



The Daily

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Thursday, August 19, 1999

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Canadian international merchandise trade, June 1999** 3
Exports rose 1.9% in June to \$29.4 billion while imports edged up 0.3%. The merchandise trade balance increased to \$2.8 billion.
- **Wholesale trade, June 1999** 6
Held back by lower sales of motor vehicles, parts and accessories, wholesale sales remained unchanged in June.

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Canadian economic observer August 1999

The August issue of Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, *Canadian economic observer*, analyses current economic conditions, summarizes the major economic events that occurred in July and presents a feature article on saving for retirement. A separate statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and the major industrial nations.

The August 1999 issue of *Canadian economic observer* (11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227) is now available. See *How to order publications*. For more information, contact Cyndi Bloskie (613-951-3634; ceo@statcan.ca), Current Economic Analysis Group.



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Financial statistics for enterprises

The quarterly release on financial statistics for enterprises, originally scheduled for August 20, has been re-scheduled to September 15.

MAJOR RELEASES

Canadian international merchandise trade

June 1999

Exports rose 1.9% in June to \$29.4 billion while imports edged up 0.3%. The merchandise trade balance increased to \$2.8 billion.

The increase in exports was mainly due to higher exports of machinery and equipment and industrial goods. Exports of energy products dropped in June. Imports have inched up over the last three months to reach \$26.6 billion, with the increase due mainly to gains made in the machinery and equipment and energy sectors.

The trade balance rose \$460 million from a revised \$2.3 billion in May to \$2.8 billion in June.

Note to readers

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

televisions and other communication equipment (mainly modems and computer equipment) hit a new high in June, reaching \$1.2 billion.

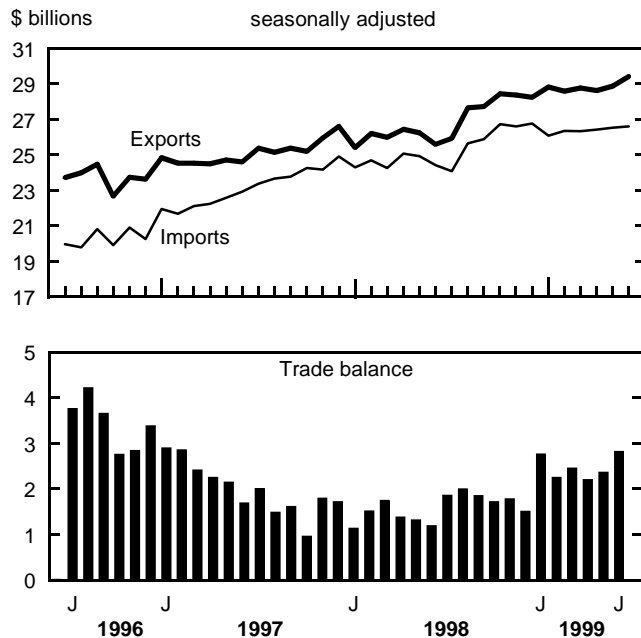
The industrial goods sector was also up (+2.6%), with exports of chemical products, plastics and fertilizers rising 3.9%. Aluminium exports climbed 9.4% in June as demand, mainly from automobile manufacturers, remained high in the United States.

The automotive sector remained stable in June, as a drop in truck exports (-4.1%) was completely offset by an increase in automobile exports (+1.5%). Truck exports had reached a high of \$1.7 billion in May. Automobile exports fell 1.9% during the second quarter, while manufacturing shipments in the automobile and parts industry dropped 0.3%.

The forestry products sector was down 1.0% in June. A drop in newsprint prices drove down the value of these exports for the fifth straight month to their lowest level since November 1994. However, the value of other wood-fabricated material exports has shown a cumulative increase of 24.1% since September 1998. This upward trend is due mainly to higher prices for oriented strandboard prices. Demand for these types of goods has remained strong, resulting from the continued high housing starts in the United States and Canada during the first six months of 1999.

The growth in energy exports that began in January this year shifted down in June (-3.1%). This downturn was due to a drop in exports of coal (-27.0%) and electricity (-15.6%), both of which recorded exceptional increases in May. However, the value of oil exports continued its upward trend for the sixth straight month, rising 7.9% in June, or 62.8% since January. This increase is chiefly the result of higher crude oil prices. The price index for Canadian crude exports has risen 44.6% since January. Export volumes have also risen 12.5% over this period.

