



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, January 8, 1999

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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- **Labour Force Survey, December 1998** 2
In December, overall labour market conditions were little changed as employment edged up slightly (+24,000) and the unemployment rate remained at 8.0%.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Labour Force Survey

December 1998

In December, overall labour market conditions were little changed as employment edged up slightly (+24,000) and the unemployment rate remained at 8.0%. Robust job growth, especially over the second half of 1998, brought gains for the year to an estimated 449,000 (+3.2%). Employment growth in 1998 represents the best annual performance of the decade. Gains in 1998 were both full (+2.7%) and part time (+5.3%).

The strong job market attracted more people to the labour force in 1998. As a result, the participation rate rose 0.8 percentage points to 65.6%, the first significant annual increase this decade. The employment rate jumped to 60.4% (+1.2 percentage points) by the end of the year, the highest since 1991 and the unemployment rate fell to a nine year low of 8.0% (-0.6 percentage points).

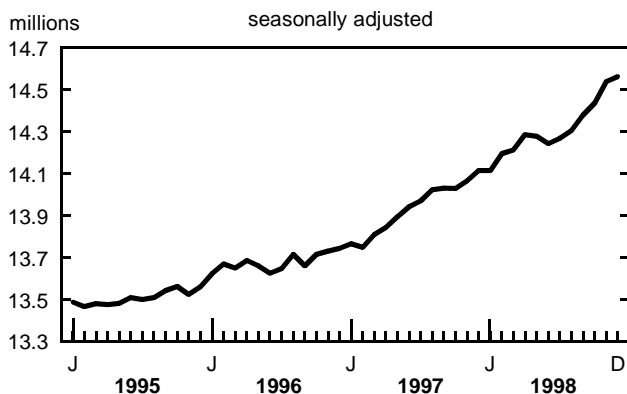
Notes to readers

Beginning with the January survey, three important changes will affect the Labour Force Survey estimates. First, the coding of industry estimates will no longer be based on the 1980 Standard Industry Classification, instead the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) will be used. Second, the coding of occupation estimates will change from the 1980 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) to the 1991 SOC. Lastly, there will be some modification to the definition of the public sector. Data resulting from these three changes will not be comparable to previously published estimates. Therefore, revised historical data will be made available on CANSIM on January 26. A list of new CANSIM databank numbers can be accessed on the Statistics Canada web site at (www.statcan.ca).

In addition, with the release of January data, the former economic region 470 in Quebec will be split into two new regions, ER 433 (Centre-du-Québec) and ER 470 (Mauricie). Historical data for this change will also be available on CANSIM on January 26.

For more information on the classification changes, consult the Statistics Canada web site (www.statcan.ca) or contact Marc Lévesque (613-951-2793), Households Surveys Division.

Employment



307,000 (+2.5%). This increase was slightly less than the gain of 350,000 (+3.0%) observed in 1997.

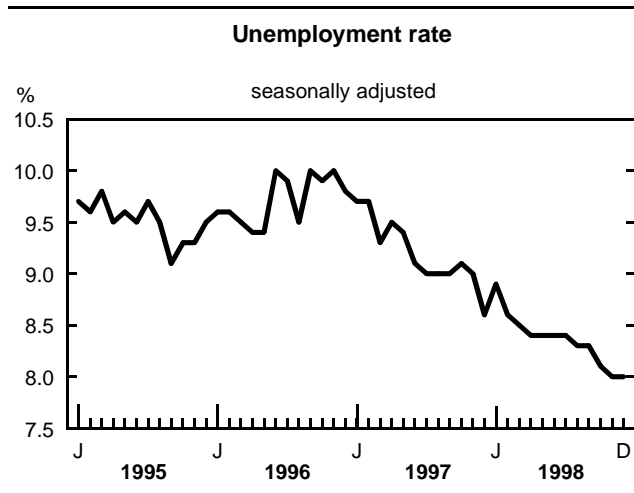
In contrast to 1997 when job growth was led by adult men, employment growth over 1998 was far stronger for adult women (+3.7%) than for adult men (+1.6%). For adult women, nearly two-thirds of the employment gains in 1998 were full time while for adult men, all of the increase was in full-time jobs.

