



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Friday, September 4, 1998**

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Labour Force Survey, August 1998**  
 Employment increased 37,000 in August and the unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage points to 8.3%, the lowest since August 1990.

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- **Building permits, July 1998**  
 Municipalities issued \$2.8 billion in building permits in July, up only 1% over June. Construction intentions for housing sagged for the third time in four months.

6

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## OTHER RELEASES

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- Railway carloadings, seven-day period ending August 21, 1998 9
- Cement, July 1998 9
- Coal and coke statistics, June 1998 9
- Revised tuition fee data for full-time undergraduate arts students, Ontario and Canada, 1998/99 9

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 10

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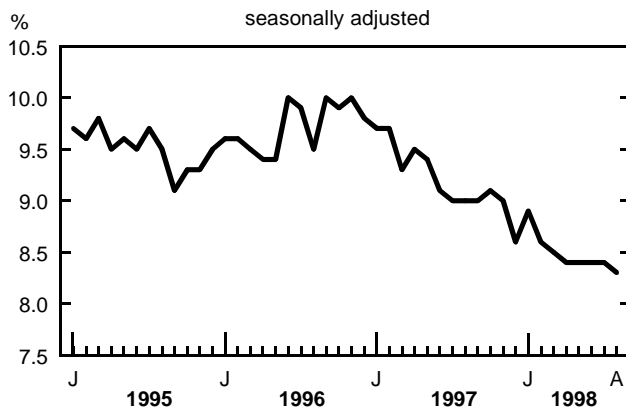
## MAJOR RELEASES

### Labour Force Survey

August 1998

Employment increased 37,000 in August, bringing gains over the last two months to 63,000 — more than offsetting the losses in May and June. So far this year, employment has grown 1.4% compared with a 2.0% gain over the same period last year. Unemployment fell slightly in August, dropping the unemployment rate by 0.1 percentage points to 8.3%, the lowest since August 1990.

Unemployment rate



### Full-time job growth

Full-time employment was up 42,000 in August, offsetting much of the loss in June. Full-time employment has grown 1.1% so far this year, slower than the 1.8% increase during the first eight months of 1997.

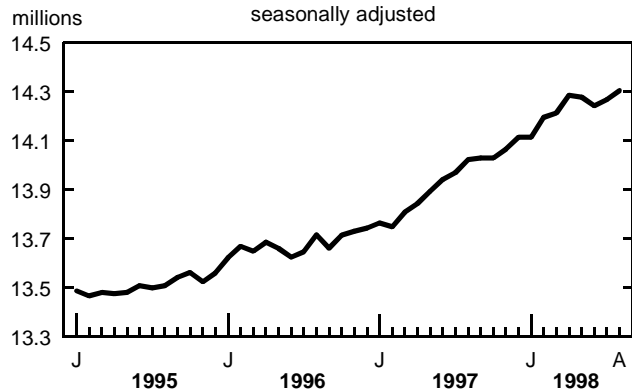
### Advances in youth employment

Youths 15 to 24 years of age accounted for most of the overall employment growth in August, jumping 22,000. There was a similar increase in youth employment (+25,000) in July, and most of the gains in July and August were full time. The number of unemployed youths fell 17,000 in August, bringing their unemployment rate down 0.8 percentage points to 14.5%.

There was little overall change in the number of employed adults. An advance in full-time employment

for adult men (+22,000) was offset by falling part-time employment among this group.

Employment



### Good summer for young students

On average between May and August, 47.1% of 15 to 24 year old students were employed, up 1.6 percentage points from the average last summer. As a result of the increase in summer jobs, the student unemployment rate this summer (16.8%) was 2.7 percentage points lower compared with the same period in 1997.

Most of the improvement in the summer job market went to young students 15 to 19 years old. Compared with last summer, the proportion of 15 to 19 year old students who were employed increased 2.1 percentage points to 40.6%, on average. Among those with jobs, the proportion working part time was little changed at 68.5%. The unemployment rate for young students fell 3.3 percentage points from last summer to 19.7%.

