



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, January 28, 1999

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Industrial Product Price Index, 1998 Annual and December 1998**
 Industrial product prices in 1998 edged down 0.1% from their 1997 level. The effect of the exchange rate on prices quoted in U.S. dollars prevented a much larger decline in the prices received by Canadian manufacturers.

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- **Raw Materials Price Index, 1998 Annual and December 1998**
 In 1998, manufacturers paid 14.6% less for raw materials than in 1997, the biggest drop in twelve years. The Asian crisis was probably the major reason for this fall in prices. Crude oil, wood, non-ferrous metals, and animals and animal products were the major contributors to this decline.

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Postal code conversion file

September 1998

The September 1998 *Postal code conversion file* (PCCF) is now available. This digital file links the six-character postal code with the standard 1996 Census geographic areas (such as enumeration areas, census tracts, and census subdivisions). It also locates each postal code by longitude and latitude coordinates to support mapping applications.

The September 1998 version of the *Postal codes by federal riding (1996 representation order) file* is also available. This product, a subset of the PCCF, provides a link between the six-character postal code and Canada's Federal Electoral Districts (commonly known as federal ridings). By using the postal code as a link, data from administrative files may be organised and/or tabulated by federal riding.

The *Postal code conversion file* (92F0027XDB) and the *Postal codes by federal riding file* (92F0028XDB) are available in ASCII format on diskette or CD-ROM.

For further information, or to order these files, contact the Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre nearest you.



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MAJOR RELEASES

Industrial Product Price Index

1998 Annual and December 1998 (preliminary)

Industrial product prices in 1998 edged down 0.1% from their 1997 level. The effect of the exchange rate on prices quoted in U.S. dollars prevented a much larger decline in the prices received by Canadian manufacturers.

In December 1998, the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) fell 0.7%. It dropped to 119.4 from 120.2 (revised) in November (1992=100). The 12-month price change dropped to -0.3% in December.

In 1998, the most significant annual price declines were in the refined petroleum and coal products, the primary metal products, and the wood industries. Annual price increases were led by the transportation equipment, and the paper and allied product industries.

Exchange rate effect supports industrial product price level in 1998

The price of the U.S. dollar rose to an average of C\$1.48 in 1998 from an average of C\$1.38 in 1997. This increased the annual change in Canadian industrial prices from -2.1% (excluding the exchange rate effect) to -0.1%. An increase in the value of the U.S. dollar raises the worth in Canadian dollars of all prices quoted in U.S. dollars. The impact of changes in the exchange rate is most significant for motor vehicles, pulp, paper and wood products because producers of these products frequently quote export prices for these items in U.S. dollars.

During 1998, the value of the U.S. dollar gradually rose from a low of C\$1.44 in January to C\$1.55 in November, declining marginally to \$1.54 in December. The monthly fluctuations in this process frequently had a noticeable impact on the month-to-month changes in industrial product price levels.

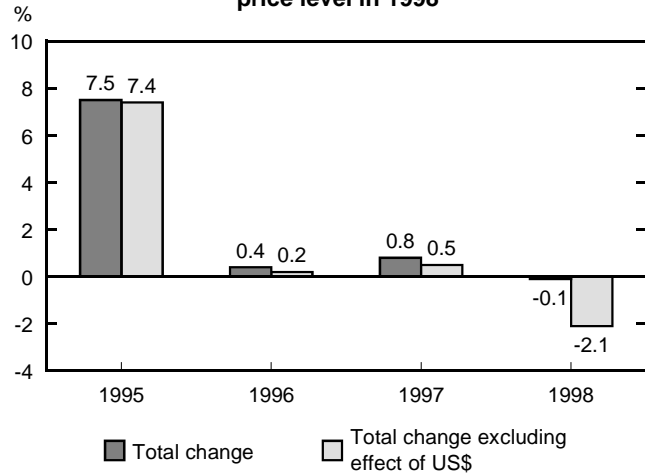
Note to readers

The Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) reflects the prices that producers receive as the goods leave the plant gate. It does not reflect what the consumer pays. Unlike the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the IPPI excludes indirect taxes and all the costs that occur between the time when a good leaves the plant and the time when the final user takes possession of it, including the transportation, wholesale, and retail costs.

