



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, February 5, 1999

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Labour Force Survey, January 1999** 3
In January, employment increased by an estimated 87,000 and the unemployment rate is now 7.8%, the lowest since June 1990.

OTHER RELEASES

Department store sales, December 1998 and Annual 1998	8
Employment dynamics, 1996	9
Railway carloadings, seven-day period ending January 21, 1999	9
Egg production, December 1998	9
Farm product prices, 1998	9

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 10

REGIONAL REFERENCE CENTRES 11

(continued on following page)

Dimensions series

1996 Census

The *Dimensions series* demonstrates the analytical potential of census information. Released today is the second of seven CD-ROMs entitled *Demographic and language characteristics, mobility and migration* (94F0008XCB, \$60). Approximately 35 tables give insight into the demographic characteristics of the Canadian population. Examples include: a portrait of the aged population, interprovincial migration patterns by language groups, and language retention and transfer.

The CD-ROM is packaged with the software Beyond 20/20™. With many powerful features, the browser allows the user to quickly and easily search and sort data, and to copy tables and charts to other Windows applications.

For further information, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.



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The Daily, February 5, 1999

RELEASE DATES: February 8 to 12, 1999

12

MAJOR RELEASES

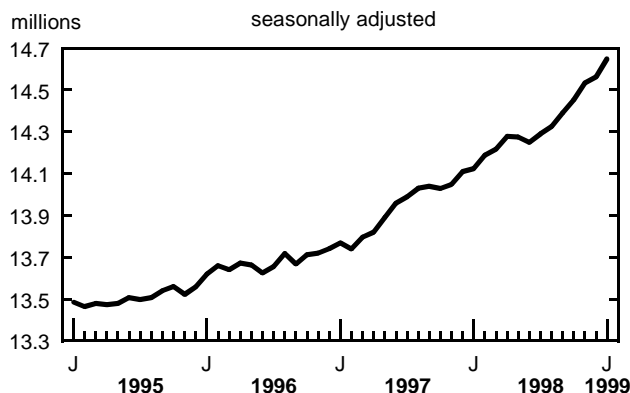
Labour Force Survey

January 1999

In January, employment increased by an estimated 87,000. This is the seventh consecutive monthly gain, with employment increases over this period averaging 57,000 per month. The unemployment rate is down 0.2 percentage points to 7.8%, the lowest rate since June 1990.

January's employment increase builds on the job growth of 1998. From January to November 1998, the average level of employment was 2.8% higher than during the same period in 1997, matching growth in Gross Domestic Product. In 1998, employment grew strongly in the service sector but fell in several goods-producing industries.

Employment



Sharp rise in full-time employment

January's employment gains consisted entirely of full-time jobs. In 1998, full-time employment accounted for two-thirds of the overall job growth.

Continuing the trend established in 1998, employment among youths aged 15 to 24 climbed by an estimated 44,000 in January, with 33,000 in full-time. The job gains were concentrated in personal and household services such as food and accommodation. The youth unemployment rate fell 0.5 percentage points to 13.9, the lowest since September 1990.

Following slow job growth in 1998 (+1.7%), employment among adult men rose by 41,000, all in

Notes to Readers

Three important changes have affected the Labour Force Survey estimates. First, the coding of industry estimates is no longer based on the 1980 Standard Industry Classification. Instead, the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) will be used. Second, the coding of occupation estimates has changed from the 1980 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) to the 1991 SOC. Lastly, there were modifications to the definition of the public sector. Data resulting from these three changes is not comparable to previously published estimates. Therefore, revised historical data have been made available on CANSIM. 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 has been split into two new regions, ER 433 (Centre-du-Québec) and ER 470 (Mauricie). Historical data for this change is also available on CANSIM.

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

full-time. January's employment gain for adult men was in manufacturing, trade and educational services.

After strong growth in 1998 (+3.7%), adult women saw little employment change in January as strong gains in educational and other services were offset by declines in health care and social assistance.

Industry focus

The number of employees in the public sector rose by 58,000 in January, more than offsetting the loss of 55,000 the month before. The number of employees in the private sector rose slightly in January (+30,000) following strong growth in the last quarter of the year. In January, self-employment was unchanged.

