



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, June 18, 1999

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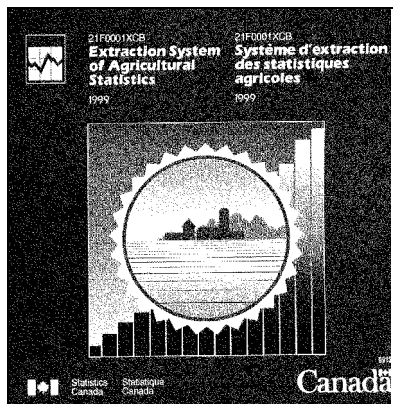
MAJOR RELEASES

- **Consumer Price Index, May 1999**

3

In May, consumers paid 1.6% more than they did a year ago for the goods and services contained in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket. The upward movement in the CPI over May 1998 was primarily the result of higher transportation costs, reflecting increased prices for gasoline and air transportation.

(continued on following page)



Extraction system of agricultural statistics on CD-ROM 1999

The *Extraction system of agricultural statistics* (ESAS) on CD-ROM, a cooperative effort between Statistics Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, provides an extensive collection of the most requested physical and financial data on farming.

This menu-driven system extracts data by census agricultural region, farm type and revenue class. The 1999 version of ESAS contains a full year of new data, as well as an online user's guide and reference manual.

The flexibility of ESAS lets you re-organize your report, perform calculations and create graphs. You can also view selected tables on screen, print them or export them for use in other applications. Whether you are interested in dairy production in Quebec or off-farm income in Saskatchewan, ESAS provides desktop access to all the data.

Extraction system of agricultural statistics (21F0001XCB, \$625) is now available on CD-ROM. An update can be purchased for \$295. A 50% educational discount is also available. To order, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre or call toll-free 1-800-267-6677. For more information, contact Alain Bertrand (613-951-5027; bertala@statcan.ca) or call the Agriculture Division toll-free (1-800-465-1991; agriculture@statcan.ca).

OTHER RELEASES

Radio and television statistics, 1998	6
Adult education and training, 1997	6
International scheduled air passenger origin and destination statistics, 1997	7
Natural gas sales, April 1999	7
Construction Union Wage Rate Index, May 1999	8
Selected financial indexes, May 1999	8
Crushing statistics, May 1999	8
Steel primary forms, April 1999	9
Shipments of rolled steel, April 1999	9

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

10

REGIONAL REFERENCE CENTRES

12

RELEASE DATES: June 21-25, 1999

13

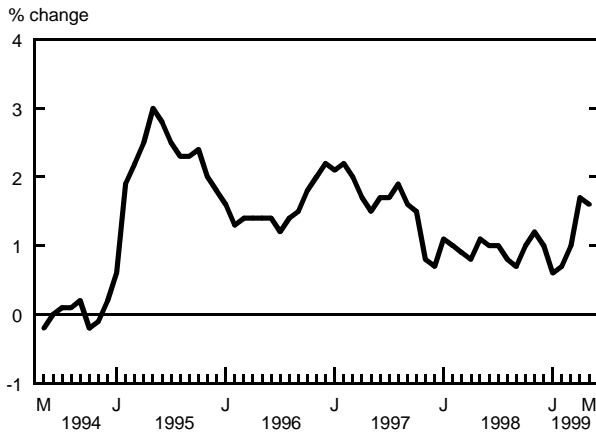
MAJOR RELEASES

Consumer Price Index

May 1999

In May, consumers paid 1.6% more than they did a year ago for the goods and services contained in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket. This annual increase in the prices of household purchases is slightly lower than the 1.7% rise recorded in April.

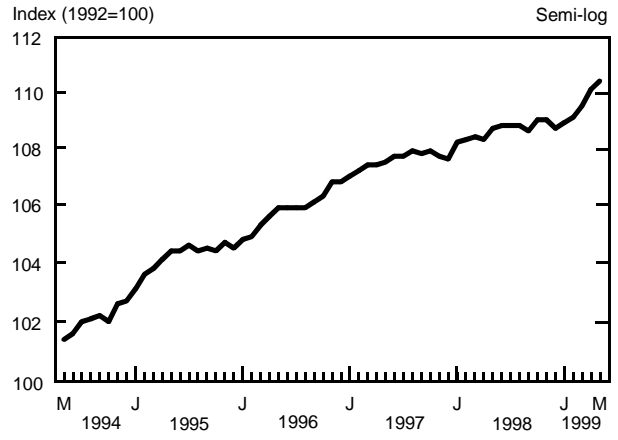
Percentage change in the Consumer Price Index from the same month of the previous year



The upward movement in the CPI over May 1998 was primarily the result of higher transportation costs, reflecting increased prices for gasoline and air transportation. However, the increase in the index was mitigated by lower prices for computer equipment and telephone services.