Exports, imports and trade balance



Machinery and equipment sector pushes up exports

The increase in June exports is largely due to an 8.0% jump in machinery and equipment exports. Exports of aircraft, engines and parts rebounded 46.4% after a weak performance in May. Moreover, exports of

Total imports have inched up over the last three months

The 0.3% growth in June imports was mainly the result of a 2.7% increase in the machinery and equipment sector and a 4.8% increase in the energy sector.

Gains in the machinery and equipment sector were driven by imports of aircraft, engines and parts (+23.3%) and other transportation equipment such as ships and trains (+18.7%). Imports of communication equipment have shown a cumulative increase of 6.9% since February and have been moving up since 1996. The popularity of cellular telephones is responsible for this upward trend. The Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association currently estimates usage in Canada at 20.0%, a rate lower than that of most G7 countries including the United States (25.5%).

Energy imports rose 4.8% in June. The recent rise in crude oil prices pushed the value of crude oil imports up 6.4% while coal imports advanced 12.0%. This increase included both main types of coal, that used to generate electricity and that used in steel manufacturing.

The automotive sector has remained stable since the beginning of the year at \$6.2 billion. Truck imports rose 3.6% in June as truck sales were up. Imports of automotive parts dropped 0.4%.

Beverage imports, which rose 5.0% in June, increased a total of 21.5% over the last four months, mainly attributable to an increase in imports of wine from France and the United States and beer from the United States and Mexico.

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.

A provincial misallocation was identified too late to be corrected in the current publication. The correction will be incorporated in the next release. In effect, exports of \$654.5 million to the United States were incorrectly allocated to Quebec rather than Ontario.

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

This release contains a summary of the merchandise trade data to be published shortly in *Canadian international merchandise trade* (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 wishing to receive merchandise trade data on a more timely basis may obtain them by fax on the morning of release.

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

	May 1999	June 1999	May to June 1999	June to June 1999	Jan. to June 1998	Jan. to June 1999	Jan.-June 1998 to Jan.-June 1999
seasonally adjusted, \$ current							
	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		% change
Principal trading partners							
Exports							
United States	24,659	25,255	2.4	18.5	128,541	148,323	15.4
Japan	919	818	-11.0	3.4	4,829	4,811	-0.4
European Union	1,415	1,535	8.5	9.8	8,910	8,691	-2.5
Other OECD countries ¹	557	578	3.8	-5.1	3,783	3,349	-11.5
All other countries	1,330	1,233	-7.3	-17.5	9,832	7,928	-19.4
Total	28,880	29,418	1.9	14.9	155,897	173,102	11.0
Imports							
United States	20,401	20,232	-0.8	9.2	113,326	121,683	7.4
Japan	890	877	-1.5	7.3	4,856	5,064	4.3
European Union	2,207	2,394	8.5	7.9	12,544	13,399	6.8
Other OECD countries ¹	1,001	1,009	0.8	10.2	5,526	6,018	8.9
All other countries	2,033	2,099	3.2	8.4	11,427	12,160	6.4
Total	26,532	26,610	0.3	9.0	147,681	158,324	7.2
Balance							
United States	4,258	5,023	...	...	15,215	26,640	...
Japan	29	-59	...	...	-27	-253	...
European Union	-792	-859	...	...	-3,634	-4,708	...
Other OECD countries ¹	-444	-431	...	...	-1,743	-2,669	...
All other countries	-703	-866	...	...	-1,595	-4,232	...
Total	2,348	2,808	...	...	8,216	14,778	...
Principal commodity groupings							
Exports							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,182	2,148	-1.6	5.6	12,533	12,606	0.6
Energy products	2,415	2,340	-3.1	15.6	11,856	12,352	4.2
Forestry products	3,154	3,121	-1.0	8.4	17,281	18,816	8.9
Industrial goods and materials	4,549	4,665	2.6	-4.6	28,975	27,660	-4.5
Machinery and equipment	6,501	7,023	8.0	8.7	38,338	40,655	6.0
Automotive products	7,814	7,829	0.2	46.2	35,527	47,383	33.4
Other consumer goods	1,118	1,146	2.5	8.9	5,939	6,834	15.1
Special transactions trade ²	634	612	-3.5	57.3	2,273	3,670	61.5
Other balance-of-payment adjustments	513	535	4.3	2.9	3,178	3,129	-1.5
Imports							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,478	1,446	-2.2	-0.3	8,458	8,818	4.3
Energy products	735	770	4.8	-2.2	4,592	4,248	-7.5
Forestry products	221	223	0.9	7.7	1,224	1,331	8.7
Industrial goods and materials	4,971	4,960	-0.2	1.3	29,572	30,061	1.7
Machinery and equipment	8,788	9,025	2.7	7.5	48,874	52,819	8.1
Automotive products	6,182	6,200	0.3	28.8	32,371	36,916	14.0
Other consumer goods	3,052	3,036	-0.5	6.9	16,530	18,105	9.5
Special transactions trade ²	593	453	-23.6	-19.8	3,175	3,019	-4.9
Other balance-of-payment adjustments	512	497	-2.9	6.9	2,885	3,010	4.3

