



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, September 22, 1998

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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OTHER RELEASES

Employment Insurance

July 1998 (preliminary)

The estimated number of Canadians who received regular Employment Insurance benefits in July increased 4.5% to 580,620. Nine provinces and the two territories recorded monthly increases. Alberta was the only province to show a decline in the number of beneficiaries (-0.4%).

Regular benefit payments edged down (-1.4%) to \$653.1 million in July. This was the fifth consecutive monthly decline.

Note: Statistics on Employment Insurance claims are not available for July 1998.

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	July 1998	June to July 1998
	seasonally adjusted	
		% change
Canada	580,620	4.5
Newfoundland	33,160	6.7
Prince Edward Island	9,430	2.3
Nova Scotia	31,190	2.9
New Brunswick	38,440	2.0
Quebec	205,390	2.9
Ontario	130,540	4.5
Manitoba	13,530	2.6
Saskatchewan	13,450	19.5
Alberta	31,150	-0.4
British Columbia	70,130	2.6
Yukon	1,350	0.4
Northwest Territories	1,180	7.2

Employment Insurance statistics

	June 1998	July 1998	June to July 1998
	seasonally adjusted		
			% change
Regular beneficiaries	555,360 ^P	580,620 ^P	4.5
Regular payments (\$ millions)	662.6	653.1	-1.4
	July 1997	July 1998	July 1997 to July 1998
	unadjusted		
			% change
All beneficiaries ('000)	706.5	673.3 ^P	-4.7
Regular beneficiaries ('000)	536.4	513.8 ^P	-4.2
Payments (\$ millions)	814.4	774.8	-4.9
	Year-to-date (January to July)		
	1997	1998	1997 to 1998
			% change
Payments (\$ millions)	7,728.9	7,368.5	-4.7

^P Preliminary figures.

Note: All beneficiaries includes all claimants paid regular benefits (e.g., due to layoff) or special benefits (e.g., due to illness).

The discrepancy between the estimated number of regular beneficiaries and regular payments series can be explained in part by differences in their reference periods. The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who received Employment Insurance benefits for the week containing the 15th day of the month. The regular benefit payments series measures the total of all monies received by individuals for the entire month.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 26 (series 1.6), 5702-5717 and 5735-5736.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Division. ■

Survey on the Importance of Nature to Canadians

1996

Nearly 20 million people, or about 85% of the population aged 15 and over, participated in one or more nature-related activities in 1996. These ranged from a simple picnic at the beach to camping, canoeing, sightseeing, fishing or hunting. About one-third of these individuals (6.7 million) visited a provincial or national park or other protected area.

The economic benefit of nature-related activities was immense. People spent an estimated \$11 billion on nature-related activities, an average of \$550 per participant. These expenses, which represented about 2% of total household spending in 1996, included campground fees, outdoor clothing, binoculars for birdwatching, transportation and hotels.

About 44% of the population aged 15 and over, or just over 10 million people, took part in one or more of the 17 activities included in the survey during trips to natural areas such as forests, water bodies, wetlands and open fields. Most people participated in a mix of activities. For example, about one-third of the population reported visiting these areas for sightseeing. In addition, almost 20% reported that they went camping and 20% reported that they used the natural areas for hiking and backpacking. Other activities included power boating (9%), canoeing, kayaking or sailing (10%), downhill skiing (5%), off-road vehicle use (3%), and snowmobiling (3%).

Canadians devoted substantial amounts of their leisure time to nature in 1996. On average, each individual aged 15 and over participated in some form of nature-related activity on just over 100 days during the year, even if the majority of time was spent simply observing and feeding wildlife around the home. During the year, individuals took 191.0 million trips to participate in nature-related activities. About one-quarter of these trips involved overnight stays.

About 5% of the population aged 15 and over reported that they had hunted wildlife in 1996, down

from 7% in 1991. About 18% reported that they had fished for recreational purposes in 1996, also down from 26% five years earlier.

Some Canadians also participated actively in maintaining Canada's natural areas and wildlife. A core group of 1.3 million, or just over 5% of the population aged 15 and over, joined or contributed to nature-related organizations, such as naturalist, conservation or sportsmen's clubs. An additional 19% indicated interest in joining or contributing to these clubs in the future.