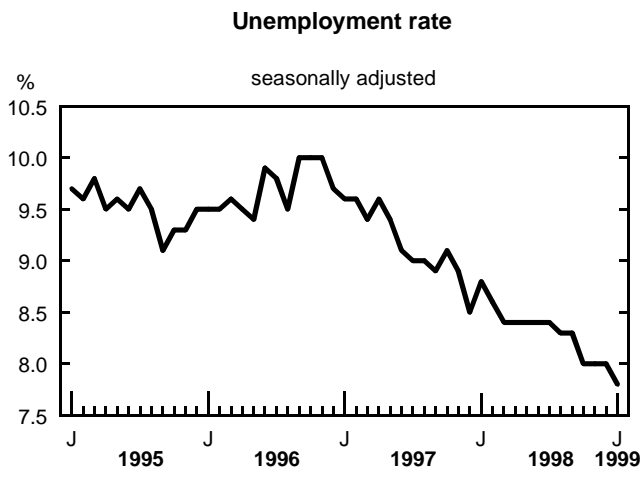
The rise in overall employment is reflected both in the goods-producing sector (+44,000) and the service sector (+43,000). Manufacturing employment grew by 55,000 in January following two months of little change. The January increase in manufacturing employment was concentrated in Ontario.

Employment in the forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas industries was little changed in January and follows a substantial decline in 1998 caused by falling commodity prices.

Employment in educational services increased by 37,000 in January, more than offsetting losses in the three previous months. Trade employment also increased in January (+33,000), adding to the growth that began in June. Job gains since then total 113,000.

Following several months of steady growth, employment fell by 55,000 in January in the health care and social assistance industry, with losses concentrated in private sector employment.

Note: The definition of the public sector used by the Labour Force Survey has been modified and a new industry classification system, the North American Industry Classification (NAICS), has been implemented with this data release. Historical estimates for these series have been revised accordingly. Please see Notes to readers.



Provincial summary

In January, employment in Ontario rose by 37,000, continuing the upward trend that began about two years ago. The unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage points to 6.6%, the lowest since August 1990.

In British Columbia, employment jumped by an estimated 32,000. This increase was almost all in the service sector and mainly in the Vancouver region. The unemployment rate declined by only 0.1 percentage point to 8.1%, since the increase in labour force participation was nearly the same as the rise in employment.

Employment in Alberta rose by 10,000 in January, the third consecutive monthly increase. A similar rise in labour force participation kept the unemployment rate unchanged at 5.7%.

After two consecutive months without an increase, employment in Nova Scotia rose by 7,000. The unemployment rate fell by 0.6 percentage points to 10.0%.

Employment was little changed in the other provinces.

Available on CANSIM: at 7 a.m. in matrices 3450-3471, 3483-3502 and table 00799999.

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

For a summary, *Labour force information*, for the week ending January 16, 1999 (71-001-PPB, \$11/\$103) is available today.

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on Friday March 12, 1999.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Deborah Sunter (613-951-4740) or Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750), Household Surveys Division. □

Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	Dec. 1998	Jan. 1999	Dec. 1998 to Jan. 1999	Dec. 1998	Jan. 1999	Dec. 1998 to Jan. 1999
Seasonally adjusted						
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	15,835.6	15,898.7	0.4	65.6	65.8	0.2
Newfoundland	245.6	245.1	-0.2	55.3	55.2	-0.1
Prince Edward Island	70.9	72.6	2.4	66.1	67.6	1.5
Nova Scotia	449.3	454.4	1.1	60.1	60.7	0.6
New Brunswick	379.9	380.8	0.2	62.6	62.8	0.2
Quebec	3,771.1	3,765.7	-0.1	63.0	62.8	-0.2
Ontario	6,129.9	6,149.3	0.3	66.8	66.9	0.1
Manitoba	587.9	586.7	-0.2	68.0	67.8	-0.2
Saskatchewan	513.1	511.0	-0.4	67.0	66.6	-0.4
Alberta	1,625.8	1,637.4	0.7	72.1	72.4	0.3
British Columbia	2,062.1	2,095.8	1.6	65.2	66.2	1.0
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	14,563.4	14,650.8	0.6	60.4	60.7	0.3
Newfoundland	199.6	202.0	1.2	44.9	45.5	0.6
Prince Edward Island	60.0	60.7	1.2	55.9	56.5	0.6
Nova Scotia	401.7	408.9	1.8	53.7	54.7	1.0
New Brunswick	335.7	337.6	0.6	55.4	55.7	0.3
Quebec	3,397.9	3,396.4	0.0	56.7	56.7	0.0
Ontario	5,707.0	5,744.2	0.7	62.2	62.5	0.3
Manitoba	553.4	554.0	0.1	64.0	64.1	0.1
Saskatchewan	481.0	477.8	-0.7	62.8	62.3	-0.5
Alberta	1,533.4	1,543.5	0.7	68.0	68.3	0.3
British Columbia	1,893.6	1,925.7	1.7	59.9	60.8	0.9
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	1,272.2	1,247.9	-1.9	8.0	7.8	-0.2
Newfoundland	46.0	43.1	-6.3	18.7	17.6	-1.1
Prince Edward Island	10.9	11.9	9.2	15.4	16.4	1.0
Nova Scotia	47.7	45.5	-4.6	10.6	10.0	-0.6
New Brunswick	44.2	43.2	-2.3	11.6	11.3	-0.3
Quebec	373.2	369.3	-1.0	9.9	9.8	-0.1
Ontario	422.9	405.0	-4.2	6.9	6.6	-0.3
Manitoba	34.5	32.8	-4.9	5.9	5.6	-0.3
Saskatchewan	32.1	33.2	3.4	6.3	6.5	0.2
Alberta	92.4	93.8	1.5	5.7	5.7	0.0
British Columbia	168.5	170.1	0.9	8.2	8.1	-0.1

