Statistics Canada

Tuesday, July 20, 1999

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- Canadian international merchandise trade, May 1999
 Exports increased more than imports in May, pushing the trade balance to \$2.4 billion.
- Wholesale trade, May 1999 Wholesalers took a step forward in May, with sales rising 1.8% to \$29.8 billion after a slight decline in April.

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Health indicators

1999

Health indicators 1999 is an electronic database which combines summary information on topics such as workplace injuries, births, stillbirths and deaths, as well as data on chronic conditions. For the first time, this database is available on compact disc. This edition also provides data from about 20 new indicators from the National Population Health Survey, including use of medication, use of health services and unmet health care needs. In addition, it contains a series of eight new tables on selected reasons for hospitalization and selected procedures in hospitals as well as data on causes of death for 1996 and 1997.

Health indicators 1999, is designed to meet the needs of a wide range of clients: market researchers, educators, students, special interest groups, as well as policy makers and program managers. Clients can examine the health status of Canadians, as well as health-care use and performance. Nearly three million data points are available for analysis.

The 1999 edition of the *Health indicators* (82-221-XCB, \$100) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, contact Deirdre Gillieson (613-951-1635; fax: 613-951-0792), Health Statistics Division.





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MAJOR RELEASES

Canadian international merchandise trade

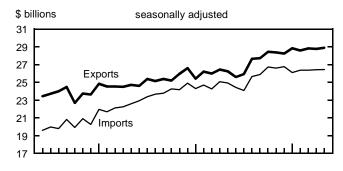
May 1999

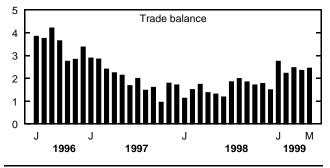
Exports increased more than imports in May, pushing the trade balance to \$2.4 billion.

Exports rose 0.5% to \$28.9 billion. However, they have increased very little from the previous record level of January 1999 (\$28.8 billion). The marked increase in exports of coal, wheat, seafood, cars and minerals more than offset the sharp drop in aircraft and forest product exports.

Imports remained virtually unchanged for the third consecutive month (+0.1%). The recovery in imports of machinery and equipment and automotive parts was almost completely offset by the drop in imports of gold, iron and steel products and active agents in the manufacture of medication.

Exports, imports and trade balance





The trade balance remained strong, increasing from a revised \$2.3 billion in April to \$2.4 billion in May. This balance has been steady since January (a monthly average of \$2.4 billion) at levels clearly

Note to readers

To improve data quality, the methodology used to estimate custom-based monthly canola exports to non-U.S. destinations has been modified. Canadian Grain Commission figures are used to supplement information from custom export declarations. January to May 1999 data reflect this methodology. Previous estimates corrected during the annual revision process also use this new methodology.

Merchandise trade is one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services.

higher than those recorded in 1998 (monthly average of \$1.6 billion).

Exports slightly surpassed January's record level

Exports of energy products continued moving up (+8.7% in May) for the third consecutive month. Coal showed the sharpest increase, particularly exports to Japan and South Korea. This volume increase is mainly due to a timing effect, with most spring exports being registered to those countries in May. Crude oil exports increased for the fifth consecutive month, the result of higher prices caused by OPEC's successful supply controls.

Exports of agricultural and fishing products rose 6.4% in May; this gain was chiefly due to higher wheat and seafood exports. Two major factors explain the 35.6% increase in exports of wheat: higher exports to Algeria, Indonesia, Iran and Morocco, and lower American production for winter wheat, which was unable to meet strong U.S. demand. Strong demand in Japan and the United States for Canadian crab and lobster drove prices up over last year (over 50% in the case of crab). However, canola exports fell in May, caused mainly by a lack of sales to China. Furthermore, the substitution of Canadian canola with canola from European Union countries significantly reduced Canadian exports to Mexico.

Automotive product exports continued inching up, mainly due to a 2.3% increase in exports of passenger cars. However, this advance was not sufficient to offset losses in April, and May exports of passenger cars were \$300 million lower (-3.8%) than in March.

