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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, December 1, 1999
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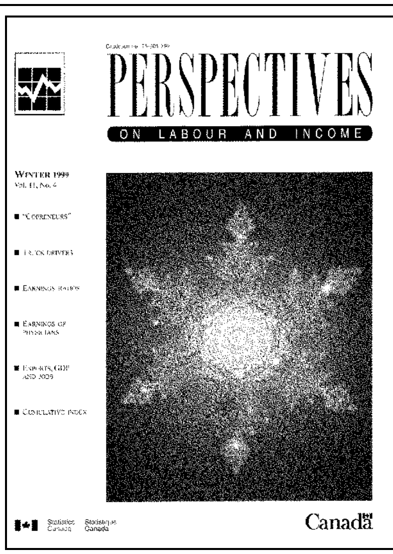
MAJOR RELEASES

(continued on following page)



Perspectives on labour and income
Winter 1999

The feature article in the Winter issue of *Perspectives on labour and income*, "Working together—self-employed couples," examines the incidence of self-employment among dual-earner couples. In 33% (1.2 million) of dual-earner couples in 1998, at least one spouse was self-employed. Among the 334,000 couples with both spouses self-employed, 227,000 were running the same business together. This article compares the characteristics of self-employed dual-earner couples with those of couples who have paid jobs. It then looks at the jobs of self-employed couples who co-own a business.

This issue also includes articles on work patterns of truck drivers (pre-released November 24); a new female-to-male wage ratio (produced by the Labour Force Survey); earnings of physicians; and the importance of exports to GDP and jobs (reprinted from the November 1999 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*).

The Winter 1999 issue of *Perspectives on labour and income* (75-001-XPE, $18/$58) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, contact Henry Pold (613-951-4608; *henry.pold@statcan.ca*), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

OTHER RELEASES

MAJOR RELEASES

Working together: Self-employed couples
1998

There has been an extraordinary growth in self-employment during the past two decades, according to data from the Labour Force Survey.

Between 1976 and 1998, self-employment doubled in Canada. But this rate of growth was far surpassed by the increase in the number of dual-earner, husband-and-wife couples in which at least one spouse was self-employed.

In 1976, at least one spouse was self-employed in about 405,000, or 21%, of all dual-earner couples. However, by 1998, this figure had virtually tripled to just under 1.2 million couples, accounting for one-third (33%) of all dual-earner couples.

Both spouses were self-employed in 334,000 of these 1.2 million couples. The majority, 68%, or 227,000 couples, were running a business together.

Couples who ran a business together had lower median earnings than those who worked as employees. In cases where both spouses were self-employed, their combined median earnings amounted to $38,800 in 1997 — substantially less than $64,000 for couples in which both spouses were employees.

Furthermore, self-employed couples tended to be older than couples with paid jobs, and were more likely to live in a rural area.

Four in ten co-owners in farming or retail

About 4 out of every 10 of the 227,000 couples who co-owned a business and ran it together in 1998 were involved in either an agricultural or retail operation.

About 63,000 couples, or 28% of the total, were in agriculture, doing either farming or ranching. Half of these enterprises were involved primarily in raising livestock. Another 35,000, or 15% of co-owning couples, had retail businesses, including the sale of goods door-to-door through catalogues or the Internet.

Another 39,000, or 17%, of co-owned businesses were more or less equally divided between professional, scientific and technical services, and accommodation and food service industries.

More than 80% of those involved in accommodation and food service industries hired employees, possibly because these businesses are more difficult to manage with only one or two people. About 60% of family retail businesses hired help.

Note to readers

This report is based on an article of the same title in the winter issue of Perspectives on labour and income*. Data came primarily from the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS), which collects labour market information from household members aged 15 and over, as well as information on demographics and family relationships.*

The Survey of Consumer Finances, conducted each year in April or May as a supplement to the LFS, collects information about amounts and sources of income received in the previous calendar year.

Dual-earner couples are married or common-law couples in which both spouses work either full time or part time at a job or business.

Self-employed couples in the same business are those in which both husbands and wives are self-employed at their main job and co-own a business.