Canadian producers export many goods. They often quote their prices in foreign currencies, particularly for motor vehicles, pulp, paper, and wood products. A rise or fall in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar therefore affects the IPPI. A 1.0% change in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar has been estimated to change the IPPI by approximately 0.3%.

Annual indexes are obtained by averaging the indexes for the 12 months of the calendar year. The percentage changes calculated from such averages are referred to as annual changes.

Exchange rate effect supports industrial product price level in 1998



Industrial prices stable in 1998 as shipment increase slows

Manufacturing prices have been relatively stable since the end of 1995. In December 1998, the overall price level in manufacturing was 0.3% lower than in December 1997 and about 0.3% higher than in December 1996 and December 1995.

In 1998, seasonally adjusted manufacturing shipments were up 2.4% during the first 11 months compared with a year earlier, or about 2.1% in 1992 dollars. This followed a 6.9% increase in 1997

compared with 1996 (6.1% in 1992 dollars). In 1998, the most significant contributors to the increase in shipments were the transport equipment industries, and the electrical and electronic products industries.

1998 annual percent change in manufacturing industry prices

	Weights ¹	1997	1998
	%	% change	
Transportation equipment industries	18.6	2.5	7.2
Paper and allied product industries	7.5	-5.5	3.6
Printing, publishing and allied industries	3.2	0.5	3.5
Tobacco products industries	0.7	7.0	3.2
Machinery industries	3.0	2.4	2.5
Beverage industries	2.1	2.5	2.4
Fabricated metal product (excluding machinery) industries	4.8	1.1	2.3
Leather and allied products industries	0.3	2.7	2.0
Other manufacturing industries	1.6	0.5	1.7
Clothing industries	1.9	0.9	1.5
Non-metallic mineral products industries	2.1	0.6	1.3
Furniture and fixture industries	1.3	0.7	1.1
Rubber products industries	1.0	0.6	0.8
Textile product industries	0.9	0.7	0.7
Primary textiles industries	0.9	0.7	0.5
Electrical and electronic product industries	7.1	-1.1	0.5
All manufacturing industries	100.0	0.8	-0.1
Plastic products industries	2.1	0.3	-0.7
Food industries	14.0	2.0	-1.9
Chemicals and chemical products industries	7.7	0.5	-3.0
Primary metal industries	7.6	2.1	-5.0
Wood industries	5.3	0.9	-5.4
Refined petroleum and coal products industries	5.8	0.1	-17.4

¹ Weights may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Dramatic drop in prices for refined petroleum products in 1998

Prices for the refined petroleum and coal product industry dropped 17.4% in 1998 compared with 1997. Most of this was due to refined petroleum product producers who account for almost all the output of this sector. Prices continued their decline throughout 1998, after peaking in January 1997. In December 1998, prices in the refined petroleum products industries had fallen 30.9% below their January 1997 peak.

The decline in refined petroleum product prices reflects the decline in crude oil prices, which peaked in December 1996 and had fallen 51.9% by December 1998. World producers have not fully adjusted to the drop in demand that has been primarily related to the economic crisis that began in Southeast Asia.

In December, retail prices for gasoline, as reflected by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), stood 13.3% lower than in January 1997. Prices for fuel oil stood 18.9% lower.

Volume up for non-ferrous primary product exports and shipments as prices decline

Prices evolved differently for non-ferrous and ferrous primary metal products in 1998. Prices were generally down in the non-ferrous group but up in the ferrous metal group. Reflecting this, prices in the non-ferrous smelting and refining industry were down 12.1% while prices in the primary steel industries were up 1.0%. The effect of the exchange rate was generally more important for the non-ferrous sector.

Primary metal shipments for the first 11 months of 1998 were down about 1.6% compared with the same period in 1997. Ferrous shipments fell about 3.3% while non-ferrous shipments rose about 0.4%. In 1992 dollars, however, the decline in ferrous shipments (-4.8%) was more than offset by the increase in non-ferrous shipments (+10.3%). Average capacity utilization in primary metal product industries remained close to 90% in 1998.

Exports of primary metal products, seasonally adjusted on a balance-of-payments basis in volume terms, were up for both ferrous and non-ferrous primary metal products during the first 11 months of 1998. Compared with the same period in 1997, noteworthy increases were observed for copper and copper alloy products (+13.4%), miscellaneous iron and steel products (+9.3%), aluminum and aluminum alloy products (+8.8%), nickel and nickel alloy products (+5.6%) and primary iron and steel products (+4.8%). The only decline was in exports of precious metals and alloys (-0.4%).