After a sharp increase in April, exports of forest product dropped in May. Although all sub-sectors fell, the largest drop was in exports of newsprint. The Canadian newsprint industry was operating at 88.0% capacity in May compared with 96.0% in May 1998.

This reduction reflected a surplus of newsprint on the market, which drove prices down.

Machinery and equipment exports fell in May for the second consecutive month. The sharp decline in aircraft exports drove down the entire sector after the record level reached in January.

Imports remained stable

Imports have remained virtually unchanged since February, and in May were \$300 million lower (-1.2%) than the record reached in December 1998. The strong recovery in imports of televisions, magazines and periodicals and automotive parts was almost completely offset by the sharp drop in imports of aircraft, oil, gold and primary steel products.

The machinery and equipment sector rose slightly in May. The upward trend in imports of computers and communication equipment was almost completely negated by the sharp drop in aircraft imports.

Automotive product imports remained relatively stable. The recovery in imports of automotive parts and passenger cars was neutralized by a sharp drop in truck imports. Strong Canadian car sales and increased production since the beginning of the year led to higher imports of cars (+16.7%) and automotive parts (+12.0%) compared with May 1998. However, truck imports were down 12.4% compared with May last year.

After rising for three consecutive months, imports of energy products fell slightly in May, owing to the sharp decline of crude oil imports. This drop in volume coincided with high inventories and a slight increase in prices.

Imports of industrial products fell for the second consecutive month. The sector was driven down mainly

by two highly volatile series — gold and active agents used in the manufacture of medications.

Revisions

In general, merchandise trade data are revised on an ongoing basis for each month of the current year. Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs forms, replacement of estimates with actual figures (once available), changes in classification of merchandise based on more current information and seasonal adjustments. Consult the appropriate CANSIM matrices for revised data.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3618, 3619, 3651, 3685-3699, 3701-3711, 3713, 3720, 3887-3913, 8430-8435, 8438-8447.

This release contains a summary of the merchandise trade data to be published shortly Canadian international merchandise (65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188; 65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141). The publication will include tables by commodity and country on a customs basis. Current account data (which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, service transactions, investment income and transfers) are available quarterly in Canada's balance of international payments (67-001-XPB, \$38 /\$124). See How to order publications.

Readers may obtain merchandise trade data on a more timely basis by fax on the morning of release.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jocelyne Elibani (613-951-9647; 1-800-294-5583), Marketing and Client Services Section, International Trade Division.

Merchandise trade of Canada

April	May	April	May	Jan.	Jan.	JanMay
1999	1999	to	1998	to	to	1998
		May	to	May	May	to
		1999	May	1998	1999	JanMay
			1999			1999
		seaso	nally adjusted,	\$ current		

