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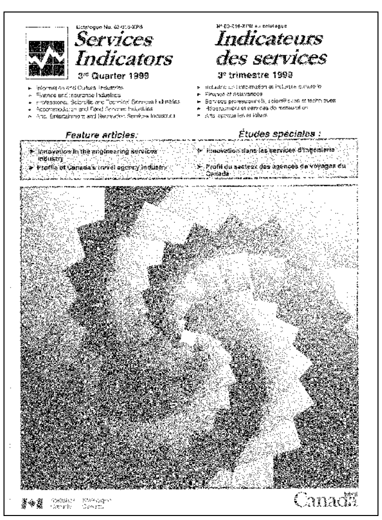
Statistics Canada

Tuesday, January 18, 2000
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

(continued on following page)



Services indicators

Third quarter 1999

Services indicators, a quarterly publication, contains about 40 updated tables and charts that present output, employment and remuneration figures for various services industries over the past eight quarters.

This edition includes two feature articles. The first, "Innovation in the engineering services industry", presents estimates of innovation among engineering services firms between 1994 and 1996. The data show that large firms are very innovative, while innovation rates are low among small firms. The second article profiles Canada's travel agency industry.

The third quarter 1999 issue of *Services indicators* (63-016-XIB, $26/$87; 63-016-XPB, $35/$116) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information about *Services indicators*, contact Don Little (613-951-6739; *littdon@statcan.ca*), Services Industries Division.

OTHER RELEASES – concluded

MAJOR RELEASES

New motor vehicle sales

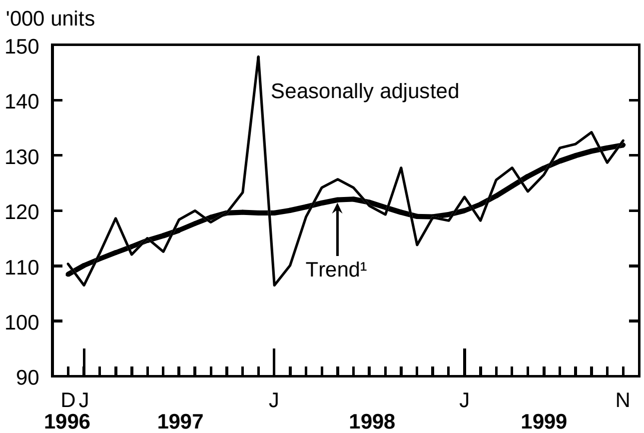
November 1999

Consumers returned to dealers' showrooms in November, resulting in a 3.1% increase in the number of vehicles sold compared with October.

In all, 132,749 new motor vehicles were sold in November, 4,034 more vehicles than in October. This increase followed a 4.1% decline in October, which ended a series of four consecutive monthly increases. (All figures are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise indicated.)

Sales of new motor vehicles have been robust since the fall of 1998. They had been relatively stable earlier in 1998, punctuated by some large monthly fluctuations.

Motor vehicle sales rebounded in November



[1] *The short-term trend represents a moving average of the data.*

Seasonally adjusted sales of new motor vehicles for the first 11 months of 1999 were 7.1% higher compared with the same period in 1998. Cumulative sales of new passenger cars for the same period climbed 8.2%, while new truck sales rose 5.9%. According to indications from the auto industry, new motor vehicle sales also rose in December. Overall, 1999 should be the best year of the decade in terms of the number of new motor vehicles sold.

Truck and passenger car sales increase

In November, the number of new trucks sold rose 3.3% over October to 61,457 vehicles. However, November's increase did not offset the sharp 8.8% drop in October.

Note to readers

Passenger cars include those used for personal and commercial purposes (such as taxis or rental cars). Trucks include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans, coaches and buses.

North American-built new motor vehicles include vehicles manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico. All other new motor vehicles are considered imports (manufactured overseas).

For reasons of confidentiality, data for Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been included with the data for British Columbia.

Truck sales have generally been rising since the start of 1999, following a period of declining sales during most of 1998.

New passenger car dealers reported selling 71,292 vehicles in November, up 3.0% over October. This sixth straight monthly increase was largely attributable to North American-built passenger cars. The number of new North American-built passenger cars sold in November was 4.8% higher compared with October. By contrast, the number of overseas-built passenger cars fell 2.9%, a second consecutive monthly decline.

