



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, September 3, 1998

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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OTHER RELEASES

Selected union statistics

First half 1998

According to data from the Labour Force Survey, during the first half of 1998, about 3.6 million or 30.7% of paid workers belonged to a union. An additional 294,000 employees, or about 2.6% of the total, were covered by a collective agreement.

Over that period, 31.6% of all male workers belonged to a union, slightly more than the 29.8% for women. However, among part-time workers, the union rate for women (24.4%) was considerably higher than for men (15.8%).

Overall, unionized workers with full-time jobs earned on average \$19.00 an hour, compared with \$15.64 for full-time workers who were not unionized. This difference in wage rates reflects more than just the effects of unionization. Wage rates are also determined by industry, occupation and educational attainment, among many other factors. These should be borne in mind in interpreting the relative wages of unionized and non-unionized workers.

The wage difference was even greater for part-time employees, among whom unionized workers earned \$16.55 an hour, almost twice that of their non-union counterparts (\$9.71). Unionized part-timers were also more likely to work more hours a week — raising their weekly earnings to \$325.64 versus \$161.92.

On average, women who were unionized earned 90% of the hourly wages received by their male counterparts during the first six months of 1998. Women earned \$17.64 an hour, on average, compared with \$19.59 an hour for men. In contrast, women in non-unionized jobs earned \$12.49 an hour, only 77% of the average hourly wage for men in non-unionized jobs (\$16.21).

Women with higher education were more likely to be unionized than other female employees. About 4 in 10 (42%) women in unionized jobs were university graduates and a third had a postsecondary certificate or diploma. This reflects high union rates in white-collar professions such as teaching, and health and social service occupations, where women predominate.

Union rates were more evenly spread among educational attainment levels. The highest union rate (37%) for men was among those with less than Grade 9, mirroring the high union rates in blue-collar occupations such as construction, and processing and machining.

Statistics Canada today also released an historical examination of the rise of unionization among women, which documents how it has outpaced that of men over

Note to readers

Except where noted, all figures relate to union membership, not union coverage.

the past 30 years. Membership for women grew five-fold — from 320,000 in 1966 to 1.6 million in 1992. The union membership rate for all women employees increased from 16% to 30% over this period. Since 1992, rates have remained fairly steady.

In contrast, union membership for men increased from 1.6 million in 1966 to 2.2 million in 1992, with membership rates falling slightly from 38% to 36%. As a result, nearly one in two union members today is a woman, compared with one in six three decades ago.

The most important factor for the rise in unionization among women has been their increased presence in the heavily unionized public sector. Other factors include the movement of women into other traditionally male-dominated and often heavily unionized occupations (such as construction), the expansion of union activity into service industries (traditionally dominated by women), and the rise of unionization among female part-time workers.

The articles "Selected union statistics" and "The rise of unionization among women" are available immediately by fax or as a PDF file. These articles will appear later this year in the Winter 1998 issue of *Perspectives on labour and income* (75-001-XPE, \$18/\$58). See *How to order publications*.

For more information, contact Ernest B. Akyeampong (613-951-4624) or Marie-Paule Robert (613-951-4628), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division. ■

Production and disposition of tobacco products

July 1998

Cigarette sales declined slightly in July. Slow production left inventories down from the level usually maintained at the start of the summer.

Tobacco shipments fell 3% to 4.4 billion cigarettes in July compared with June, and were 6% lower than in July 1997. Year-to-date shipments totalled 27 billion cigarettes, a 1% increase compared with the same period a year earlier.

Production fell to 2.7 billion cigarettes in July, down 35% from June but 14% higher compared

with July 1997. There is usually a marked drop in production every July due to plant shutdowns. Year-to-date cigarette production fell 2% to 29 billion cigarettes compared with the same period a year earlier.

Inventories had remained high (over 6 billion cigarettes) for the previous three months. However, with sales well ahead of production, the closing inventory fell to 4.1 billion cigarettes in July, down 34% from June.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 46.

The July issue of *Production and disposition of tobacco products* (32-022-XPB, \$7/\$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511; zylspet@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Sawmills and planing mills

June 1998

Sawmills produced 5 749.4 thousand cubic metres of lumber and ties in June, an increase of 1.2% compared with 5 676.4 thousand cubic metres (after revisions) produced in June 1997.

Year-to-date production was 33 179.1 thousand cubic metres, down 2.3% from 33 961.4 thousand cubic

metres (after revisions) produced over the same period in 1997.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 53 and 122 (series 2).

The June issue of *Sawmills and planing mills* (35-003-XPB, \$12/\$114) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Gilles Simard (613-951-3516; simales@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction, and Energy Division. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending August 29, 1998 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending August 29, 1998, totalled 295 227 metric tonnes, down 6.0% from the week-earlier 314 099 tonnes and down 2.9% from the year-earlier 304 151 tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 10 802 289 tonnes, a 6.8% increase compared with 10 117 859 tonnes compared with 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. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Cereals and oilseeds review, June 1998
Catalogue number 22-007-XPB
(Canada: \$15/\$149; outside Canada: US\$15/US\$149).

Livestock statistics updates, July 1, 1998
Catalogue number 23-603-UPE
(Canada: \$45/\$149; outside Canada: US\$45/US\$149).

Exports by commodity, June 1998
Catalogue number 65-004-XMB
(Canada: \$37/\$361; outside Canada: US\$37/US\$361).

Exports by commodity, June 1998
Catalogue number 65-004-XPB
(Canada: \$78/\$773; outside Canada: US\$78/US\$773).

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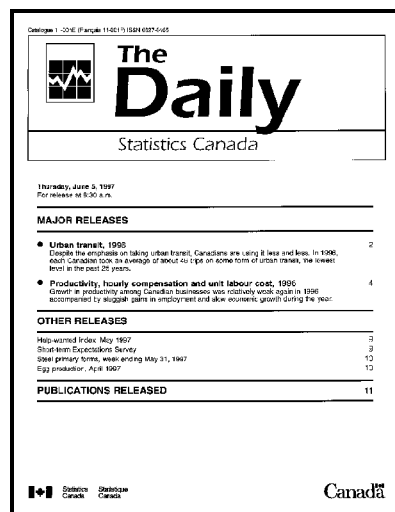
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