

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, October 20, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Consumer Price Index, September 2000** 3
Consumers paid 2.7% more in September for the goods and services in the Consumer Price Index basket than they did in September 1999. This follows a 2.5% annual increase posted in August 2000.
- **Teenage pregnancy, 1997** 6
Teenage pregnancy rates declined for the third straight year in 1997. Canada's teenage pregnancy rate is about half that of the United States.

(continued on page 2)



Travel-log Autumn 2000

The Autumn 2000 issue of *Travel-log*, Statistics Canada's quarterly tourism newsletter features the article "Characteristics Associated with Bird and Wildlife Viewers in Canada." Bird and wildlife viewing is growing in popularity in Canada. In fact, many towns have begun to promote bird or wildlife viewing in order to position themselves as important destinations for both domestic and international visitors. However, the rapid development of bird and wildlife viewing operations causes some concern about whether destinations are prepared to meet the needs of the tourists that they attract. This study aims to help tourism destination planners understand the characteristics of domestic bird and wildlife viewing markets so that they may be better prepared to meet the demands of these travellers.

Each quarter, *Travel-log* examines the trends of the Travel Price Index. It also features the latest travel indicators, travellers' characteristics and the international travel account.

The Autumn 2000 issue of *Travel-log* (87-003-XIE, \$5/\$16; 87-003-XPB, \$13/\$42) is now available. See *How to order products*. For more information, contact Monique Beyrouti (613-951-1673, fax: 613-951-2909, monique.beyrouti@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.



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OTHER RELEASES

Railway carloadings, seven-day period ending September 14, 2000 8

NEW PRODUCTS 9

RELEASE DATES: Week of October 23 to 27 10



Health reports

Volume 12, number 1

The latest issue of *Health Reports* contains the following articles: "Teenage pregnancy," "Proxy reporting in the National Population Health Survey," "Chronic back problems among workers" and "Household spending on health care."

Health reports provides comprehensive and timely analysis of national and provincial health information and vital statistics derived from surveys or administrative databases. It is designed for a broad audience that includes health professionals, researchers, policy-makers, educators and students.

Health reports, Volume 12, number 1 (82-003-XIE, \$26/\$87; 82-003-XPB, \$35/\$116), is now available. See *How to order products*. For more information, contact Marie Beaudet (613-951-7025; beaumar@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division.

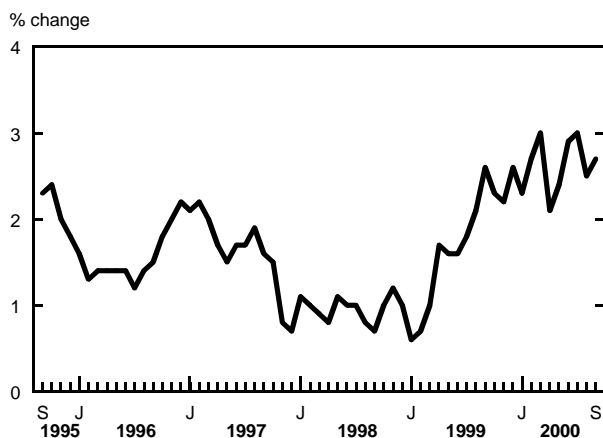
MAJOR RELEASES

Consumer Price Index

September 2000

Consumers paid 2.7% more in September for the goods and services in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket than they did in September 1999. This follows a 2.5% annual increase posted in August 2000. Higher energy prices accounted for almost half of September's annual rise. Excluding the effects of higher energy prices, the All-items index advanced 1.5% in September. The increases for the All-items excluding energy index have ranged between 1.0% and 1.7% since January 1998.

Percentage change in the Consumer Price Index from the same month of the previous year

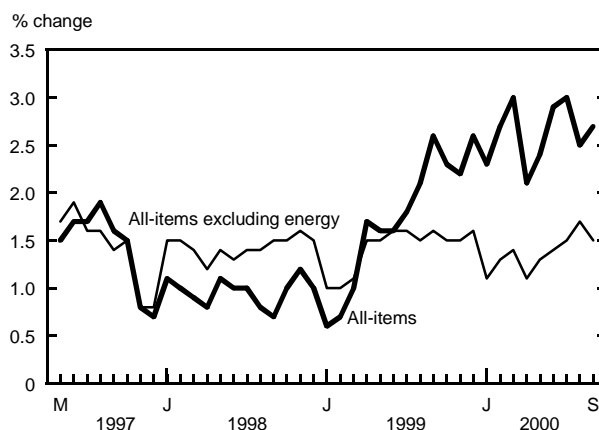


Among the energy commodities, gasoline had the largest impact on the 12-month advance in the All-items index. Gasoline prices rose, on average, by 17.7%. This rise marks the fourteenth consecutive month for double-digit annual increases. Price hikes for natural gas (+24.5%) and fuel oil (+44.5%) also contributed to higher overall energy prices. From September 1999 to September 2000, increases in the prices of fuel oil have shown some significant provincial variations. The lowest 12-month rise was recorded in Manitoba (+28.8%), and the highest in Quebec (+57.4%). Increases posted for the remaining provinces, Whitehorse and Yellowknife ranged from 35.5% to 42.6%.