Prices down for wood products

Wood industry prices saw an annual drop of 5.4%, led by a decline for prices of sawmills, planing and shingle mills (-9.5%). The exchange rate effect helped support overall prices in the sector. Prices were down 10.0% for domestic softwood lumber and 12.7% for exported softwood lumber. The steepest overall decline in annual softwood lumber prices was in the interior of British Columbia.

In current dollars, wood industry shipments were down 1.6% during the first 11 months of 1998. Sawmill, planing and shingle mill shipments, which make up about two-thirds of the total, declined 6.8%. In contrast, in 1992 dollars, wood industry shipments rose 4.1% and

sawmill, planing and shingle mill shipments were up 3.1%.

Exports by volume dropped 6.8% during the first eleven months of the year (seasonally adjusted). In current dollars, for the first 11 months of 1998, exports to the United States were about \$8.8 billion, (-3.4%) compared with the same period in 1997, while those to Japan were about \$1.2 billion (-44.4%).

Annual prices rise for the transport equipment and paper and allied product industries

For the transport equipment industries, the effect of a weakening Canadian dollar on prices quoted in U.S. dollars was significant. If this effect were removed, the price level increase for the sector as a whole would have been 1.6% rather than 7.2%.

Within this group of industries, the effect of the dollar was particularly strong for the motor vehicle industries, and the aircraft and aircraft parts industries. Excluding the exchange rate effect, the increases would have been 2.5% rather than 9.2% in the motor vehicle industries and 1.3% rather than 8.6% in the aircraft and aircraft parts industries.

For the automotive industries, 1998 did not match the strong results of 1997. Shipments of the motor vehicle industry were up 4.1% in the first 11 months of 1998 compared with the same period in 1997. Shipments of motor vehicle parts and accessories rose 6.0%. In 1992 dollars, however, motor vehicle shipments declined 4.6% while shipments of parts and accessories were up 3.0%. At the retail level, as measured by the CPI, prices for automotive vehicles increased 0.8%.

For the aircraft and aircraft parts industry, 1998 was a very good year. Shipments during the first 11 months of 1998 were up 20.9% compared with the same period in 1997 (+11.6% in 1992 dollars).

Prices in the paper and allied product industries increased 3.6% in 1998. Excluding the effect of the exchange rate, the advance would have been less (+0.8%). The most significant increase in the sector was in the newsprint industry (+8.9%), with a 1.3% decline in the pulp industry partly offsetting the overall gain for the sector.

In the first 11 months of 1998, production by the paper and allied product industries was up 3.6% in current dollars over the same period in 1997. Among this sector's components, pulp production was down 3.3% while newsprint production rose 4.9%. In 1992 dollars, however, production declined 0.5% overall, with pulp production down 2.8% and newsprint production down 3.9%. For the first three quarters of 1998, capacity utilization edged down to an average of 89.7%.

In the case of pulp and newsprint, the volume of exports fell more than shipments. Exports of pulp, seasonally adjusted on a balance-of-payments basis in volume terms, declined 12.6% in the first 11 months of 1998 compared with the same period in 1997. Exports of newsprint fell 7.1%, while exports of other paper and paperboard were up 5.2%.

December 1998: Dollar boosted industrial product prices

In December, excluding the effect of changes in the exchange rate, the month-to-month change in prices would have been -0.5% instead of -0.7%. The 12-month change would have been -2.5% instead of -0.3%.

The petroleum product industry accounted for the most significant price decline in December. Other important declines were for primary metal products, transport equipment, and paper and paper products. There were no significant price increases.

In the petroleum product industry, prices were down 5.7% to stand 20.4% lower than in December 1997. Gasoline and fuel oil prices fell 6.2%, 20.8% lower than a year earlier.

Price declines from November for primary metal products included those for nickel products (-7.7%), copper and copper alloy products (-5.7%), aluminum products (-3.0%), and iron and steel products (-0.2%). Compared with December 1997, price declines included those for nickel products (-30.2%), copper and copper alloy products (-7.0%), aluminum products (-12.0%), and iron and steel products (-0.2%).

