



The Daily

Statistics Canada

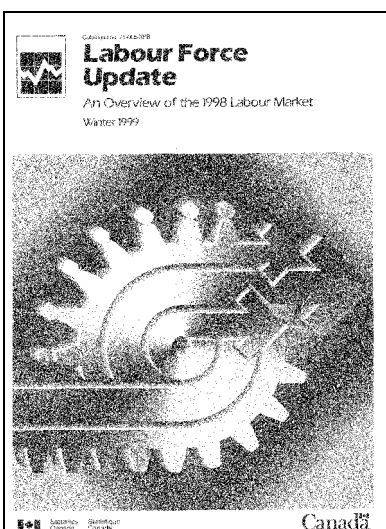
Wednesday, January 27, 1999

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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- **Labour force update: An overview of the labour market, 1998** 3
The year 1998 was the best so far this decade for employment growth, as the number of working Canadians increased more than 449,000 (+3.2%), according to a review of the 1998 labour market released today. After years of decline, jobs for youths 15 to 24 years old revived in 1998, jumping 7% and accounting for almost one-third of the overall growth.

(continued on following page)



Labour force update: An overview of the labour market Winter 1999

This issue of *Labour force update* provides an overview of the 1998 labour market. Each quarter, *Labour force update* features the latest information and relevant trends relating to a particular labour market issue. Informative commentary, charts and analytical tables provide concise and up-to-date information and is a useful starting point for further research.

The Winter 1999 issue of *Labour force update* (71-005-XPB, \$29/\$96) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, contact Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325), Labour Force Survey.



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MAJOR RELEASES

Labour force update: An overview of the labour market

1998

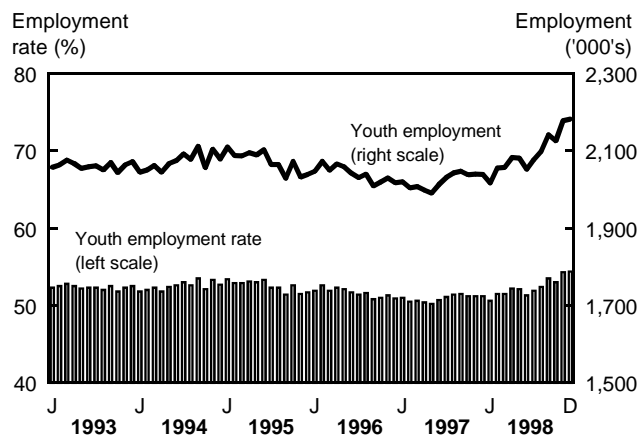
The year 1998 was the best so far this decade for employment growth, as the number of working Canadians increased more than 449,000 (+3.2%) from 1997, according to a review of the 1998 labour market released today. After years of decline, jobs for youths 15 to 24 years old revived in 1998, jumping 7% compared with 1997, and accounting for almost one-third of the overall growth.

Both teenagers and youths in their twenties shared in the job growth. At the start of the year, 64.9% of 20 to 24 year olds had a job, increasing to 68.4% by the end of the year. Meanwhile, the employment rate among teenagers, who are less active in the labour market because many are attending school, increased from 37.5% to 40.4%.

As youths found jobs at a faster pace than adults, they narrowed the youth-adult unemployment rate gap. The youth unemployment rate ended the year declining 1.4% to 14.4%. By comparison, the unemployment rate for adults fell less, dropping 0.4% to 6.8%.

Also leading the way in 1998 were 'core-age' women 25 to 54 years old. Their working ranks increased by 3.1%, continuing a long-term upward trend.

Youth employment revived in 1998



Growth faster among part-time work

Because a relatively large percentage of youths and core-age women work part time, last year's 5.3%

Note to readers

This release is based on a comprehensive report on the 1998 labour market in the Winter 1999 edition of Labour force update, available today.

Major developments in the 1998 labour market were reported in the Labour Force Survey release in The Daily of January 8, 1999. Labour force update offers a more extensive analysis, with tables and charts that incorporate data for the 10-year period, 1989-1998.

increase in part-time jobs outpaced that of full-time jobs (+2.7%).

