



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, October 28, 1999

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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Employment, earnings and hours

August 1999 (preliminary)

In August, average earnings for all employees edged down \$0.76 from July to an estimated \$610.42 per week. Employees earned 0.8% more per week than in August 1998. Annual gains in average earnings continue to be moderate and below the annual growth rate of the Consumer Price Index.

At the provincial level, average earnings growth in the last 12 months ranged from a 3.1% increase in Newfoundland to a 0.3% decrease in British Columbia. By industry, the strongest average weekly earnings growth in the past year was recorded by employees in the construction industry (+2.4%).

Hourly rated employees in all industries worked an average of 31.7 hours (including overtime hours) in August, up 0.2 hours from July. Average overtime hours for hourly rated employees were at 1.1 hours per week, also unchanged from July. Average hourly earnings for hourly rated employees were up 0.8% over the preceding 12 months, with significant average earnings gains in goods-producing industries, especially mining and durable goods manufacturing.

The number of employees on payrolls in August was virtually unchanged from July. By industry, the only employment changes of significance were reductions in construction and retail trade. Employment levels in almost all provinces were also virtually unchanged from July.

Note: Beginning with the May 1998 release, Statistics Canada 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 were 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 impacts, data from the Survey of 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 November through standard tables in the monthly publication *Employment, earnings and hours* (72-002-XPB, \$32/\$320). Annual averages for 1998 are now available through CANSIM, on diskette, CD-ROM, via the Internet and by custom tabulations from Labour Statistics Division. See *How to order publications*.

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

Average weekly earnings for all employees

Industry group (1980 Standard Industrial Classification)	Aug. 1998	July 1999 ^r	Aug. 1999 ^p	July to Aug. 1999	Aug. 1998 to Aug. 1999
seasonally adjusted					
	\$			% change	
Industrial aggregate	605.64	611.18	610.42	-0.1	0.8
Logging and forestry	778.08	783.30	794.92	1.5	2.2
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	1,136.41	1,123.55	1,127.45	0.3	-0.8
Manufacturing	752.77	764.41	760.69	-0.5	1.1
Construction	681.97	696.91	698.64	0.2	2.4
Transportation and storage	732.95	736.86	736.13	-0.1	0.4
Communication and other utilities	802.60	816.54	817.59	0.1	1.9
Wholesale trade	665.07	664.56	662.90	-0.2	-0.3
Retail trade	368.68	370.95	371.58	0.2	0.8
Finance and insurance	806.22	814.92	812.86	-0.3	0.8
Real estate operators and insurance agencies	626.58	644.17	641.58	-0.4	2.4
Business services	691.54	701.45	700.19	-0.2	1.3
Education-related services	656.25	639.87	642.87	0.5	-2.0
Health and social services	524.82	526.84	526.15	-0.1	0.3
Accommodation, food and beverage services	227.33	231.55	232.20	0.3	2.1
Public administration	740.77	744.36	742.15	-0.3	0.2
Miscellaneous services	403.91	409.58	410.51	0.2	1.6
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland	527.73	545.81	543.94	-0.3	3.1
Prince Edward Island	475.90	480.63	483.70	0.6	1.6
Nova Scotia	511.11	529.15	524.97	-0.8	2.7
New Brunswick	532.25	531.35	537.00	1.1	0.9
Quebec	569.14	572.41	568.16	-0.7	-0.2
Ontario	643.55	652.24	653.18	0.1	1.5
Manitoba	542.32	545.24	543.22	-0.4	0.2
Saskatchewan	536.71	542.18	542.69	0.1	1.1
Alberta	615.83	621.10	620.72	-0.1	0.8
British Columbia	620.03	622.99	617.88	-0.8	-0.3
Yukon	676.43	683.29	692.13	1.3	2.3
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	719.50	788.94	793.01	0.5	10.2

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

Number of employees

Industry group (1980 Standard Industrial Classification)	June 1999	July 1999 ^r	Aug. 1999 ^p	June to July 1999	July to Aug. 1999
seasonally adjusted					
	thousands			% change	
Industrial aggregate	11,778	11,820	11,799	0.4	-0.2
Logging and forestry	65	65	65	0.0	0.0
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	135	135	135	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing	1,889	1,910	1,909	1.1	-0.1
Construction	519	519	514	0.0	-1.0
Transportation and storage	499	502	500	0.6	-0.4
Communication and other utilities	381	382	382	0.3	0.0
Wholesale trade	758	768	767	1.3	-0.1
Retail trade	1,438	1,448	1,434	0.7	-1.0
Finance and insurance	528	527	526	-0.2	-0.2
Real estate operators and insurances agencies	198	198	195	0.0	-1.5
Business services	851	858	859	0.8	0.1
Education-related services	928	929	927	0.1	-0.2
Health and social services	1,213	1,215	1,215	0.2	0.0
Accommodation, food and beverage services	843	846	846	0.4	0.0
Public administration	677	676	678	-0.1	0.3
Miscellaneous services	694	696	700	0.3	0.6
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland	152	151	150	-0.7	-0.7
Prince Edward Island	50	50	51	0.0	2.0
Nova Scotia	325	328	328	0.9	0.0
New Brunswick	261	265	264	1.5	-0.4
Quebec	2,764	2,794	2,783	1.1	-0.4
Ontario	4,665	4,679	4,676	0.3	-0.1
Manitoba	456	460	458	0.9	-0.4
Saskatchewan	353	355	354	0.6	-0.3
Alberta	1,215	1,224	1,227	0.7	0.2
British Columbia	1,476	1,477	1,471	0.1	-0.4
Yukon	15	15	15	0.0	0.0
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	26	27	26	3.8	-3.7