Another core group of about 760,000, or about 3% of the population, maintained, restored or purchased land for conservation. These individuals provided food or shelter for fish and wildlife in areas such as woodlots, hedges, marshes, ponds and open fields, or they took steps to conserve or restore a natural setting.

Note: The survey, which sampled 87,000 Canadians aged 15 and over, was conducted between February and June 1997 by Statistics Canada on behalf of Environment Canada and a partnership of 14 federal, provincial and territorial agencies. The information will contribute to the management of Canada's wildlife, water resources, forests and protected areas. The Survey on the Importance of Wildlife to Canadians is an update and expansion of a survey co-sponsored by a similar partnership every five years since 1981.

Custom tables produced from the survey's master micro-data file are now available. A series of reports produced from survey results are expected to be available from Environment Canada before the end of 1998. The screened public micro-data file will be available from Statistics Canada early in 1999.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Marc Hamel (613-951-2495; hamemar@statcan.ca), Special Surveys Division, Statistics Canada; or Chantal Hunter (819-994-2177; Chantal.Hunter@ec.gc.ca), Environment Canada. □

Nature-related activities in Canada 1996

	Participants	Participants (population aged 15 or over)	Same-day and overnight trips	Days	Expenditures in Canada
	'000	%	'000	millions	\$ millions
Canada	19,911	85	191,100	1,493	11,004
Newfoundland	374	83	6,200	31.7	194
Prince Edward Island	91	85	868	11.2	25
Nova Scotia	630	85	7,400	65.8	245
New Brunswick	502	83	5,700	50.0	208
Quebec	4,900	84	42,000	262.1	2,100
Ontario	7,600	85	66,300	634.4	4,300
Manitoba	751	87	6,300	48.8	428
Saskatchewan	648	86	6,100	41.0	388
Alberta	1,900	89	16,400	124.6	1,200
British Columbia	2,500	82	33,600	221.6	1,900
Yukon	15	77	232	1.6	16

Civil aviation operating statistics July 1998

Passenger-kilometres flown (seasonally adjusted data) by Canadian Airlines International Ltd. (CAI) increased 5% in July to a record high (seasonally adjusted). Although traffic to Japan was down, CAI noted year-over-year increases of close to 40% in some Asian markets. Air Canada reported virtually no change in July.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 385.

July 1998 data on civil aviation (operational data) for Air Canada and Canadian Airlines International Ltd. will be published in the October issue of *Aviation: Service bulletin* (51-004-XIB, \$8/\$82), which appears monthly on the Internet (www.statcan.ca). A print-on-demand service is also available at a different price and can be ordered directly from the Internet or by calling 1 800 267-6677.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Robert Lund (613-951-0125), Aviation Statistics Centre, Transportation Division. ■

Civil aviation financial statistics Second quarter 1998

Air Canada reported basic income of \$107 million (seasonally adjusted) in the second quarter of 1998. Basic income or loss is measured by combining operating income (before capital gains, miscellaneous items and tax) with interest expenses and interest income. Air Canada has reported quarterly basic incomes (as opposed to losses) for over two years. These quarterly incomes have averaged \$53 million.

Canadian Airlines International Ltd. (CAI) reported a seasonally adjusted basic income of \$9 million in the second quarter of 1998. CAI has reported seasonally adjusted basic incomes in each of the last four quarters.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 385 (series 7 to 9).

Financial data for the second quarter of 1998 on civil aviation (Air Canada and Canadian Airlines International Ltd.) will appear in the September issue of *Aviation: Service bulletin* (51-004-XIB, \$8/\$82), which is published monthly on the Internet (www.statcan.ca). A print-on-demand service is also available at a different price. It can be ordered directly from the Internet or by calling 1 800 267-6677.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Robert Lund (613-951-0125), Aviation Statistics Centre, Transportation Division. ■

International Adult Literacy Survey Microdata Package

1994 to 1996

The International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS) was undertaken between 1994 and 1996 by 13 governments. The survey was managed by Statistics Canada and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The desire for governments to understand the level and distribution of literacy within their adult population spurred the need to measure adult literacy directly. Moreover, an inquiry into literacy problems and consequent policy lessons across industrialized countries created the need for a set of comparable international data.