Generally, a tightening of crude oil supplies on world markets pushed the price of gasoline up 5.0% compared with the price in May 1998. Prices for air transportation rose 16.7%, mainly due to increased prices for North American flights.

The Consumer Price Index (not seasonally adjusted)



The CPI rose 0.3% from April to May

Higher prices for traveller accommodation and gasoline contributed to the 0.3% increase between April and May. Lower prices for women's clothing, homeowners' maintenance and repairs, and bakery products exerted downward pressure on the index.

The seasonal nature of tourism in Canada is reflected in the 11.3% rise in the index for traveller accommodation. Strong demand in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia led to higher room rates for hotels and motels.

Gasoline prices advanced 1.2% in May, a slowdown compared with the 8.5% jump in April.

From April to May, a 2.9% drop in prices for women's clothing exerted downward pressure on the CPI. On average, consumers were able to buy various items such as skirts, pants, dresses, underwear and sleepwear at sale prices.

A 2.5% reduction in prices for homeowners' repairs and maintenance also contributed to the slowing of the CPI increase. Prices for bakery products decreased 2.8% in May. Seasonal promotions offered on bread and rolls explain this decline.

Provincial indexes

Compared with May 1998, Alberta registered the largest increase among provincial CPIs (+2.2%), while British Columbia had the smallest increase (+0.7%).

From April to May, Alberta also led the increases among the provinces, with a 0.7% rise in the All-items index. No province registered an overall price decline, although the All-items index for Prince Edward Island was unchanged.

Provincial spotlight: Ontario and Quebec

Over the past 12 months, the increase in the CPI for Ontario (+1.8%) was slightly larger than that for Canada (+1.6%), while the increase in the CPI for Quebec (+1.3%) was slightly smaller than the national figure.

The biggest contributors to the year-over-year increase in the All-items index of Ontario were tuition fees, gasoline, air transportation, property taxes, women's clothing, car and truck purchases, rent, food purchased from restaurants and natural gas.

In Ontario, university tuition fees rose 11.6% in the past 12 months, while they increased 7.8% in Canada. Property taxes, women's clothing, rent and food purchased from restaurants also increased more, on average, in Ontario than they did at the national level. Gasoline prices increased 4.2%, somewhat less than they did for Canada as a whole (+5.0%). Partly offsetting these price increases were declines for telephone services, audio and video equipment, and fuel oil. On average, the price decreases for these commodities were bigger in Ontario than those for Canada.

Since May 1998, price increases for gasoline, owned accommodation, food purchased from

restaurants, furniture and automotive vehicles were the biggest contributors to the overall price increase in Quebec. Furthermore, consumers in Quebec experienced higher average price increases for these goods and services than for Canada as a whole.

These increases were offset by price declines in other categories. Prices for fresh or frozen beef, women's clothing and traveller accommodation decreased in Quebec, while they increased, on average, in Canada. Consumers in Quebec also benefited from price declines for telephone services, fresh vegetables, non-alcoholic beverages and fuel oil that were larger, on average, than the corresponding decreases at the national level.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9940-9970.

Available at 7 a.m. on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca).