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

Monthly Survey of Large Retailers

August 1999 (preliminary)

Sales for the group of large retailers hit \$5.9 billion in August, up 5.5% over the same month last year. However, this group was affected by an industry restructuring of the large supermarket chains. A significant number of food stores that were included in the August 1998 estimates have now left the group. If we exclude food retailers from the survey, the August 1999 year-over-year sales increase would be 9.6%. (All data in this release are unadjusted for seasonality.)

With the exception of food and beverage sales (-1.3%), all major product lines sold by the group of large retailers in August experienced healthy sales increases compared with the same month last year.

The largest increases were in health and personal care products, home furnishings and electronics, and sporting and leisure goods. Sales in August include those made by Eaton's before its bankruptcy and those made afterwards by its merchandise liquidator.

Sales of health and personal care products by the group of large retailers posted the largest increase (+13.7%) compared with August 1998. This increase was fuelled by a 26.5% rise in the sales of prescription and over-the-counter drugs.

Prescription and over-the-counter drugs accounted for 43.3% or \$186.1 million of all health and personal care products sold by the group of large retailers. Sales of cosmetics and other toiletries accounted for 55.2% of the sales in this category. In August, consumers purchased 38.6% of their health and personal care

products from the food stores belonging to the group of large retailers.

Sales of health and personal care products have been strong throughout 1999. For the first half of the year (the most recent period for which commodity estimates for all retail store sales are available), total sales of health and personal care products rose 9.8% (\$769.2 million) over the same period of 1998. Sales of these products for the group of large retailers increased 16.2% (up \$345.3 million) over the same period. As a result, the share of health and personal care products for the group grew from just over 27.0% to nearly 29.0%.

Sales of home furnishings and electronics by the group of large retailers rose 11.7% in August compared with August 1998. The largest year-over-year percentage sales increases within this category were for artwork and other home decorating products (+40.1%), bedding, linens and bathroom accessories (+17.5%), nursery furniture and equipment (+16.3%), and computers and related equipment (+14.9%). The group of large retailers accounted for 48.7% of total retail sales of home furnishings and electronics in the first six months of 1999.

Sales of sporting and leisure goods also recorded a strong year-over-year increase (+10.0%) in August. Sporting and leisure goods sales accounted for 4.1% (\$241.1 million) of total sales for the group of large retailers in August. The group accounted for 32.8% of total retail sales in this category in the first half of 1999.

Sales of sporting goods alone (\$103.5 million in August 1999) rose 13.5% compared with the same month last year. For every \$100 of sporting

goods purchased from the group of large retailers, approximately \$44 went toward the purchase of hunting, fishing and camping equipment, and another \$16 was spent on bicycles, equipment and accessories. Consumers spent \$34 on specialized sports equipment and accessories (e.g., hockey, ski, soccer and golf) and \$6 was spent on exercise and fitness equipment.

Sales of leisure goods by the group of large retailers climbed 7.4% from August 1998 to \$137.6 million. The sale of crafts and fabrics rose 11.5% to \$13.8 million in the same period. Toys, games and hobby supplies were up 8.1%, with sales reaching \$52.6 million. Sales of audio and video tapes increased 7.2% to \$42.8 million, and sales of books, newspapers and magazines rose 4.5% to \$28.3 million.

For the first half of 1999, almost 51.0% (\$324.2 million) of all consumer purchases of toys, games and hobby supplies and 40.6% (\$246.2 million) of all purchases of pre-recorded audio and video tapes were made from the group of large retailers. As well, over the same period, 14.8% or \$148.9 million of all books, newspapers and magazines sold were purchased from the group of large retailers.

For the list of retailers included in the survey or for data or general information, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-3549 or 1 877 421-3067; retailinfo@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Catherine Draper (613-951-0669; drapcat@statcan.ca), Retail Commodity Section, Distributive Trades Division.