Couples running a business put in more hours

Husband-and-wife teams who ran a business together put in longer hours on average in 1998 than dual-earner couples with paid jobs. Those who co-owned a business averaged 87 hours of combined weekly work, compared with 74 hours on average for dual-earner couples with paid jobs.

Couples who ran establishments providing goods or services outside usual business hours, such as hotels, motels, restaurants or food stores, put in a combined 110 hours a week on average. Not surprisingly, farm couples, especially those with livestock, also worked above-average combined hours, about 98 hours a week.

Self-employed teams working in finance, insurance or other professional services together clocked about 60 to 70 hours a week — closer to the average work week for couples with paid jobs.

Couples may have owned a business together, but may not necessarily have had the same job or responsibilities, although most did. In 24% of couples surveyed in 1998, both spouses reported having an occupation in agriculture, and in another 13%, both had management jobs in retail. This reflects the industry profile of co-owner couples.

The article, "Working together: Self-employed couples", is now available free on Statistics Canada's

Web site (www.statcan.ca) under the *In depth* module. The winter 1999 issue of *Perspectives on labour and income* (75-001-XPE, $18/$58) is also now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the methods, concepts or data quality of this release, contact Katherine Marshall (613-951-6890; *marskat@statcan.ca*), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division. □

Dual-earner couples by selected characteristics
1998

	Total couples	Dual-earner couples						
		Both employees	One spouse self-employed			Both spouses self-employed		
			Total	Husband	Wife	Total	Same business	
							No	Yes
	'000							
Total	3,599	2,422	843	589	254	334	106	227
Personal characteristics								
Average age								
Husband	42	41	44	44	42	48	46	49
Wife	40	39	41	42	40	45	43	46
	%							
Live in urban area[1]	82	86	78	77	81	63	77	57
Job characteristics								
Average weekly hours								
Husband	43	40	46	48	41	51	47	53
Wife	33	34	32	32	33	34	34	35
	%							
Multiple jobholder								
Husband	5	4	7	5	10	6	8	6
Wife	5	4	7	7	7	7	10	6
Works part time								
Husband	4	3	6	8	3	9	10	8
Wife	27	23	32	30	39	38	38	38
Unpaid family worker								
Husband	- -	-	- -	- -	-	1	- -	1
Wife	1	-	- -	-	1	10	- -	14
Work hours vary								
Husband	31	18	54	69	21	67	69	66
Wife	29	21	36	25	63	63	64	63
	$							
Median earnings[2]								
Husband	38,000	40,000	34,500	29,100	42,000	25,000	...	...
Wife	22,100	24,000	20,000	24,000	9,700	13,800	...	...

1 *Population concentration of 1,000 or more and a population density of 400 or more per square kilometre.*
2 *Represents before-tax earnings in 1997.*
- *Nil or zero.*
- - *Amount too small to be expressed.*
... *Figures not appropriate or not applicable.*

OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index
November 1999

The Help-wanted Index (1996=100) remained unchanged in November at 162. After several months of negative or no growth, Alberta and Saskatchewan recorded their third consecutive monthly increase.

At the same time, Manitoba registered a fourth consecutive monthly decline following more than a year of increases.

Compared with a year earlier, the index was 11.0% higher.

Help-wanted Index
(1996=100)

	Nov. 1998	Oct. 1999	Nov. 1999	Nov. 1998 to Nov. 1999	Oct. to Nov. 1999
	seasonally adjusted and smoothed				
				% change	
Canada	**146**	**162**	**162**	**11.0**	**0.0**
Newfoundland	138	164	164	18.8	0.0
Prince Edward Island	154	194	184	19.5	-5.2
Nova Scotia	153	170	167	9.2	-1.8
New Brunswick	160	182	181	13.1	-0.5
Quebec	145	156	156	7.6	0.0
Ontario	156	181	181	16.0	0.0
Manitoba	167	169	162	-3.0	-4.1
Saskatchewan	132	130	132	0.0	1.5
Alberta	135	138	142	5.2	2.9
British Columbia	120	133	132	10.0	-0.8

Note: The Help-wanted Index is compiled from the number of help-wanted ads published in 22 newspapers in 20 major metropolitan areas. The index is a measure of companies' intentions to hire new workers. These indexes have been seasonally adjusted and smoothed to ease month-to-month comparisons.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 105 (levels 8, 9 and 10).