The strong employment performance of adult women in 1998 pushed their unemployment rate down to 6.6% (-0.7). In contrast, weaker job growth for adult men left their unemployment rate little changed at 7.0% (-0.1).

The labour market strengthened for youths in 1998

Despite little change in December, youth employment grew by 143,000 (+7.0%) over the year, the best showing in 20 years. After falling for much of this decade, youth employment improved in 1998 with gains in both full (+5.6%) and part time (+8.7%). The unemployment rate for youths ended the year down 1.4 percentage points to 14.4%.

The small employment increase in December among adults (+21,000) brings gains over the year to



Private sector employment increases

In December, the number of paid employees in the private sector increased by 67,000. Strong gains over the past four months more than offset losses over the summer and brings growth over the entire year to 296,000 (+3.1%).

While self-employment edged down slightly in December, solid growth over the previous five months brought gains over the year to 118,000 (+4.8%). The increase in self-employment for 1998 continues the upward trend observed throughout this decade.

Although the number of employees in the public sector fell by 28,000 in December, gains since the beginning of the year totalled 35,000 (+1.7%). The small increase this year is in contrast to the job declines observed for public sector workers over the previous three years.

Industry focus

The only industries with significant employment gains in December were health and social services (+18,000) and transportation, storage and communications (+15,000). Between December 1997 and December 1998, job growth in health and social services totalled 65,000 (+4.4%), nearly double the pace of the previous year. The gain in 1998 follows several years of weak employment growth in the industry. December's increase in transportation, storage and communications almost offsets the job loss in November and leaves employment up by 31,000 (+3.3%) over 1998, considerably less than the 77,000 (+9.1%) gain observed over the previous year.

Public administration was the only industry with an employment loss in December (-15,000), leaving the number of jobs in this industry slightly below the level of December 1997.

Although employment was little changed elsewhere in December, there were robust gains during 1998 in several industries. Business and personal services continued on its long-term upward trend, gaining 194,000 (+6.5%) jobs in 1998, an improvement over last year's growth of 140,000 (+5.0%).

Following three years of weakness, employment in construction grew by 71,000 (+9.4%) in 1998, with the majority of the increase in self-employment. Employment also increased considerably in trade during 1998, up 80,000 (+3.3%), after weak growth in 1997. About two-thirds of the trade employment increase came from the retail sector, in contrast to a small decline in 1997. Wholesale trade employment in 1998 grew by 24,000, similar to the gain the year before.

Employment in manufacturing ended the year little changed (+15,000) after a strong increase the year before (+132,000 or 6.3%). Job losses in durable-goods manufacturing such as machinery and electrical products industries contributed to most of the weakness in 1998. Employment in the industry was temporarily affected by closures of automotive assembly and parts plants due to the General Motors strike in the United States in June and July.

Following three years of little change, employment fell by 32,000 (-11.0%) in other primary industries, likely a reflection of weak commodity prices. Job losses were concentrated in mining, quarrying and oil wells.

Note: A new industry classification system, the North American Industry Classification (NAICS) will be implemented with the release of data for January. Please see Note to readers.

