survey collects data on youth aged 15 to 24 years who went to school full time in March and who intend to return to school in the fall.

The overall student employment rate in July was slightly higher than it was a year ago due to an improvement in the situation for 15 to 19 year olds. However, the job situation for older students 20 to 24 years of age has weakened somewhat.

Among students aged 15 to 19, 46.9% were employed, an increase of 2.4 percentage points over July 1997. The unemployment rate for this age group stood at 20.9%, a drop of 2.8 percentage points.

In contrast, 69.2% of the older students were employed, a drop of 1.1 percentage points from the same time last year. Despite the decline in employment for this age group, the unemployment rate fell 0.9 percentage points to 9.6% due to a drop in labour force participation.

#### Increase in self-employment

The number of self-employed workers increased by 22,000 in July while the number of private and public sector employees was unchanged. Since April, the number of private sector employees has been little changed after contributing 91% of the overall employment growth in 1997 and early 1998.

### **Gains in services and losses in the goods-producing sector**

Employment in the services sector increased by 56,000 in July, while employment in the goods-producing sector fell by 29,000. The gain in services was primarily concentrated in retail trade where employment increased by an estimated 35,000. This was the first significant increase in this industry in the last 12 months. The finance, insurance and real estate industry also posted a gain (+14,000) following four consecutive months of losses.

Manufacturing employment fell by 34,000. This drop was split about equally between the durable and non-durable goods sectors. The General Motors strike in the United States has led to approximately 15,000 temporary layoffs in manufacturing during the last two months in Ontario.

### **Provincial labour markets**

Employment increased by 19,000 in Quebec. However, an increase in labour force participation caused the unemployment rate to increase 0.3 percentage points to 10.9%.

In Manitoba, employment increased by 7,000 jobs, the first significant increase since August 1997. The provincial unemployment rate now stands at 5.3%.

In Newfoundland, following three consecutive monthly increases, employment fell by 5,000 in July. This was the first significant drop in employment since October 1996.

Following a strong increase in employment in 1997 and in the early months of 1998, Ontario has experienced three consecutive months without growth. The unemployment rate in Ontario remains the same as it was in April (7.2%) after falling 1.8 percentage points when employment was increasing.

Employment was little changed in the other provinces.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 3450-3471, 3483-3502 and table 00799999.**

Available at 7 a.m. on the Internet @ [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca) under "Daily news".

For a summary, *Labour force information*, for the week ending July 18, 1998 (71-001-PPB, \$11/\$103) is available today. See *How to order publications*.

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on Friday September 4, 1998.

For further information on this release, contact Deborah Sunter (613-951-4740), Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750), Household Surveys Division. □

## Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	June 1998	July 1998	June to July 1998	June 1998	July 1998	June to July 1998
seasonally adjusted						
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000	% change		%	change	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>15,544.8</b>	<b>15,580.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>64.8</b>	<b>64.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Newfoundland	242.6	239.3	-1.4	54.4	53.8	-0.6
Prince Edward Island	71.5	71.2	-0.4	66.8	66.5	-0.3
Nova Scotia	450.3	448.7	-0.4	60.4	60.1	-0.3
New Brunswick	364.9	358.7	-1.7	60.3	59.2	-1.1
Quebec	3,681.5	3,716.3	0.9	61.7	62.3	0.6
Ontario	6,021.1	6,022.0	0.0	66.1	66.0	-0.1
Manitoba	572.2	577.7	1.0	66.3	67.0	0.7
Saskatchewan	505.0	506.6	0.3	66.2	66.4	0.2
Alberta	1,594.3	1,599.6	0.3	71.7	71.8	0.1
British Columbia	2,041.4	2,040.0	-0.1	64.8	64.7	-0.1
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000	% change		%	change	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>14,243.0</b>	<b>14,269.6</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Newfoundland	202.4	197.4	-2.5	45.4	44.3	-1.1
Prince Edward Island	62.1	62.4	0.5	58.0	58.3	0.3
Nova Scotia	403.2	401.3	-0.5	54.0	53.8	-0.2
New Brunswick	320.1	318.4	-0.5	52.9	52.6	-0.3
Quebec	3,291.7	3,310.3	0.6	55.2	55.4	0.2
Ontario	5,593.2	5,590.0	-0.1	61.4	61.3	-0.1
Manitoba	539.7	547.1	1.4	62.6	63.4	0.8
Saskatchewan	474.7	476.0	0.3	62.2	62.4	0.2
Alberta	1,506.7	1,513.2	0.4	67.8	67.9	0.1
British Columbia	1,849.2	1,853.5	0.2	58.7	58.8	0.1
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000	% change		%	change	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>1,301.9</b>	<b>1,310.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Newfoundland	40.3	41.9	4.0	16.6	17.5	0.9
Prince Edward Island	9.4	8.8	-6.4	13.1	12.4	-0.7
Nova Scotia	47.1	47.5	0.8	10.5	10.6	0.1
New Brunswick	44.8	40.3	-10.0	12.3	11.2	-1.1
Quebec	389.8	406.1	4.2	10.6	10.9	0.3
Ontario	427.9	432.0	1.0	7.1	7.2	0.1
Manitoba	32.5	30.7	-5.5	5.7	5.3	-0.4
Saskatchewan	30.3	30.5	0.7	6.0	6.0	0.0
Alberta	87.6	86.3	-1.5	5.5	5.4	-0.1
British Columbia	192.2	186.5	-3.0	9.4	9.1	-0.3