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

¹ Includes Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Poland, South Korea, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

² These are mainly low valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.

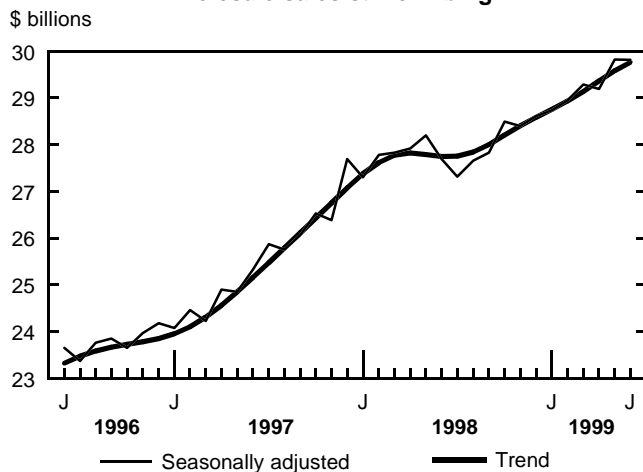
Wholesale trade

June 1999 (preliminary)

Held back by lower sales of motor vehicles, parts and accessories, wholesale sales remained unchanged in June. Without the influence of the motor vehicles, parts and accessories sector, sales would have risen a modest 0.4% in June. Despite this pause, wholesalers were able to finish the second quarter of 1999 with a 2.1% advance over the previous quarter.

Generally, wholesale sales have been on the climb since the summer of 1996. Only during the first half of 1998 did sales flatten briefly.

Despite this month's pause,
wholesale sales still climbing



Wholesale sales amounted to \$29.8 billion in June. Wholesalers of motor vehicles, parts and accessories reported a 1.8% fall in sales. As well, drops were reported by wholesalers of apparel and dry goods (-3.0%), household goods (-0.8%), and goods in the general category of other products (-0.5%), which includes newsprint, stationary and office supplies, jewellery and books. Notable sales increases were reported in metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies (+1.2%) and lumber and building materials (+1.2%).

Increased sales were reported in only four provinces and one territory: British Columbia (+0.9%), Ontario (+0.5%), Saskatchewan (+0.5%), Manitoba (+0.3%) and the Northwest Territories (+6.6%). Despite sales declines this month in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, these two provinces, along with Ontario, continue to perform well, posting year-over-year

changes in June of 18.9%, 14.3% and 11.7%, respectively.

Following declines that began in the fall of 1997, wholesale sales in Newfoundland have been rising since mid-1998. Likewise, after generally flat sales at the beginning of 1998, sales in Nova Scotia also started to increase by mid-1998. Industrial activity related to the Hibernia and Terra Nova oil field developments off Newfoundland and the Sable Island natural gas fields off Nova Scotia contributed to this performance.

In Ontario, wholesale sales also began to rise by mid-1998 following a small decline during the spring of that year. Ontario's strength can be attributed to the continuing boom in the U.S. economy and its associated Canadian spillover.

A booming U.S. economy continues to aid wholesalers

Wholesale sales of metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies rose 1.2% in June, the fifth consecutive monthly increase. Following a sluggish 1998 in which sales fell at the beginning of the year and then flattened out, sales have been rising since the start of 1999. Sales of lumber and building materials also rose 1.2% in June, helping to sustain the general rise that began during the spring of 1998. Prior to this, wholesale sales of lumber and building materials had been generally falling since early 1997.