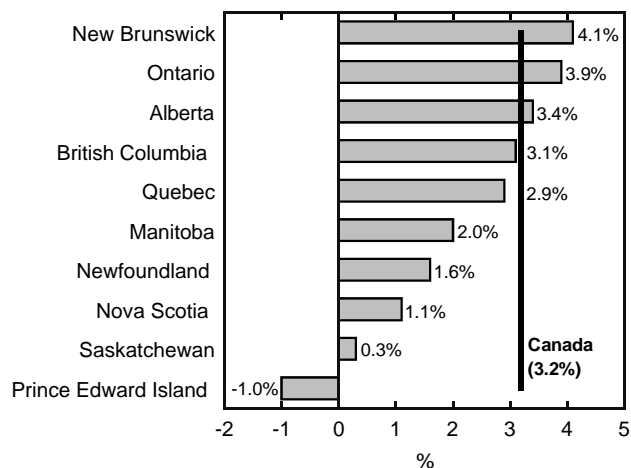
Provincial summary

Only New Brunswick and Newfoundland showed a significant employment change in December. In New Brunswick, employment rose by 4,000, the fifth consecutive increase. Recent strength more than offsets job losses earlier in the year, bringing gains since December 1997 to 13,000 (+4.1%). During 1998, the unemployment rate declined 0.8 percentage points and ended the year at 11.6%.

In Newfoundland, employment fell by 3,000 in December, leaving the number of jobs up slightly over the year. An increase in labour force participation during 1998 pushed the unemployment rate up 1.1 percentage points to end the year at 18.7%.

There was little employment change in 1998 in the other Atlantic provinces. By year-end, employment in Prince Edward Island was just slightly below its December 1997 level (-1.0%) and the unemployment rate ended the year at 15.4% (+1.2). In Nova Scotia, employment ended 1998 up slightly (+1.1%) and the unemployment rate fell 1.0 percentage points to 10.6%.

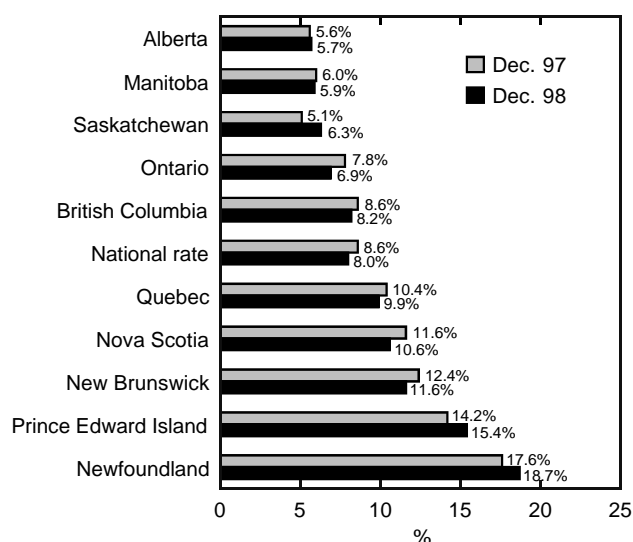
Employment growth by province
(December 1997 to December 1998)



Quebec ended the year with gains totalling 96,000 (+2.9%), the result of increases in business and personal services, manufacturing, and construction. During 1998, the unemployment rate fell 0.5 percentage points to close the year at 9.9%, the lowest since 1990.

Employment in Ontario grew strongly during 1998, up 213,000 (+3.9%), mainly on the strength of the service sector, with construction and agriculture also contributing significantly. This robust employment growth during 1998 pushed the unemployment rate down 0.9 percentage points to end the year at 6.9%, the lowest since the start of the decade.

Unemployment rates by province



In Manitoba, employment increased by 11,000 (+2.0%) during 1998, all in services. However, the unemployment rate was little changed at 5.9% as the increase in employment was accompanied by growth in labour force participation.

After strong job growth in Saskatchewan during 1997, employment in 1998 was virtually unchanged (+0.3%). During 1998, the unemployment rate increased 1.2 percentage points to end the year at 6.3%, the result of an increase in labour force participation.

In Alberta, despite job losses in other primary industries possibly reflecting oil price weakness, overall employment continued to increase in 1998, up 51,000 (+3.4%). This employment gain, wide-spread in several industries, represents about the same rate of growth as in 1997. Although the province experienced robust job growth in 1998, an increase in the number of unemployed people kept the unemployment rate almost unchanged at 5.7%.

Following a weak labour market in 1997, employment in British Columbia strengthened during 1998, up 57,000 (+3.1%). Gains in trade and community, business and personal services more than offset job losses in manufacturing, other primary industries, and construction. The unemployment rate edged down to 8.2% (-0.4%).

