



The Daily

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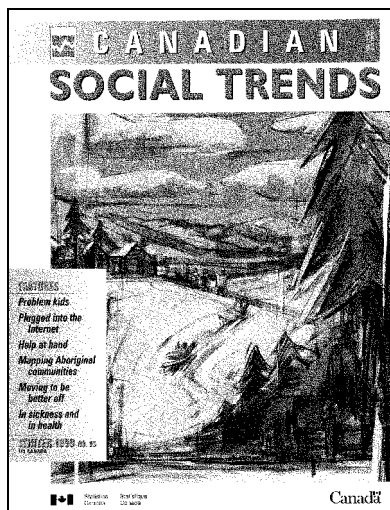
MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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Canadian social trends

Winter 1999

The Winter 1999 issue of *Canadian social trends* features articles on family characteristics of problem kids, Internet use by households, relocating to give or receive care, mapping the conditions of First Nations communities, moving to be better off, and the well-being of married seniors.

Each quarter, *Canadian social trends* integrates data from many sources to examine emerging social trends and issues. It also features the latest social indicators, as well as information about Statistics Canada's products and services.

The Winter 1999 issue of *Canadian social trends* (11-008-XPE, \$11/\$36) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, contact Susan Crompton (613-951-2556; cstsc@statcan.ca), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.



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New Housing Price Index

October 1999

The New Housing Price Index increased 1.3% in October compared with the same month a year earlier. This was the highest annual change since December 1997, when it also increased 1.3%. On a monthly basis, this index of contractors' selling prices for new houses rose 0.2%.

Annual increases were noted in 18 of the 21 urban areas surveyed. Calgary had the highest change (+4.4%) as builders passed on higher construction prices, such as lumber and labour, to new home buyers. Significant increases were also noted in Halifax (+4.2%) and Ottawa-Hull (+3.8%). These increases were partially offset by decreases in Vancouver (-2.9%) and Victoria (-5.3%). A moderate decrease was also noted in Sudbury-Thunder Bay (-1.4%).

New Housing Price Index

(1992=100)

	Oct. 1999	Oct. 1998 to Oct. 1999	Sept. to Oct. 1999
	% change		
Canada total	101.5	1.3	0.2
House only	102.7	1.9	0.2
Land only	102.2	0.5	0.1
St. John's	97.2	1.3	0.1
Halifax	113.0	4.2	0.5
Charlottetown	105.0	0.7	0.9
Saint John-Moncton-Fredericton	94.6	1.6	0.3
Quebec City	100.6	2.2	-
Montréal	105.7	3.0	0.6
Ottawa-Hull	102.1	3.8	0.3
Toronto	104.4	1.7	0.2
Hamilton	104.0	1.3	0.2
St. Catharines-Niagara	103.5	3.3	0.1
Kitchener-Waterloo	102.6	2.2	0.1
London	99.2	0.8	0.3
Windsor	106.0	1.2	-
Sudbury-Thunder Bay	98.8	-1.4	-0.5
Winnipeg	115.7	3.0	-
Regina	129.3	3.0	-0.1
Saskatoon	114.6	1.7	-
Calgary	130.5	4.4	0.2
Edmonton	110.7	2.3	0.1
Vancouver	83.6	-2.9	-0.1
Victoria	73.9	-5.3	-0.5

- Nil or zero.

On a monthly basis, the most significant increase was noted in Charlottetown (+0.9%) — a result of higher prices for materials, labour and land. In Montréal, where higher prices for materials, land and labour were also noted, the index rose 0.6% on a month-to-month basis. Four urban areas registered decreases, the largest in Victoria (-0.5%) and Sudbury-Thunder Bay (-0.5%), while four showed no change from September to October.

Note: The total New Housing Price Index for October is below the level of its two components, the House-only Index and the Land-only Index. This situation has occurred because the component index series is derived and linked independently. Linking, in particular, creates total indexes that are not averages of their sub-indexes in a strict sense.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9921.

The fourth quarter 1999 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in March 2000. See *How to order publications*.

