

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, February 3, 1999  
For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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There are no major releases today.

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## OTHER RELEASES

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Help-wanted Index, January 1999	2
Short-term Expectations Survey	2
Survey on Changes in Employment, 1997-1998	3

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## OTHER RELEASES

### Help-wanted Index

January 1999

In January, the Help-wanted Index increased 0.7% from December to 147 (1996=100).

Increases in Nova Scotia (+2.6%), British Columbia (+1.7%), and Quebec (+1.4%) were partially offset by decreases in Alberta (-2.9%), Prince Edward Island (-2.6%) and Newfoundland (-2.2%). Indices in the remaining provinces were virtually unchanged.

### Help-wanted index

(1996=100)

	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	Jan.	Dec.
	1999	1998	1998	1998	1998
seasonally adjusted and smoothed					
	% change				
				to	to
				Jan.	Jan.
				1999	1999
<b>Canada</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Newfoundland	133	136	135	-1.5	-2.2
Prince Edward Island	152	156	125	21.6	-2.6
Nova Scotia	157	153	132	18.9	2.6
New Brunswick	153	152	147	4.1	0.7
Quebec	146	144	120	21.7	1.4
Ontario	156	156	134	16.4	0.0
Manitoba	166	165	147	12.9	0.6
Saskatchewan	130	131	142	-8.5	-0.8
Alberta	132	136	158	-16.5	-2.9
British Columbia	120	118	119	0.8	1.7

**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 employers' intentions to hire new workers. It has 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 methods, concepts, and data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; [labour@statcan.ca](mailto:labour@statcan.ca)), Labour Division. ■

### Short-term Expectations Survey

Little change is expected in the performance of the economy, according to the Short-term Expectations Survey covering the beginning of 1999. Forecasts have tended to be more pessimistic than the actual figures showed at the end of the year.

The month-over-month mean forecast for gross domestic product in November was 0.1% compared with the actual growth of 0.4%. Analysts expect little change in December 1998 and January 1999, with mean monthly growth of 0.2% and 0.1% respectively.

Forecasts for international trade show that a slight decrease is expected over the December 1998 through February 1999 period. The forecasted mean trade surplus for these three months is \$1.7 billion, a slightly smaller balance than November's actual figure of \$1.9 billion. The forecasts for both exports and imports were slightly lower than the actual figures for November.

Forecasters are expecting a slight increase in the Consumer Price Index for the January to March period. Actual inflation has been lower than expected - the forecasted average for December was 1.3% compared with the actual rate of 1.0%.

The unemployment rate remained steady at 8.0% for December, while the participation rate increased slightly to 65.6%. Forecasters are anticipating a slight increase in the unemployment rate for the January to March period, with mean forecasts of 8.1% for these three months, along with steady participation rates for January and February (65.6%) and a slight decrease for March (65.5%).

The next release will be on March 10, 1999.

For more information, to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, or for a set of tables, contact Jenny Grenier (613-951-1020; fax: 613-951-1572; [grenjen@statcan.ca](mailto:grenjen@statcan.ca)), Small Business and Special Surveys Division. □

## Short-term Expectations Survey

	Forecasts					Actual figures	
	Nov. 1998	Dec. 1998	Jan. 1999	Feb. 1999	Mar. 1999	Nov. 1998	Dec. 1998
	year/year %						
<b>Consumer Price Index</b>							
Initial forecast	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.0
First revision	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.1	..		
Second revision	1.1	1.3	1.0	..	..		
	seasonally adjusted %						
<b>Unemployment rate</b>							
Initial forecast	8.5	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.1	8.0	8.0
First revision	8.5	8.2	8.3	8.1	..		
Second revision	8.2	8.0	8.1	..	..		
<b>Labour force participation rate</b>							
Initial forecast	64.9	65.0	65.1	65.3	65.5	65.5	65.6
First revision	65.1	65.2	65.4	65.6	..		
Second revision	65.2	65.5	65.6	..	..		
	\$ billion						
<b>Exports</b>							
Initial forecast	26.9	27.1	28.0	27.9	..	28.4	..
First revision	27.2	28.2	27.9	..	..		
Second revision	28.2	28.0	..	..	..		
<b>Imports</b>							
Initial forecast	25.0	25.5	26.3	26.2	..	26.5	..
First revision	25.4	26.4	26.2	..	..		
Second revision	26.3	26.2	..	..	..		
<b>Balance</b>							
Initial forecast	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.7	..	1.9	..
First revision	1.8	1.8	1.7	..	..		
Second revision	1.9	1.8	..	..	..		
	seasonally adjusted month/month %, constant \$1992						
<b>Gross domestic product</b>							
Initial forecast	0.1	0.2	0.1	..	..	0.4	..
First revision	0.1	0.2	..	..	..		
Second revision	0.1	..	..	..	..		

.. Not available.

## Survey on Changes in Employment 1997-1998

Preliminary data are now available from the Survey on Changes in Employment, which was conducted on behalf of Human Resources Development Canada between September 1997 and September 1998. This survey gathered employment histories for people who had a job interruption between October 1996 and

December 1997. A public use microdata file is being prepared for release. This survey is a redesign of the earlier Canadian Out-of-Employment Panel Survey (COEP).

For more information about the survey, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Lecily Hunter (613-951-0597; [robilec@statcan.ca](mailto:robilec@statcan.ca)), Special Surveys Division.

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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**Cereals and oilseeds review**, November 1998  
**Catalogue number 22-007-XPB**  
(Canada: \$15/\$149; outside Canada: US\$15/US\$149).

**Crude petroleum and natural gas production**,  
October 1998  
**Catalogue number 26-006-XPB**  
(Canada: \$19/\$186; outside Canada: US\$19/US\$186).

**Asphalt roofing**, December 1998  
**Catalogue number 45-001-XPB**  
(Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

**Air charter statistics**, 1997  
**Catalogue number 51-207-XIB**  
(Canada: \$31; outside Canada: US\$31).

**Air charter statistics**, 1997  
**Catalogue number 51-207-XPB**  
(Canada: \$41; outside Canada: US\$41).

**Gas utilities**, October 1998  
**Catalogue number 55-002-XPB**  
(Canada: \$17; outside Canada: US\$17).

**Analytical paper series: "Can I help you?", The  
rise in household spending on services**, no. 21,  
January 1999  
**Catalogue number 63F002XPB**  
(Canada: \$10/\$35; outside Canada: US\$10/US\$35).

**All prices exclude sales tax.**

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension  
are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are  
microfiche; and -XPB or -XPE denote a paper version.

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Thursday, June 3, 1997  
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**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 60 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 noticeably weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow nominal growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 13
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**Statistics Canada's official release bulletin**

Catalogue 11-001E.

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Editor: Dan Smythe (613-951-1103, [smytdan@statcan.ca](mailto:smytdan@statcan.ca))

Head of Official Release: Chantal Prévost (613-951-1088, [prevcha@statcan.ca](mailto:prevcha@statcan.ca))

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