The healthy economy in the United States and its associated increase in consumer confidence, along with its housing boom and subsequent spillover into Canada, are aiding wholesale sales associated with the construction industry. Canadian wholesalers have been able to take advantage of the increased construction activity and the improved new housing market in both Canada and the United States. Construction intentions in Canada were up in both May and June. There was also a noteworthy price gain in softwood lumber during June. The increase in business and government investment plans in plant and equipment, up 8.1% over 1998, could also be assisting the wholesale industry.

Increased capital spending helps as well

Wholesalers of industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies reported a 0.8% rise in sales in June. Sales in this sector have been climbing following a hiatus early in 1998. Prior to this pause, sales had been increasing. Wholesale sales of computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery also rose 0.8% in June, continuing the long general climb in sales seen over the past few years. In particular,

wholesalers pointed to continued sales to governments and the forestry industry as the main reason for this increase. Manitoba wholesalers of industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies also noted that sales were stronger in June leading up to the Pan-American Games in Winnipeg.

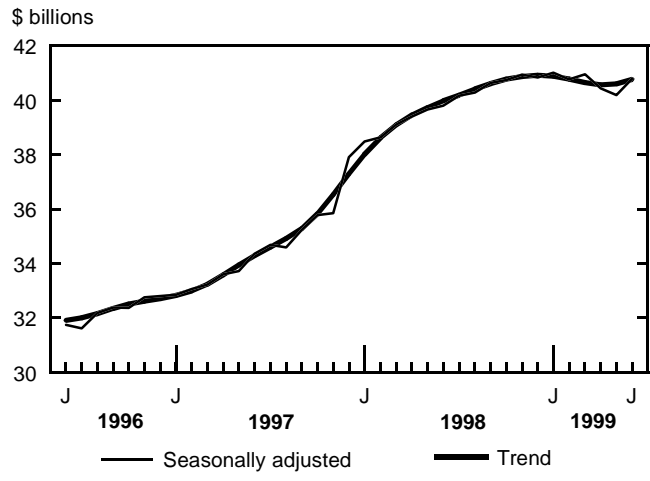
Weather affects wholesale sales of farm machinery, equipment and supplies

Wholesale sales of farm machinery, equipment and supplies rose 1.0% in June. This follows downward-revised decreases over the last few months due to revised data. Despite June's increase, the news on the farm front was still not good. This sector has seen generally falling sales since the fall of 1997. Along with low commodity prices and continued global economic crises, weather was a major factor affecting wholesale sales in June. Whereas the wet, cold weather contributed to lower sales of farm machinery, equipment and supplies in Western Canada, the dry hot weather in Eastern Canada encouraged stronger sales. Wholesalers noted that some sales were attributed to a rise in irrigation systems to combat the arid conditions.

Wholesalers report a rise in inventories

Following two months of falling inventories, wholesale inventories rose 1.5% to \$40.8 billion in June. Only wholesalers of food products (-1.1%), and apparel and dry goods (-0.2%) reported declines. Following a period of increases that began in the middle of 1996, overall accumulation of inventories began to ease throughout 1998. By the start of 1999, inventories were on the decline. However, since spring, this decline appears to be abating.

Inventories rose slightly in June



After four consecutive monthly drops, the inventories-to-sales ratio rose from 1.35 in May to 1.37 in June. Overall however, the ratio has been generally falling since mid-1998.

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

The June 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; 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