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

Survey of Complex Enterprises 1997

Complex enterprises, those that operate in more than one province or industry or that consist of more than one legal entity, made up less than 1% of all enterprises in 1997. Nevertheless, they accounted for more than half of revenues earned and assets held in the non-financial business sector.

A total of 7,979 out of about 1.2 million enterprises, or 0.7%, were considered complex in 1997. These enterprises held \$952 billion in assets, accounting for 63% of the total non-financial business sector. They earned \$854 billion in operating revenue, which accounted for 57% of the total non-financial business sector.

As a whole, complex enterprises had higher profit margins and rates of return than the total non-financial industry sector. Operating profit margins were especially notable, amounting to 8.4% for the

complex set compared with 6.6% for all non-financial industries. The return on equity was slightly lower for the complex set, reflecting the fact that these enterprises tend to use share capital (equity) rather than borrowing (liabilities) to finance projects.

Key variables and performance indicators for non-financial enterprises 1997

	Complex enterprises	Total	Ratio of complex to total
	\$ billions		%
Assets	952	1,513	63
Liabilities	587	1,009	58
Equity	365	504	72
Operating revenue	854	1,503	57
Operating expenses	783	1,404	56
Operating profit	71	99	72
Profit before income tax	47	66	70
Net profit	29	44	66
	%		
Operating profit margin	8.4	6.6	
Net profit margin	3.5	3.0	
Return on equity	8.2	8.8	
Return on capital employed	7.8	6.5	

Manufacturers dominated the complex set of enterprises in 1997, holding 34.3% of assets and 43.5% of revenues earned in the complex non-financial business sector. Manufacturers also possessed the largest share of capital assets net of depreciation (27.1%) and had the largest value of loans at 25.6% of all non-financial complex enterprises.

The distribution of the complex set of non-financial enterprises among industries differed somewhat from that of all non-financial industries. Wholesale trade and manufacturing industry groups were dominant among complex enterprises, accounting for over 43% of the complex set of non-financial enterprises. These same industry groups accounted for only about 12% of all non-financial enterprises. Conversely, only 6% of enterprises within the construction and agriculture industry groups were complex, even though over 23%

of all non-financial enterprises fell into these two industry groupings.

Within the set of complex enterprises, a small number of companies dominated. In most industry groups, the top 10% of complex enterprises accounted for more than three-quarters of the assets and two-thirds of the total industry operating revenue.

Complex enterprises play an important role within the Canadian economy, far out of proportion to their number. Typically, the large scale of operations and vertical integration of production processes within these integrated companies is economically efficient, allowing Canada to compete effectively in the global marketplace. The new statistical measures in this release provide a portrait of this numerically small, but economically vital group of businesses.

Note: These data came from the 1997 Survey of Enterprises of the Unified Enterprise Survey, which collected and compiled statistics based on the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). These statistics are compared at the total non-financial industry level with data from the 1997 *Financial and taxation statistics for enterprises* (61-219-XPB), which are based on the Canadian Standard Industry Classification for Companies and Enterprises 1980. These financial statistics cover the domestic activities of complex enterprises that are classified to industries in the non-financial sector and have annual revenues greater than one million dollars. The non-financial business sector excludes financial industries such as banking and insurance, and non-business government institutions. Operating profit excludes expense deductions for income taxes, interest on borrowing, asset write-offs, gains (losses) on the sale of assets and investment income.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Danielle Lafontaine-Sorgo (613-951-2634) or Paula Helmer (613-951-9852), Industrial Organization and Finance Division. □