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

Short-term Expectations Survey
October 1999 to January 2000

Results for the monthly Short-term Expectations Survey of economic forecasters are now available. Responses from seven forecasters were obtained during the week of November 19-26.

The mean forecast of year-over-year inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index is 2.3% for both November and December and 2.2% for January. Actual inflation, meanwhile, was slightly lower than previously expected — the average forecast for October was 2.5% compared with the actual rate of 2.3%.

The mean monthly growth forecast for the gross domestic product for September was 0.4%, higher than the actual growth rate of 0.2%. The average growth forecast is 0.3% for October and 0.4% for November.

Forecasts for international trade show no change in the trade surplus from October to December, with mean forecasts of $3 billion for each month over the period. Average forecasts show slight increases in both exports and imports over these months.

Forecasters anticipate an unemployment rate of 7.3% for November, December and January. The actual seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in October was 7.2% and the participation rate was 65.5%. Very slight changes in the participation rate are expected, with an average rate of 65.5% predicted for November, 65.6% for December and 65.5% for January.

The next release of the Short-term Expectations Survey will be on January 5, 2000.

Short-term Expectations Survey

	Average forecasts					Actual figures	
	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Sept.	Oct.
	% yearly growth						
Consumer Price Index							
Initial forecast	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.4	2.2	2.6	2.3
First revision	1.9	2.0	2.4	2.3	..	..	..
Second revision	2.1	2.5	2.3	..	..	..	..
	% monthly growth, seasonally adjusted, constant $1992						
Gross domestic product							
Initial forecast	0.3	0.3	0.4	..	..	0.2	..
First revision	0.3	0.3	..	..	..	..	..
Second revision	0.4	..	..	..	..	..	..
	$ billion						
Exports							
Initial forecast	29.6	30.5	31.6	30.9	..	30.3	..
First revision	30.3	31.5	30.8	..	..	..	..
Second revision	31.3	30.8	..	..	..	..	..
Imports							
Initial forecast	27.1	27.3	27.8	27.9	..	27.8	..
First revision	27.1	27.8	27.8	..	..	..	..
Second revision	27.6	27.8	..	..	..	..	..
Balance							
Initial forecast	2.5	3.2	3.8	3.0	..	2.5	..
First revision	3.2	3.7	3.0	..	..	..	..
Second revision	3.7	3.0	..	..	..	..	..
	seasonally adjusted %						
Unemployment rate							
Initial forecast	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.3	7.5	7.2
First revision	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.3	..	..	..
Second revision	7.8	7.5	7.3	..	..	..	..
Labour force participation rate							
Initial forecast	65.6	65.7	65.6	65.6	65.5	65.4	65.5
First revision	65.6	65.5	65.5	65.6	..	..	..
Second revision	65.5	65.4	65.5	..	..	..	..

.. *Not available.*

For more information, for a set of tables, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jamie Brunet (613-951-6684; fax: 613-951-1572; *jamie.brunet@statcan.ca*), Small Business and Special Surveys Division. ■

Innovation, training and success

In recent years, growth has been fastest in the specific industries that are referred to as the knowledge economy. These industries produce innovative products and have high value-added per worker.

While high-tech sectors are often seen to be the sources of growth, in reality, innovation is far more widespread. In every industry, there are firms that focus on innovation. A new study, "Innovation, training, and success", investigates whether it is the more innovative firms across the economy that are growing, and the need for highly skilled workers in these innovative firms.

Using Statistics Canada surveys that can track the success of individual firms over time, this study finds there is a close relationship between innovation and a firm's success, where success is measured by a firm's growth, or its profitability or productivity. Firms that emphasize the development of new processes or new products, or firms that adopt new, advanced technologies grow faster.