Even though the percentage growth was faster among part-time workers, there were 311,000 more people working full time by the end of 1998, more than two-thirds of the overall increase in employment in Canada. This was somewhat less than the 398,000 full-time jobs gained in 1997, a year characterized by job growth among core-age men.

In December 1998, just over 11.8 million people were working full time in Canada, up 8.0% from the start of the decade. In contrast, the number of part-timers increased 24.4% over the decade to just over 2.7 million.

While a large proportion of young people and adult women work part time compared with adult men, most are doing so voluntarily. About 23% of youths working part time would have preferred to work full time, while another 68% were working part time because they were going to school.

About 30% of adult women working part time were doing so involuntarily in 1998, with an additional 20% working part time to allow them the time to take care of children. On the other hand, 44% of adult men working part time wanted full-time work.

Older workers more active in the labour market

Following almost two decades of steady decline, the rate of labour market participation for people aged 55 and over increased during 1998. The participation rate for older women continued its upward trend whereas that for older men rose for only the second time in 20 years.

Employment among this age group has increased for the past four years. There were just under 1.5 million older workers last year, up 73,000 (+5.2%) from December 1997. This increase was faster than population growth among this group. Two-thirds of these new jobs went to older women.

Substantial growth in self-employment since 1989

There were significant developments in other areas in 1998. For example, although growth in self-employment was flat at the outset of 1998, it picked up through the year. By December, just under 2.6 million people were self-employed in Canada, up 4.8% from December 1997.

So far this decade, the number of self-employed people has increased 42.5%, seven times the rate of increase in the number of employees. Self-employed individuals accounted for 18% of total employment in 1998 compared with 14% in 1989. Growth was especially strong in late 1996 and early 1997.

Even though growth in self-employment was stronger in percentage terms in 1998, the hiring of employees in the private sector accounted for the majority of the increase in employment last year. In 1998, private sector employers added 296,000 more employees, a 3.1% increase. This follows a similar gain in 1997 when employers in the private sector hired an additional 308,000 workers, a 3.3% increase.

In addition, in 1998, the number of workers in the public sector increased for the first time in four years. The public sector added 35,000 workers (+1.7%), largely due to new employment in health and social services, and educational services. The number of public servants, however, continued to decline.

Service-producing industries account for most new employment

The fastest growing industry in 1998 was businesses services, where employment rose 125,000, or 12.0%. As demand for computer, engineering and other business services continued to grow, so to did employment in this industry. Much of the increase in self-employment is due to growth in business services, where about one-third of workers have their own business.

The largest decline occurred in primary industries, which were hit hard by a drop in commodity prices. With large declines between July and September, employment in manufacturing ended the year close to where it began.

The majority of new employment during the past 10 years has been in service-producing industries. From 1989 to 1998, just over 1.4 million new jobs were created in service-producing industries, a 15.2% increase. This compares with just 11,000 new jobs in goods-producing industries, an increase of only 0.3% during the 1989-1998 period.

Labour force update: An overview of the 1998 labour market (71-005-XPB, \$29/\$96) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325; bowlgeo@statcan.ca), Labour Force Survey. □

**Labour force characteristics, aged 15 and over
1998**

	Dec. 1989	Dec. 1997	Dec. 1998	Dec. 1989 to Dec. 1998	Dec. 1997 to Dec. 1998
seasonally adjusted					
	'000			% change	
Population	21,104.8	23,830.4	24,125.1	14.3	1.2
Youths 15-24	3,973.0	3,981.8	4,013.0	1	0.8
Men 25-54	5,976.5	6,870.7	6,928.3	15.9	0.8
Women 25-54	5,950.1	6,868.6	6,928.6	16.4	0.9
People 55 and older	5,205.3	6,109.3	6,255.2	20.2	2.4
Employment	13,148.5	14,114.8	14,564.2	10.8	3.2
Youths 15-24	2,457.9	2,039.2	2,181.7	-11.2	7
Men 25-54	5,209.1	5,811.3	5,893.7	13.1	1.4
Women 25-54	4,171.8	4,875.3	5,026.9	20.5	3.1
People 55 and older	1,309.7	1,389.1	1,461.9	11.6	5.2
Unemployment	1,093.9	1,321.3	1,272.8	16.4	-3.7
Youths 15-24	323.5	382	367.7	13.7	-3.7
Men 25-54	365.3	458.5	447.2	22.4	-2.5
Women 25-54	333.3	391.2	358.1	7.4	-8.5
People 55 and older	71.8	89.7	99.7	38.9	11.1