Other commodities contributing to the overall annual CPI increase include mortgage interest cost and food purchased from restaurants. In contrast, price decreases for the purchase of automotive vehicles,

computer equipment and supplies, and child care put some downward pressure on the All-items CPI.

Annual change in the CPI and in the CPI excluding energy



Monthly rise in the CPI and services

After decreasing by 0.2% from July to August, the CPI rose by 0.4% from August to September. Rising energy prices are the main factor behind that increase, as the All-items excluding energy index was unchanged in September compared with August. Among the energy components, almost all of the impact came from higher prices for gasoline and fuel oil. Women's clothing and tuition fees also put upward pressure on the All-items CPI. Downward pressure was exerted by lower prices for fresh vegetables, fresh fruit, traveller accommodation, and child care.

Gasoline prices rose on average by 6.0% from August to September, following a 3.5% drop from July to August. With the exception of the index for Prince Edward Island, indexes for the remaining provinces, Whitehorse and Yellowknife saw growth, ranging from 1.4% in Yellowknife to 11.5% in Manitoba. Residents of Prince Edward Island, a province with government-regulated gasoline prices, saw their index decrease 1.9%.

The index for fuel oil rose by 16.0% in September. The smallest monthly increase was recorded in Prince Edward Island (+2.8%), and Quebec posted the highest rise (+20.1%).

The index for women's clothing rose 3.3%, due in part to higher prices for new fall clothing items.

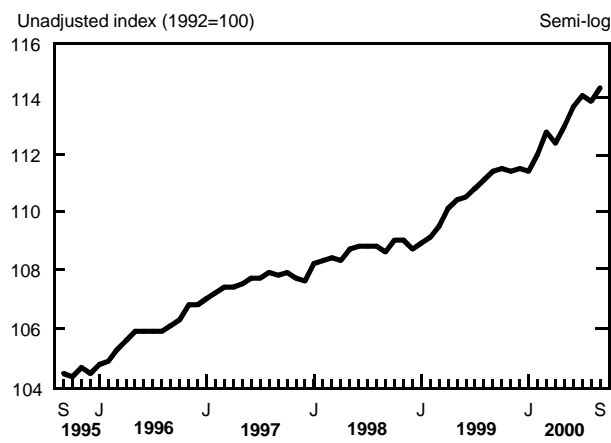
Tuition fees were up an average 3.2%, the smallest increase registered since 1978. The 1990s saw substantial hikes in tuition fees as the share of government funding in university operating budgets declined. The increase registered this year is smaller than those of previous years, as more provincial governments have frozen tuition fees. Increases ranged from 0.3% for residents of British Columbia and Quebec to 8.6% for those of Nova Scotia. Manitobans were the only ones to benefit from a decrease (-4.1%), as the last provincial government budget reduced tuition fees. Note that the tuition fee index for a province takes into account the fact that some residents of that province are studying in institutions outside of the province.

In September, prices for fresh vegetables fell on average by 10.8%, while those of fresh fruit were down 4.4%. These decreases were due mostly to the continued availability of locally produced crops.

With the end of the peak summer tourism season, prices for traveller accommodation decreased by 2.4%. This monthly decrease is identical to the one registered in September 1999.

Child care prices were down 10.8% in Quebec, owing to the extension of the \$5-per-day provincial subsidy program to the last age group of eligible children. This decrease was only slightly offset by increases in Manitoba (+1.3%) and Saskatchewan (+1.2%), causing a 2.8% drop in the index for Canada.

Consumer Price Index



Available on CANSIM: matrices 9940-9956.

Available at 7 a.m. on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca).

The September 2000 issue of the *Consumer Price Index* (62-001-XPB, \$11/\$103) is available. See *How to order products*.