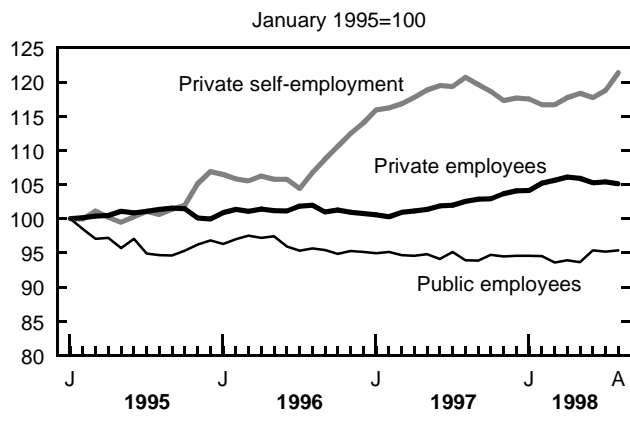
The proportion of 20 to 24 year-olds who had work slipped 0.3 percentage points to 65.0%. Of these, 39.3% had part-time jobs, almost the same percentage as in 1997 (40.5%). Slightly lower labour force participation in 1998 brought the unemployment rate for this group down 1.6 points to 11.3%.

### Gain in self-employment

In August, self-employment rose by 56,000. Following declines in the latter half of 1997 and early 1998, self-employment has jumped by 100,000 since

resuming an upward trend in April. The number of private sector employees edged down 23,000 in August while public sector employment was unchanged.

Index of employment growth by class of worker



### Employment up in retail trade, down in manufacturing

Employment rose by 20,000 in retail trade in August, the second consecutive month of growth in this industry. So far this year, retail trade employment has increased 2.5%.

Despite a return to work for those laid-off due to the General Motors strike in the United States, manufacturing employment fell by 23,000 in August because of drops in other areas of manufacturing. With losses over the last two months, employment in manufacturing was 2.3% higher than it was a year ago.

In August, agricultural employment increased 16,000, perhaps attributable to an early harvest of some crops. After strong gains at the start of the year, agricultural employment peaked in April before falling sharply in the next two months.

Construction employment increased in August (+13,000) for the second consecutive month. With improvements this summer, employment in construction is now at a four-year high.

### Employment increase in Quebec and Alberta

Employment jumped by 31,000 in Quebec in August, bringing gains over the last two months

to 49,000. Since the start of the year, employment in Quebec is up 39,000. With a 15,000 drop in unemployment, the unemployment rate in Quebec fell from 10.9% in July to 10.5% in August.

In Alberta, employment increased by 14,000, continuing the long-term upward trend in that province. Because of an increase in labour force participation in August, the unemployment rate edged up 0.1 percentage points to 5.5%.

An increase in labour force participation also caused New Brunswick's unemployment rate to rise. Despite an employment increase of 3,000, the unemployment rate jumped 0.7 percentage points to 11.9%. After rising in 1997, employment in New Brunswick has shown no clear trend this year.

There was a small decline in employment in Ontario, due mainly to a drop in manufacturing. So far this year, employment in Ontario is up 1.4% compared with a 2.6% gain over the same period in 1997. The unemployment rate in Ontario remained unchanged in August, at 7.2%.

Employment in Newfoundland fell by 7,000 in August. Employment has fallen by 12,000 in the last two months, erasing almost a year's worth of gains. Newfoundland's unemployment rate now stands at 18.9%, up 1.4 percentage points from July.

Employment also fell in Prince Edward Island (-2,000). This caused the unemployment rate in that province to increase by 1.0 percentage point to 13.4%.

There was little overall change in labour market conditions in the other provinces in August.

**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 August 15, 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 October 9, 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

	July 1998	Aug. 1998	July 1998 to Aug. 1998	July 1998	Aug. 1998	July to Aug. 1998
seasonally adjusted						
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>15,580.0</b>	<b>15,605.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>64.9</b>	<b>64.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Newfoundland	239.3	234.8	-1.9	53.8	52.8	-1.0
Prince Edward Island	71.2	70.2	-1.4	66.5	65.5	-1.0
Nova Scotia	448.7	449.9	0.3	60.1	60.3	0.2
New Brunswick	358.7	364.7	1.7	59.2	60.2	1.0
Quebec	3,716.3	3,732.1	0.4	62.3	62.5	0.2
Ontario	6,022.0	6,003.5	-0.3	66.0	65.7	-0.3
Manitoba	577.7	582.3	0.8	67.0	67.5	0.5
Saskatchewan	506.6	511.3	0.9	66.4	66.9	0.5
Alberta	1,599.6	1,616.1	1.0	71.8	72.3	0.5
British Columbia	2,040.0	2,040.1	0.0	64.7	64.7	0.0
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>14,269.6</b>	<b>14,306.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>59.5</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Newfoundland	197.4	190.4	-3.5	44.3	42.8	-1.5
Prince Edward Island	62.4	60.7	-2.7	58.3	56.7	-1.6
Nova Scotia	401.3	402.1	0.2	53.8	53.9	0.1
New Brunswick	318.4	321.2	0.9	52.6	53.0	0.4
Québec	3,310.3	3,340.8	0.9	55.4	55.9	0.5
Ontario	5,590.0	5,572.5	-0.3	61.3	61.0	-0.3
Manitoba	547.1	549.6	0.5	63.4	63.7	0.3
Saskatchewan	476.0	478.0	0.4	62.4	62.6	0.2
Alberta	1,513.2	1,527.3	0.9	67.9	68.3	0.4
British Columbia	1,853.5	1,863.8	0.6	58.8	59.1	0.3
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>1,310.5</b>	<b>1,298.7</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Newfoundland	41.9	44.4	6.0	17.5	18.9	1.4
Prince Edward Island	8.8	9.4	6.8	12.4	13.4	1.0
Nova Scotia	47.5	47.8	0.6	10.6	10.6	0.0
New Brunswick	40.3	43.5	7.9	11.2	11.9	0.7
Québec	406.1	391.4	-3.6	10.9	10.5	-0.4
Ontario	432.0	431.0	-0.2	7.2	7.2	0.0
Manitoba	30.7	32.8	6.8	5.3	5.6	0.3
Saskatchewan	30.5	33.3	9.2	6.0	6.5	0.5
Alberta	86.3	88.8	2.9	5.4	5.5	0.1
British Columbia	186.5	176.4	-5.4	9.1	8.6	-0.5

Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	Aug. 1997	Aug. 1998	Aug. 1997 to Aug. 1998	Aug. 1997	Aug. 1998	Aug. 1997 to Aug. 1998
unadjusted						
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>15,852.4</b>	<b>16,064.6</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>66.8</b>	<b>66.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Newfoundland	258.0	254.9	-1.2	57.4	57.3	-0.1
Prince Edward Island	76.9	75.9	-1.3	71.6	70.9	-0.7
Nova Scotia	465.0	471.0	1.3	62.6	63.1	0.5
New Brunswick	385.0	389.6	1.2	63.8	64.3	0.5
Quebec	3,771.2	3,837.3	1.8	63.6	64.2	0.6
Ontario	6,109.9	6,167.0	0.9	67.9	67.5	-0.4
Manitoba	584.8	594.7	1.7	67.8	68.9	1.1
Saskatchewan	523.1	528.4	1.0	68.7	69.2	0.5
Alberta	1,597.4	1,658.7	3.8	73.8	74.2	0.4
British Columbia	2,081.0	2,087.0	0.3	67.0	66.2	-0.8
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>14,458.2</b>	<b>14,766.3</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>60.9</b>	<b>61.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Newfoundland	213.7	208.8	-2.3	47.5	46.9	-0.6
Prince Edward Island	68.9	68.5	-0.6	64.2	64.0	-0.2
Nova Scotia	413.2	423.1	2.4	55.6	56.7	1.1
New Brunswick	342.8	349.0	1.8	56.8	57.6	0.8
Quebec	3,360.1	3,455.3	2.8	56.6	57.9	1.3
Ontario	5,608.1	5,727.6	2.1	62.4	62.7	0.3
Manitoba	547.7	560.5	2.3	63.5	64.9	1.4
Saskatchewan	494.4	494.5	0.0	65.0	64.7	-0.3
Alberta	1,501.6	1,562.3	4.0	69.4	69.9	0.5
British Columbia	1,907.8	1,916.9	0.5	61.4	60.8	-0.6
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>1,394.2</b>	<b>1,298.3</b>	<b>-6.9</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
Newfoundland	44.3	46.1	4.1	17.2	18.1	0.9
Prince Edward Island	8.1	7.5	-7.4	10.5	9.9	-0.6
Nova Scotia	51.8	48.0	-7.3	11.1	10.2	-0.9
New Brunswick	42.2	40.6	-3.8	11.0	10.4	-0.6
Quebec	411.1	382.0	-7.1	10.9	10.0	-0.9
Ontario	501.8	439.4	-12.4	8.2	7.1	-1.1
Manitoba	37.1	34.3	-7.5	6.3	5.8	-0.5
Saskatchewan	28.8	33.9	17.7	5.5	6.4	0.9
Alberta	95.8	96.4	0.6	6.0	5.8	-0.2
British Columbia	173.2	170.2	-1.7	8.3	8.2	-0.1

## Building permits

July 1998

Municipalities issued \$2.8 billion in building permits in July, up only 1% over June. Construction intentions for housing sagged for the third time in four months.

The value of residential permits declined 3.4% to \$1.4 billion. On the other hand, intentions in the non-residential sector rose 5.6% to \$1.4 billion. Increases in the commercial and industrial components more than offset a slowdown in institutional intentions.