**Note:** Provincial estimates may differ from the national totals due to independent seasonal adjustment.

## Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	July 1997	July 1998	July 1997 to July 1998	July 1997	July 1998	July 1997 to July 1998
Unadjusted						
Labour force			Participation rate			
	'000	% change	%		change	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>15,849.7</b>	<b>16,084.2</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>66.9</b>	<b>67.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Newfoundland	260.1	266.0	2.3	57.8	59.7	1.9
Prince Edward Island	76.5	76.0	-0.7	71.3	71.0	-0.3
Nova Scotia	466.0	470.5	1.0	62.8	63.1	0.3
New Brunswick	387.9	383.2	-1.2	64.3	63.3	-1.0
Quebec	3,789.9	3,841.4	1.4	63.9	64.3	0.4
Ontario	6,083.0	6,193.4	1.8	67.7	67.9	0.2
Manitoba	583.6	591.2	1.3	67.7	68.5	0.8
Saskatchewan	525.7	525.5	0.0	69.1	68.8	-0.3
Alberta	1,592.5	1,642.9	3.2	73.7	73.7	0.0
British Columbia	2,084.6	2,094.1	0.5	67.2	66.4	-0.8
Employment			Employment rate			
	'000	% change	%		change	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>14,418.5</b>	<b>14,725.0</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>61.3</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Newfoundland	212.2	219.8	3.6	47.2	49.4	2.2
Prince Edward Island	67.1	68.3	1.8	62.5	63.8	1.3
Nova Scotia	412.8	421.3	2.1	55.6	56.5	0.9
New Brunswick	343.6	344.6	0.3	56.9	56.9	0.0
Quebec	3,392.5	3,442.8	1.5	57.2	57.7	0.5
Ontario	5,555.9	5,724.7	3.0	61.8	62.7	0.9
Manitoba	545.4	559.9	2.7	63.3	64.9	1.6
Saskatchewan	493.8	491.8	-0.4	64.9	64.4	-0.5
Alberta	1,489.4	1,545.0	3.7	68.9	69.3	0.4
British Columbia	1,906.0	1,906.8	0.0	61.4	60.5	-0.9
Unemployment			Unemployment rate			
	'000	% change	%		change	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>1,431.2</b>	<b>1,359.2</b>	<b>-5.0</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
Newfoundland	47.9	46.2	-3.5	18.4	17.4	-1.0
Prince Edward Island	9.4	7.7	-18.1	12.3	10.1	-2.2
Nova Scotia	53.2	49.2	-7.5	11.4	10.5	-0.9
New Brunswick	44.4	38.6	-13.1	11.4	10.1	-1.3
Quebec	397.4	398.5	0.3	10.5	10.4	-0.1
Ontario	527.1	468.7	-11.1	8.7	7.6	-1.1
Manitoba	38.2	31.3	-18.1	6.5	5.3	-1.2
Saskatchewan	31.9	33.6	5.3	6.1	6.4	0.3
Alberta	103.1	97.9	-5.0	6.5	6.0	-0.5
British Columbia	178.7	187.3	4.8	8.6	8.9	0.3

## Farm Input Price Index

Second quarter 1998 (preliminary)

Falling prices helped push the all-Canada Farm Input Price Index down 0.8% in the second quarter — a time when farmers normally face price increases. The last time farmers benefitted from lower prices during the second quarter was in 1991, when the annual index fell 1.8%.