Sales of new passenger cars have been moving upward since the fall of 1998, after remaining generally stable since the second half of 1997.

Sales up in all provinces

Unadjusted for seasonality, new motor vehicle sales advanced 15.2% in November compared with the same month a year earlier. All provinces posted increases in the number of new motor vehicles sold over the same one-year period.

Newfoundland (+33.1%) registered the largest gain. Year-over-year increases of at least 10.0% were also posted by New Brunswick (+20.5%), Prince Edward Island (+19.9%), Ontario (+19.2%), Saskatchewan (+17.1%), Nova Scotia (+16.4%), Alberta (+12.2 %) and Quebec (+11.6%).

The region formed by British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (+9.5%) and Manitoba (+4.9%) registered less than a 10.0% increase in new motor vehicles sales over the same one-year period.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 64.

The November 1999 issue of *New motor vehicle sales* (63-007-XIB, $13/$124) 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; *retailinfo@statcan.ca*), Distributive Trades Division. For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Clérance Kimanyi (613-951-6363; *kimacle@statcan.ca*), Distributive Trades Division.

New motor vehicle sales

	Nov. 1998	Oct. 1999[r]	Nov. 1999[p]	Nov. 1998 to Nov. 1999	Oct. to Nov. 1999
	seasonally adjusted				
				% change	
New motor vehicles	**118,844**	**128,715**	**132,749**	**11.7**	**3.1**
Passenger cars	64,620	69,206	71,292	10.3	3.0
North American[1]	51,059	53,406	55,947	9.6	4.8
Overseas	13,561	15,800	15,345	13.2	-2.9
Trucks, vans and buses	54,224	59,509	61,457	13.3	3.3
				Market share	
	Nov. 1998	Nov. 1999[p]	Nov. 1998 to Nov. 1999	Nov. 1998	Nov. 1999
	unadjusted				
			% change	%	
New motor vehicles	**106,440**	**122,644**	**15.2**		
Passenger cars	54,693	64,035	17.1		
North American[1]	43,207	50,168	16.1	79.0	78.3
Overseas	11,486	13,867	20.7	21.0	21.7
Trucks, vans and buses	51,747	58,609	13.3		
North American[1]	46,847	52,860	12.8	90.5	90.2
Overseas	4,900	5,749	17.3	9.5	9.8

r Revised figures.
p Preliminary figures.
1 Manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico.

OTHER RELEASES

Services indicators
Third quarter 1999

The third quarter 1999 edition of *Services indicators*, available today, contains two feature articles.

The article "Innovation in the engineering services industry" is based on data from the 1997 Survey of Innovation, which was the first to look at innovation in selected knowledge-based and information-intensive services industries. It presents estimates of innovation in engineering services between 1994 and 1996.

The data show that large firms are very innovative, while innovation rates are low among small firms. As well, firms that do not innovate are less likely to try because of the inherent risks. Product innovation is the most common of three types of innovation studied. Firms cite clients as their most important source of innovative ideas, while acknowledging the importance of research and development. The most significant barriers to innovation are market uncertainties and difficulties in obtaining capital.

The second article, "Profile of Canada's travel agency industry", uses 1997 data to study the industry on the basis of general characteristics, client base, revenue and cost structure, marketing methods and trade patterns.

The publication's regular quarterly analysis of the services sector shows that output rose in real terms by 0.7% in the third quarter of 1999 compared with the second quarter, the sector's lowest growth rate since mid-1998. In contrast, gross domestic product in the goods sector soared 2.3% during the same time period.

Among services, growth in output was strongest in the computer and related services industry (+4.7%). Declines were recorded in the insurance and real estate agents industry (-2.0%), advertising services (-1.9%) and architectural and other scientific services (-1.3%). As well, an uncharacteristically weak growth rate of 1.2% was recorded in telecommunications services due to softer demand for long distance services.

Although goods and services had similar inflation rates in the third quarter compared with the second quarter, consumer spending on goods rose more rapidly. Personal expenditures on goods rose a sharp 2.6% in the third quarter due to increased spending on motor vehicles and vehicle parts, repairs and fuel. Services consumption rose by a comparatively slow 0.9%.

Canada's $1.8 billion trade deficit in services was unchanged from the second quarter. On the other hand, the trade surplus in goods soared from $7.3 billion in the second quarter to $9.5 billion in the third quarter due to higher exports, especially to the buoyant U.S. economy. On a year-over-year basis, the trade deficit for services increased 9.0% between the third quarter of 1998 and the third quarter of 1999, while the trade surplus in goods increased 66.6% during the same time period.