	seasonally adjusted, \$ current							
	\$ million	าร	% chan	ge	\$ million	s	% change	
Principal trading partners							_	
Exports								
United States	24,779	24,734	-0.2	13.6	107,233	123,343	15.0	
Japan	771	894	16.0	9.3	4,038	3,991	-1.2	
European Union	1,415	1,373	-3.0	-7.4	7,513	7,067	-5.9	
Other OECD countries ¹	571	562	-1.6	-3.8	3,174	2,799	-11.8	
All other countries	1,227	1,330	8.4	-16.2	8,338	6,711	-19.5	
Total	28,763	28,894	0.5	10.1	130,296	143,911	10.4	
Imports								
United States	20,296	20,291	0.0	5.6	94,796	101,424	7.0	
Japan	845	889	5.2	6.9	4,040	4,183	3.5	
European Union	2,154	2,189	1.6	3.7	10,326	10,952	6.1	
Other OECD countries ¹	1,029	1,021	-0.8	13.4	4,610	5,041	9.3	
All other countries	2,096	2,060	-1.7	10.1	9,490	10,099	6.4	
Total	26,420	26,450	0.1	6.1	123,261	131,699	6.8	
Balance								
United States	4,483	4,443			12,437	21,919		
Japan	-74	5			-2	-192		
European Union	-739	-816	•••		-2,813	-3,885	•••	
Other OECD countries ¹	-458	-459			-1,436	-2,242		
All other countries	-869	-730			-1,152	-3,388		
Total	2,343	2,444			7,035	12,212		
Principal commodity groupings								
Exports								
Agricultural and fishing products	2,004	2,132	6.4	1.3	10,498	10,413	-0.8	
Energy products	2,275	2,474	8.7	21.2	9,831	10,292	4.7	
Forestry products	3,261	3,159	-3.1	10.8	14,404	15,727	9.2	
Industrial goods and materials	4,529	4,549	0.4	-6.2	24,086	22,993	-4.5	
Machinery and equipment	6,728	6,486	-3.6	-0.5	31,878	33,608	5.4	
Automotive products	7,713	7,825	1.5	31.8 9.1	30,172	39,638	31.4 16.4	
Other consumer goods Special transactions trade ²	1,156 610	1,117 634	-3.4 3.9	9.1 60.1	4,886 1,884	5,689 3,058	62.3	
Other balance-of-payment adjustments	488	516	5.9 5.7	-1.3	2,657	2,493	-6.2	
Imports								
Agricultural and fishing products	1,499	1,486	-0.9	3.8	7,008	7,391	5.5	
Energy products	817	808	-1.1	9.0	3,804	3,584	-5.8	
Forestry products	231	220	-4.8	2.3	1,016	1,106	8.9	
Industrial goods and materials	5,027	4,970	-1.1	-0.2	24,677	25,128	1.8	
Machinery and equipment	8,712	8,744	0.4	7.2	40,480	43,731	8.0	
Automotive products	6,136	6,155	0.3	10.7	27,556	30,694	11.4	
Other consumer goods	2,981	3,047	2.2	7.3	13,690	15,082	10.2	
Special transactions trade ²	517	510	-1.4	-1.0	2,611	2,470	-5.4	
Other balance-of-payment adjustments	499	511	2.4	3.4	2,420	2,512	3.8	

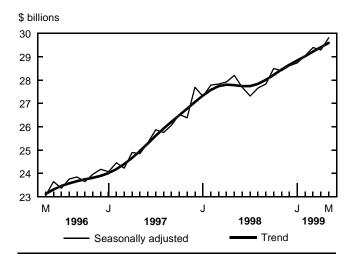
Figures not appropriate or not applicable.
Includes Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Poland, South Korea, Hungary and the Czech Republic.
These are mainly low valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.

Wholesale trade

May 1999 (preliminary)

Wholesalers took a step forward in May, with sales rising 1.8% to \$29.8 billion after a slight decline in April. Except for a slowdown during the first half of 1998, sales have generally been climbing for the last three years. Gains this month were broadly based, with increases in nine of the 11 trade groups and seven of those nine having strong increases between 2.7% and 4.7%.

Wholesalers took a step forward in May



In percentage terms, the gains were led by wholesalers of apparel and dry goods, who posted a 4.7% increase over April, bringing their sales to \$0.5 billion. Notable increases were also recorded by wholesalers of lumber and building materials (+3.9% to \$2.4 billion), motor vehicles, parts and accessories (+3.6% to \$5.4 billion) and computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery (+3.6% to \$3.1 billion).

With sales of \$4.2 billion, wholesalers of industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies posted a drop from April (-0.8%). Sales of beverage, drug and tobacco products were down 0.4% in May to \$1.9 billion, a second consecutive decline. This drop was primarily due to weak sales in the drugs component. After a period of briskly expanding sales during all of 1997, sales for the beverage, drug and tobacco sector have been fairly stable since early 1998.

Apparel and dry goods lead the way

The increase in sales for wholesalers of apparel and dry goods was sufficient to make up for the decline in April. Despite the month-to-month volatility in sales, the overall movement has been fairly flat since the spring of 1998, following two years of continuous expansion. Wholesalers within the men's and boys clothing sector reported a number of unusually large sales in May.

