



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, March 10, 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

### Help-wanted Index

February 1999

The index that measures the number of help-wanted newspaper advertisements increased 0.7% in February to 148 (1996=100), marking the third consecutive monthly increase.

Increases in New Brunswick (+2.6%), British-Columbia (+1.7%), Newfoundland (+1.5%), Quebec (+1.4%) and Saskatchewan (+0.8%) were partially offset by a decrease in Alberta (-1.5%). All other provincial indexes remained unchanged.

### Help-wanted Index

(1996=100)

	Feb. 1999	Jan. 1999	Feb. 1998	Feb. 1998 to Feb. 1999	Jan. to Feb. 1999
seasonally adjusted and smoothed					
	_____				
	_____ % change				
<b>Canada</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Newfoundland	135	133	136	-0.7	1.5
Prince Edward Island	152	152	132	15.2	0.0
Nova Scotia	157	157	133	18.0	0.0
New Brunswick	157	153	146	7.5	2.6
Quebec	148	146	126	17.5	1.4
Ontario	156	156	139	12.2	0.0
Manitoba	166	166	150	10.7	0.0
Saskatchewan	131	130	139	-5.8	0.8
Alberta	130	132	159	-18.2	-1.5
British Columbia	122	120	117	4.3	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. These indexes have been seasonally adjusted and smoothed to ease month-to-month comparisons.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 105 (levels 8 to 10).**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods 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. ■

### New Housing Price Index

January 1999

In January, the New Housing Price Index increased 0.5% compared with the level in January 1998. On a month-to-month basis, this index of contractors' selling prices for new houses remained unchanged from December to January.

The largest monthly increases were noted in Halifax (+1.6%), St. John's (+0.9%) and Regina (+0.9%) as some builders passed on increased construction costs to new home buyers. Smaller increases were also noted in several other cities. However, these increases were completely offset by monthly decreases in Charlottetown (-1.1%), Vancouver (-0.9%), Hamilton (-0.5%) and several other cities. Four of the 21 cities surveyed showed no monthly change in January.

Annual changes varied considerably among the cities surveyed. The active Calgary market had the largest annual increase (+5.6%). The largest annual decreases were in Victoria (-6.3%) and Vancouver (-5.4%) where market conditions remain poor.

**Note:** The total New Housing Price Index has been below the level of its two components since November 1997 and the difference has tended to increase. This is a result of using a chain formula to calculate the indexes for house, land and total. The chain formula is used to reflect better the changes in the pattern of construction activity.

## New housing price indexes (1992=100)

	Jan. 1999	Jan. 1998 to Jan. 1999	Dec. 1998 to Jan. 1999
		% change	
<b>Canada total</b>	<b>100.3</b>	<b>0.5</b>	-
House only	100.8	0.8	-
Land only	102.0	0.4	-
St. John's	96.3	-0.5	0.9
Halifax	110.1	3.0	1.6
Charlottetown	103.5	3.4	-1.1
St. John-Moncton-Fredericton	93.3	-1.2	-
Quebec City	99.1	0.4	0.6
Montréal	102.7	0.5	0.2
Ottawa-Hull	98.2	1.3	-0.1
Toronto	103.1	2.1	0.2
Hamilton	102.4	1.5	-0.5
St. Catharines-Niagara	101.0	2.1	0.1
Kitchener-Waterloo	101.1	1.4	0.6
London	98.4	0.9	-
Windsor	105.8	0.5	1.1
Sudbury-Thunder Bay	99.9	-1.4	-0.3
Winnipeg	112.4	0.7	-
Regina	126.6	3.6	0.9
Saskatoon	112.7	1.3	-
Calgary	126.8	5.6	0.3
Edmonton	108.9	2.4	0.1
Vancouver	84.9	-5.4	-0.9
Victoria	77.4	-6.3	-0.3

- Nil or zero.

### Available on CANSIM: matrices 9921.

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

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

## Short-term Expectations Survey

Results from the Short-term Expectations Survey show that little change is expected in the performance of the economy for the first quarter of 1999. Forecasters are adjusting downwards their forecasts for this period.

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

Forecasts for international trade show that a slight increase is expected over the January through March period. The mean trade surplus forecast for these three months is \$1.6 billion, a slightly higher balance than December's actual figure of \$1.5 billion. The forecasts for both exports and imports were slightly lower than the actual figures for December.

Forecasters are expecting a slight increase in the Consumer Price Index over the February to April period. Actual inflation has been lower than expected — the forecast average for January was 1.0% compared with the actual rate of 0.6%.

The unemployment rate decreased to 7.8% for January while the participation rate increased to 65.8%. Forecasters are anticipating a slight decrease in February's unemployment rate to 7.7%, followed by increases in March and April to 7.9%. Participation rates for February to April are forecast to remain steady at 65.7%.

The next release will be on April 7, 1999.