Sales for the group of large retailers

	July 1998	July 1999 ^r	July 1998 to July 1999	Aug. 1998	Aug. 1999 ^p	Aug. 1998 to Aug. 1999
	unadjusted					
	\$000,000		% change	\$000,000		% change
Commodities						
Food and beverages	2,097	2,210	5.4	1,988	1,963	-1.3
Clothing, footwear and accessories	1,012	1,108	9.4	1,197	1,292	8.0
Home furnishings and electronics	735	822	11.8	743	830	11.7
Health and personal care products	386	445	15.1	378	429	13.7
Housewares	270	291	7.8	265	287	8.4
Sporting and leisure goods	264	289	9.7	219	241	10.0
Hardware and lawn and garden products	240	264	10.3	184	200	8.7
All other goods and services	602	639	6.1	594	633	6.4
Total	5,607	6,068	8.2	5,567	5,875	5.5

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

Marriages

1997

The number of marriage ceremonies conducted in 1997 fell to 153,306, down 2% from 1996 and 24% below the 1972 peak of 200,470.

Newfoundland, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories were the only regions where marriage ceremonies increased from 1996 to 1997 and these increases were slight (under 2%). All other provinces and territories reported declines, ranging from under 1% in Alberta and Quebec to 6% in New Brunswick and 15% in Yukon.

While the average age of brides was 30.9 years in 1997 — up from 28.4 years 10 years earlier — over half (56%) of the marriage ceremonies conducted in 1997 involved a bride aged 20 to 29. The average age of first-time brides was 27.4 years. Previously divorced brides averaged 39.8 years and previously widowed brides, 55.5 years.

The average age of grooms in 1997 was 33.5 years — an increase from 31.1 years 10 years earlier — with over half (52%) of the marriage ceremonies conducted in 1997 involving a groom aged 25 to 34. The average age of first-time grooms was 29.5 years. Previously divorced or widowed grooms were, respectively, 43.4-years-old and 62.1-years-old on average.

Three out of four brides and the same proportion of grooms were married for the first time in 1997. Most of the remaining brides (21%) and grooms (22%) had been previously divorced and the rest had been widowed (3% of brides and grooms).

In two out of three marriages in 1997, both spouses were marrying for the first time. A first-time partner married a divorced partner 18% of the time and both partners had been divorced in 12% of the marriages. Very few marriages in 1997 involved a widowed partner (under 5%).

Two-thirds (67%) of Canadian marriage ceremonies occurred in the warm weather months of May to September. August was the most popular month, accounting for 20% of all 1997 marriages.

The majority (76%) of 1997 marriage ceremonies were conducted by a member of the clergy; the remainder were solemnized by marriage commissioners, judges, justices of the peace and clerks of the court. There were striking differences among the provinces and territories in the type of officiant involved. In Ontario and the Atlantic provinces, the majority of marriage ceremonies were conducted by clergy — 94% in Ontario and 80% to 86% in the Atlantic provinces. In contrast, the far western region saw the majority of marriage ceremonies performed

by officiants with no religious designation; only 29% of marriage ceremonies in Yukon and 44% in British Columbia were conducted by a member of the clergy.

When both spouses were marrying for the first time, the proportion of ceremonies conducted by members of the clergy climbed to 82%. In comparison, the proportion was down to 58% when both spouses had been previously divorced.

Marriages

	1996	1997	1996 to 1997
	Number		% change
Canada	156,691	153,306	-2.2
Newfoundland	3,194	3,227	1.0
Prince Edward Island	924	876	-5.2
Nova Scotia	5,392	5,177	-4.0
New Brunswick	4,366	4,089	-6.3
Quebec	23,968	23,958	-0.0
Ontario	66,208	64,535	-2.5
Manitoba	6,448	6,261	-2.9
Saskatchewan	5,671	5,707	0.6
Alberta	17,283	17,254	-0.2
British Columbia	22,834	21,845	-4.3
Yukon	197	167	-15.2
Northwest Territories	206	210	1.9

Marriages, 1997 (paper shelf table 84F0212XPB, \$20) will be available shortly.

To request custom data extractions or to order the shelf table, contact Client Custom Services (613-951-1746). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Patricia Tully (613-951-1759) or Doreen Duchesne (613-951-6379), Health Statistics Division. ■

Crude oil and natural gas

August 1999 (preliminary)

In August, crude oil production was 6.5% lower than in August 1998, the tenth consecutive monthly year-over-year decrease. The August 1999 drop was attributable to decreases in production of crude oil in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Exports, which accounted for 61.7% of total production, were down 3.0% from the year-earlier level. For the first eight months of 1999, production of crude oil was down 6.5% compared with the same period in 1998.

