



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, August 11, 1999

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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Market research handbook 1999

The 1999 edition of the *Market research handbook* is now available. Since 1975, this handbook has been an authoritative source of socio-economic information reflecting key characteristics of local and national markets in Canada. By providing accurate and timely statistics on the changing demographics, standards of living and economic characteristics of Canadian society, the handbook helps businesses locate target markets, track their market share and assess their competitive position.

The 1999 edition contains the latest data from the 1996 Census and a wide range of other surveys, and incorporates a number of features designed to make it more user-friendly. Features include a user's guide, annotated charts to reveal salient trends, help lines for each of the data sources, and references to CANSIM (Statistics Canada's Canadian Socio-economic Information Management System).

The *Market research handbook* (63-224-XPB, \$125) is now available. See *How to order publications*. For more information about this publication, contact Serge Bourret (613-951-0821), Small Business and Special Surveys Division.



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OTHER RELEASES

New Housing Price Index

June 1999

In June, the New Housing Price Index for Canada increased 0.5% compared with the same period a year earlier. On a month-to-month basis, however, there was no change to this index of contractors' selling price of new homes.

As in May, the highest annual changes were in Calgary (+4.2%) and Regina (+3.6%). Builders in these two cities passed on higher construction costs, such as building materials and labour, and higher costs for building lots, to new home buyers. The largest annual decrease (-4.2%) was in the extremely competitive Vancouver market. Prices in Victoria and Sudbury-Thunder Bay also decreased on a year-over-year basis.

New housing price indexes

(1992=100)

	June 1999	June 1998 to June 1999	May to June 1999
	% change		
Canada total	100.6	0.5	-
House only	101.5	1.0	0.1
Land only	101.9	0.1	0.1
St. John's	96.3	0.3	-
Halifax	111.0	1.8	0.5
Charlottetown	103.1	1.9	-
Saint John-Moncton-			
Fredericton	93.8	0.4	-
Quebec City	100.5	1.6	-
Montréal	104.4	2.1	0.3
Ottawa-Hull	99.2	1.8	0.5
Toronto	103.4	1.4	-
Hamilton	102.7	0.9	0.1
St. Catharines-Niagara	101.0	1.4	-
Kitchener-Waterloo	101.9	1.6	-0.1
London	98.3	0.6	-
Windsor	105.4	-	-0.3
Sudbury-Thunder Bay	99.6	-0.7	-0.1
Winnipeg	113.3	1.0	0.6
Regina	128.2	3.6	-
Saskatoon	114.2	1.4	-
Calgary	128.8	4.2	0.2
Edmonton	109.1	1.2	0.1
Vancouver	84.1	-4.2	-0.1
Victoria	76.0	-2.8	-

- Nil or zero.

The largest monthly increase was in Winnipeg (+0.6%), a result of higher prices for lumber. In both Ottawa-Hull and Halifax, where higher prices for

building materials and labour were noted, the index rose 0.5% compared with May. These increases, however, were offset by decreases in other cities such as Windsor (-0.3%). As well, 10 out of the 21 cities surveyed registered no change on a month-to-month basis.

Note: As in several previous months, the total New Housing Price Index for June has fallen below the level of its two components, the House-only Index and the Land-only Index. This occurred because the component index series is derived and linked independently. In particular, linking creates total indexes that are not, in a strict sense, averages of their sub-indexes.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9921.

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 of this release, contact Louise Chaîné (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Client Services Unit, Prices Division. ■

Apartment Building Construction Price Index

Second quarter 1999

In the second quarter of 1999, the composite price index for apartment building construction increased 0.8% to 113.5 (1992=100) over the previous quarter and rose 1.9% over the second quarter of 1998.

Calgary registered the highest quarterly change (+1.6%), followed by Toronto and Edmonton (+1.3%), Ottawa (+1.2%), Halifax (+0.9%), Montreal (+0.7%) and Vancouver (+0.6%).

Note: The apartment building construction price indexes provide an indication of new construction cost changes in seven major urban areas (Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver). Besides the indexes and seven composites for these urban areas, there are further breakdowns of cost changes by trade groups within the building — structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical. These price indexes are derived from surveys of

general and special trade-group contractors who report on the categories of costs (material, labour, equipment, taxes, overhead and profits) relevant to the detailed construction specifications included in the surveys.

Apartment building construction price indexes (1992=100)

	Second quarter 1999	Second quarter 1998 to second quarter 1999	First quarter to second quarter 1999
		% change	
Composite	113.5	1.9	0.8
Halifax	108.1	2.6	0.9
Montreal	111.2	1.9	0.7
Ottawa	112.5	2.4	1.2
Toronto	115.0	3.0	1.3
Calgary	115.2	2.9	1.6
Edmonton	114.2	2.4	1.3
Vancouver	115.0	1.3	0.6

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9932.

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 of this release, contact Louise Chaîné (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Client Services Unit, Prices Division. ■

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending July 21, 1999

Non-intermodal traffic loaded during the seven-day period ending July 21, 1999 decreased 1.4% to 4.2 million tonnes compared with the same period of 1998. The number of cars loaded increased 0.8%.

Intermodal traffic tonnage totalled 379 000 tonnes, a 13.8% increase from the same period last year. The year-to-date figures increased 12.1%.

Total traffic decreased 0.3% during the reference period. This brought the year-to-date total to 139.7 million tonnes, a 2.1% decrease from the previous year.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; laroque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Market research handbook, 1999
Catalogue number 63-224-XPB
(Canada: \$125; outside Canada: US\$125).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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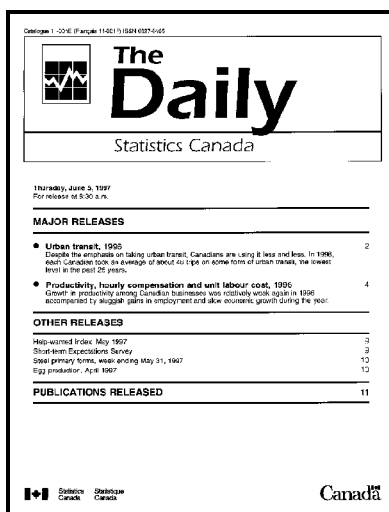
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