The most significant price decline in the transport equipment group was for motor vehicles. Both sale incentives and the lower value of the U.S. dollar contributed. Domestic prices for automobiles were down 2.0% as incentive programs were improved in an effort to increase sales. Domestic truck prices were unchanged. Export prices were down 0.7% for automobiles and 0.6% for trucks.

Amongst paper and paper products, prices were down 0.7% for pulp and 1.3% for newsprint. Compared with December 1997, pulp prices were 11.4% lower, while newsprint prices increased 7.9%.

1998 Overview

In 1998, the annual price change in the Canadian manufacturing sector, as reflected by the IPPI, was virtually zero. In the United States, the annual price change in manufacturing fell 1.1%. At the consumer level, prices for goods in Canada were little changed, up 0.2% as reflected by the CPI. Prices for all-items were

up 0.9% as prices for services had outpaced prices for goods.

Annual capital expenditure in Canada went up in 1998, based on planned expenditure, but the rise was less than in 1997. There were also increases in annual retail sales and exports, but they were below 1997 levels. In our major export markets, industrial production, based on available information, was up somewhat in the United States and Europe, but down in Japan.

In Canada, manufacturing shipments in 1998 were up somewhat in both current and 1992 dollars, but by much less than in 1997. New orders did not quite keep pace with shipments. Unfilled orders increased much more sharply. Much of the increase in unfilled orders, however, occurred in the aviation industry where orders are often stretched out over years and where a sizable component may be manufactured abroad.

Employment in manufacturing was again up noticeably. Average hourly earnings, excluding overtime, were up after being flat in 1997.

Comparative economic conditions

	1995	1996	1997	1998
	% change			
Canadian Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI)	7.4	0.4	0.8	-0.1
United States Manufacturing Industry Price Index	2.9	2.3	0.3	-1.1
Canadian Consumer Price Index (CPI) (All items) ¹	2.2	1.6	1.6	0.9
(Goods) ¹	1.9	1.6	1.5	0.2
Manufacturing shipments (in current dollar terms)	12.5	2.4	6.9	2.1 ²
(in 1992 dollars) ³	4.8	2.0	6.1	2.2 ²
Manufacturing, new orders	10.6	2.6	8.9	1.9 ²
Manufacturing, average hourly earnings (excluding overtime)	2.1	3.2	0.0	2.7 ⁴
Manufacturing, average employment	5.7	1.0	4.0	4.0
Retail sales	2.9	3.1	7.6	4.6 ²
Exports	16.0	5.6	7.7	6.9 ²
Public and private capital expenditure	-1.8	7.8	13.0	7.7 ⁵

¹ Official CPI annual changes

² Based on 11 months, seasonally adjusted

³ Deflated by the IPPI

⁴ Based on 10 months

⁵ Planned

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1870-1878.

The December 1998 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011-XPB, \$22/\$217) will be available at the end of February. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, or to enquire about the methods, concepts, and data quality of this release, contact the Client Services Unit, (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division. □

Industrial product price indexes
(1992 = 100)