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

Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	Jan. 1998	Jan. 1999	Jan. 1998 to Jan. 1999	Jan. 1998	Jan. 1999	Jan. 1998 to Jan. 1999
Unadjusted						
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	15,163.2	15,550.8	2.6	63.6	64.4	0.8
Newfoundland	224.2	231.1	3.1	50.0	52.0	2.0
Prince Edward Island	66.9	69.7	4.2	62.5	64.9	2.4
Nova Scotia	439.7	442.0	0.5	59.0	59.1	0.1
New Brunswick	347.1	360.2	3.8	57.4	59.4	2.0
Quebec	3,585.4	3,672.3	2.4	60.3	61.3	1.0
Ontario	5,901.2	6,034.8	2.3	65.2	65.7	0.5
Manitoba	565.3	576.4	2.0	65.7	66.6	0.9
Saskatchewan	497.4	498.4	0.2	65.3	65.0	-0.3
Alberta	1,561.9	1,609.7	3.1	71.2	71.2	0.0
British Columbia	1,974.1	2,056.1	4.2	63.0	64.9	1.9
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	13,684.9	14,206.2	3.8	57.4	58.8	1.4
Newfoundland	182.0	188.1	3.4	40.6	42.4	1.8
Prince Edward Island	54.6	55.0	0.7	51.0	51.2	0.2
Nova Scotia	387.0	394.0	1.8	51.9	52.7	0.8
New Brunswick	296.4	313.7	5.8	49.0	51.7	2.7
Quebec	3,131.6	3,267.5	4.3	52.7	54.5	1.8
Ontario	5,402.2	5,605.8	3.8	59.7	61.0	1.3
Manitoba	528.2	539.5	2.1	61.4	62.4	1.0
Saskatchewan	466.8	461.9	-1.0	61.2	60.2	-1.0
Alberta	1,471.1	1,509.7	2.6	67.1	66.8	-0.3
British Columbia	1,765.2	1,871.0	6.0	56.3	59.1	2.8
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	1,478.3	1,344.6	-9.0	9.7	8.6	-1.1
Newfoundland	42.3	43.1	1.9	18.9	18.6	-0.3
Prince Edward Island	12.3	14.7	19.5	18.4	21.1	2.7
Nova Scotia	52.7	48.0	-8.9	12.0	10.9	-1.1
New Brunswick	50.7	46.5	-8.3	14.6	12.9	-1.7
Quebec	453.7	404.8	-10.8	12.7	11.0	-1.7
Ontario	498.9	429.0	-14.0	8.5	7.1	-1.4
Manitoba	37.2	36.9	-0.8	6.6	6.4	-0.2
Saskatchewan	30.7	36.5	18.9	6.2	7.3	1.1
Alberta	90.7	100.0	10.3	5.8	6.2	0.4
British Columbia	208.9	185.2	-11.3	10.6	9.0	-1.6