The housing sector has recorded monthly declines since April, except for a slight rebound during June. Intentions for single-family dwellings, which represent about 70% of the residential sector, have been particularly hard hit this year — falling six times in seven months.

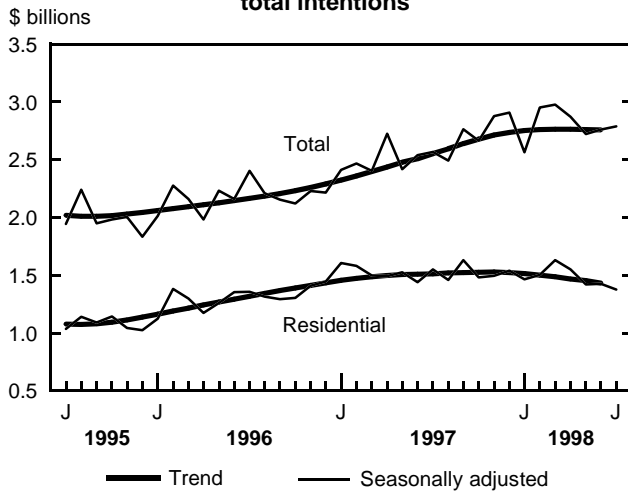
### Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

The Building and demolitions permits monthly survey covers 2,600 municipalities representing 94% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 6% of the population are very small, and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total.

The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (e.g., waterworks, sewers, culverts) and land. The annual rate is a monthly figure that has been seasonally adjusted and multiplied by 12 to reflect annual levels.

**Sagging residential sector takes its toll on total intentions**



### Housing: Both components contributed to monthly decline

Both housing components contributed to the 3.4% monthly decline in July. Permits for multi-family housing fell 10.3% to \$382 million, while the decline in the single-family sector was more moderate (-0.5% to \$995 million).

Permits for multi-family dwellings have remained extremely active since the beginning of 1998. However, the total value of housing permits between January and July is down 3.0% from the same period in 1997. The decrease in new construction intentions may be explained partly by an increasing number of unsold units of newly completed dwellings on the market. Also,

the Canadian Real Estate Association reported that sales of existing houses since the beginning of the year were at their second-highest level in 10 years.

While most market indicators remain encouraging (high consumer confidence, steady housing prices and low mortgage rates), other factors are raising concerns regarding the housing sector. Among them, are the levelling-out of employment since April 1998, a slowdown in total economic activity in the second quarter, and a decrease in personal disposable income.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation reported a 4.3% reduction in housing starts since the beginning of the year, which reflects the decline in residential construction intentions.

Although the cumulative value of residential permits for the year is down compared with the first seven months of 1997, it remains 15.9% ahead of the same period in 1996 and 33.1% ahead of the same period in 1995.

Provincially in July, the most significant increases occurred in the Northwest Territories, Newfoundland and New Brunswick, due to advances in both single- and multi-family housing intentions in all three regions. In the Northwest Territories and Newfoundland, multi-family dwellings led the way, while plans for single-family houses led in New Brunswick.

The most significant decreases occurred in British Columbia, Quebec and Saskatchewan. Both the single- and multi-family components were responsible for the decline in British Columbia and Quebec. In Saskatchewan, a decline in the value of multi-residential permits more than offset an increase in single-family intentions. However, July's drop in multi-residential intentions in Saskatchewan followed a strong increase in June.



## Value of building permits

	June 1998 <sup>r</sup>	July 1998 <sup>p</sup>	June 1998 to July 1998	July 1997 to July 1998
	Seasonally adjusted			
	\$ millions		% change	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>2,761.4</b>	<b>2,788.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>8.6</b>
Residential	1,425.8	1,377.4	-3.4	-11.1
Non-residential	1,335.6	1,410.8	5.6	38.8
Newfoundland	13.4	21.5	60.4	57.2
Residential	7.8	13.0	66.8	61.1
Non-residential	5.6	8.5	51.6	51.6
Prince Edward Island	8.9	12.1	36.1	30.8
Residential	5.0	4.4	-11.0	-17.1
Non-residential	3.9	7.7	95.3	95.6
Nova Scotia	51.9	58.9	13.6	16.9
Residential	27.5	26.6	-3.2	-24.1
Non-residential	24.4	32.3	32.5	110.3
New Brunswick	41.1	55.2	34.3	46.9
Residential	19.7	23.0	16.5	14.0
Non-residential	21.3	32.2	50.8	85.1
Quebec	459.3	499.8	8.8	22.0
Residential	224.8	211.9	-5.8	-6.2
Non-residential	234.5	287.9	22.8	56.8
Ontario	1,121.7	997.3	-11.1	-10.3
Residential	596.1	594.0	-0.4	-14.7
Non-residential	525.6	403.3	-23.3	-2.8
Manitoba	65.6	72.3	10.2	37.6
Residential	25.0	27.5	10.1	7.9
Non-residential	40.7	44.8	10.2	65.5
Saskatchewan	51.8	41.9	-19.1	-33.0
Residential	26.1	17.4	-33.5	-32.4
Non-residential	25.6	24.5	-4.4	-33.5
Alberta	512.6	551.7	7.6	79.4
Residential	245.8	246.2	0.2	26.7
Non-residential	266.8	305.4	14.5	169.9
British Columbia	416.7	455.6	9.3	-9.0
Residential	240.1	197.8	-17.6	-36.1
Non-residential	176.7	257.8	45.9	34.9
Yukon	2.2	4.7	111.3	14.1
Residential	1.8	2.2	21.6	-8.1
Non-residential	0.4	2.5	480.0	44.1
Northwest Territories	16.3	17.2	5.9	138.3
Residential	6.2	13.4	116.0	772.4
Non-residential	10.1	3.9	-61.7	-32.1