	Relative importance	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1998 ^r	Dec. 1998 ^p	Dec. 1997 to Dec. 1998	Nov. to Dec. 1998
		% change				
Industrial product price index (IPPI)	100.00	119.7	120.2	119.4	-0.3	-0.7
Intermediate goods¹	59.28	121.2	119.2	118.2	-2.5	-0.8
First-stage intermediate goods ²	7.91	127.1	115.7	114.2	-10.1	-1.3
Second-stage intermediate goods ³	51.37	120.2	119.7	118.9	-1.1	-0.7
Finished goods⁴	40.72	117.5	121.8	121.1	3.1	-0.6
Finished foods and feeds	10.38	111.6	113.0	112.7	1.0	-0.3
Capital equipment	10.21	120.4	127.1	126.7	5.2	-0.3
All other finished goods	20.13	119.1	123.6	122.5	2.9	-0.9
Aggregation by commodities						
Meat, fish and dairy products	7.27	116.8	116.3	115.3	-1.3	-0.9
Fruit, vegetable, feed, miscellaneous food products	6.72	114.6	112.2	112.3	-2.0	0.1
Beverages	2.12	111.9	114.6	114.6	2.4	0.0
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.72	129.3	131.3	131.3	1.5	0.0
Rubber, leather, plastic fabric products	3.01	113.3	113.6	113.3	0.0	-0.3
Textile products	1.82	110.3	110.2	109.9	-0.4	-0.3
Knitted products and clothing	1.93	108.3	110.0	110.0	1.6	0.0
Lumber, sawmill, other wood products	5.20	135.7	135.4	135.6	-0.1	0.1
Furniture and fixtures	1.46	114.2	114.9	114.9	0.6	0.0
Pulp and paper products	7.65	130.7	129.4	128.2	-1.9	-0.9
Printing and publishing	3.05	128.2	132.7	132.5	3.4	-0.2
Primary metal products	7.58	124.9	119.4	117.2	-6.2	-1.8
Metal fabricated products	4.11	120.7	123.5	123.1	2.0	-0.3
Machinery and equipment	4.08	111.9	114.7	114.7	2.5	0.0
Autos, trucks, other transportation equipment	18.76	125.4	135.7	135.0	7.7	-0.5
Electrical and communications products	6.03	106.0	108.1	107.8	1.7	-0.3
Non-metallic mineral products	2.12	111.8	112.9	113.0	1.1	0.1
Petroleum and coal products ⁵	6.01	110.8	93.7	88.6	-20.0	-5.4
Chemicals and chemical products	7.60	116.9	113.2	113.1	-3.3	-0.1
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.45	114.8	118.5	118.1	2.9	-0.3
Miscellaneous non-manufactured commodities	0.31	125.6	113.5	109.4	-12.9	-3.6

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Intermediate goods are goods used principally to produce other goods.

² First-stage intermediate goods are items used most frequently to produce other intermediate goods.

³ Second-stage intermediate goods are items most commonly used to produce final goods.

⁴ Finished goods are goods most commonly used for immediate consumption or for capital investment.

⁵ This index is estimated for the current month.



Raw Materials Price Index

1998 Annual and December 1998 (preliminary)

In 1998, manufacturers paid 14.6% less for raw materials than in 1997, the biggest decline in twelve years. The Asian crisis was probably the major reason for this fall in prices. Crude oil, wood, non-ferrous metals, and animals and animal products were the major contributors to this decline.

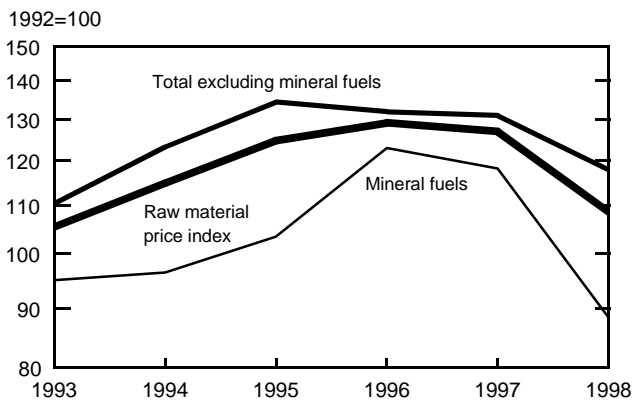
Excluding the mineral fuels category (which is more than 90% crude oil) from the total, raw material prices would have fallen 10.2% in 1998 compared with 1997.

December 1998 highlights

On a monthly basis, manufacturers paid 4.5% less for raw materials in December than they did in November. The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) stood at 99.1 in December, down from the revised November figure of 103.8 (1992=100). On a 12-month basis, manufacturers paid 16.4% less for raw materials compared with December 1997. Excluding mineral fuels, the 12-month change would have dropped 9.1%.

Lower monthly prices for crude oil (-14.7%), hogs (-27.1%), and copper (-7.6%) were somewhat offset by higher prices for coffee (+0.7%) and milk (+0.3%). Excluding the mineral fuels category, the RMPI would have shown a monthly decline of 1.7%

Annual raw material prices down in 1998



1998 annual highlights

In 1998, the drop in raw materials prices (-14.6%) followed the 1.6% decline in 1997, which at that time marked the first annual price decline in over five years. The index stood at 108.4 in 1998, compared with 126.9 in 1997 (1992=100).

Note to readers

The raw materials price index (RMPI) reflects the prices paid by Canadian manufacturers for key raw materials. Many of these prices are set in a world market. Also, unlike the industrial product price index, the RMPI includes goods that are not produced in Canada.