Sales of lumber and building materials reach new heights

Wholesalers of lumber and building materials posted a 3.9% increase over April levels. Sales have generally been increasing since mid-1998, following a series of declines that started in the spring of 1997. The residential construction industry continued its strong pace south of the border and Canadian residential permits were up 6.2% in May. In addition, May saw increased prices for both lumber and oriented strandboard. For sales destined to the United States, the nearly 2.5% drop in the Canadian dollar during May may have helped wholesalers gain market share. Also, during May, the lumber suppliers were not yet restricted by their quarterly quota for the April to June period. Media reports about Canadian suppliers of wallboard, insulation and other building materials indicate that they were running at full capacity to keep abreast of demand.

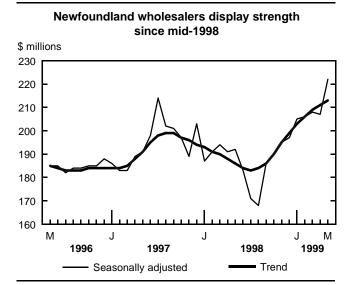
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies looking for a boost

Wholesalers of industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies saw their sales dip 0.8% in May. This sector had seen strong increases from early 1996 until the spring of 1998. Since then, sales have generally remained flat. With commodity prices at low levels, wholesalers in this group are experiencing weak markets from clients in commodity-based industries. Wholesalers of business and office equipment also reported slow sales in May, which contributed to the overall decline. Signs of a recovery in Japan and neighbouring Asian countries may help this sector by increasing demand for commodities such as nickel, tin and aluminum.

Strong growth on the coasts

Nine provinces had increased sales in May, with wholesalers in Newfoundland posting the largest percentage increase, up 7.1% over April. This further

bolsters the strong upward movement for sales by wholesalers in that province since mid-1998. The impending increase in production slated for Hibernia in the fall of 1999 may be contributing to this growth.



British Columbia wholesalers saw sales increase 3.5% during May. The general level of sales had increased strongly in the second half of 1997 but, since then, increases and decreases have offset each other. In the midst of a quarter for lumber export quotas and of increasing lumber prices, lumber exports to supply the strong U.S. construction industry have likely contributed to the increase. British Columbia wholesalers may also be benefiting from signs of increased spending in the Pacific Rim, an important destination for resource exports.

Nova Scotia was the exception to the provinces in May, with wholesale sales declining 1.2%. Sales in Nova Scotia, despite their drop this month, remain 13.7% higher than a year ago. Sales generally increased at a moderate pace from mid-1996 until the fall of 1997 at which point sales dipped slightly through to the fall of 1998. Since then, sales have generally been rising at a strong pace. A decline in sales of industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies contributed significantly to the province's overall sales drop in May.

Wholesale inventories diminishing

Amidst healthy sales in May and a movement toward lower inventories generally, wholesalers reduced their inventories another 0.4%. Since the beginning of 1999, the overall level of inventories held by wholesalers has been diminishing. The inventory to sales ratio has been dropping since mid-1998, declining to 1.35 in May.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 59, 61, 648 and 649.

The May 1999 issue of *Wholesale trade* (63-008-XIB, \$14/\$140) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For data or general information, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-3549 or 1-877-421-3067; wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Greg Parsons (613-951-0062; parsons@statcan.ca), Wholesale Trade Section, Distributive Trades Division.

Wholesale merchants' sales and inventories

May	Feb.	March	April	May	April	May
1998 ^r	1999 ^r	1999 ^r	1999 ^r	1999 ^p	to	1998
					May	to
					1999	May
						1999