In the IALS, large samples of adults worldwide were given the same broad test of their literacy skills. The data provide the most detailed portrait ever created on the condition of adult literacy and its relationship to various background and demographic characteristics. Australia, Belgium (Flanders), Canada, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, New Zealand, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States participated in the IALS.

The *International Adult Literacy Survey Microdata Package* (89M0016XCU) is now available on CD-Rom.

The CD contains the IALS microdata file, a User's Guide, and a record layout for each of the participating countries.

To order a copy of the IALS Microdata Package, contact Special Surveys Division (613-951-4598; special@statcan.ca).

For further information about the contents of the Microdata Package, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Nancy Darcovich (613-951-4585; darcovi@statcan.ca), Special Surveys Division. ■

Retail trade — Erratum

July 1998

The retail trade table (unadjusted data) in the September 21, 1998, *Daily* contained June data and not July data as noted. The following table provides retail trade (unadjusted) data for July 1998.

For further information on this release, contact Greg Peterson (613-951-3592; petegre@statcan.ca), Retail Trade Section, Distributive Trades Division. □

Retail sales

Trade group	July 1997	June 1998 ^r	July 1998 ^p	July 1997 to July 1998
	unadjusted			
	\$ millions			% change
Food	4,886	4,832	5,195	6.3
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,513	4,460	4,811	6.6
All other food stores	373	372	385	3.2
Drug and patent medicine stores	996	1,065	1,089	9.4
Clothing	1,011	1,118	1,073	6.2
Shoe stores	124	146	131	5.7
Men's clothing stores	114	132	112	-2.4
Women's clothing stores	349	363	359	3.0
Other clothing stores	424	478	471	11.2
Furniture	957	1,030	1,073	12.1
Household furniture and appliance stores	760	816	864	13.8
Household furnishings stores	197	214	209	5.8
Automotive	8,520	9,280	8,676	1.8
Motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	5,764	6,639	5,928	2.8
Gasoline service stations	1,456	1,338	1,420	-2.5
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,301	1,303	1,329	2.2
General merchandise stores	2,025	2,161	2,183	7.8
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	2,273	2,262	2,413	6.1
Other semi-durable goods stores	724	707	697	-3.7
Other durable goods stores	513	556	594	15.8
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,036	999	1,121	8.2
Total, retail sales	20,668	21,747	21,703	5.0
Total excluding motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	14,904	15,108	15,775	5.8
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland	340	342	343	0.9
Prince Edward Island	102	97	104	2.0
Nova Scotia	676	668	686	1.5
New Brunswick	486	535	535	10.2
Quebec	4,959	4,992	5,064	2.1
Ontario	7,431	8,256	8,060	8.5
Manitoba	731	773	757	3.7
Saskatchewan	658	662	662	0.6
Alberta	2,276	2,471	2,459	8.1
British Columbia	2,934	2,877	2,592	0.6
Yukon	31	31	33	6.9
Northwest Territories	45	43	47	3.9

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.



PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Canadian international merchandise trade,
July 1998
Catalogue number 65-001-XIB
(Canada: \$14/\$141; outside Canada: US\$14/US\$141).

Canadian international merchandise trade,
July 1998
Catalogue number 65-001-XPB
(Canada: \$19/\$188; outside Canada: US\$19/US\$188).

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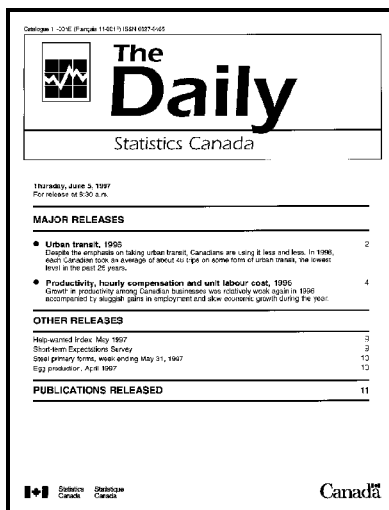
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