For more detailed analysis of the 1998 labour market, see the next issue of *Labour force update* (71-005-XPB, \$29), available January 27.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3450-3502 and table 00799999.

Available at 7 a.m. on the Internet (www.statcan.ca) on the "Latest news from Statistics Canada" button.

For a summary, *Labour force information* (71-001-PPB, \$11/\$103), for the week ending December 12, 1998 is now available. See *How to order publications*.

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on Friday February 5, 1999.

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

	Nov. 1998	Dec. 1998	Nov. to Dec. 1998	Nov. 1998	Dec. 1998	Nov. to Dec. 1998
Seasonally adjusted						
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000	% change		%	change	
Canada	15,807.6	15,837.0	0.2	65.6	65.6	0.0
Newfoundland	248.1	245.2	-1.2	55.9	55.2	-0.7
Prince Edward Island	70.4	71.0	0.9	65.6	66.2	0.6
Nova Scotia	453.7	449.4	-0.9	60.7	60.1	-0.6
New Brunswick	375.5	380.5	1.3	61.9	62.7	0.8
Quebec	3,756.7	3,771.4	0.4	62.8	63.0	0.2
Ontario	6,112.4	6,129.9	0.3	66.6	66.8	0.2
Manitoba	584.4	588.2	0.7	67.6	68.0	0.4
Saskatchewan	512.9	513.0	0.0	67.0	67.0	0.0
Alberta	1,628.2	1,625.6	-0.2	72.3	72.1	-0.2
British Columbia	2,065.2	2,062.6	-0.1	65.3	65.2	-0.1
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000	% change		%	change	
Canada	14,539.8	14,564.2	0.2	60.3	60.4	0.1
Newfoundland	202.8	199.4	-1.7	45.7	44.9	-0.8
Prince Edward Island	60.5	60.2	-0.5	56.4	56.1	-0.3
Nova Scotia	403.7	401.8	-0.5	54.0	53.7	-0.3
New Brunswick	332.5	336.2	1.1	54.8	55.4	0.6
Quebec	3,386.4	3,398.4	0.4	56.6	56.7	0.1
Ontario	5,688.2	5,707.0	0.3	62.0	62.2	0.2
Manitoba	552.4	553.5	0.2	63.9	64.0	0.1
Saskatchewan	482.4	480.9	-0.3	63.0	62.8	-0.2
Alberta	1,527.9	1,532.4	0.3	67.8	67.9	0.1
British Columbia	1,902.9	1,894.5	-0.4	60.2	59.9	-0.3
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000	% change		%	change	
Canada	1,267.8	1,272.8	0.4	8.0	8.0	0.0
Newfoundland	45.2	45.9	1.5	18.2	18.7	0.5
Prince Edward Island	9.9	10.9	10.1	14.1	15.4	1.3
Nova Scotia	49.9	47.6	-4.6	11.0	10.6	-0.4
New Brunswick	42.9	44.3	3.3	11.4	11.6	0.2
Quebec	370.2	373.0	0.8	9.9	9.9	0.0
Ontario	424.2	423.0	-0.3	6.9	6.9	0.0
Manitoba	32.0	34.7	8.4	5.5	5.9	0.4
Saskatchewan	30.5	32.1	5.2	5.9	6.3	0.4
Alberta	100.4	93.2	-7.2	6.2	5.7	-0.5
British Columbia	162.4	168.2	3.6	7.9	8.2	0.3

Note: Provincial estimates may differ from the national totals due to independent seasonal adjustment.

Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	Dec. 1997	Dec. 1998	Dec. 1997 to Dec. 1998	Dec. 1997	Dec. 1998	Dec. 1997 to Dec. 1998
Unadjusted						
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	15,219.6	15,632.6	2.7	63.9	64.8	0.9
Newfoundland	227.7	235.1	3.2	50.8	52.9	2.1
Prince Edward Island	68.5	68.8	0.4	63.9	64.1	0.2
Nova Scotia	442.7	442.7	0.0	59.5	59.2	-0.3
New Brunswick	353.8	367.4	3.8	58.6	60.6	2.0
Quebec	3,625.2	3,719.3	2.6	61.0	62.1	1.1
Ontario	5,903.0	6,074.7	2.9	65.3	66.2	0.9
Manitoba	571.4	584.0	2.2	66.4	67.5	1.1
Saskatchewan	496.4	504.7	1.7	65.2	65.9	0.7
Alberta	1,555.3	1,608.3	3.4	71.1	71.3	0.2
British Columbia	1,975.6	2,027.5	2.6	63.1	64.1	1.0
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	13,979.3	14,430.3	3.2	58.7	59.8	1.1
Newfoundland	190.8	193.9	1.6	42.6	43.7	1.1
Prince Edward Island	57.4	56.7	-1.2	53.5	52.8	-0.7
Nova Scotia	396.7	400.0	0.8	53.3	53.5	0.2
New Brunswick	311.0	326.2	4.9	51.5	53.8	2.3
Quebec	3,244.2	3,345.5	3.1	54.6	55.9	1.3
Ontario	5,482.8	5,689.9	3.8	60.6	62.0	1.4
Manitoba	538.6	550.0	2.1	62.5	63.6	1.1
Saskatchewan	472.4	474.2	0.4	62.0	61.9	-0.1
Alberta	1,474.7	1,524.9	3.4	67.4	67.6	0.2
British Columbia	1,810.7	1,869.0	3.2	57.9	59.1	1.2
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	1,240.3	1,202.4	-3.1	8.1	7.7	-0.4
Newfoundland	36.9	41.2	11.7	16.2	17.5	1.3
Prince Edward Island	11.0	12.1	10.0	16.1	17.6	1.5
Nova Scotia	45.9	42.7	-7.0	10.4	9.6	-0.8
New Brunswick	42.8	41.3	-3.5	12.1	11.2	-0.9
Quebec	381.0	373.7	-1.9	10.5	10.0	-0.5
Ontario	420.2	384.8	-8.4	7.1	6.3	-0.8
Manitoba	32.9	34.0	3.3	5.8	5.8	0.0
Saskatchewan	24.0	30.5	27.1	4.8	6.0	1.2
Alberta	80.6	83.5	3.6	5.2	5.2	0.0
British Columbia	164.9	158.6	-3.8	8.3	7.8	-0.5

OTHER RELEASES

Estimates of labour income

October 1998 (preliminary)

Labour income and wages and salaries registered a strong gain of 0.7% in October. Growth in both employment and average earnings contributed to the increase. Labour income advanced 3.7% during the first 10 months of 1998 compared with the same period in 1997.

The October increase in wages and salaries was widespread across industries and throughout the provinces and territories.

The most notable gains occurred in manufacturing, which registered a third consecutive monthly increase and commercial and personal services, which rose for the fifth consecutive month. Wages and salaries rebounded 1.6% in October in education and related services. The September estimates reflected the impact of strikes and lock-outs in a number of Ontario school districts.

Note: Labour income consists of wages and salaries (88%), plus supplementary labour income (12%). Wages and salaries include items such as bonuses, gratuities, taxable allowances and retroactive wage payments. Supplementary labour income is employers' contributions to employee welfare, pension, workers' compensation and Employment Insurance plans. Labour income accounts for about 52% of gross domestic product.

Users of the labour income data should note that the seasonally adjusted data are revised back to January 1998.