Annual indexes are obtained by averaging the indexes for the 12 months of the calendar year. The percentage changes calculated from such averages are referred to as annual changes.

Annual change in raw material prices

	1998	1997	1996
	%		
Raw Materials Price Index	-14.6	-1.6	3.5
Mineral fuels	-25.4	-3.9	19.0
Vegetable products	-10.1	-5.3	9.4
Animals and animal products	-7.3	1.7	6.7
Wood	-15.0	-0.9	-7.3
Ferrous materials	-0.4	0.1	-3.4
Non-ferrous metals	-13.4	-1.4	-13.9
Non-metallic minerals	3.4	3.1	1.0
Total excluding mineral fuels	-10.2	-0.7	-2.0

Crude oil prices tumble in 1998

As a group, mineral fuel prices fell 25.4% in 1998, the largest annual percentage drop since 1986. The 27.4% tumble in crude oil prices was the primary force behind this change. The downward price pressure on crude oil prices was largely due to a glut in supply, as well as the Asian economic crisis. The oversupply problem persisted as OPEC had difficulties implementing new lower quotas. Coal prices also lost some ground, whereas natural gas prices showed a marginal upward change.

Hog prices plummet

Collectively, animals and animal product prices fell 7.3% in 1998, primarily due to the 35.2% plummet in hog prices. The major factors accounting for the drop in hog prices were weak Asian demand, the high tariffs in western European countries and the over-expansion of North American herds. In contrast, cattle and calve prices edged up marginally, while poultry prices slipped 2.7%.

Coffee prices slide

Overall, the vegetable products index fell 10.1% in 1998. Coffee prices slid 32.7% after the steep price hike of 66.6% in 1997. Weather conditions enabled Brazil

(the world's largest producer of coffee) to produce a bumper crop, easing the tight supply conditions that prevailed in 1997. Ideal growing conditions in South America also led to a decrease in soybean prices (-17.0%). Canola prices dipped only slightly (-0.8%) as they were buoyed up by the effects of a low Canadian dollar. Sugar prices were down 12.6% for 1998, mainly due to large crops in Europe and Brazil, as well as lower Asian demand and higher import taxes imposed by Russia. Prices for grains also decreased (-9.6%), with every type of grain reporting lower levels in 1998.

Non-ferrous metal prices fall

Non-ferrous metal prices fell 13.4% in 1998. Copper prices were 21.2% lower on account of the increasing global surplus of copper, as well as consumption weakness in Asia. Nickel's 28% price decline was partly the result of low levels of stainless steel production in Japan, the world's biggest nickel consumer. Zinc prices also weakened (-17.6%). The downward price effects were dampened by higher prices in 1998 for silver and platinum. Silver prices gained ground in the first half of the year due to speculation and increased demand from the

photographic industry. Similarly, prices for platinum peaked in the first six months of 1998 and declined in the latter part of the year. The rise in platinum prices was mainly due to supply shortages from Russia.

Wood prices decline

Wood prices were 15.0% lower in 1998 compared with 1997. This was largely caused by the 18.9% fall in log prices and was marginally offset by higher pulpwood prices (+1.3%). Declining wood prices were also reflected in softwood lumber prices. Softwood lumber prices were down 11.9% in 1998, with export prices falling more than prices in the domestic market.

Available on CANSIM: matrice 1879.

The December 1998 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011-XPB, \$22/\$217) will be available at the end of February. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact the Client Services Unit, (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division.

Raw materials price index (1992 = 100)

	Relative importance	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1998 ^r	Dec. 1998 ^p	Dec. 1997 to Dec. 1998	Nov. to Dec. 1998
					% change	
Raw materials price index (RMPI)	100.00	118.6	103.8	99.1	-16.4	-4.5
Mineral fuels	31.47	108.6	82.1	71.2	-34.4	-13.3
Vegetable products	9.41	142.9	128.4	127.7	-10.6	-0.5
Animals and animal products	24.41	110.6	102.3	99.3	-10.2	-2.9
Wood	14.88	138.3	126.4	126.4	-8.6	0.0
Ferrous materials	3.17	137.6	120.5	121.0	-12.1	0.4
Non-ferrous metals	13.81	114.0	109.0	104.8	-8.1	-3.9
Non-metallic minerals	2.85	114.5	115.9	115.9	1.2	0.0
RMPI excluding mineral fuels	68.53	123.1	113.8	111.9	-9.1	-1.7

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

OTHER RELEASES

Employment, earnings and hours

November 1998 (preliminary)

In November, average earnings were almost unchanged with average weekly earnings rising only four cents to an estimated \$607.58. Employees earned 1.2 percent more per week in November 1998 than they did in November 1997.