Several findings point to the importance of skilled workers to the innovation process. First, more innovative firms give much greater emphasis to training in order to develop worker skills than do less innovative firms. In addition, managers of firms adopting new advanced manufacturing technologies and those that are innovating report that skill requirements increased as the result of the adoption of these technologies.

Firms cite the lack of skilled workers as the most important impediment to innovation. In addition, they associate the use of advanced manufacturing technologies with higher plant wages. Also, the use of advanced technologies led to substantial increases in training costs.

Innovative firms that stressed the development of worker skills and that actively improved the skills of their employees tended to do better than those that did not. This was particularly the case in the manufacturing sector, where innovators that put greater importance on skilled workers tended to do better than those paying less attention to continuous staff training or recruitment. Successful firms in the manufacturing sector stressed innovation programs that focused on advanced technologies or on research and development. Training was an important complementary strategy.

In the service sector, the emphasis given to the development of skills had an independent impact on success. In retailing, wholesaling, accommodation, food services and business services, the emphasis given to skilled labour or continuous staff training was related to a firm's success. This was because innovations in the service sector relied less on new capital equipment and more on the knowledge of their workers for the development of innovations.

Note: This report, which investigates the factors behind the success of firms, is based on data from the 1993 Survey of Growing Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, the 1993 Survey of Innovation and Advanced Technology, the 1996 Characteristics of Bankrupt Firms, the 1996 Survey of Operating and Financing Practices, and the 1996 Survey of Innovation.

The Analytical Studies Branch Research Paper No. 137 "Innovation, training, and success" is now available. Copies can be obtained by contacting Louise Laurin (613-951-4676) or by visiting the Statistics Canada web site (www.statcan.ca).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact John Baldwin (613-951-8588), Micro Economic Studies and Analysis Division. ■

Air fare statistics

Third quarter 1998 (preliminary)

In the third quarter of 1998, the average domestic air fare (all types) paid by passengers was $196, up 4.7% from the third quarter of 1997. This was the sixth consecutive quarterly increase in the domestic sector. The average international air fare fell to $377, down 3.4% from the same quarter of 1997. This was the first decrease after seven consecutive quarterly increases in the international sector. Both domestic and international average air fares remained below their record levels of $204 and $419, respectively, reached in the second quarter of 1995 and the third quarter of 1994.

In the third quarter of 1998, a record 88.7% of passengers on domestic scheduled services flew on a discount fare, up 2.8 percentage points from 85.9% in the third quarter of 1997.

The greatest use of discount fares was on international scheduled services, where a record 91.0% of passengers travelled on a discount, up slightly from the third quarter of 1997.

Preliminary estimates are now available for the third quarter of 1998. Information on the types of fares used by passengers is based on data from four Level I air carriers (AirBC, Air Canada, Canadian Airlines International Ltd. and Canadian Regional Airlines) and from Air Alliance, Air Nova, Air Ontario and Inter-Canadien.

These estimates will appear in the November issue of *Aviation: Service bulletin* (51-004-XIB, $8/$82). A print-on-demand service is also available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Bradley Snider (613-951-0071; *snidbra@statcan.ca*), Aviation Statistics Centre, Transportation Division. ■

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending November 21, 1999

Non-intermodal traffic loaded during the seven-day period ending November 21, 1999, increased 7.6% to 4.9 million tonnes compared with the same period last year. The number of cars loaded increased 7.4%.

Intermodal traffic tonnage totalled 402 000 tonnes, a 2.7% increase from the same period last year. The year-to-date figures increased 12.7%.

Total traffic increased 7.2% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 228.0 million tonnes, down 0.6% from the previous year.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; *laroque@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Electric power statistics

September 1999

Favourable conditions enabled hydro stations to increase net electricity generation to 43 905 gigawatt hours (GWh), up 5.5% from September 1998. Exports increased 17.6% to 4 655 GWh, and imports fell from 1 327 GWh to 614 GWh.

Improved reservoir levels in Quebec were the main reason for a 14.1% advance in generation of hydro-electricity to 26 497 GWh. Greater availability of electricity from hydraulic sources also caused thermal conventional generation to drop 14.2% to 11 207 GWh. Generation from nuclear sources was up 16.3% to 6 202 GWh.