For more information, for a set of tables, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, 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	
	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	Dec.	Jan.
seasonally adjusted month/month % change, constant \$1992							
<b>Gross domestic product</b>							
Initial forecast	0.2	0.1	0.1	..	..	0.4	..
First revision	0.2	0.2	..	..	..		
Second revision	0.2	..	..	..	..		
\$ billion							
<b>Exports</b>							
Initial forecast	27.1	28.0	27.9	28.2	..	28.3	..
First revision	28.2	27.9	28.2	..	..		
Second revision	28.0	28.2	..	..	..		
<b>Imports</b>							
Initial forecast	25.5	26.3	26.2	26.5	..	26.8	..
First revision	26.4	26.2	26.6	..	..		
Second revision	26.2	26.6	..	..	..		
<b>Balance</b>							
Initial forecast	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	..	1.5	..
First revision	1.8	1.7	1.6	..	..		
Second revision	1.8	1.6	..	..	..		
year/year % change							
<b>Consumer Price Index</b>							
Initial forecast	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.6
First revision	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.8	..		
Second revision	1.3	1.0	0.7	..	..		
seasonally adjusted %							
<b>Unemployment rate</b>							
Initial forecast	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.1	7.9	8.0	7.8
First revision	8.2	8.3	8.1	7.9	..		
Second revision	8.0	8.1	7.7	..	..		
<b>Labour force participation rate</b>							
Initial forecast	65.0	65.1	65.3	65.5	65.7	65.6	65.8
First revision	65.2	65.4	65.6	65.7	..		
Second revision	65.5	65.6	65.7	..	..		

.. Not available.

## Population and census family estimates

July 1, 1991 to July 1, 1998

A new series of population and census family estimates is now available for Canada, the provinces and territories for each year from July 1, 1991 to July 1, 1998.

Released today are preliminary postcensal estimates by age, sex and marital status at July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997 (updated postcensal); July 1, 1996 (final postcensal); and July 1, 1991 to July 1, 1995 (final intercensal).

Also available are preliminary postcensal July 1, 1998 estimates of the number of census families as well as those at July 1, 1997 (updated postcensal) and those at July 1 in 1996, 1995, 1994, 1993, 1992 and 1991 (final intercensal). Additional detail is provided for each province for husband-wife and lone-parent families on the basis of size, age group of children, age of husband and wife or lone parent, and sex of parent in the case of lone-parent families.

These population and family estimates take into account the 1996 Census results, adjusted for net census undercoverage.

Population estimates at the census division and census metropolitan area level will be available shortly.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 6213-6225 and 6343.**

These estimates will appear in *Annual demographic statistics, 1998* (91-213-XPB, \$125; Internet version: 91-213-XIB, \$56) which will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For more information on this release or to obtain data, contact Lise Champagne (613-951-2320; fax: 613-951-2307; [chamlis@statcan.ca](mailto:chamlis@statcan.ca)), Demography Division, or contact your nearest Regional Reference Centre. For information on concepts, methods, and data quality for estimates of population by age, sex and marital status or for the number of census families, contact Daniel Larrivée (613-951-0694; fax: 613-951-2307; [lardani@statcan.ca](mailto:lardani@statcan.ca)). ■

## Steel pipe and tubing

January 1999

Steel pipe and tubing production for January totalled 205 650 tonnes, a 4.8% decrease from 215 971 tonnes a year earlier.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 35.**

The January 1999 issue of *Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing* (41-011-XIB, \$5/\$47) will be available shortly on the Internet. See *How to order publications*.

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](mailto:milsomg@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## Asphalt roofing

January 1999

Production of asphalt shingles totalled 2 757 740 metric bundles in January, a 9.7% increase from 2 514 875 metric bundles produced in January 1998.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 32 and 122 (series 27).**

The January 1999 issue of *Asphalt roofing* (45-001-XPB, \$7/\$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Don Grant (613-951-5998; [grantdo@statcan.ca](mailto:grantdo@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins

January 1999

Chemical firms produced 202 761 tonnes of polyethylene synthetic resins in January, a 3.4% increase from 196 009 tonnes in January 1998.

Data are also available on production of 3 other types of synthetic resins and 24 industrial chemicals.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 951.**

The January 1999 issue of *Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins* (46-002-XIB, \$5/47) is now available on the Internet. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Randall Sheldrick (613-951-7199; [shelran@statcan.ca](mailto:shelran@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## For-hire motor carriers of freight (top carriers)

Fourth quarter 1998

The top 74 for-hire motor carriers based in Canada (those earning \$25 million or more annually) generated \$1.38 billion in operating revenues and incurred \$1.30 billion in operating expenses during the fourth quarter of 1998. The operating ratio (operating expenses divided by operating revenues) for all top for-hire carriers of freight was stable at 0.94 compared with the fourth quarter of 1997 (any ratio greater than 1.00 represents an operating loss).

Fourth quarter 1998 data on the top for-hire carriers, taken from the Quarterly Motor Carriers of Freight Survey, provides results from 57 general freight carriers and 17 specialized freight carriers.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Gilles Paré (613-951-2517; fax: 613-951-0579; [paregil@statcan.ca](mailto:paregil@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing**, January 1999  
**Catalogue number 41-011-XIB**  
 (Canada: \$5/\$47; outside Canada: US\$5/US\$47).

**Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins**, January 1999  
**Catalogue number 46-002-XIB**  
 (Canada: \$5/\$47; outside Canada: US\$5/US\$47).

**Surface and marine transport: service bulletin**, vol. 15, no. 2  
**Catalogue number 50-002-XIB**  
 (Canada: \$10/\$62; outside Canada: US\$10/US\$62).

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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 1996, each Canadian 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, 1996 4  
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- High-wind index, May 1997 3
- Short-term Expectations Survey 3
- Steel primary forms, year ending May 31, 1997 10
- Egg production, April 1997 12

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