The October Consumer Price Index will be released on November 21.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division. □

Consumer Price Index and major components 1992=100

| | Sept. 2000 | Aug. 2000 | Sept. 1999 | Aug. to Sept. 2000 | Sept. 1999 to Sept. 2000 |
|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| not seasonally adjusted | | | | | |
| | % change | | | | |
| All-items | 114.4 | 113.9 | 111.4 | 0.4 | 2.7 |
| Food | 112.2 | 113.1 | 109.8 | -0.8 | 2.2 |
| Shelter | 109.6 | 109.0 | 105.6 | 0.6 | 3.8 |
| Household operations and furnishings | 110.5 | 110.5 | 109.5 | 0.0 | 0.9 |
| Clothing and footwear | 107.4 | 105.4 | 107.2 | 1.9 | 0.2 |
| Transportation | 131.9 | 130.0 | 127.0 | 1.5 | 3.9 |
| Health and personal care | 112.3 | 112.4 | 110.6 | -0.1 | 1.5 |
| Recreation, education and reading | 124.9 | 124.8 | 122.4 | 0.1 | 2.0 |
| Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products | 98.4 | 98.0 | 94.6 | 0.4 | 4.0 |
| Goods | 111.8 | 111.0 | 108.4 | 0.7 | 3.1 |
| Services | 117.4 | 117.3 | 114.9 | 0.1 | 2.2 |
| All-items excluding food and energy | 112.8 | 112.6 | 111.3 | 0.2 | 1.3 |
| Energy | 132.8 | 127.3 | 115.4 | 4.3 | 15.1 |
| Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1992 | 87.4 | 87.8 | 89.8 | | |
| All-items (1986=100) | 146.5 | | | | |

Consumer Price Index for the provinces, Whitehorse and Yellowknife 1992=100

| | Sept. 2000 | Aug. 2000 | Sept. 1999 | Aug. to Sept. 2000 | Sept. 1999 to Sept. 2000 |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| not seasonally adjusted | | | | | |
| | % change | | | | |
| Newfoundland | 114.0 | 113.8 | 110.8 | 0.2 | 2.9 |
| Prince Edward Island | 112.9 | 112.5 | 108.2 | 0.4 | 4.3 |
| Nova Scotia | 115.0 | 114.0 | 111.6 | 0.9 | 3.0 |
| New Brunswick | 113.7 | 113.3 | 110.5 | 0.4 | 2.9 |
| Quebec | 111.4 | 111.0 | 108.7 | 0.4 | 2.5 |
| Ontario | 114.9 | 114.4 | 111.8 | 0.4 | 2.8 |
| Manitoba | 119.0 | 118.5 | 116.2 | 0.4 | 2.4 |
| Saskatchewan | 117.5 | 117.2 | 114.4 | 0.3 | 2.7 |
| Alberta | 119.1 | 118.3 | 114.9 | 0.7 | 3.7 |
| British Columbia | 114.3 | 114.1 | 112.2 | 0.2 | 1.9 |
| Whitehorse | 115.8 | 115.9 | 113.1 | -0.1 | 2.4 |
| Yellowknife | 112.0 | 111.9 | 110.3 | 0.1 | 1.5 |

Teenage pregnancy

1997

An estimated 42,161 Canadian women aged 15 to 19 gave birth, had an abortion or experienced fetal loss (miscarriage or stillbirth) in 1997. The number of teenage pregnancies had declined steadily since 1994, when the estimated total was 46,753.

Teenage pregnancy rate at 10-year low

The teenage pregnancy rate was 42.7 pregnancies for every 1,000 women aged 15 to 19 in 1997, the lowest in 10 years. The rate reached its most recent high of 48.8 per 1,000 in 1994, and has since declined.

The decrease in Canada's teenage pregnancy rate began several years later than that of the United States. The U.S. rate remains about double the Canadian rate.

Older teenagers are more likely than their younger counterparts to be sexually active, which is reflected in much higher pregnancy rates. At ages 18 and 19, the 1997 rate was 68.8 pregnancies for every 1,000 women, compared with 25.5 for women 15 to 17. Nevertheless, the pregnancy rate for 18- and 19-year-olds was well below the rate of 100.6 per 1,000 women 20 to 24.

Teenage pregnancy rates tend to be higher in the North and the Prairie provinces than in other regions. In 1997, the rate in the Northwest Territories was 123.3 pregnancies for every 1,000 women aged 15 to 19, and more than 60 per 1,000 in the Yukon and Manitoba. On the other hand, rates in Newfoundland and New Brunswick were less than 35 per 1,000.

Live birth rate at all-time low

Both the number and rate of live births to teenage women — both younger and older teenagers — reached all-time lows in 1997.