Employment by industry (based on NAICS) and class of worker for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	Dec. 1998	Jan. 1999	Dec. 1998 to Jan. 1999	Jan. 1998 to Jan. 1999	Dec. 1998 to Jan. 1999	Jan. 1998 to Jan. 1999
	Seasonally adjusted					
	'000	'000	'000	'000	% change	% change
All industries	14,563.4	14,650.8	87.4	526.1	0.6	3.7
Goods-producing sector	3,762.2	3,806.5	44.3	85.1	1.2	2.3
Agriculture	412.2	406.7	-5.5	-10.4	-1.3	-2.5
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas	280.0	276.7	-3.3	-41.0	-1.2	-12.9
Utilities	115.2	112.6	-2.6	-12.7	-2.3	-10.1
Construction	813.1	813.4	0.3	85.4	0.0	11.7
Manufacturing	2,141.7	2,197.1	55.4	63.7	2.6	3.0
Services-producing sector	10,801.2	10,844.2	43.0	440.9	0.4	4.2
Trade	2,241.1	2,274.2	33.1	136.3	1.5	6.4
Transportation and warehousing	730.7	742.1	11.4	22.4	1.6	3.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	898.1	893.4	-4.7	64.4	-0.5	7.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	936.6	925.9	-10.7	91.8	-1.1	11.0
Management, administrative and other support	487.1	501.3	14.2	36.6	2.9	7.9
Educational services	939.3	976.5	37.2	47.3	4.0	5.1
Health care and social assistance	1,490.7	1,436.0	-54.7	21.9	-3.7	1.5
Information, culture and recreation	643.3	647.2	3.9	22.6	0.6	3.6
Accommodation and food services	932.5	929.2	-3.3	-11.3	-0.4	-1.2
Other services	731.9	748.7	16.8	26.2	2.3	3.6
Public administration	769.9	769.6	-0.3	-17.5	0.0	-2.2
Class of worker						
Public sector employees	2,560.2	2,618.1	57.9	34.8	2.3	1.3
Private sector	12,003.1	12,032.7	29.6	491.3	0.2	4.3
Private employees	9,413.5	9,443.5	30.0	367.4	0.3	4.0
Self-employed	2,589.6	2,589.2	-0.4	123.9	0.0	5.0

Note: The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) is not comparable to the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC80) previously used. Class-of-worker estimates have also been revised to conform to the standard set by the System of National Accounts. For more information, visit the Statistics Canada website at www.statcan.ca/english/concepts/ under Changes to the LFS data for Industry, Occupation and Class of worker.

OTHER RELEASES

Department store sales

December 1998 and Annual 1998

In December, department stores rang in the Holidays with a 1.2% advance in sales to \$1.42 billion. This gain followed declines in October (-0.1%) and November (-0.6%). Department store sales were 4.0% higher in December 1998 than in December 1997. Sales have generally been flat since the spring of 1998, after rising since the summer of 1993. (All data are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise noted).

For 1998, stalling sales in the spring limited the overall sales increase. Department store sales advanced 6.4% in 1998 compared with 1997, advancing from \$15.9 billion to \$16.9 billion. This followed a blistering advance of 10.3% from 1996 to 1997. Restructuring in the department store industry may partially explain the levelling-off in sales over the course of 1998. For 1998, there were 72 fewer stores in December than in January.

Quebec and Ontario posted the largest year-over-year sales increases (unadjusted) in December (+8.3% and +6.5% respectively). Compared with 1997, Ontario had an overall annual advance of 7.1% and Quebec registered a gain of 6.2%. Excluding 1997, these advances were the largest for Ontario since 1987 and for Quebec since 1985.

Alberta and Saskatchewan posted the strongest annual increases in department store sales in 1998 (unadjusted advances of 9.0% and 7.7% respectively); however, this was mainly due to a strong level of sales at the start of the year. Sales in department stores in these provinces have been faltering in recent months. In December 1998, department store sales in Alberta were 3.8% higher than in December 1997. In Saskatchewan, the increase was 3.5% over the same period.

Department stores sales in British Columbia, Yukon and Northwest Territories declined 0.2% in 1998. This followed an 8.0% advance in 1997.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 111-113.

Accounts receivable data for department stores are available through the Client Services Unit, Distributive Trades Division. To purchase data, or for general information, contact Client Services (613-951-3549; 1-877-421-3067, retailinfo@statcan.ca).

For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Greg Peterson (613-951-3592; petegre@statcan.ca), Retail Trade Section, Distributive Trades Division.