Natural gas production was up 0.9% from August 1998. Canadian domestic sales were down 10.1% following a monthly year-over-year

increase last month. Exports, which accounted for 60.6% of the total production, continued to increase, posting a 1.6% gain from August 1998.

Year-to-date exports of natural gas were up 4.4% over the same period in 1998. Natural gas from Canada now accounts for 13.0% of U.S. consumption. Year-to-date Canadian sales rose 4.1% over the same period in 1998. Sales to the residential and commercial sectors increased largely due to the unseasonably cold weather in the first half of 1999. The industrial sector posted a gain, partly due to higher demand for natural gas by the electric utilities and chemical industry.

Crude oil and natural gas

	Aug. 1998	Aug. 1999	Aug. 1998 to Aug. 1999
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹			
Production	10,888.1	10,176.8	-6.5
Exports	6,472.7	6,279.9	-3.0
Imports ²	4,028.9	3,200.8	-20.6
Refinery receipts	8,431.5	7,842.5	-7.0
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas³			
Marketable production	13,089.7	13,202.9	0.9
Exports	7,877.0	8,002.8	1.6
Domestic sales ⁴	3,645.5	3,278.7	-10.1
	Jan. to Aug. 1998	Jan. to Aug. 1999	Jan. - Aug. 1998 to Jan. - Aug. 1999
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹			
Production	85,621.5	80,090.8	-6.5
Exports	52,430.8	47,376.5	-9.6
Imports ²	29,439.8	31,425.9	6.7
Refinery receipts	62,897.4	64,678.6	2.8
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas³			
Marketable production	106,186.3	107,545.2	1.3
Exports	59,421.0	62,019.5	4.4
Domestic sales ⁴	42,216.2	43,934.1	4.1

¹ Disposition may differ from production due to inventory change, industry own-use, etc.

² Crude oil received by Canadian refineries from foreign countries for processing. Data may differ from International Trade Division (ITD) estimates due to timing differences and the inclusion in the ITD data of crude oil landed in Canada for future re-export.

³ Disposition may differ from production due to inventory change, usage as pipeline fuel, pipeline losses, line-pack fluctuations, etc.

⁴ Includes direct sales.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 530 and 539.

The August 1999 issue of *Supply and disposition of crude oil and natural gas* (26-006-XPB, \$19/\$186) will be available in November. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Gérard Desjardins (613-951-4368; desjger@statcan.ca) or Michel Palardy (613-951-7174; palamic@statcan.ca) Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Population estimates by age and sex

July 1, 1999 (preliminary)

The preliminary postcensal estimates by age and sex at July 1, 1999 for Canada, the provinces and territories as well as the updated postcensal figures at July 1, 1998 and July 1, 1997 are now available. Furthermore, the corresponding components of population growth for the years ending June 30 from 1997 to 1999 are also available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 6270-6281, 6283-6294, 6303-6314, 6316-6327, 6329-6340, 6367-6378, 6380-6392 and 6396-6409.

These estimates will appear in *Annual demographic statistics, 1999* (91-213-XPB, \$125; 91-213-XIB, \$56). See *How to order publications*.

These estimates may be obtained by contacting your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre or Lise Champagne (613-951-2320; fax: 613-951-2307; chamlis@statcan.ca), Demography Division. For information on the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact Daniel Larrivée (613-951-0694; fax: 613-951-2307; lardani@statcan.ca), Demography Division. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending October 23, 1999 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending October 23, 1999 totalled 306 615 tonnes, down 2.5% from the week-earlier 314 508 tonnes and up 29.2% from the year-earlier 237 274 tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 13 081 440 tonnes, a 0.1% increase compared with 13 068 728 tonnes for the same period in 1998.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-7093;

milsomg@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Cereals and oilseeds review

August 1999

Data from the August issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* are now available. The information includes data on production, stocks, cash and futures prices, crop quality, domestic processing, exports, farmers' deliveries and supply-disposition analyses.

The September situation report, an overview of current market conditions (both domestic and international) is also included in the August issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149), which will be available in early November. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Karen Gray (204-983-2856; *karen.gray@statcan.ca*) or Les Macartney (613-951-8714), Grain Marketing Unit, Agriculture Division. ■

Stocks of frozen meat products

October 1999

Total frozen meat in cold storage at the opening of the first business day of October amounted to 56,096 tonnes, down from 58,635 tonnes in September and up from 48,701 tonnes a year ago.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 87 and 9518-9525.

Data for stocks of frozen meat (23-009-XIE) are available free on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca) under *Products and services* then *Downloadable publications (free)*.

For more information, call toll free at 1 800 216-2299. To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jamie Duffy at (613-951-6356; *duffjam@statcan.ca*) or Robert Plourde (613-951-8716), Agriculture Division. ■

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 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, most 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 initially weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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 Statistics Canada 

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