Hourly rated employees worked an average of 31.4 hours (including overtime hours) in November, up slightly from October. Average overtime hours did not increase in November.

Average hourly earnings (including overtime) for hourly employees were unchanged from October at \$15.09. Average hourly earnings for hourly paid employees have increased by 1.6% in the past 12 months.

An additional 19,000 persons were added to payrolls in November, the fifth consecutive month where payroll employment increased. Most major industries recorded small employment increases except for retail trade, where employment declined by 12,000.

Note: Beginning with the May 1998 release, the Labour Division has completed the third phase of its redesign in the use of administrative records for the production of employment, earnings and hours estimates. With

the change in methodology, employment estimates derived from administrative records may show a different seasonal pattern than the previous data, which was derived from survey questionnaires. The impacts on seasonal patterns due to this change in methodology can only be assessed over a longer time period. Statistics Canada will continue to monitor these impacts and will help users interpret its data. To minimize the effect of impacts, data from the Survey on Employment, Payrolls, and Hours, particularly employment data, should be used in the context of longer time periods for detailed industry distributions.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4285-4466, 9438-9452, 9639-9664 and 9899-9911.

Detailed industry data and other labour market indicators will be available in February through standard tables in the monthly publication *Employment, earnings and hours* (72-002-XPB, \$32/\$320), the historical publication *Annual estimates of employment, earnings and hours 1985-1997* (diskette: 72F0002XDB, \$120), and by custom tabulations.

For more information, or to enquire about the redesign of the survey, or the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Jean Leduc (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Division. □

Average weekly earnings for all employees

Industry group (1980 Standard Industrial Classification)	Nov. 1997	Oct. 1998 ^r	Nov. 1998 ^p	Oct. to Nov. 1998	Nov. 1997 to Nov. 1998
	seasonally adjusted				
	\$			% change	
Industrial aggregate	600.32	607.54	607.58	0.0	1.2
Logging and forestry	782.53	755.86	762.21	0.8	-2.6
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	1077.71	1112.04	1100.54	-1.0	2.1
Manufacturing	740.43	758.43	754.09	-0.6	1.8
Construction	713.92	689.77	697.39	1.1	-2.3
Transportation and storage	723.50	735.34	736.98	0.2	1.9
Communication and other utilities	835.32	796.04	800.76	0.6	-4.1
Wholesale trade	656.54	666.58	665.05	-0.2	1.3
Retail trade	356.55	370.87	371.12	0.1	4.1
Finance and insurance	792.84	809.19	803.44	-0.7	1.3
Real estate operators and insurance agencies	637.12	638.41	637.23	-0.2	0.0
Business services	674.43	693.50	696.99	0.5	3.3
Education-related services	673.03	661.03	660.08	-0.1	-1.9
Health and social services	515.28	523.12	521.87	-0.2	1.3
Accommodation, food and beverage services	230.92	232.43	234.38	0.8	1.5
Public administration	738.66	731.00	729.13	-0.3	-1.3
Miscellaneous services	406.35	405.30	407.59	0.6	0.3
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland	519.39	535.63	538.83	0.6	3.7
Prince Edward Island	460.79	481.31	483.58	0.5	4.9
Nova Scotia	498.71	509.84	512.74	0.6	2.8
New Brunswick	517.79	527.01	524.62	-0.5	1.3
Quebec	568.21	575.42	569.96	-0.9	0.3
Ontario	642.82	647.29	645.99	-0.2	0.5
Manitoba	525.08	546.78	548.78	0.4	4.5
Saskatchewan	527.81	543.84	546.07	0.4	3.5
Alberta	603.88	613.72	618.11	0.7	2.4
British Columbia	610.75	620.66	621.72	0.2	1.8
Yukon	713.07	673.88	666.22	-1.1	-6.6
Northwest Territories	732.96	722.98	728.91	0.8	-0.6