Prices of farm inputs fell 2.4% in the East on a year-over-year basis, while prices in the West rose 0.5%. For Canada as a whole, farm inputs dropped a marginal 0.1% between the first and second quarters of 1998, but it was farmers in the East who again benefitted more from the lower prices.

### Prices for feed continue to drop

Nationally, farmers paid less in 4 of the 7 input categories surveyed in the second quarter compared with the same period a year earlier. The most significant decline occurred in the animal production component. Lower prices for feed, particularly prepared feed (-16.9%), contributed most to the year-over-year decline. Farmers also paid less for weanling pigs (-36.8%) and turkey poults (-0.4%). Although farmers continued to pay more in the second quarter for feeder cattle (+11.6%), this was significantly lower than the 21.2% annual increase recorded in the first quarter of 1998.

Lower prices for nitrogen fertilizer (-13.6%) and lower estimates for crop insurance (-4.2%) helped push the crop production index down. Farmers also paid less for heating fuel (-8.5%), which contributed to the annual decrease in supplies and services.

The preliminary interest figures indicate the cost of non-mortgage interest advanced 37.5% on an annual basis, which resulted in an increase in the overall cost of interest. Farmers also paid more for hired farm labour.

### Prices fall in the East, increase in the West

Although farmers in the East paid substantially more for feeder cattle (+15.3%) on a year-over-year basis, this was offset by lower prices for weanling pigs and turkey poults. Once again, farmers benefitted from lower prices for prepared feed (-18.2%) and grain feed (-5.8%).

Prices were down for supplies and services, such as heating fuel (-9.3%), compared with the second quarter of 1997. Farmers paid less for building and

fencing — the result of lower prices for building materials (-2.2%).

On the other hand, farmers in the East paid more for hired farm labour (+3.2%) and for powered machinery (+2.8%), such as tractors and combines, and non-powered machinery (+3.3%), such as plows and cultivators. The increases in machinery, however, were partially offset by lower prices for gasoline (-9.6%) and diesel fuel (-9.5%). Farmers faced higher costs for non-mortgage loans, which helped push the annual cost of interest up 23.3%.

Farmers in the West benefitted from lower prices for weanling pigs, prepared feed, and grain feed but not to the same extent as their eastern counterparts. Lower prices for nitrogen fertilizer (-14.1%) contributed most to the annual decrease in the crop production index (-3.6%).

Once again, higher prices for powered and non-powered machinery were offset by lower prices for gasoline (-10.9%) and diesel fuel (-13.1%). Similar to their eastern counterparts, farmers in the West faced higher prices for hired farm labour and increased interest costs due to higher costs for non-mortgage loans.

### Marginal decrease in prices between first and second quarter

Nationally, farm input prices fell 0.1% in the second quarter of 1998 compared with the previous quarter. A 0.5% quarterly decline in input prices in the East was offset by a 0.5% advance in the West.

Higher prices for fertilizers contributed most to the increase in the crop production index. Also, higher costs for non-mortgage loans (+8.1%) pushed the interest index up 5.6% from the first to the second quarter. Farmers paid less for inputs for animal production — the result of lower prices for feed (-8.0%). Lower heating fuel prices helped push the index for supplies and services down 0.8%.

### Available on CANSIM: matrices 550-582 (level 7) and 2050-2063.

The second quarter 1998 issue of *Farm input price indexes* (62-004-XPB, \$25/\$83) will be available in September. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Vaclav Krabicka (613-951-3342; fax: 613-951-2848), Prices Division. □