<sup>r</sup> Revised data.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary data.

**Note:** Data may not add to totals due to rounding.



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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending August 21, 1998

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending August 21, 1998, decreased 7.3% to 4.6 million tonnes compared with the same period last year. The number of cars loaded also decreased 7.2%.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totalled 323 000 tonnes, a 3.8% decrease compared with the same period last year. Year-to-date figures are down 2.8%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) decreased 7.0% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 163.0 million tonnes, down 1.6% from 1997.

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. ■

### Cement

July 1998

Manufacturers shipped 1 228 929 metric tonnes of cement in July, down 7.1% from 1 322 844 tonnes in July 1997, and down 5.6% from 1 302 376 tonnes in June 1998.

Year-to-date shipments totalled 6 281 818 tonnes, up 2.6% from 6 121 114 tonnes during the same period in 1997.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 92 and 122 (series 35).**

The July 1998 issue of *Cement* (44-001-XPB, \$7/\$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Randall Sheldrick (613-951-7199; [shelran@statcan.ca](mailto:shelran@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### Coal and coke statistics

June 1998

Coal production totalled 6 171 kilotonnes, up 0.2% from June 1997. Year-to-date production stood at 38 204 kilotonnes, up 1.0% from the same period in 1997.

Exports were down (-15.5% to 2 779 kilotonnes) compared with June 1997. Coal was delivered to Australia for the first time since 1989 in June. Exports to Japan (the largest consumer of Canadian coal) increased 2.2% to 1 667 kilotonnes during the same period. Year-to-date figures show total exports of 17 217 kilotonnes, 2.6% below last year's level.

Imports of coal rose 42.4% to 5 316 kilotonnes during the second quarter of 1998. Higher-than-anticipated demand for coal for electric power generation in Ontario (due to the temporary loss of part of its nuclear capacity) was the main reason for this high increase.

Coke production decreased to 250 kilotonnes in June, down 8.8% from June 1997.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 9.**

The June 1998 issue of *Coal and coke statistics* (45-002-XPB, \$12/\$114) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact André Lefebvre (613-951-3560; [alefeba@statcan.ca](mailto:alefeba@statcan.ca)) Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### Revised tuition fee data for full-time undergraduate arts students, Ontario and Canada

1998/99

The increase in Ontario tuition fees, originally published in the August 25th *Daily*, has been revised. Based on data from the annual Survey of Tuition and Living Accommodation Costs at Canadian Universities, the average undergraduate arts tuition fee in Ontario in 1998/99 increased 9.2% from the year before to \$3,564. The revised increase for Canada is 6.9%, to \$3,197.

For further information on this release, contact Mongi Mouelhi (613-951-1537), Centre for Education Statistics. ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Infomat — A weekly review**, September 4, 1998  
**Catalogue number 11-002-XIE**  
(Canada: \$3/\$109; outside Canada: US\$3/US\$109).

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

**Coal and coke statistics**, June 1998  
**Catalogue number 45-002-XPB**  
(Canada: \$12/\$114; outside Canada: US\$12/US\$114).

**Labour force information**, week ending August 15, 1998  
**Catalogue number 71-001-PPB**  
(Canada: \$11/\$103; outside Canada: US\$11/US\$103).

**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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**The Daily**  
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997  
For release at 9:30 a.m.

**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, 44.8% of Canadians took an average of about 20 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4  
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- **Manufactured Index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 21, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, April 1997** 12

**PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11**

### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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