Wages and salaries and supplementary labour income

	Sept. 1998 ^r	Oct. 1998 ^p	Sept. to Oct. 1998
seasonally adjusted			
	\$ millions		% change
Agriculture, fishing and trapping	284.4	291.9	2.6
Logging and Forestry	252.1	254.9	1.1
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	776.9	783.0	0.8
Manufacturing	6,453.9	6,528.7	1.2
Construction	1,844.7	1,865.4	1.1
Other Utilities	581.1	585.0	0.7
Transportation, storage, communications	2,556.5	2,578.3	0.9
Trade	4,936.5	4,933.6	-0.1
Finance, insurance and real estate	3,035.2	3,036.5	0.0
Commercial and personal services	5,520.0	5,569.6	0.9
Educational and related services	2,682.2	2,724.7	1.6
Health and social services	2,768.6	2,770.5	0.1
Federal administration and other government services	849.6	840.3	-1.1
Provincial administration	688.4	692.3	0.6
Local administration	667.0	667.0	0.0
Military	235.1	236.8	0.7
Total wages and salaries	34,132.1	34,358.6	0.7
Supplementary labour income	4,798.8	4,843.1	0.9
Labour income	38,930.9	39,201.7	0.7

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 6597-6624.

The October 1998 issue of the *Tables and analytical document: Estimates of labour income, monthly estimates* (13F0016XPB, \$20/\$200) is now available.

At 8:30 a.m. on release day, datasets are available for purchase on microcomputer diskette (13F0016XDB). Seven days after the official release date, these diskettes become available at a lower cost. To purchase either of these products, contact the client services officer (613-951-3640, iea-crd@statcan.ca), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Katherine Fraser (613-951-4049, fax: 613-951-3618), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division. ■

Pulpwood and wood residue statistics

October 1998

Pulpwood receipts in October totalled 2 505 211 cubic metres, down 26.7% from 3 419 488 cubic metres (revised) in October 1997. Wood residue receipts totalled 6 818 827 cubic metres, up 5.3% from 6 474 191 cubic metres (revised) in October 1997. Consumption of pulpwood and wood residue totalled 8 813 370 cubic metres, down 3.5% from 9 132 695 cubic metres (revised) in October 1997.

The closing inventory of pulpwood and wood residue increased 9.7% to 13 310 350 cubic metres, up from 12 135 087 cubic metres in October 1997. Year-to-date consumption of pulpwood and wood residue (85 861 323 cubic metres) decreased 5.7% from 91 008 330 cubic metres a year earlier. Figures for 1997 have been revised.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 54.

The October 1998 issue of *Pulpwood and wood residue statistics* (25-001-XIB, \$6/\$55) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

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

Egg production

November 1998 (preliminary)

Egg production estimates for November 1998 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1145-1146 and 5689-5691.

To order *Production of eggs* (23-003-XPB, \$110), contact Julie Gordon (613-951-5039), Agriculture Division.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Sandy Giefeldt (613-951-2505), Livestock and Animal Product Section, Agriculture Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Infomat - A weekly review, January 8, 1999
Catalogue number 11-002-XIE
(Canada: \$3/\$109; outside Canada: US\$3/US\$109).

Infomat - A weekly review, January 8, 1999
Catalogue number 11-002-XPE
(Canada: \$4/\$145; outside Canada: US\$4/US\$145).

Agriculture economic statistics, November 1998
Catalogue number 21-603-UPE
(Canada: \$26/\$52; outside Canada: US\$26/US\$52).

Puplwood and wood residue statsitics,
October 1998
Catalogue number 25-001-XIB
(Canada: \$6/\$55; outside Canada: US\$6/US\$55).

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

Canadian civil aviation, 1997
Catalogue number 51-206-XIB
(Canada: \$31; outside Canada: US\$31).

Electric power statistics, October 1998
Catalogue number 57-001-XPB
(Canada: \$12/\$114; outside Canada: US\$12/US\$114).

Retail trade, October 1998
Catalogue number 63-005-XPB
(Canada: \$21/\$206; outside Canada: US\$21/US\$206).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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Statistics Canada	
Thursday, June 3, 1997	
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• 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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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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RELEASE DATES

January 11 to 15, 1999
(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
12	Health reports	Winter 1998
12	Building permits	November 1998
12	New Housing Price Index	November 1998
15	Spending on entertainment services	1986-1996
15	New motor vehicle sales	November 1998