



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, March 17, 2000
For release at 8:30 a.m.

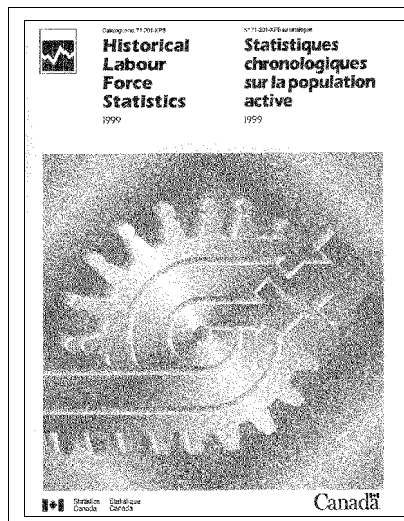
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Historical labour force statistics 1999

Historical labour force statistics is an annual publication that provides the seasonally adjusted employment and unemployment statistics presented each month in the media. It includes data going back 10 to 20 years on general labour market characteristics for Canada, the provinces and metropolitan areas. Each year, the series are updated and revised according to the latest information on seasonal models and factors.

Historical labour force statistics, 1999 (71-201-XPB, \$114) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, contact Jeannine Usalcas (613-951-4720; fax: 613-951-2869; usaljea@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.



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MAJOR RELEASES

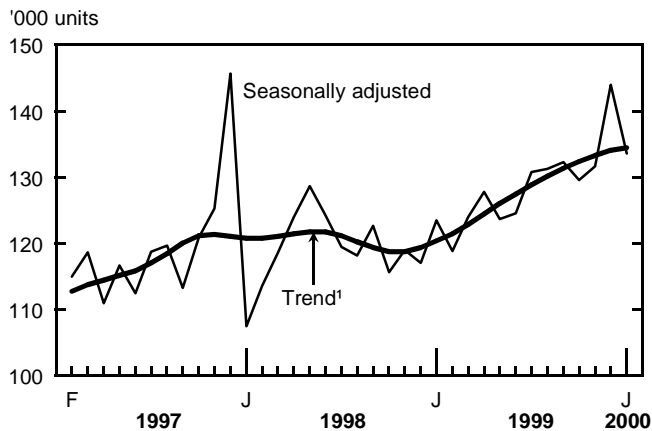
New motor vehicle sales

January 2000

Motor vehicle sales fell 7.2% from December 1999, mainly due to lower passenger car sales. The decrease in new passenger car sales was four times the decrease for trucks. In January, 133,596 new motor vehicles were sold, 10,355 fewer than in December. (All data in this release are seasonally adjusted.)

Despite January's decline, which follows a strong rise in December (9.3%), new motor vehicle sales have generally risen since the end of 1998. During most of 1998, sales were relatively stable, but with sizable monthly fluctuations. According to preliminary estimates from the automotive industry, total sales of new motor vehicles will decline again in February.

New motor vehicle sales have been rising since the end of 1998



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

Passenger car sales fall sharply

Sales of new passenger cars fell 10.8% in January, nearly wiping out December's gain of 12.4%. This drop, which follows seven straight months of increases, is only the third decline since January 1999.

Sales of new passenger cars have been moving upward since the fall of 1998, following a period of fluctuation that began in the summer of 1997.

Sales of new trucks fell 2.7% in January, after rising in 5.7% in December. While the decrease for trucks was smaller than that for cars, truck sales were relatively unchanged in January from the levels posted in the summer of 1999. They rose in the first part of 1999 following decreases in 1998.

Note to readers

Seasonally adjusted estimates of new motor vehicle sales have been revised for 1997, 1998 and 1999 to reflect the updating of seasonal factors. The unadjusted estimates have been revised for 1999 only.

Starting with January 2000, provincial estimates (seasonally adjusted and unadjusted) will be included in the tables.

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 to have been manufactured overseas.

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

Sales of North American-built cars decline

The number of new North American-built passenger cars sold, which accounts for three-quarters of passenger car sales, declined to 53,462, down 14.6% from December. Sales of overseas-built cars advanced 3.1% in the same one-month period.

Despite the sharp drop in January, monthly sales of North American-built passenger cars have been moving upward since the summer of 1999, after fluctuating throughout 1998 and the first half of 1999. Sales of overseas-built cars have been advancing strongly since the start of 1999, following mostly flat sales in 1998.

Sales fall in nearly all provinces

New motor vehicle sales declined in January in all provinces except Newfoundland. The largest declines were in Prince Edward Island and Quebec.

In Newfoundland, sales advanced 5.0% from December. Sales in that province have been rising since the start of 1998, after gaining little ground since the spring of 1997.