	June 1998 ^r	March 1999 ^r	April 1999 ^r	May 1999 ^r	June 1999 ^p	May to June 1999	June 1998 to June 1999
seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
Sales, all trade groups	27,695	29,285	29,190	29,822	29,816	0.0	7.7
Food products	4,292	4,542	4,580	4,587	4,592	0.1	7.0
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	1,912	1,985	1,907	1,890	1,905	0.8	-0.4
Apparel and dry goods	525	553	532	550	533	-3.0	1.6
Household goods	813	787	799	818	812	-0.8	-0.2
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	4,792	5,252	5,194	5,499	5,398	-1.8	12.6
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	1,881	1,955	1,956	2,029	2,054	1.2	9.2
Lumber and building materials	2,000	2,286	2,294	2,381	2,410	1.2	20.5
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	725	671	659	633	640	1.0	-11.8
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies	4,174	4,256	4,258	4,257	4,289	0.8	2.8
Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery	2,648	3,035	3,040	3,160	3,186	0.8	20.3
Other products	3,934	3,965	3,971	4,018	3,999	-0.5	1.6
Sales by province and territory							
Newfoundland	183	208	208	223	218	-2.3	18.9
Prince Edward Island	50	50	49	49	48	-1.4	-3.7
Nova Scotia	518	561	625	616	592	-3.9	14.3
New Brunswick	352	368	359	375	370	-1.4	5.1
Quebec	5,593	6,046	6,055	6,180	6,124	-0.9	9.5
Ontario	13,269	14,467	14,356	14,758	14,828	0.5	11.7
Manitoba	901	947	954	918	920	0.3	2.1
Saskatchewan	933	843	864	879	884	0.5	-5.3
Alberta	2,720	2,638	2,607	2,610	2,590	-0.7	-4.8
British Columbia	3,147	3,131	3,089	3,190	3,219	0.9	2.3
Yukon	11	12	9	10	9	-2.3	-15.8
Northwest Territories	..	12	13	12	13	6.6	..
Nunavut	..	3	2	2	1	..	..
Inventories, all trade groups	39,790	40,946	40,421	40,180	40,779	1.5	2.5
Food products	2,602	2,688	2,677	2,808	2,778	-1.1	6.8
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	2,179	2,255	2,266	2,268	2,317	2.2	6.3
Apparel and dry goods	1,241	1,239	1,241	1,210	1,208	-0.2	-2.7
Household goods	1,571	1,536	1,557	1,569	1,587	1.1	1.0
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	5,669	5,862	5,875	5,679	5,827	2.6	2.8
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	3,421	3,519	3,510	3,528	3,548	0.6	3.7
Lumber and building materials	3,590	3,598	3,605	3,536	3,669	3.8	2.2
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	2,281	2,256	2,189	2,172	2,184	0.6	-4.3
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies	9,708	10,093	9,890	9,832	10,031	2.0	3.3
Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery	2,295	2,524	2,405	2,514	2,555	1.6	11.3
Other products	5,233	5,377	5,206	5,064	5,075	0.2	-3.0

^p Preliminary figures.

^r Revised figures.

.. Figures not available.

OTHER RELEASES

Export and import price indexes

June 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 June 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 June 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 also now available on a customs basis.

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

The June 1999 issue of *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188 or 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 of this release, contact Jocelyne Elibani (613-951-9647 or 1-800-294-5583), Marketing and Client Services Section, International Trade Division. ■

Oil and gas extraction industry - capital and operating expenditures

1998

Capital expenditures for the conventional oil and gas extraction industry totalled \$15.0 billion in 1998, down 11.8% from 1997. This downturn in spending reflected the significant decrease in crude oil prices throughout 1998. Expenditures in the exploratory and development drilling categories declined 11.2% from 1997 levels. Production facilities expenditures dropped 5.3% from 1997 despite the reported \$0.7 billion expenditure during 1998 for the Sable Island Offshore Energy Project.

For the non-conventional sector, capital expenditures were \$1.5 billion, a 22.1% decline from the record levels of 1997. Over the next ten years,

expenditures on oilsands and heavy oil development are anticipated to amount to \$21.0 billion.

Operating costs for the conventional sector decreased 10.8% from 1997 to \$9.9 billion. Despite higher production of crude oil in 1998, price decreases resulted in a reduction of royalty payments, a major component of operating expenditures. Operating costs for the non-conventional sector reached \$2.0 billion, down 6.3% from 1997. The decrease was primarily due to lower royalty payments.

Oil and gas extraction industry: capital and operating expenditures

	1998	1997 to 1998
	\$ millions	% change
Capital		
Conventional	14,994.6	-11.7
Non-conventional	1,491.5	-22.1
Operating		
Conventional	9,935.9	-10.8
Non-conventional	1,960.0	-6.3

The 1998 issue of the *Oil and gas extraction industry* (26-213-XPB, \$29), 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 Gary Smalldridge (613-951-3567; smalgar@statcan.ca) or Réjean Saumure (613-951-7204; saumrej@statcan.ca) Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Oil and gas extraction industry - volume and value of marketable production

1998

Crude oil and equivalent production rose 3.7% from 1997. Hibernia, which completed its first year of operation in 1998, accounted for 3.0% of overall crude oil production. Exports of crude oil rose sharply in 1998 (+9.9%) as a result of stronger demand by U.S. refineries. Over 60% of Canada's crude oil production in 1998 was exported to the United States. Synthetic crude oil production (including crude bitumen) has increased solidly over the last 10 years; in 1998 it accounted for 26.6% of total crude oil and equivalent

production compared with 19.2% in 1988. Natural gas production advanced 2.8% to a record 160.5 billion cubic metres in 1998. Exports of natural gas rose a strong 9.3% and were boosted substantially by growing demand from electricity co-generation facilities in the United States. In 1998, Canada exported over 55% of its annual production to the United States.