Since the third quarter of last year, 345,000 jobs were created in the economy. The services sector accounted for 70% of these jobs, likely due to its robust 3.7% economic growth rate. Moreover, 93% of the 242,000 added services jobs were full time. As a result, full-time jobs accounted for 79.4% of all services jobs, the highest rate in three years, but still well below the 94.4% proportion among goods-producing industries.

The third quarter 1999 issue of *Services indicators* (63-016-XIB, $26/$87; 63-016-XPB, $35/$116) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information about the article "Innovation in the engineering services industry", contact Daood Hamdani (613-951-3490; *daood.hamdani@statcan.ca*), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. For more information about the profile of the travel agency industry, contact Adib Farhat (613-951-6306; *farhadi@statcan.ca*), Services Industries Division. For more information about Services indicators, contact Don Little (613-951-6739; *littdon@statcan.ca*), Services Industries Division. ■

Aggregate measures of productivity

Revisions and updates

Detailed productivity data for 1996, as well as revised aggregate figures for 1997 and 1998, are now available. These new data follow from the final input-output tables for 1995 and the preliminary tables for 1996, as well as subsequent revisions to 1997-1998 real GDP data and labour compensation.

Aggregate measures of productivity and labour cost

	Business sector		
	Labour productivity	Hourly compensation	Unit labour cost
	indices (1992=100)		
1989	96.1	87.1	90.6
1990	96.5	91.5	94.9
1991	97.9	96.9	99.0
1992	100.0	100.0	100.0
1993	100.6	100.4	99.8
1994	102.4	100.7	98.3
1995	104,1	103.2	99.1
1996	103.8	105.1	101.3
1997	106.6	110.7	103.8
1998	107.2	114.9	107.1
	annual rate of change (%)		
1989-1990	0.4	5.1	4.8
1990-1991	1.4	5.8	4.3
1991-1992	2.2	3.2	1.0
1992-1993	0.6	0.4	-0.2
1993-1994	1.8	0.4	-1.4
1994-1995	1.6	2.4	0.8
1995-1996	-0.3	1.9	2.2
1996-1997	2.8	5.3	2.5
1997-1998	0.6	3.8	3.2

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9460-9483.

These data and related information will be available in the 1998 issue of *Aggregate productivity measures* (15-204-XPE, $46), which will be available shortly See *How to order publications*.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean-Pierre Maynard (613-951-3654; fax: 613-951-5403; *maynard@statcan.ca*), Micro-economic Analysis Division. ■

Construction Union Wage Rate Index

December 1999

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in December from November at 114.8 (1992=100). The Composite index increased 2.3% compared with December 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 fourth quarter 1999 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, $24/$79) will be available in March. 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; *infounit@statcan.ca*, fax: 613-951-1539), Prices Division. ■

Selected financial indexes

December 1999

December 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 fourth quarter 1999 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, $24/$79), which will be available in March. 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*), Prices Division. ■

Shipments of rolled steel

November 1999

Rolled steel shipments for November 1999 totalled 1 318 778 tonnes, up 5.8% from 1 246 752 tonnes in October and up 13.8% from 1 159 056 tonnes in November 1998.

Year-to-date shipments at the end of November 1999 totalled 13 799 762 tonnes, up 6.1% from 13 009 064 tonnes in 1998.

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

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. ■

Steel primary forms

November 1999

Steel primary forms production for November 1999 totalled 1 311 974 tonnes, an increase of 7.0% from 1 226 203 tonnes the same period in 1998.

Year-to-date production reached 14 774 007 tonnes, up 1.2% from 14 593 944 tonnes a year earlier.

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

For further 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. ■

Rail in Canada

1998 (preliminary)

Financial, operating and origin and destination statistics for railways operating in Canada are now available.

Canadian railways generated operating revenues of $7.6 billion in 1998, down 4.0% compared with 1997. The two main carriers, Canadian National (CN) and Canadian Pacific (CP), recorded decreases because of declines in cereal freight carried, a result of disappointing harvests in the West and a decrease in the export of coal, created by the Asian economic downturn. Only the short-haul carriers experienced increases (+7.2%) in their operating revenues for 1998.