Department store sales including concessions

	Dec. 1997	Dec. 1998	Dec. 1997 to Dec. 1998	Jan. to Dec. 1998	Jan.- Dec. 1997 to Jan.- Dec. 1998
unadjusted					
	\$ millions	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
Canada	2,529.3	2,649.0	4.7	16,878.3	6.0
Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island ¹	49.0	49.2	0.5	313.7	5.2
Nova Scotia	86.9	89.3	2.7	531.2	5.1
New Brunswick	63.6	63.4	-0.3	393.7	3.7
Quebec	414.9	449.2	8.3	3,063.8	6.2
Ontario	1,094.8	1,165.8	6.5	7,182.5	7.1
Manitoba	104.3	107.6	3.2	703.1	6.2
Saskatchewan	82.2	85.0	3.5	557.6	7.7
Alberta	295.0	306.1	3.8	1,975.5	9.0
British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories ¹	338.7	333.5	-1.6	2,157.1	-0.2

¹ For reasons of confidentiality, data for Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, and British Columbia, the Yukon and Northwest Territories are combined.

Employment dynamics

1996

There were 941,100 employer-businesses in Canada in 1996, a net increase of 0.5% from 1995. Businesses active in both 1995 and 1996 numbered 793,700 and represented 97% of 1996 employment. The 147,400 businesses newly identified in 1996 accounted for the remaining 3% of employment.

Businesses with fewer than five employees represented 78% of all businesses in 1996. Their share of total employment was 11%.

Note: Employment dynamics is based on the Longitudinal Employment Analysis Program (LEAP), a longitudinal file of all businesses in Canada with at least one employee which were active any time between 1983 and 1996. Employment dynamics includes the number of employer-businesses, payroll and employment; the data are available by province and industry. The employment measure used is the average labour unit (ALU), which is obtained by dividing annual payroll by average annual earnings. The data are tabulated by employment size and life status of business and are available in tables comparing the 1989-1996 period and the 1995-1996 period.

For more information, to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, or to purchase tables, contact Ed Hamilton (613-951-0822; hamiled@statcan.ca), Small Business and Special Surveys Division. ■

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending January 21, 1999

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending January 21, 1999, decreased 2.5% to 4.3 million tonnes from the same period in 1998. The number of cars loaded decreased 0.7%.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totalled 304 000 tonnes, a 3.0% increase from the same period of last year. The year-to-date figures increased 12.8%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) decreased 2.1% during the period.

This brought the year-to-date total to 12.3 million tonnes, a decrease of 4.4% from the previous year.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

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

Egg production

December 1998 (preliminary)

Egg production estimates for December 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 more information on this release, contact Sandy Gielfeldt (613-951-2505), Livestock and Animal Product Section, Agriculture Division. ■

Farm product prices

1998

Monthly farm product prices for 1998 are now available.

For more information on this release, contact Bernie Rosien (613-951-2441; fax: 613-951-3868), Farm Income and Prices Section, Agriculture Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Infomat - A Weekly Review (internet version)
Catalogue number 11-002-XIE
(Canada: \$3/\$109; outside Canada: US\$3/US\$109).

Infomat - A Weekly Review
Catalogue number 11-002-XPE
(Canada: \$4/\$145; outside Canada: US\$4/US\$145).

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation,
December 1998
Catalogue number 44-004-XIB
(Canada: \$5/\$47; outside Canada: US\$5/US\$47).

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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 riding it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six 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 measured growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
- **Steel primary forms, steel ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Flag production, April 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

11

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Toronto, Ontario
M4T 1M4
Local calls: (416) 973-6586
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136
Fax: 1-416-973-7475

Manitoba

Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
Via Rail Building, Suite 200
123 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 4V9
Local calls: (204) 983-4020
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136
Fax: 1-204-983-7543

Saskatchewan

Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
Park Plaza, Suite 440
2365 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 4K1
Local calls: (306) 780-5405
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136
Fax: 1-306-780-5403

Southern Alberta

Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
Discovery Place, Room 201
3553-31 Street N.W.
Calgary, Alberta
T2L 2K7
Local calls: (403) 292-6717
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136
Fax: 1-403-292-4958

Northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories

Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
8th Floor, Park Square
10001 Bellamy Hill
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 3B6
Local calls: (403) 495-3027
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136
Fax: 1-403-495-5318

British Columbia and the Yukon

Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
Library Square Tower, Suite 600
300 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6B 6C7
Local calls: (604) 666-3691
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136
Fax: 1-604-666-4863

Telecommunications Device for the Hearing Impaired

Toll free: 1-800-363-7629

RELEASE DATES

February 8 to 12, 1999
(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
10	New housing price index	December 1998
11	Survey of Household Spending	1997
12	New motor vehicle sales	December 1998