



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, April 7, 1999

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index

March 1999

The Help-wanted Index remained unchanged in March at 148 (1996=100).

Increases in Manitoba (+4.2%), New Brunswick (+3.2%), Saskatchewan (+2.3%), and Prince Edward Island (+2.0%) were offset by declines in British Columbia (-2.5%), Alberta (-2.3%) and Nova Scotia (-1.3%). All other provincial indices showed little change.

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 companies' intentions to hire new workers. These indices have been seasonally adjusted and smoothed to ease month-to-month comparisons.

Help-wanted Index

(1996=100)

	March 1999	Feb. 1999	March 1998	March 1998/ March 1999	Feb. 1999/ March 1999
	seasonally adjusted and smoothed				
					% change
Canada	148	148	138	7.2	0.0
Newfoundland	135	135	142	-4.9	0.0
Prince Edward Is- land	155	152	140	10.7	2.0
Nova Scotia	155	157	134	15.7	-1.3
New Brunswick	162	157	145	11.7	3.2
Quebec	149	148	131	13.7	0.7
Ontario	157	156	143	9.8	0.6
Manitoba	173	166	152	13.8	4.2
Saskatchewan	134	131	138	-2.9	2.3
Alberta	127	130	157	-19.1	-2.3
British Columbia	119	122	114	4.4	-2.5

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

For more information, or to enquire about concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division. ■

Short-term Expectations Survey

The Short-term Expectations Survey results show that the economy is expected to remain stable between March and May.

The month-over-month mean forecast for gross domestic product in January was 0.4% compared with the actual growth of 0.2%. Analysts expect mean monthly annual growth of 0.3% in both February and March.

The forecast mean trade surplus for February through April is \$2.5 billion, a slightly lower balance than the actual figure of \$2.7 billion in January. The forecasts for both exports and imports were approximately the same as the actual figures for January.

Forecasters are expecting an increase in the Consumer Price Index between March and May. Actual inflation has been slightly higher than expected — the forecasted average for February was 0.7% compared with the actual rate of 0.8%.

Both the unemployment rate (7.8%) and the participation rate (65.8%) remained stable in February. Forecasters are anticipating a steady unemployment rate between March and May with mean forecasts of 7.8% for the three months. Forecasters also expect slight increases in the participation rate in March (65.8%), April (65.9%) and May (65.9%).

The next release will be on May 5, 1999. To order 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), Small Business and Special Surveys Division. □

Short-term Expectations Survey

	Forecasts					Actual figures	
	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	Jan.	Feb.
seasonally adjusted month/month %, constant \$1992							
Gross domestic product							
Initial forecast	0.1	0.1	0.3	..	..	0.2	..
First revision	0.2	0.3	..	..	..
Second revision	0.4	..	..	..	..
\$ billion							
Exports							
Initial forecast	28.0	27.9	28.2	29.0	..	28.9	..
First revision	27.9	28.2	28.8	..	..
Second revision	28.2	28.8	..	..	..
Imports							
Initial forecast	26.3	26.2	26.5	26.5	..	26.2	..
First revision	26.2	26.6	26.4	..	..
Second revision	26.6	26.3	..	..	..
Balance							
Initial forecast	1.7	1.7	1.7	2.5	..	2.7	..
First revision	1.7	1.6	2.4	..	..
Second revision	1.6	2.5	..	..	..
year/year %							
Consumer Price Index							
Initial forecast	1.1	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.8
First revision	1.2	1.1	0.8	0.8	..		
Second revision	1.0	0.7	0.7	..	..
seasonally adjusted %							
Unemployment rate							
Initial forecast	8.3	8.3	8.1	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8
First revision	8.3	8.1	7.9	7.8	..		
Second revision	8.1	7.7	7.8	..	..
Labour force participation rate							
Initial forecast	65.1	65.3	65.5	65.7	65.9	65.8	65.8
First revision	65.4	65.6	65.7	65.9	..		
Second revision	65.6	65.7	65.8	..	..

.. Not available.



PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Energy statistics handbook, March 1999
Catalogue number 57-601-XDE
(Canada: \$284; outside Canada: US\$284).

Energy statistics handbook, March 1999
Catalogue number 57-601-UPB
(Canada: \$387; outside Canada: US\$387).

Aviation: Service bulletin, Vol. 31, no. 3
Catalogue number 51-004-XIB
(Canada: \$8/\$82; outside Canada: US\$8/US\$82).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Change in attitudes on taking urban transit. Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, 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, 1995** 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.

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Short-term Expectations Survey
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 10
Egg production, April 1997

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