An estimated 19,723 babies were born to women aged 15 to 19 in 1997, down from 23,728 in 1994. During that time, the birth rate fell steadily from 24.8 to 20.0 for every 1,000 women in the age group, the lowest rate recorded since pregnancy statistics were first compiled in the mid-1970s.

Teenage birth rates were relatively high in the territories, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and low in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia.

Note to readers

This release is based on an article in the new issue of Health reports (Vol. 12 no. 1). The article examines recent trends in pregnancy among women who were aged 15 to 19 in 1997.

The data are from Statistics Canada's Hospital Morbidity Data Base and Canadian Vital Statistics Data Base, as well as the annual Therapeutic Abortion Survey conducted by the Canadian Institute for Health Information.

Pregnancies are estimated as the sum of live births, induced abortions, and fetal loss (miscarriages and stillbirths) for which administrative records are available. The most likely source of error in these estimates is under-reporting of miscarriages.

Abortion rates stable from 1994 to 1997

Although the teenage birth rate declined between 1994 and 1997, the abortion rate was stable, fluctuating only slightly between 21.1 and 22.0 abortions per 1,000 women 15 to 19.

Among those 18 and 19, the 1997 rate was an estimated 33.1 abortions per 1,000 women, and the rate for those 15 to 17 was 13.9 per 1,000. The higher rate at ages 18 and 19 reflects the larger number of pregnancies among older teenagers.

Among the provinces and territories, 1997 abortion rates were highest in Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Ontario, and lowest in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

The number of teenagers giving birth has fallen in recent years, but the number of abortions among women in this age group has stabilized. As a result, in 1997, for the first time, the percentage of teenage pregnancies ending in abortion (50.3%) surpassed that of live births (46.8%). The remaining 2.9% of pregnancies ended in a miscarriage or stillbirth.

This shift mirrored the situation among younger teenagers in most years since 1993. Except in 1995, the number of girls 15 to 17 who had an abortion exceeded the number who gave birth. In 1997, 54% of pregnancies among 15- to 17-year-olds ended in abortion.

Among women 18 and 19, who accounted for the majority of teenage pregnancies (nearly two-thirds in 1997), live births still outnumbered abortions. However, 48.1% of pregnant women in this age group had an abortion in 1997, up from 43.0% in 1995.

Trends at the national level were driven by patterns in the three most populous provinces — Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia — where the majority of

teenage pregnancies were aborted in 1997. However, in the remaining provinces and territories (except Yukon), most teenage pregnancies ended in a live birth.

Volume 12 number 1 of *Health reports* (82-003-XIE, \$15/\$44; 82-003-XPB, \$35/\$116) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this

release, contact Heather Dryburgh (613-951-6276; heather.dryburgh@statcan.ca), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division or Richard Trudeau (613-951-8782; trudric@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending September 14, 2000

Non-intermodal traffic loaded during the seven-day period ending September 14 decreased 3.9% to 4.7 million tonnes compared with the same period of 1999. The number of cars loaded decreased 3.6%.

Intermodal traffic was 457 000 tonnes, a 9.1% increase from the same period of 1999. The year-to-date figures are up 6.4%.

Total traffic decreased 2.9% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 177.3 million tonnes, unchanged from the same period of 1999.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

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

NEW PRODUCTS

Infomat — A weekly review, October 20, 2000
Catalogue number 11-002-XIE (\$3/\$109).

Infomat — A weekly review, October 20, 2000
Catalogue number 11-002-XPE (\$4/\$145).

Health reports, Vol. 12, no. 1
Catalogue number 82-003-XIE (\$15/\$44).

Health reports, Vol. 12, no. 1
Catalogue number 82-003-XPB (\$35/\$116).

Travel-log, Autumn 2000
Catalogue number 87-003-XIE (\$5/\$16).

Travel-log, Autumn 2000
Catalogue number 87-003-XPB (\$13/\$42).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Change the estimates on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow moderate growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted index**, May 1997 3
- **Short-term Expenditures Survey** 3
- **Steel primary forms, year ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production**, April 1997 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

11



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RELEASE DATES: WEEK OF OCTOBER 23 TO 27

Week of October 23 to 27
(Release dates are subject to change.)

| Release date | Title | Reference period |
|--------------|--|------------------|
| 23 | Retail trade | August 2000 |
| 24 | Canada's international transactions in securities | August 2000 |
| 25 | Composite Index | September 2000 |
| 25 | Employment Insurance | August 2000 |
| 26 | Industrial Product and Raw Materials Price Indexes | September 2000 |
| 26 | Employment, earnings and hours | August 2000 |