Year-to-date net generation at the end of September totalled 410 071 GWh, up 1.2% from the same period in 1998. Year-to-date exports (31 999 GWh) were down 8.0%, and year-to-date imports (10 727 GWh) fell 3.7% from the previous year.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3985-3999 .

The September 1999 issue of *Electric power statistics* (57-001-XIB, $9/$85) will be available shortly. 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. ■

Coal and coke statistics

September 1999

Reduced demand for coal from Canadian electric power utilities drove down coal production in September to 5 970 kilotonnes, down 2.0% from September 1998. Coal production in British Columbia (destined for overseas markets) increased 6.3% to 2 126 kilotonnes, while production in other provinces (sold mainly to electric power generating stations) was down 6.0% to 3 845 kilotonnes. Year-to-date production stood at 54 146 kilotonnes, down 4.5%.

Weaker demand in Asian markets led to a 9.8% decline in exports from September 1998 to 2 684 kilotonnes. Exports to Japan (the largest consumer of Canadian coal) decreased 33.8% to 1 195 kilotonnes during the same period. Year-to-date total exports amounted to 25 876 kilotonnes, 2.2% below last year's level.

Imports of coal for the third quarter of 1999 totalled 5 777 kilotonnes, up 4.7% from the previous year. Electric utilities in Ontario and Nova Scotia are the main customers requiring more foreign coal. Year-to-date figures show imports of 13 678 kilotonnes, up 5.1% from last year's level.

Coke production in September increased to 278 kilotonnes, up 0.5% from September 1998.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9.

The September 1999 issue of *Coal and coke statistics* (45-002-XPB, $12/$114) will be available in early December. 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. ■

Barriers to innovation in services industries

A new research document entitled *Barriers to innovation in services industries in Canada* shows that impediments to innovation varies according to industrial affiliation, the size of firms, the perceived competitive environment and propensity to perform research and development.

The publication *Barriers to innovation in services industries in Canada* (88F0017MIB) is now available free on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). To obtain a printed copy call 613-951-6309.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact Daood Hamdani (613-951-3490), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

Ontario Wage Survey

1999

Data from the Ontario Wage Survey for 1999 are now available. This survey was sponsored by Human Resources Development Canada and ONESTEP (a non-profit umbrella organization that promotes community-based training). The information covers wages paid to workers in over 200 occupations in 16 regions of Ontario. The data are also available at the following web address: *www.on.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/ows*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact Monique Simard (613-951-2092; *monique.simard@statcan.ca*), Small Business and Special Surveys Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Cereals and oilseeds review, September 1999
Catalogue number 22-007-XPB
(Canada: $15/$149; outside Canada: US$15/US$149).

Asphalt roofing, October 1999
Catalogue number 45-001-XIB
(Canada: $5/$47).

Retail trade, September 1999
Catalogue number 63-005-XIB
(Canada: $16/$155).

Retail trade, September 1999
Catalogue number 63-005-XPB
(Canada: $21/$206; outside Canada: US$21/US$206).

Perspectives on labour and income, winter 1999
Catalogue number 75-001-XPE
(Canada: $18/$58; outside Canada: US$18/US$58).

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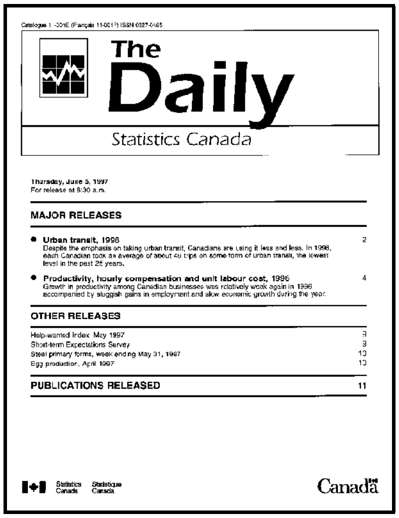

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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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Editor: Dan Smythe (613-951-1103, smytdan@statcan.ca)
Head of Official Release: Chantal Prévost (613-951-1088), prevcha@statcan.ca