		seasonally adjusted						
			\$ millions			% chanç	ge	
Sales, all trade groups	28,200	29,042	29,390	29,286	29,810	1.8	5.7	
Food products	4,224	4,501	4,546	4,583	4,612	0.6	9.2	
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	1,927	1,919	1,994	1,911	1,904	-0.4	-1.2	
Apparel and dry goods	554	562	555	529	554	4.7	0.0	
Household goods	801	795	789	801	823	2.7	2.7	
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	5,059	5,276	5,234	5,175	5,362	3.6	6.0	
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating								
equipment and supplies	1,920	1,936	1,954	1,955	2,022	3.5	5.3	
Lumber and building materials	2,001	2,204	2,281	2,281	2,370	3.9	18.5	
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	748	774	793	795	817	2.8	9.3	
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and					•		-	
supplies	4,134	4.204	4.240	4.248	4,213	-0.8	1.9	
Computers, packaged software and other	.,	.,20 .	.,0	.,0	.,2.0	0.0		
electronic machinery	2,552	2,947	3,033	3,034	3,144	3.6	23.2	
Other products	4,279	3,924	3,971	3,973	3,989	0.4	-6.8	
·	1,270	0,021	0,071	0,070	0,000	0.1	0.0	
Sales by province and territory								
Newfoundland	192	206	208	207	222	7.1	16.0	
Prince Edward Island	54	49	50	49	50	2.0	-8.0	
Nova Scotia	545	558	562	627	619	-1.2	13.7	
New Brunswick	347	351	362	360	376	4.6	8.6	
Quebec	5,577	5,954	6,053	6,046	6,133	1.4	10.0	
Ontario	13,583	14,321	14,449	14,302	14,597	2.1	7.5	
Manitoba	950	1,009	1,061	1,112	1,112	0.0	17.1	
Saskatchewan	1,004	914	844	865	873	1.0	-13.0	
Alberta	2,768	2,603	2,645	2,612	2,614	0.1	-5.5	
British Columbia	3,153	3,051	3,129	3,082	3,188	3.5	1.1	
Yukon	11	9	12	9	10	2.8	-10.7	
Northwest Territories		15	12	13	13	-2.4		
Nunavut		2	3	2	3	6.1		
Inventories, all trade groups	39,652	40,728	40,920	40,354	40,176	-0.4	1.3	
Food products	2,607	2,660	2,682	2,666	2,712	1.7	4.0	
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	2,167	2,251	2,251	2,255	2,257	0.1	4.2	
Apparel and dry goods	1,191	1,240	1,240	1,242	1,216	-2.1	2.1	
Household goods	1,580	1,552	1,535	1,554	1,568	0.9	-0.8	
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	5,664	5,788	5,858	5,862	5,701	-2.7	0.7	
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating	,	,	,	,	,			
equipment and supplies	3,373	3,518	3,520	3,507	3,533	0.8	4.7	
Lumber and building materials	3,551	3,549	3,590	3,584	3,554	-0.8	0.1	
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	2,239	2,262	2,256	2,189	2,185	-0.2	-2.4	
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and		•	,	,	,			
supplies	9,758	9,929	10,089	9,876	9,888	0.1	1.3	
Computers, packaged software and other								
electronic machinery	2,325	2,603	2,517	2,415	2,486	2.9	6.9	
Other products	5,198	5,376	5,381	5,205	5,076	-2.5	-2.3	

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Revised figures. Preliminary figures. Figures not available.

OTHER RELEASES

Export and import price indexes May 1999

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1992=100) on a balance-of-payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1992 to May 1999 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted U.S. price indexes (1992=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1992 to May 1999. Included with the U.S. commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and U.S.-only standard international trade classification (SITC) section indexes.

Indexes for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups are now available on a customs basis.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3618, 3619, 3651, 3685, 8430-8435 and 8438-8447.

The May 1999 issue of *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188; 65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact Jocelyne Elibani (613-951-9647 or 1-800-294-5583), Marketing and Client Services Section, International Trade Division.

Natural gas sales

May 1999 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales totalled 4 390 million cubic metres in May, up 7.3% from May 1998. All three sectors (residential, commercial and industrial) recorded higher monthly sales. Sales to the industrial sectors (including direct sales) rose 5.4% from May 1998, the result of higher demand for natural gas by electric utilities.