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

Number of employees

Industry group (1980 Standard Industrial Classification)	Sept. 1998	Oct. 1998r	Nov. 1998p	Sept. to Oct. 1998	Oct. to Nov. 1998
	seasonally adjusted				
	thousands			% change	
Industrial aggregate	11,652	11,666	11,685	0.1	0.2
Logging and forestry	64	64	64	0.0	0.0
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	139	138	139	-0.7	0.7
Manufacturing	1,886	1,881	1,885	-0.3	0.2
Construction	493	500	503	1.4	0.6
Transportation and storage	490	488	491	-0.4	0.6
Communication and other utilities	385	388	389	0.8	0.3
Wholesale trade	734	734	732	0.0	-0.3
Retail trade	1,429	1,426	1,414	-0.2	-0.8
Finance and insurance	518	520	521	0.4	0.2
Real estate operators and insurances agencies	202	199	197	-1.5	-1.0
Business services	809	815	821	0.7	0.7
Education-related services	924	922	924	-0.2	0.2
Health and social services	1,219	1,218	1,217	-0.1	-0.1
Accommodation, food and beverage services	850	851	853	0.1	0.2
Public administration	669	670	672	0.1	0.3
Miscellaneous services	690	695	697	0.7	0.3
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland	150	152	154	1.6	1.1
Prince Edward Island	48	48	48	0.6	-1.2
Nova Scotia	322	324	321	0.5	-0.8
New Brunswick	259	258	260	-0.3	0.8
Quebec	2,775	2,773	2,777	0.0	0.1
Ontario	4,560	4,569	4,603	0.2	0.7
Manitoba	443	443	445	0.1	0.4
Saskatchewan	354	350	349	-1.1	-0.1
Alberta	1,205	1,213	1,214	0.6	0.1
British Columbia	1,485	1,480	1,470	-0.4	-0.7
Yukon	15	16	16	4.6	-1.9
Northwest Territories	25	26	26	2.8	2.0

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

Steel primary forms

Week ending January 23, 1999 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending January 23, 1999 totalled 264 500 tonnes, down 1.3% from the week-earlier 267 873 tonnes and down 10.5% from the year-earlier 295 641 tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 875 047 tonnes, a 7.0% decrease compared with 940 711 tonnes for the same period in 1998.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-7093; milsomg@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation

December 1998

Manufacturers shipped 2 971 493 square metres of R12 factor (RSI 2.1) mineral wool batts in December, up 30.5% from 2 276 368 square metres in December 1997 and down 3.8% from 3 087 710 square metres in November 1998.

Shipments in 1998 totalled 32 881 949 square metres, a 13.1% increase from 1997.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 40 and 122 (series 32-33).

The December 1998 issue of *Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation* (44-004-XPB, \$5/\$47) 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 Donna Faghali (613-951-3518; faghdon@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Electric Power Selling Price Indexes

September-December 1998

Electric Power Selling Price Indexes (1992=100) are now available for the period September-December 1998.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 1880.

The December 1998 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011-XPB, \$22/\$217) will be available at the end of February. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this

release, contact Louise Chaîné (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539), Client Services Unit, Prices Division. ■

Stocks of frozen meat products

January 1999

Total frozen meat in cold storage at the opening of the first business day of January amounted to 39,279 tonnes compared with 39,885 tonnes in December 1998 and 40,421 tonnes a year ago.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 87 and 9518-9525.

Tables for stocks of frozen meat products (23-009-XIE) are available free on the Internet at www.statcan.ca under *Products and services*, then *Downloadable publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Tony Dupuis at (613-951-2511; duputon@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Electronic publications pilot, final report, 1996/97
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(Free).

Electronic publications pilot, final report, 1996/97
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(Free).

Industry price indexes, November 1998
Catalogue number 62-011-XPB
(Canada: \$22/\$217; outside Canada: US\$22/US\$217).

Imports by commodity, November 1998
Catalogue number 65-007-XPB
(Canada: \$78/\$773; outside Canada: US\$78/US\$773).

Imports by commodity, November 1998
Catalogue number 65-007-XMB
(Canada: \$37/\$361; outside Canada: US\$37/US\$361).

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

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <http://www.statcan.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by E-mail, send an E-mail message to listproc@statcan.ca. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

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