Prince Edward Island registered the largest decline (-14.8%) compared with December. Sales in that province had been rising since the summer of 1999, after generally declining since the summer of 1998.

Quebec registered the second largest decline of all provinces in January. New motor vehicle sales in that province fell 11.9% from December. Sales in Quebec had been generally rising since the start of 1997, except for a decline between the spring and fall of 1998.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 64.

The January 2000 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). 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), Retail Trade Section, Distributive Trades Division.

New motor vehicle sales

	Jan. 1999	Dec. 1999 ^r	Jan. 2000 ^p	Jan. 1999 to Jan. 2000	Dec. 1999 to Jan. 2000
seasonally adjusted					
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	123,517	143,951	133,596	8.2	-7.2
Passenger cars	64,325	79,792	71,164	10.6	-10.8
North American ¹	51,248	62,630	53,462	4.3	-14.6
Overseas	13,077	17,162	17,701	35.4	3.1
Trucks, vans and buses	59,192	64,159	62,432	5.5	-2.7
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland	1,859	2,116	2,222	19.5	5.0
Prince Edward Island	405	481	410	1.2	-14.8
Nova Scotia	3,322	3,946	3,905	17.5	-1.0
New Brunswick	3,282	3,948	3,653	11.3	-7.5
Quebec	31,014	37,818	33,334	7.5	-11.9
Ontario	50,813	59,837	55,775	9.8	-6.8
Manitoba	3,724	3,694	3,530	-5.2	-4.4
Saskatchewan	3,027	3,105	3,024	-0.1	-2.6
Alberta	13,422	14,795	13,860	3.3	-6.3
British Columbia ²	12,648	14,212	13,883	9.8	-2.3
unadjusted					
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	86,790	132,561	93,968	8.3	
Passenger cars	42,297	67,302	46,026	8.8	
North American ¹	35,052	53,502	36,374	3.8	
Overseas	7,245	13,800	9,652	33.2	
Trucks, vans and buses	44,493	65,259	47,942	7.8	
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland	1,018	1,345	1,186	16.5	
Prince Edward Island	237	382	238	0.4	
Nova Scotia	2,089	3,337	2,429	16.3	
New Brunswick	2,102	3,513	2,319	10.3	
Quebec	18,929	29,641	20,180	6.6	
Ontario	36,752	56,998	40,428	10.0	
Manitoba	2,686	3,710	2,619	-2.5	
Saskatchewan	2,357	3,281	2,412	2.3	
Alberta	10,468	16,004	10,840	3.6	
British Columbia ²	10,152	14,350	11,317	11.5	

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico.

² Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

OTHER RELEASES

Travel between Canada and other countries

January 2000

Foreigners made 4.2 million trips to Canada in January, 2.0% more than in December. In the same month, the number of international trips made from Canada remained practically unchanged (+0.3%) at 3.9 million. Trips from Canada to the United States, both same-day and overnight and by all modes of transport, increased 1.1%, but trips from Canada to overseas destinations decreased by 7.4%. (Unless otherwise stated, all data are seasonally adjusted.)

Canadians decreased their number of overnight trips to other countries by 2.9%, to 1.5 million. Despite the appreciation of the Canadian dollar against most European currencies over the last few months, Canadians made 328,000 overnight trips abroad in January, 7.4% fewer than in December. The number of such trips to the United States decreased 1.5% to 1.2 million.

Foreigners, for their part, travelled for at least one night to Canada on 1.7 million occasions in January, up 2.0% from December. Overseas residents — foreigners from countries other than the United States — contributed most of this increase with 380,000 overnight trips, up 5.0% from December. Americans made 1.3 million overnight trips this side of the border, 1.2% more than in the previous month.

Travellers from all but one of Canada's most important overseas markets made more trips here than they did a year ago. Hong Kong (+60.3%), South Korea (+53.1%) and the Netherlands (+35.7%) posted the largest increases during this period (these data are unadjusted). However, Japanese travellers reduced their number of overnight trips to Canada by 4.5% in January.

Same-day car trips between Canada and the United States increased in both directions. Canadians made 2.3 million car excursions south of the border in January, 1.7% more than in December, while the number of such trips by Americans to Canada increased 1.4% to 2.2 million. During the same period, the Canadian dollar gained 1.7% against the American dollar, bringing its value to US\$0.69, the highest since April 1998.