**Farm input price indexes**  
(1986=100)

	2nd Qrt 1997	1st Qrt 1998	2nd Qrt 1998	2nd Qrt/97 to 2nd Qrt/98	1st Qrt /98 to 2nd Qrt/98
				% change	
<b>Canada, total farm input</b>	<b>130.5</b>	<b>129.5</b>	<b>129.4</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Building and fencing	136.3	134.4	133.7	-1.9	-0.5
Machinery and motor vehicles	138.3	140.3	139.3	0.7	-0.7
Crop production	128.7	124.2	125.8	-2.3	1.3
Animal production	131.3	124.1	121.3	-7.6	-2.3
Supplies and services	131.3	130.6	129.6	-1.3	-0.8
Hired farm labour	146.2	148.1	151.0	3.3	2.0
Property taxes	150.8	148.6	148.6	-1.5	0.0
Interest	88.9	104.2	110.0	23.7	5.6
Farm rent	136.3	131.7	131.7	-3.4	0.0
<b>Eastern Canada, total farm input</b>	<b>134.4</b>	<b>131.9</b>	<b>131.2</b>	<b>-2.4</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
Building and fencing	142.8	141.8	141.4	-1.0	-0.3
Machinery and motor vehicles	144.3	146.3	146.0	1.2	-0.2
Crop production	132.8	131.7	133.4	0.5	1.3
Animal production	133.3	121.3	119.4	-10.4	-1.6
Supplies and services	137.3	137.7	136.4	-0.7	-0.9
Hired farm labour	145.8	155.1	150.4	3.2	-3.0
Property taxes	162.2	147.4	147.4	-9.1	0.0
Interest	88.5	103.2	109.1	23.3	5.7
Farm rent	164.3	154.8	154.8	-5.8	0.0
<b>Western Canada, total farm input</b>	<b>127.5</b>	<b>127.5</b>	<b>128.1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Building and fencing	128.9	126.0	125.1	-2.9	-0.7
Machinery and motor vehicles	135.1	137.2	135.8	0.5	-1.0
Crop production	126.4	120.1	121.8	-3.6	1.4
Animal production	128.7	127.9	123.8	-3.8	-3.2
Supplies and services	125.4	123.5	122.8	-2.1	-0.6
Hired farm labour	148.4	138.9	153.7	3.6	10.7
Property taxes	147.8	149.0	149.0	0.8	0.0
Interest	89.3	104.8	110.6	23.9	5.5
Farm rent	126.9	123.9	123.9	-2.4	0.0

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## OTHER RELEASES

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### **Railway carloadings**

Seven-day period ending July 21, 1998

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending July 21, 1998, decreased 10.7% to 4.2 million metric tonnes from the same period last year. The number of cars loaded also fell 11.9%.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totalled 341 000 tonnes, a 3.5% increase from the same period last year. The year-to-date figures fell 3.3%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) decreased 9.8% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 142.4 million tonnes, down 0.4 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; [larocque@statcan.ca](mailto:larocque@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

### **Egg production**

June 1998 (preliminary)

Egg production estimates for June 1998 are now available.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 1145, 1146 and 5689-5691.**

To order *Production of eggs* (23-003-XPB, \$110/year), contact Julie Gordon (613-951-5039), Agriculture Division.

For further information on this release, contact Sandy Giefeldt (613-951-2505), Livestock and Animal Product Section, Agriculture Division. ■



## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Infomat — A weekly review**, August 7, 1998  
**Catalogue number 11-002-XIE**  
(Canada: \$3/\$109; outside Canada: US\$3/US\$109).

**Infomat — A weekly review**, August 7, 1998  
**Catalogue number 11-002-XPE**  
(Canada: \$4/\$145; outside Canada: US\$4/US\$145).

**Construction price statistics**, First quarter 1998  
**Catalogue number 62-007-XPB**  
(Canada: \$24/\$79; outside Canada: US\$24/US\$79).

**Building permits**, June 1998  
**Catalogue number 64-001-XIB**  
(Canada: \$19/\$186; outside Canada: US\$19/US\$186).

**All prices exclude sales tax.**

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; and -XPB or -XPE denote a paper version.

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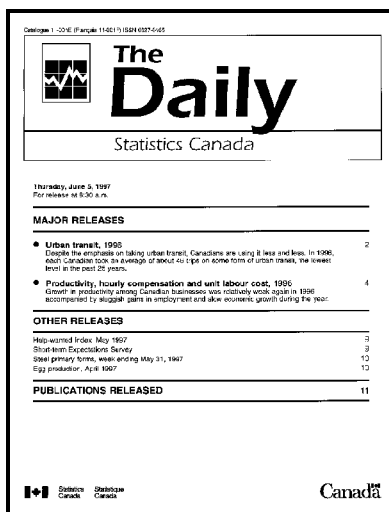
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## RELEASE DATES

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**August 10 to 14, 1998**

(Release dates are subject to change.)

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Release date	Title	Reference period
12	New Housing Price Index	June 1998
13	New motor vehicle sales	June 1998
14	Composite Index	July 1998

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