**Unemployment, employment and participation rates, aged 15 and over
1998**

	Dec. 1989	Dec. 1997	Dec. 1998	Dec. 1989 to Dec. 1998	Dec. 1997 to Dec. 1998
seasonally adjusted					
				% point change	
Unemployment rate	7.7	8.6	8.0	0.3	-0.6
Youths 15-24	11.6	15.8	14.4	2.8	-1.4
Men 25-54	6.6	7.3	7.1	0.5	-0.2
Women 25-54	7.4	7.4	6.6	-0.8	-0.8
People 55 and older	5.2	6.1	6.4	1.2	0.3
Participation rate	67.5	64.8	65.6	-1.9	0.8
Youths 15-24	70.0	60.8	63.5	-6.5	2.7
Men 25-54	93.3	91.3	91.5	-1.8	0.2
Women 25-54	75.7	76.7	77.7	2.0	1.0
People 55 and older	26.5	24.2	25.0	-1.5	0.8
Employment rate	62.3	59.2	60.4	-1.9	1.2
Youths 15-24	61.9	51.2	54.4	-7.5	3.2
Men 25-54	87.2	84.6	85.1	-2.1	0.5
Women 25-54	70.1	71.0	72.6	2.5	1.6
People 55 and older	25.2	22.7	23.4	-1.8	0.7

Employment by industry
1998

	Dec. 1989	Dec. 1997	Dec. 1998	Dec. 1989 to Dec. 1998	Dec. 1997 to Dec. 1998
seasonally adjusted					
	'000			% change	
All industries, employed	13,148.5	14,114.8	14,564.2	10.8	3.2
Goods-producing	3,893.2	3,829.2	3,904.4	0.3	2.0
Primary industries	722.9	707.5	702.9	-2.8	-0.7
Agriculture	426.7	414.8	442.5	3.7	6.7
Other Primary	296.2	292.7	260.4	-12.1	-11.0
Fishing and trapping	33.2	32.5	30.1	-9.3	-7.4
Logging and forestry	76.7	79.0	74.0	-3.5	-6.3
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	186.2	181.2	156.3	-16.1	-13.7
Utilities	137.1	142.5	136.5	-0.4	-4.2
Manufacturing	2,196.6	2,230.6	2,246.0	2.2	0.7
Non-durables	1,103.8	1,073.3	1,101.4	-0.2	2.6
Durables	1,092.8	1,157.3	1,144.6	4.7	-1.1
Construction	836.6	748.5	819.0	-2.1	9.4
Service-producing	9,255.3	10,285.6	10,659.8	15.2	3.6
Transportation, storage, communications	868.0	922.7	953.3	9.8	3.3
Trade	2,312.9	2,392.3	2,472.2	6.9	3.3
Wholesale trade	628.6	667.0	691.3	10.0	3.6
Retail trade	1,684.3	1,725.2	1,780.9	5.7	3.2
Finance, insurance and real estate	780.0	806.5	822.9	5.5	2.0
Community, business and personal services	4,440.0	5,382.3	5,638.7	27.0	4.8
Community services	2,129.0	2,417.2	2,480.0	16.5	2.6
Educational services	860.9	967.4	965.7	12.2	-0.2
Health and Social services	1,268.1	1,449.8	1,514.3	19.4	4.4
Business and personal services	2311.0	2965.1	3,158.6	36.7	6.5
Public administration	854.4	781.8	772.7	-9.6	-1.2