Financial statistics for complex non-financial enterprises 1997

	Enterprises	Assets	Operating revenue	Operating profit	Net profit	Net profit margin	Return on equity
	Number	\$ millions				%	
Administrative and support, waste management	284	6,221	9,090	435	233	2.6	13.1
Agriculture	93	3,027	2,421	68	127	5.2	10.1
Arts, entertainment and recreation	75	2,440	1,345	228	140	14.1	20.4
Construction	414	15,375	12,862	514	337	2.9	5.3
Educational services	31	620	478	12	-12	-2.6	-3.4
Accommodation and food services	455	7,343	7,228	595	457	5.9	19.8
Health care and social assistance	132	3,513	2,220	118	16	1.0	1.2
Information and culture	210	73,720	38,711	6,047	-1,314	-2.4	-3.2
Manufacturing	1,623	326,883	371,121	28,690	16,978	4.7	11.4
Mining, and oil and gas extraction	229	136,648	56,378	7,527	4,698	8.5	7.6
Other services (except public administration)	310	9,525	5,778	314	333	5.7	5.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	539	16,201	20,842	2,010	1,372	6.6	24.4
Real estate, and rental and leasing	305	41,941	11,198	2,351	873	7.8	6.7
Retail trade	1,048	36,798	85,755	3,516	2,503	3.0	17.4
Transportation and warehousing	399	65,370	46,652	3,643	4,033	8.7	14.7
Utilities	11	138,579	33,043	10,628	-4,364	-13.2	-21.0
Wholesale trade	1,820	68,178	148,893	4,727	2,835	1.8	12.7
Total, complex non-financial	7,979	952,384	854,013	71,423	29,244	3.5	8.2

Federal government finance: Assets and liabilities

March 31, 1999

At March 31, 1999, the federal government's net debt (defined as the excess of liabilities over financial assets) reached \$578.3 billion, a decrease of \$3.6 billion (-0.6%) over March 31, 1998. The financial assets stood at \$73.6 billion, while total liabilities reached \$651.9 billion. (These data are calculated on a Financial Management System (FMS) basis.)

As a percentage of gross domestic product, federal government net debt also decreased from 65.3% in 1998 to 62.8% in 1999. Per capita, the net debt decreased from \$19,259 to \$18,971.

Note: The Financial Management System (FMS) provides a standardized presentation of government accounting for the federal, provincial and local governments in Canada. The individual governments' accounting systems are not directly comparable because of differing policies and structures. The FMS adjusts data from governments' public accounts and other records to provide detailed data that permit inter-government comparisons as well as compatible national aggregates that are consistent over time. In other words, FMS statistics may not agree with the

figures published in government financial statements. A reconciliation statement of the two presentations is available.

Federal government net debt

	Net debt March 31	Net debt (percentage of GDP)	Net debt per capita
	\$ millions	%	\$
1971	18,581	19.9	863
1975	24,769	15.0	1,075
1980	72,555	24.0	2,971
1985	209,891	44.6	8,143
1990	362,920	53.8	13,160
1991	395,075	58.5	14,141
1992	428,682	62.0	15,162
1993	470,046	65.9	16,425
1994	513,219	68.6	17,735
1995	550,685	69.0	18,820
1996	578,718	70.8	19,566
1997	588,402	68.3	19,672
1998	581,931	65.3	19,259
1999	578,323	62.8	18,971

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3198-3200.

Data are available through custom and special tabulation. For more information, or general inquiries on the products or services of the Public Institutions Division, contact Jo-Anne Thibault (613-951-0767; jo-anne.thibault@statcan.ca).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact A.J. Gareau (613-951-1826) or Robert Larocque (613-951-1836), Public Institutions Division. ■

Finances of provincial and territorial government enterprises

Fiscal year ended nearest to December 31, 1997

In 1997, provincial and territorial government business enterprises earned an after-tax profit of \$2.3 billion, down \$3.1 billion (-57.4%) from the previous year.

The drop is the result of a \$6.6 billion corporate write-off by electric power utilities, which in turn caused these utilities to post losses of \$4.9 billion compared with a loss of \$0.9 billion in 1996. Lottery and gaming enterprises earned after-tax profits of \$4.1 billion and liquor authorities earned \$2.7 billion.

Total income reached \$52.3 billion while total expenses increased \$2.9 billion to \$50.0 billion.

Among the provinces, Ontario recorded a loss of \$4.3 billion compared with a loss of \$0.3 billion in 1996. Major restructuring expenses of \$6.6 billion from Ontario Hydro explain the 1997 result.

Profits remitted to provincial and territorial governments reached \$7.4 billion, up \$0.2 billion (+3.3%) over 1996. Of the total amount remitted, lottery and gaming enterprises and liquor authorities paid provincial and territorial governments \$3.7 billion and \$3.0 billion respectively.