Travel between Canada and other countries

	Dec.	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	Jan.
	1999 ^r	2000 ^p	1999	2000 ^p	1999
	seasonally adjusted		unadjusted		
	'000	% change	'000	% change	
Canadian trips abroad¹	3,901	3,912	0.3	3,349	4.9
Same-day car trips to the United States	2,301	2,341	1.7	1,885	8.0
Total trips, one or more nights	1,558	1,513	-2.9	1,397	2.0
United States ²	1,204	1,185	-1.5	935	9.0
Car	668	672	0.6	419	11.0
Plane	429	400	-6.7	464	5.0
Other modes of transportation	106	113	5.9	52	18.0
Other countries ³	354	328	-7.4	462	-9.0
Travel to Canada¹	4,098	4,179	2.0	2,564	7.3
Same-day car trips from the United States	2,210	2,241	1.4	1,713	6.0
Total trips, one or more nights	1,654	1,687	2.0	750	7.0
United States ²	1,292	1,307	1.2	575	5.0
Car	810	837	3.4	338	11.0
Plane	329	316	-3.9	192	-2.0
Other modes of transportation	153	154	0.2	44	-2.0
Other countries ³	362	380	5.0	176	14.0
Most important overseas markets					
United Kingdom	..	..	..	33	8.2
Japan	..	..	..	17	-4.5
France	..	..	..	17	23.0
Germany	..	..	..	11	11.8
Taiwan	..	..	..	6	1.9
Australia	..	..	..	12	16.8
Hong Kong	..	..	..	7	60.3
Mexico	..	..	..	5	20.2
Netherlands	..	..	..	4	35.7
Italy	..	..	..	4	18.9
Switzerland	..	..	..	4	12.2
South Korea	..	..	..	7	53.1

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Totals exceed the sum of "same-day car trips" and "total trips, one or more nights" because they include all same-day trips.

² Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, as well as estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.

³ Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only via the United States.

.. Figures not available.

Note: Month-to-month comparisons use seasonally adjusted data. Year-over-year comparisons use unadjusted data.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2661-2697, 5780-6049 and 8200-8329.

The January 2000 issue of *International travel, advance information* (66-001-PPB, \$8/\$73) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For data requests, contact Pearl Bellefeuille (613-951-1674; fax: 613-951-2909; pearl.bellefeuille@statcan.ca). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Johanne Plante (613-951-1910; fax: 613-951-2909; johanne.plante@statcan.ca), Tourism Statistics Program. ■

Shipments of office furniture products

December 1999

For the six-month period ending December 31, 1999, shipments of office furniture products totalled \$1,056.9 million, up 25.3% compared with \$843.5 million shipped during the same period of 1998.

Other data on manufacturers' shipments of office furniture products for the last six months of 1999 are also available, along with data for province of destination and exports.

The December 1999 issue of *Shipments of office furniture products* (35-006-XIB, \$11/\$21) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-9837; sainteti@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Construction Union Wage Rate Index

February 2000

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) did not change from January to February, remaining at 114.8 (1992=100). The composite index increased 2.3% compared with February 1999.

Union wage rates — both the basic rates and rates that include selected supplementary payments — are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas. Indexes are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are

published for those areas in which a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 956, 958 and 9922-9927.

The first quarter 2000 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in June. 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) Client Services Unit, Prices Division. ■

Selected financial indexes

February 2000

February figures are now available for selected financial indexes (1992=100) including conventional mortgage rates, prime business lending rates, provincial bond yield averages and exchange rates.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9928.

These indexes will appear in the first quarter 2000 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79), which will be available in June. 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), Client Services Unit, Prices Division. ■

Stocks of frozen poultry meat

March 1, 2000 (preliminary)

Data for stocks of frozen poultry meat on March 1 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5675-5677.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandra Gielfeldt (613-951-2505), Livestock and Animal Products Section, Agriculture Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Infomat — A weekly review, March 17, 2000
Catalogue number 11-002-XIE
(Canada: \$3/\$109).

Infomat — A weekly review, March 17, 2000
Catalogue number 11-002-XPE
(Canada: \$4/\$145; outside Canada: US\$4/US\$145).

Shipments of office furniture products,
December 1999
Catalogue number 35-006-XIB
(Canada: \$11/\$21).

Historical labour force statistics, 1999
Catalogue number 71-201-XPB
(Canada: \$114; outside Canada: US\$114).

Science statistics: Federal government personnel engaged in scientific and technological activities, 1990-91 to 1999-2000, vol. 24, no. 1
Catalogue number 88-001-XIB
(Canada: \$6/\$59).

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are taking it less and less. In 1996, about 1.4 billion trips, an average of about 4.5 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

- **High-wind index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 8
- **Steel primary forms, season ending May 31, 1997** 12
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RELEASE DATES: MARCH 20 TO 24

MARCH 20 to 24

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
21	Canadian international merchandise trade	January 2000
21	Wholesale trade	January 2000
22	Composite Index	February 2000
23	Retail trade	January 2000
23	Canada's international transactions in securities	January 2000
23	Canadian Economic Observer	March 2000