Year-to-date sales to the end of May were up 6.8% from the same period in 1998. Sales to the residential (+4.0%) and commercial (+8.7%) sectors increased largely because of the unseasonably cold weather in the first five months of 1999. Sales to the industrial sector, including direct sales, maintained strong growth, advancing 7.6% over the same period last year.

Natural gas sales

	May	May	May
	1999 ^p	1998	1998
			to May
			1999
	thousands of cub	ic metres	% change
Natural gas sales	4,390,011	4,091,143	7.3
Residential	724,992	638,195	13.6
Commercial	475,065	427,109	11.2
Industrial	1,547,981	1,649,860	5.4
Direct	1,641,973	1,375,979	3. .
	Yea		
			1998
	1999 ^p	1998	to 1999
	thousands of cub	oic metres	% change
Natural gas sales	33,503,539	31,362,587	6.8
Residential	8,485,720	8,159,198	4.0
Commercial	5,873,084	5,404,237	8.7
Industrial	8,990,177	9,475,482	7.6
Direct	10,154,558	8,323,670	7.0

Preliminary figures.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1052-1055.

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

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and 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 June 1999

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) remained unchanged from May at 113.6 (1992=100). This index increased 1.5% compared with June 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. See *How to order publications*.

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

Selected financial indexes

June 1999

June 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. See *How to order publications*.

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

Construction-type plywood

May 1999

Canadian firms produced 164 074 cubic metres of construction-type plywood in May, an increase of 30.7% from the 125 510 cubic metres produced during May 1998.

January-to-May production totalled 798 841 cubic metres, a 6.4% increase from the 750 702 cubic metres produced during the same period in 1998.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (level 1).

The May 1999 issue of *Construction-type plywood* (35-001-XIB, \$5/\$47) 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), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Electric utility construction price indexes 1997 (final) and 1998 (preliminary)

Construction costs for distribution systems installations increased 4.1% compared with 1997, mainly as a result of the increase in labour costs. The increase was driven by both the engineering (+9.7%) and installation (+6.9%) labour components. The increase in labour was slightly offset by the cost for overhead conductors, which decreased 5.4% in 1998. The finalized distribution systems total for 1997 increased moderately (+1.2%) over 1996.

The transmission-line system series increased 4.6% in 1998, higher than the 1997 increase (+1.9%). The transmission line component of this system increased 3.9% in 1998 and 2.1% in 1997. The substation series within the transmission-line system rose 5.0% in 1998 and 1.8% in 1997. The various labour series within the transmission-line system were the largest contributors to the increase of this model.

Note: Beginning with the 1998 annual data, the electric utility construction price indexes (EUCPI) (formerly CANSIM matrix 2022, 1986=100) will be available on a 1992=100 time base in CANSIM matrix 9936. In the past, the EUCPI series comprised five models of electric utility plant: distribution systems, transmission lines, transformer stations, hydro-electric generating stations and fossil-fuel fired generating stations. The new EUCPI series includes only two models of electric utility construction: distribution systems and transmission-line systems. The transmission-line systems model consists of the previously published transmission-lines and transformer-stations models. The other two models representing generating stations are no longer published but they are being produced for information purposes, with the data available on request on a cost-recovery basis. The 1992=100 series has weights based on the distribution of construction expenditures derived from projects constructed in the base period.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9936.

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

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Louise Chaîné (613-951-3350, fax 613-951-1539; *infounit@statcan.ca*), Client Services Unit, Prices Division, or Adrian Fisher (613-951-9612; fax: 613-951-2848; *fishadr@statcan.ca*).

Stocks of frozen poultry meat

July 1, 1999 (preliminary)

Data for stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on July 1, 1999 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5675-5677.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandra Gielfeldt (613-951-2505), Livestock and Animal Products Section, Agriculture Division.

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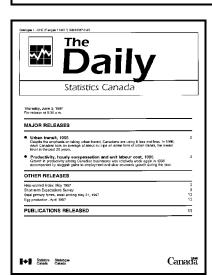
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Catalogue 11-001E.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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