The value of natural gas production was estimated at \$10.9 billion, a 1.6% increase from 1997. The value of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons produced in 1998 totalled an estimated \$12.9 billion. This sharp 27.5% decline from 1997 was attributable to significantly weaker wellhead prices.

Oil and gas extraction industry: volume and value of marketable production

	1998	1997 to 1998
	% change	
Crude oil and equivalent		
Volume '000's m ³	128,401.1	3.7
Value \$ millions	12,940.1	-27.5
Natural gas		
Volume 000,000's m ³	160,514.7	2.8
Value \$ millions	10,893.0	1.6
Natural gas By - products¹		
Volume '000's m ³	26,665.5	0.9
Value \$ millions	1,763.1	-32.2

¹ Excludes volume and value of pentanes plus and elemental sulphur.

The 1998 issue of the *Oil and gas extraction industry* (26-213-XPB, \$29) 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 Gary Smalldridge (613-951-3567; smalgar@statcan.ca) or Réjean Saumure (613-951-7204; saumrej@statcan.ca) Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Microdata files: incomes of households, families and individuals 1997

Four microdata files containing 1997 income data from the Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF) for households, economic families, census families and individuals are now available. A key file that allows the user to link any of the four files to perform further analysis is also available (13M0004XDB).

In addition to income by source data (e.g., earnings, investment income, government transfer payments), the files contain personal, family and labour-related characteristics such as age, sex, education, family relationship, occupation and labour force status.

The 1997 income data were collected as part of the 1998 SCF, conducted in the spring of 1998 as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Previous microdata files also included data from the Household Facilities and Equipment Survey. Because of program reorganization, facilities and equipment data were collected by the Survey of Household Spending (SHS) and will be included on the SHS microdata file starting with the 1997 reference year. This will make it possible to analyze facilities and equipment data in the context of household spending.

The household file contains approximately 34,000 records; the economic family file, about 35,000 records; the census family file, about 37,000 records; the individual file, 69,000 records; and the key file, about 87,000 records. These files have been carefully reviewed to ensure that they do not contain information that might allow identification of specific households, families or individuals.

Note: Traditionally, the SCF has been the source of Statistics Canada's annual income estimates, including statistics on low income. The SCF had been conducted each April as a supplement to the LFS. Commencing with the 1998 income statistics, the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID) will be the source of the annual cross-sectional income estimates and microdata files in addition to longitudinal income data and microdata files. Integration of the cross-sectional and longitudinal income statistics programs will promote consistency among income estimates.

For more information, contact Client Services (613-951-7355 or 1 888 297-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending August 14, 1999 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending August 14, 1999 totalled 305 394 tonnes, up 2.1% from the week-earlier 299 007 tonnes and up 0.1% from the year-earlier 305 078 tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 9 925 626 tonnes, a 2.4% decrease compared with 10 167 149 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. ■

Deliveries of major grains

July 1999

Data on July grain deliveries are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 976-981.

The delivery data are contained in the July issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149), which will be available in October. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality for this release, contact Karen Gray (204-983-2856; karen.gray@statcan.ca), or Susan Anderson (613-951-3859; sue.anderson@statcan.ca), Grain Marketing Unit, Agriculture Division. ■

Civil aviation operating statistics

May 1999

In May, both Air Canada and Canadian Airlines reported no change in either their domestic or international passenger-kilometres (seasonally adjusted data). Air Canada is reporting roughly 60% more domestic passenger-kilometres flown than Canadian, and nearly 30% more international passenger-kilometres flown.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 385 (series 1 to 6).

The May 1999 data on civil aviation (operational data) for Air Canada and Canadian Airlines will appear in the August 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 Robert Lund (613-951-0125), Aviation Statistics Centre, Transportation Division. ■

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