Employment and unemployment by province 1998

	Dec. 1989	Dec. 1997	Dec. 1998	Dec. 1989 to Dec. 1998	Dec. 1997 to Dec. 1998
seasonally adjusted					
	'000			% change	
Employed:					
Canada	13,148.5	14,114.8	14,564.2	10.8	3.2
Newfoundland	203.6	196.3	199.4	-2.1	1.6
Prince Edward Island	53.9	60.8	60.2	11.7	-1.0
Nova Scotia	382.2	397.5	401.8	5.1	1.1
New Brunswick	298.4	323.1	336.2	12.7	4.1
Quebec	3,163.2	3,302.2	3,398.4	7.4	2.9
Ontario	5,270.4	5,493.9	5,707.0	8.3	3.9
Manitoba	509.0	542.6	553.5	8.7	2.0
Saskatchewan	452.5	479.3	480.9	6.3	0.3
Alberta	1,270.2	1,481.8	1,532.4	20.6	3.4
British Columbia	1,545.2	1,837.2	1,894.5	22.6	3.1
Unemployed:					
Canada	1,093.8	1,321.3	1,272.8	16.4	-3.7
Newfoundland	42.3	41.8	45.9	8.5	9.8
Prince Edward Island	10.0	10.1	10.9	9.0	7.9
Nova Scotia	45.5	52.2	47.6	4.6	-8.8
New Brunswick	45.3	45.9	44.3	-2.2	-3.5
Quebec	328.4	383.4	373.0	13.6	-2.7
Ontario	308.5	465.6	423.0	37.1	-9.1
Manitoba	42.1	34.9	34.7	-17.6	-0.6
Saskatchewan	34.2	25.7	32.1	-6.1	24.9
Alberta	93.4	88.2	93.2	-0.2	5.7
British Columbia	144.2	173.4	168.2	16.6	-3.0

■

OTHER RELEASES

Sawmills and planing mills

November 1998

Sawmills in Canada produced 5 606.2 thousand cubic metres of lumber and ties in November 1998, a 7.7% increase from 5 201.5 thousand cubic metres (after revisions) produced in November 1997.

January to November 1998 production was 60 241.5 thousand cubic metres, down 1.3% from 61 065.0 thousand cubic metres (after revisions) for the same period in 1997.

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

The November 1998 issue of *Sawmills and planing mills* (35-003-XPB, \$12/\$114) will be available later. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the methods, concepts, and data quality of this release, contact Gilles Simard (613-951-3516; simales@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction, and Energy Division. ■

Electric power generating stations

1997

Information on electric power generating stations in operation in 1997 is now available. The stations are classified by type, owner, fuel or water source, and province and territory.

The 1997 issue of *Electric power generating stations* (57-206-XPB, \$30) will be available later. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the methods, concepts, and data quality of this release, contact André Lefebvre (613-951-3560; alefeba@statcan.ca), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction, and Energy Division. ■

Information about the National Population Health Survey

Information about the National Population Health Survey, a document that gives information concerning

the National Population Health Survey (NPHS), is now available. It includes the NPHS 1996-97 Household Component Questionnaire, a comparison table between the survey cycles, general information, a list of products and services from the NPHS, as well as the release from The Daily of May 29, 1998 on the NPHS: Cycle 2.

The questionnaire includes content related to health status, use of health services, determinants of health and a range of demographic and economic information.

Information about the National Population Health Survey (82F0068XIE) is now available free on the Internet at www.statcan.ca, under *Products and services, Downloadable publications (free)*.

For information about the NPHS data content, contact Bryan Lafrance (613-951-3285; fax: 613-951-4198; lafrance@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division. To request custom tabulations of the data, contact the Client Custom Services Unit (613-951-1746). ■

Release of data on steel imports into the United States

In 1990, Canada and the United States implemented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) whereby each country agreed to exchange import data to replace their respective export data. As part of the MOU, monthly international merchandise trade statistics are released simultaneously by Canada and the United States on a series of predetermined dates. This practice will continue.

However, beginning on January 28, 1999 for a period of one year, the U.S. Department of Commerce will also be publishing preliminary monthly data on steel imports into the United States from all countries. This preliminary release will be available three weeks prior to the official release of the trade statistics by Canada and the United States. The data will be available on the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site at www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/.

For questions concerning the release dates, contact Jacqueline Leblanc (613-951-0602), International Trade Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Refined petroleum products, October 1998
Catalogue number 45-004-XPB
(Canada: \$21/\$206; outside Canada: US\$21/US\$206).

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

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

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
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Thursday, June 3, 1997	
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MAJOR RELEASES	
• Urban transit, 1995 Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.	2
• Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995 Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1995 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow modest growth during the year.	4
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