The May 1999 issue of the *Consumer Price Index* (62-001-XPB, \$11/\$103) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

The June 1999 Consumer Price Index will be released on July 16, 1999.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, call (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division. □

The Consumer Price Index and major components
1992=100

	May 1999	April 1999	May 1998	April to May 1999	May 1998 to May 1999
not seasonally adjusted					
				% change	
All-items	110.4	110.1	108.7	0.3	1.6
Food	111.1	110.9	109.4	0.2	1.6
Shelter	104.6	104.8	103.5	-0.2	1.1
Household operations and furnishings	109.1	108.8	108.4	0.3	0.6
Clothing and footwear	104.9	105.8	103.1	-0.9	1.7
Transportation	124.1	123.6	120.7	0.4	2.8
Health and personal care	110.4	110.0	108.2	0.4	2.0
Recreation, education and reading	119.6	117.7	118.3	1.6	1.1
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	94.7	94.0	92.6	0.7	2.3
Goods	107.7	107.4	106.0	0.3	1.6
Services	113.6	113.2	111.8	0.4	1.6
All-items excluding food and energy	110.4	110.2	108.9	0.2	1.4
Energy	108.4	107.6	105.2	0.7	3.0
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1992	90.6	90.8	92.0		
All-items (1986=100)	141.4				

The Consumer Price Index by province, Whitehorse and Yellowknife
1992=100

	May 1999	April 1999	May 1998	April to May 1999	May 1998 to May 1999
not seasonally adjusted					
				% change	
Newfoundland	110.1	109.4	108.3	0.6	1.7
Prince Edward Island	106.4	106.4	105.6	0.0	0.8
Nova Scotia	109.9	109.7	108.5	0.2	1.3
New Brunswick	109.3	108.8	107.5	0.5	1.7
Quebec	107.9	107.8	106.5	0.1	1.3
Ontario	110.9	110.6	108.9	0.3	1.8
Manitoba	115.1	114.6	113.0	0.4	1.9
Saskatchewan	113.8	113.2	112.0	0.5	1.6
Alberta	113.0	112.2	110.6	0.7	2.2
British Columbia	111.1	111.0	110.3	0.1	0.7
Whitehorse	112.2	111.4	111.2	0.7	0.9
Yellowknife	109.0	108.5	108.3	0.5	0.6

OTHER RELEASES

Radio and television statistics

1998

Revenues of the radio and television broadcasting industry reached \$4.14 billion in 1998, up 5.1% from 1997. Employment in this industry decreased slightly to 27,408 from 27,909 in 1997.

Private radio broadcasters realized their best financial performance in years in 1998. Their revenues increased 8.1% to \$941.7 million and their profit before income tax rose 34.7% to \$92.0 million. The 9.8% profit margin is the highest since 1980.

The 1998 financial performance of private television broadcasters was more modest. Their revenues grew 7.0% to reach \$1,821.9 million in 1998, but faster growth in expenses had a negative impact on their profitability. Profit before income tax declined to \$112.3 million in 1998 from \$167.2 million a year earlier. Employment totalled 7,761 in 1998, practically unchanged from the 1997 level of 7,788.

The revenues of public and non-commercial radio and television broadcasters have been relatively stable over the last three years. They were \$1,375.2 million in 1998 compared with \$1,365.7 million in 1997 and \$1,381.3 million in 1996. The number of people employed by this segment of the industry was 10,980 in 1998, a decline of 2,190 from the level reached in 1995.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1810 and 1818.

A summary of these data will appear in *Communications service bulletin: Radio and television statistics, vol. 29, no. 1* (56-001-XIB, \$10/32), which will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Tom Gorman (613-951-3498; fax: 613-951-9920; gormtom@statcan.ca), Telecommunications Section, Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

Adult education and training

1997

A large number of adults enroll in education and training activities after completing their initial education, according to the 1998 Adult Education and Training Survey.

In 1997, more than 6 million people, or 28% of adults, participated in adult education and training

activities. As revealed in previous surveys, age and the level of education attainment continue to be important factors in the decision to participate in such activities. The percentages of adults participating range from 5% for those over 65 years of age to 39% for those in the 17 to 34 age groups.

Participation in adult education and training activities

1997

	Total	Men	Women
	% of adult population		
Total	28	27	29
17 to 24 years	39	39	40
25 to 34 years	39	36	41
35 to 44 years	34	32	35
45 to 54 years	30	30	31
55 to 64 years	15	14	16
65 years and over	5	4	6

The influence of education level on participation rates is also visible. The rates of participation vary from a low of 11% among those with less than a completed high-school diploma to 48% among those with a university degree.