At the end of 1997, total assets of provincial and territorial government business enterprises stood at \$178.0 billion compared with \$182.9 billion at the end of 1996. Privatization and changes in the public sector in 1997 are responsible for the decrease of \$4.9 billion in assets. The gross debt (total liabilities) increased by \$0.6 billion to \$157.4 billion at the end of 1997.

Note: Data are calculated using the Financial Management System (FMS) which standardizes the presentation of government accounting for federal, provincial, and local governments. The individual governments' accounting systems are not directly comparable because of differing policies and structures. As a result, the FMS adjusts data from government public accounts and other records to

provide comparable data. As well, the FMS provides national aggregates that are consistent over time.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3267-3270.

Data are available through custom and special tabulation. For more information or general enquiries on the products or services of the Public Institutions Division, contact Jo-Anne Thibault (613-951-0767; jo-anne.thibault@statcan.ca).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Richard Sauriol (613-951-1829; saurric@statcan.ca) or Claude Perras (613-951-1834; perrcla@statcan.ca), Public Institutions Division. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending December 4, 1999 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending December 4, 1999 totalled 293 307 tonnes, down 4.6% from the week-earlier 307 453 tonnes and down 2.5% from the year-earlier 300 834 tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 14 877 780 tonnes, a 1.0% increase compared with 14 723 262 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. ■

Steel wire and specified wire products

October 1999

Shipments of steel wire and specified wire products totalled 70 117 tonnes in October, down 0.4% from 70 407 tonnes in October 1998. Production and export market data for selected commodities are also available.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (series 19).

The October 1999 issue of *Steel wire and specified wire products* (41-006-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-9837; saineti@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Steel pipe and tubing

October 1999

Steel pipe and tubing production for October totalled 249 341 tonnes, a 16.0% increase from 214 908 tonnes a year earlier.

Year-to-date production to the end of October totalled 2 039 838 tonnes, down 0.9% from 2 058 389 tonnes during the same period in 1998.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 35.

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. ■

Light bulbs and tubes

October 1999

Manufacturers sold 26.4 million light bulbs and tubes in October, a 6.7% decrease from the 28.3 million sold in October 1998.

Year-to-date sales at the end of October totalled 226.0 million light bulbs and tubes, a 4.7% decrease from the 237.1 million sold over the same period in 1998.

The October 1999 issue of *Electric lamps* (43-009-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Russell Kowaluk (613-951-0600; kowarus@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Prince Edward Island Community Access Points Survey

Data from the Prince Edward Island Community Access Points Survey are now available for special tabulations. The data were collected in May and June 1999. They refer to Canadians aged 15 years and over living in Prince Edward Island.

The purpose of this household survey was to build a profile of general Internet use and to assess the level of interest for community access points to the Internet. Some enterprise-level business data were also collected during the same period.

For more information on data availability or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Jonathan Ellison (613-951-5882), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Canadian social trends, Winter 1999

Catalogue number 11-008-XPE

(Canada: \$11/\$36; outside Canada: US\$11/US\$36).

Steel wire and specified wire products,

October 1999

Catalogue number 41-006-XIB

(Canada: \$5/\$47).

Production and shipments of steel pipe tubing,

October 1999

Catalogue number 41-011-XIB

(Canada: \$5/\$47).

Electric lamps, light bulbs and tubes, October 1999

Catalogue number 43-009-XIB

(Canada: \$5/\$47).

Railways carloadings, September 1999

Catalogue number 52-001-XIE

(Canada: \$8/\$77).

Passenger bus and urban transit statistics, 1998

Catalogue number 53-215-XIB

(Canada: \$30).

Exports by country, January-September 1999

Catalogue number 65-003-XPB

(Canada: \$124/\$412; outside Canada: US\$124/US\$412).

Employment, earnings and hours, September 1999

Catalogue number 72-002-XPB

(Canada: \$32/\$320; outside Canada: US\$32/US\$320).

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Statistics Canada	
Thursday, June 9, 1997	
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MAJOR RELEASES	
• Urban transit, 1995 Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.	2
• Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995 Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1995 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow modest growth during the year.	4
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