



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, August 12, 1999

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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OTHER RELEASES

Machinery and equipment price index

Second quarter 1999

The Machinery and Equipment Price Index (MEPI) was 131.3 for the second quarter of 1999 (1986=100), down 1.4% from the previous quarter, marking the second consecutive quarterly decline. The imported component of the index decreased 2.1% and the domestic component fell 0.4%. When compared with the second quarter of 1998, the overall index increased 1.7% while the domestic and imported components of the index rose 1.4% and 1.9% respectively.

During the second quarter, the decline in the index was reflected in the majority of industries, with the biggest drop in fishing (-2.2%). Among the industries, the largest contributors to the quarterly decrease were manufacturing (-1.5%), transportation, communication, storage and utilities (-1.2%), agriculture (-1.2%), community, business and personal services (-1.2%) and mines, quarries and oil wells (-1.5%).

Compared with the previous quarter, many products contributed to the fall of the index. Those that contributed substantially to this decline include specialized industrial equipment (-1.8%), commercial trucks and tractors (-1.8%), passenger automobiles (-1.0%), aircraft (-2.5%), boats (-2.9%) and office machines and equipment (-4.1%).

Year-over-year, the largest contributors to the price movement in the MEPI were manufacturing (+2.2%), transportation, communication, storage and utilities (+1.4%) and agriculture (+2.3%). These three groups represent approximately 80% of the annual increase in the index.

The strengthening of the Canadian dollar versus the U.S. dollar was a main factor behind the quarterly decrease in the price index, as the Canadian dollar increased 2.9% from the previous quarter.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 2023-2025.

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 Robert Gamson (613-951-3349; fax 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Client Services Unit, Prices Division.

Machinery and equipment price indexes

(1986=100)

	Relative importance	Second quarter 1999 ^p	First quarter to second quarter 1999	Second quarter 1998 to second quarter 1999
			% change	
Machinery and equipment price index	100.0	131.3	-1.4	1.7
Agriculture	11.0	158.0	-1.2	2.3
Forestry	1.5	143.9	-0.4	2.4
Fishing	0.6	127.1	-2.2	0.1
Mines, quarries and oil wells	6.0	133.7	-1.5	2.0
Manufacturing	29.9	138.7	-1.5	2.2
Construction	3.5	137.7	-1.4	2.9
Transportation, communication, storage and utilities	25.9	122.8	-1.2	1.4
Trade	4.0	118.8	-1.2	1.1
Finance, insurance and real estate	1.8	108.6	-0.9	0.4
Community, business and personal services	11.1	109.5	-1.2	-0.3
Public administration	4.7	128.2	-1.8	1.3

^p Preliminary figures. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending August 7, 1999 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending August 7, 1999 totalled 299 007 tonnes, down 2.2% from the week-earlier 305 845 tonnes and down 0.2% from the year-earlier 299 606 tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 9 624 066 tonnes, a 2.4% decrease compared with 9 862 071 tonnes for the same period in 1998.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-7093; milsomg@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Dairy statistics

June and July 1999 (preliminary)

Monthly dairy statistics for June and July 1999 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3428, 5632-5638, 5650-5661, 5664-5667 and 5673.

These data will be included in the April-June 1999 issue of *The dairy review* (23-001QXPB, \$36/\$119; 23-001QXIB, \$27/\$89), which will be released in August. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality for this release, contact Anna Michalowska (951-2442; 1-800-465-1991; fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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

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

All prices exclude sales tax.

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; and -XPB or -XPE denote a paper version.

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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 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, 1996** 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.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 13
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