Participation in adult education and training by level of education attainment

1997

	Total	Men	Women
	% of adult population		
Total	28	27	29
Some secondary or less	11	12	10
High school diploma	22	22	21
Post-secondary non-university	34	32	36
University degree	48	44	53

Canadians mainly invest in education as a means to remain competitive on the labour market. Three out of four adults participating in an education or training activity, representing 21% of the adult population, reported doing so for job-related purposes; 10% of the adult population participated for personal interest or leisure reasons. Some 24% of the employed population enrolled in job-related education or training activities sponsored by their employer.

Participation in adult education and training by study orientation and sponsorship 1997

	Overall participation	Participation by type of activity ¹			
		Job related	Personal interest	Employer sponsored ²	Non-employer sponsored
% of adult population					
Canada	28	21	10	24	14

¹ Since some people may have participated in more than one type of activity, these numbers do not add to the total.

² This estimate is based on adults who had a job in 1997.

Among the labour force population, 29% of the employed and 20% of the unemployed participated in job-related adult education and training activities while 6% of those not in the labour force did the same. Among the employed, 32% of paid workers participated compared with 18% of self-employed workers.

Labour force participation in job-related adult education and training 1997

	Total	Paid workers	Self-employed
Employed	29	32	18
Unemployed	20	19	33
Not in labour force	6

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

A microdata file from the 1998 Adult Education and Training Survey is now available. A joint Statistics Canada and Human Resource Development Canada analytical report will be released next fall.

For more information about the survey results and related products and services, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-7355 or 1-888-297-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; ssd@statcan.ca), Special Surveys Division, or Robert Couillard (613-951-1519; fax: 613-951-9040; couirob@statcan.ca), Centre for Education Statistics.

Note: These results come from the Adult Education and Training Survey, conducted with the financial support of Human Resources Development Canada in January 1998. The survey collected information on participants in adult education and training activities taken during 1997. In this analysis, adult education is defined as organized, structured programs of education offered full-time or part-time by public or private institutions, employers or any other providers. The population is defined as people 17 years of age

and older. However, in order to retain a focus on learners no longer in initial education, all full-time students were excluded except those sponsored by an employer, those over the age of 19 enrolled in an elementary or secondary education program and those over the age of 24 enrolled in a post-secondary education program.

International scheduled air passenger origin and destination statistics 1997 (preliminary)

A record 22.3 million passengers travelled between Canada and a foreign country on a scheduled flight in 1997, up 5.2% from 1996. This followed an 18.5% increase in 1996 and an 11.7% gain in 1995.

In 1997, all of the six regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, Pacific, South and the United States) showed an increase in passenger volume both to and from Canada. The largest percentage increase was in the Canada-South market, which grew 22.5% (+260,400 passengers) over 1996. The largest absolute increase in passengers was in the Canada-United States market, which rose by almost 431,800 passengers (+3.4%) between 1996 and 1997. Canada-Asia was another market that experienced a noticeable gain in absolute passenger numbers, with an increase of almost 295,700 passengers (+10.3%) compared with 1996.

In 1997, the United States was still by far Canada's most important international market, with 58.6% of all international scheduled passengers. Europe was the second largest international market (18.4% of international traffic) followed by Asia, at 14.2%.

The data on international scheduled air passenger origin and destination will appear in the June issue of *Aviation: service bulletin* (51-004-XIB, \$8/\$82). A print-on-demand service is also available at a different price. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Lisa Di Piéto (613-951-0146; dipilis@statcan.ca), Aviation Statistics Centre, Transportation Division.

Natural gas sales April 1999 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales totalled 5 692 million cubic metres in April, a 6.0% increase from April 1998. Unusually

cold weather throughout most of the country resulted in higher sales to the residential (+6.7%) and commercial (+8.2%) sectors. Sales to the industrial sector (including direct sales) posted a solid 5.3% gain from April 1998, due to higher demand for natural gas by electric utilities.

Year-to-date sales to the end of April were up 5.3% from the same period in 1998. Sales to the residential (+2.8%) and commercial (+4.9%) sectors increased due to colder weather in the first four months of 1999. Sales to the industrial sector, including direct sales, maintained steady growth, advancing 6.6% over the same period last year.