Operating expenses increased by 3.1% to $6.9 billion. This increase can be attributed, in part, to CN, which recorded a special charge of $590 million to cover the cost of severance pay. In 1998, CN laid off 3,000 employees. The financial result, measured by the operating ratio, went from 0.85 in 1997 to 0.91 in 1998.

The railways continued to rationalize their operations in 1998, eliminating the less profitable tracks. In fact, the total of length of track operated by CN, CP and VIA Rail went from 63,107 kilometres in 1997 to 59,334 in 1998. The opposite was observed with the short-haul carriers, where the total of length of track operated went from 11,745 kilometres in 1997 to 13,929 in 1998. Employment in the railway industry decreased by 2.5% to about 45,000.

Rail in Canada, 1998 (52-216-XIB, $39), will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, contact Robert Larocque, (613-951-2486, fax: 613-951-0009, *laroque@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division.

Industrial monitor on CD-ROM

January 2000

The *Industrial monitor on CD-ROM* offers up-to-date data on more than 150 manufacturing industries and 33 other industries covering construction, wholesale trade and retail trade. This information is offered for 25 sectors, and can be purchased by individual sector or as a complete package.

For each industry, up to 50 variables are organized in the *Table Viewer* according to five table types: supply, demand, price, labour/employment, and investment/capital stock. The underlying database is also available via the *Series Browser* for more extensive time-series analysis and inter-industry comparisons.

The *Industrial monitor on CD-ROM* is linked to the Standard Industrial Classification manual, provides pop-up textual descriptions for every series and embodies consistent data conventions — all features designed to make analysis easy and accurate. State-of-the-art functions offer searching, graphing, viewing, exporting and transforming capabilities, providing you the information quickly and easily.

The January 2000 issue of the *Industrial monitor on CD-ROM* is now available. An annual subscription (one CD-ROM per month) to the full package (15F0015XCB) costs $995, a savings of more than 80% off the annual subscription price of $258 per individual sector.

For further information, or to request a free demonstration CD-ROM, contact Yolande Chantigny (1 800 887-IMAD, ext: 4623; 613-951-IMAD, ext: 4623; fax: 613-951-3688; *imad@statcan.ca*), Industry Measures and Analysis Division, or contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Agriculture economic statistics, November 1999
Catalogue number 21-603-UPE
(Canada: $26/$52; outside Canada: US$26/US$52).

Supply and disposition of crude oil and natural gas, September 1999
Catalogue number 26-006-XPB
(Canada: $19/$186; outside Canada: US$19/US$186).

Primary iron and steel, November 1999
Catalogue number 41-001-XIB
(Canada: $5/$47; outside Canada: US$/US$).

Refined petroleum products, June 1999
Catalogue number 45-004-XPB
(Canada: $21/$206; outside Canada: US$21/US$206).

Services indicators, third quarter 1999
Catalogue number 63-016-XIB
(Canada: $26/$87; outside Canada: US$/US$).

Services indicators, third quarter 1999
Catalogue number 63-016-XPB
(Canada: $35/$116; outside Canada: US$35/US$116).

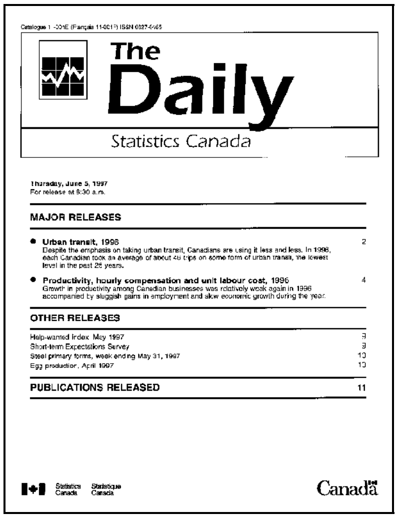
Canada's international transactions in securities, October 1999
Catalogue number 67-002-XPB
(Canada: $18/$176; outside Canada: US$18/US$176).

Government finances and generational equity
Catalogue number 68-513-XIB
(Canada: $13/$; outside Canada: US$/US$).

Labour markets, social institutions and the future of Canada's children
Catalogue number 89-553-XIB
(Canada: $13/$; outside Canada: US$/US$).

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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The Daily

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Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 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 relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index, May 1997	9
Short-term Expectations Survey	9
Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997	10
Egg production, April 1997	10

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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