



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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- **Public sector employment, 1998** 2
Employment in the public sector started to stabilize in 1998 after declining for five consecutive years. The public sector employed an average of just under 2.8 million people last year, down a marginal 0.6% from 1997.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Public sector employment

1998 (preliminary)

Employment in the public sector started to stabilize in 1998 after an average decline of 1.8% in the past five years. The public sector employed an average of just under 2.8 million people last year, down a marginal 0.6% from 1997. The public sector contains all institutional units controlled by government.

The decline of about 15,400 jobs in 1998 was the smallest since 1993. In contrast, the public sector workforce fell by approximately 88,000 in 1996 and 70,000 in 1997.

After several years of tighter budgetary control and restructuring by governments, there are now as many people working in the public sector today as there was in 1984. However, on average, there were 92 public sector employees per 1,000 persons in 1998, down from 108 in 1984.

Among the provinces, Quebec and Ontario registered the largest declines in public sector employment in 1998. Ontario had 949,400 public sector employees, down 3,400 (-0.5%) from 1997, while there were 717,500 in Quebec, down 13,400 (-1.8%). Public sector employment increased the most in Alberta where 1,600 employees were added to the work force.

Almost all the decline occurred in government

The decline in public sector employment in 1998 occurred for the most part in the government, which consists of individuals who work for the federal, provincial/territorial and local governments. In 1998, these three levels of government employed an average of just over 2.5 million people, 0.6% less than in 1997.

Employment in the government business enterprises, a major component of the public sector, remained virtually unchanged with 257,700 employees in 1998.

Employment fell in all three levels of government, with the federal work force experiencing the largest drop (about 47% of the total decline). The federal government (including military) employed an average of 331,100 people in 1998, down 2.0% or 6,900 from 1997. The federal employment reduction in Quebec included a transfer of almost 1,100 employees to the provincial government at the beginning of the year. This transfer was the result of the implementation of the *Canada-Quebec Labour Market Agreement in Principle* signed in April 1997.

The provincial/territorial work force also declined by about 6,100 employees to 1.3 million. Hospitals in Ontario and Quebec, as well as the general administration in Ontario, accounted for most of the provincial/territorial decline.

The local government work force fell by about 1,700 to 889,800. Declines in the local work force were highest in Quebec and British Columbia, while Ontario experienced the biggest increase in local government workers.

Public sector wages and salaries up for the first time in five years

Overall, wages and salaries paid to employees in the public sector increased for the first time in five years in 1998. Public sector employees received \$101.6 billion in wages and salaries last year, up 0.6% from 1997.

Total outlay on wages and salaries for government was \$90.5 billion, about 90% of the public sector total. Provinces and territories paid \$43.2 billion in wages and salaries, an increase of \$370 million over 1997. Most of this increase went to health and social services. Federal government paid out \$14.4 billion in 1998, \$116 million more than in 1997.

Total wages and salaries for municipal governments were \$33.0 billion in 1998. Although there was little change in total remuneration paid by local governments, wages and salaries paid by school boards increased \$351 million while those paid for municipal administration decreased by \$258 million.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2720, 2860, 2863, 2864 and 2866.

The annual publication *Public sector employment and wages and salaries 1996* (72-209-XPB, \$44) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

Data are also available through custom tabulation. For information or for general enquiries on the Public Institutions Division's products and services, contact Viola Jabbour (613-951-0767; jabbvio@statcan.ca).

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Sauvé (613-951-8306), Public Institutions Division. □

Public sector employment 1998 (preliminary)

	Federal government	Provincial and territorial government	Local government	Total government	Government business enterprises	Total public sector	1997 to 1998
							% change
Canada	331,132	1,302,320	889,761	2,523,213	257,672	2,780,885	-0.6
Newfoundland	7,238	30,942	13,078	51,258	3,947	55,205	0.8
Prince Edward Island	3,143	8,546	3,041	14,730	1,125	15,855	-1.7
Nova Scotia	23,863	48,740	24,710	97,313	8,177	105,490	-1.4
New Brunswick	12,746	53,284	6,077	72,107	6,722	78,829	1.5
Quebec	66,870	377,469	208,027	652,366	65,168	717,533	-1.8
Ontario	130,350	364,175	358,745	853,270	96,168	949,438	-0.5
Manitoba	14,614	62,146	38,493	115,252	12,861	128,113	1.0
Saskatchewan	9,158	55,644	33,560	98,363	13,482	111,845	0.8
Alberta	24,386	124,117	90,443	238,946	16,233	255,179	0.6
British Columbia	33,860	166,395	110,581	310,836	33,070	343,906	-0.4
Yukon Territory	857	3,696	386	4,939	x	4,939	3.4
Northwest Territories	1,112	7,166	2,620	10,898	x	10,898	0.3
Exterior	2,935	0	0	2,935	0	2,935	-3.2

^x Confidential to meet secrecy requirements of the Statistics Act.

Note: Federal government includes military. Provincial and territorial government includes provincial and territorial general government, universities and colleges and health and social services institutions. Local government includes school boards.

Public sector remuneration 1998 (preliminary)

	Federal government	Provincial and territorial government	Local government	Total government	Government business enterprises	Total public sector	1997 to 1998
							% change
	\$ millions						
Canada	14,387	43,182	32,952	90,520	11,051	101,571	0.6
Newfoundland	288	955	513	1,756	137	1,893	-0.1
Prince Edward Island	124	241	102	467	32	500	0.9
Nova Scotia	995	1,335	775	3,105	284	3,389	0.7
New Brunswick	489	1,735	170	2,393	245	2,638	0.4
Quebec	2,815	12,232	7,281	22,328	2,850	25,178	0.6
Ontario	5,947	13,485	14,361	33,793	4,476	38,270	1.2
Manitoba	587	1,692	1,249	3,528	488	4,016	-0.4
Saskatchewan	374	1,579	995	2,948	481	3,430	-0.7
Alberta	998	3,479	3,153	7,630	612	8,242	0.3
British Columbia	1,461	5,878	4,256	11,595	1,406	13,002	-0.1
Yukon Territory	48	184	16	248	x	248	-0.5
Northwest Territories	79	388	80	547	x	547	-0.5
Exterior	181	0	0	181	0	181	-7.4

^x Confidential to meet secrecy requirements of the Statistics Act.

Note: Federal government includes military. Provincial and territorial government includes provincial and territorial general government, universities and colleges and health and social services institutions. Local government includes school boards.

OTHER RELEASES

Annual wholesale and retail trade 1996

Annual wholesale and retail trade data are now available for 1996.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data

quality of this release, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-3549; 1 877 421-3067; retailinfo@statcan.ca; wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca). ■

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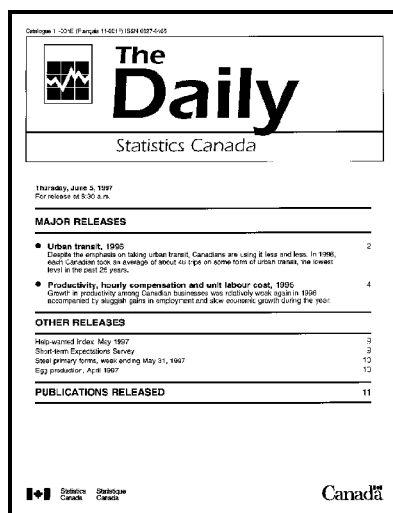
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Editor: Dan Smythe (613-951-1103, smytdan@statcan.ca)

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

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