Natural gas sales

	April 1999 ^P	April 1998	April 1998 to April 1999
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas sales	5,691,801	5,368,469	6.0
Residential	1,265,184	1,185,514	6.7
Commercial	846,496	782,238	8.2
Industrial	1,642,559	1,831,413	5.3
Direct	1,937,562	1,569,304	
Year-to-date			
	1999 ^P	1998	1998 to 1999
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas sales	28,710,330	27,271,444	5.3
Residential	7,734,851	7,521,003	2.8
Commercial	5,221,941	4,977,128	4.9
Industrial	7,609,211	7,825,622	6.6
Direct	8,144,327	6,947,691	

^P Preliminary figures.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1052-1055.

The April 1999 issue of *Gas utilities* (55-002-XPB, \$17/\$165) will be available in July. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gary Smalldridge (613-951-3567; smalgar@statcan.ca) or Tom Lewis (613-951-3596; talewis@statcan.ca), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Construction Union Wage Rate Index

May 1999

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada increased 1.2% from April to 113.6 (1992=100) in May. The Composite Index increased 1.6% compared with May 1998.

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes on a 1992=100 time base are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 956, 958 and 9922-9927.

The second quarter 1999 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in September.

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

Selected financial indexes

May 1999

May figures are now available for selected financial indexes including conventional mortgage rates, prime business lending rates, provincial bond yield averages and exchange rates on a 1992=100 time base.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9928.

These indexes will appear in the second quarter 1999 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79), available in September.

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

Crushing statistics

May 1999

Canadian oilseed processors crushed 224 357 metric tonnes of canola in May, according to the monthly

survey of crushing plants. Oil production totalled 93 939 tonnes while meal production amounted to 142 293 tonnes.

In the first ten months of the 1998-99 crop year, the canola crush volume was 2 685 646 tonnes, a 1.7% decline from the August 1997 to May 1998 crush quantity of 2 733 231 tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5687.

The May 1999 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149) will be released in August. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Karen Gray (204-983-2856; graykar@statcan.ca) or Les Macartney (613-951-8714; macales@statcan.ca), Grain Marketing Unit, Agriculture Division. ■

Steel primary forms

April 1999

Steel primary forms production for April totalled 1 326 426 tonnes, a 6.7% decrease from 1 421 432 tonnes the previous year.

Year-to-date production reached 5 256 123 tonnes, down 4.3% from 5 492 163 tonnes a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 58 (level 2, series 3).

The April 1999 issue of *Primary iron and steel* (41-001-XIB, \$5/\$47) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Andy Shinnan (613-951-3515; shinand@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Shipments of rolled steel

April 1999

Rolled steel shipments for April totalled 1 295 567 tonnes, down 7.3% from 1 397 831 tonnes in March and up 3.9% from 1 246 560 tonnes in April 1998.

Year-to-date shipments at the end of April totalled 5 011 722 tonnes, up 1.4% from 4 944 692 tonnes the previous year.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 58 and 122 (series 22-25).

The April 1999 issue of *Primary iron and steel* (41-001-XIB, \$5/\$47) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Andy Shinnan (613-951-3515; shinand@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Infomat - A weekly review, June 18, 1999
Catalogue number 11-002-XIE
(Canada: \$3/\$109).

Infomat - A weekly review, June 18, 1999
Catalogue number 11-002-XPE
(Canada: \$4/\$145; outside Canada: US\$4/US\$145).

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, April 1999
Catalogue number 31-001-XPB
(Canada: \$20/\$196; outside Canada: US\$20/US\$196).

Primary iron and steel, April 1999
Catalogue number 41-001-XIB
(Canada: \$5/\$47).

Cement, April 1999
Catalogue number 44-001-XIB
(Canada: \$5/\$47).

Consumer Price Index, May 1999
Catalogue number 62-001-XPB
(Canada: \$11/\$103; outside Canada: US\$11/US\$103).

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Thursday, June 3, 1999
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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 notably 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** 3
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 10
- **EGG predictor, April 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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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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RELEASE DATES: JUNE 21-25, 1999

June 21-25, 1999
(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
21	Retail trade	April 1999
23	Canada's international transactions in securities	April 1999
23	Composite Index	May 1999
25	Industrial Product Price Index	May 1999
25	Raw Materials Price Index	May 1999
