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Statistics Canada

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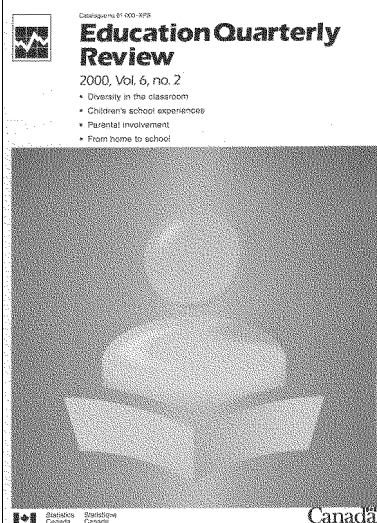
MAJOR RELEASES

● **Industrial capacity utilization rates, fourth quarter 1999**

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Industries operated at 86.8% capacity during the fourth quarter of 1999, matching the peak reached during the 1987-88 economic expansion. Propelled by strong business investment, sustained export demand from the United States and robust consumer demand, industries raised their rate of capacity use for a fifth straight quarter.

(continued on following page)



Education quarterly review

vol. 6, no. 2, March 2000

Education quarterly review, Statistics Canada's flagship publication for education statistics, analyzes and reports on current issues and trends in education. The March 2000 issue, available today, includes a report on characteristics of elementary students receiving special education.

Among other things, this report found that males account for almost two-thirds of all elementary special needs students. In addition, the most common conditions for which children receive special education are learning disabilities, followed by emotional and behavioural problems.

Other analytical papers in this issue examine the school experiences of children, parental involvement and children's academic achievement, and how children cope with the transition from home to school. All of the papers in this issue are based on data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth.

The March 2000 issue of *Education quarterly review* (81-003-XPB, \$21/\$68; 81-003-XIE, \$16/\$51) is now available. See *How to order publications*. For more information, contact Jim Seidle (613-951-1500; jim.seidle@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.



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Trucking in Canada

1998

Trucking in Canada, 1998 provides a comprehensive view of the trucking industry. The report details the segments, structure and economic performance of both for-hire and private trucking carriers.

Text, data tables and charts present the financial and operating characteristics of the industry, along with the types of commodities moved and their origins and destinations. The publication contains two feature studies: The first presents an overview of for-hire company driver wages and earnings, while the second introduces a new time series on for-hire trucking.

Trucking in Canada, 1998 (53-222-XIB, \$39) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; laroque@statcan.ca) or Gilles Paré (613-951-2517; paregil@statcan.ca, fax: 613-951-0579), Trucking Section, Transportation Division.

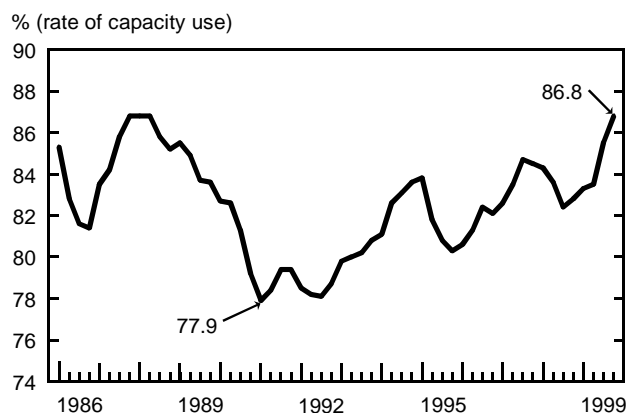
MAJOR RELEASES

Industrial capacity utilization rates

Fourth quarter 1999

Industries operated at 86.8% capacity during the fourth quarter of 1999, matching the peak reached during the 1987-88 economic expansion. Propelled by strong business investment, sustained export demand from the United States and robust consumer demand, industries raised their rate of capacity use for a fifth straight quarter. (The rates of capacity use have been revised back to the first quarter of 1997 to incorporate revisions in source data.)

Capacity use hits its 1987-88 peak



Such high rates of capacity use have traditionally been seen as signs that inflationary pressures might be climbing because they indicate that industries are approaching their production limits. However, the boom in investment should add to production capacity and relieve some of the pressure on producers' current facilities in two ways. For one, the new investment should add to the sheer quantity of production facilities. For another, since much of this investment is in the form of machinery and equipment, which embodies the latest technological advances, it should increase capacity through increased efficiency of production processes.

Provided the pace of the new facilities coming on stream keeps ahead of future increases in production, the rates of capacity use should begin to ease back somewhat. Given the record level of corporation profits in 1999, and the prospects for continued export demand from the buoyant U.S. economy, businesses will probably be encouraged to continue investing and adding to their production capacity.

Note to readers

An industry's capacity use is the ratio of its actual output to its estimated potential output. Statistics Canada derives estimates of an industry's potential output from measures of its capital stock. In addition, since 1987, Statistics Canada has been surveying companies for their estimates of annual capacity use, in order to produce survey-based industry measures.

A company's measure of its level of operation, as a percentage of potential, takes into account changes in the obsolescence of facilities, capital-to-labour ratios and other characteristics of production techniques. The surveyed rates anchor the calculated quarterly series and ensure they reflect such changes.

However, as of the fourth quarter of 1999, several industries posted rates that indicate they are nearing production limits. Logging and forestry and construction industries as well as eight of the manufacturing industry groups registered rates over 90%.

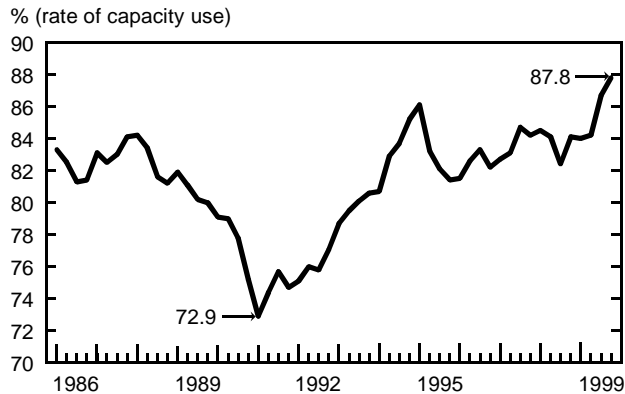
For the time being, inflation still appears to be in check. Although there have been some recent signs of upward movement in prices, most of the momentum has been coming from petroleum and coal products. The January Industrial Product Price Index showed a year-over-year change of 4.4%, but if petroleum and coal products were excluded, the advance would have been 1.6%.

Labour costs, which make up a substantial part of producers' total production costs, remain relatively stable despite the robust growth in jobs and the declining rate of unemployment. Consumer prices, as measured by January's Consumer Price Index, showed a year-over-year advance of 2.3%. However, as with industrial prices, much of the increase was due to the sharp rise in energy prices; the index that excludes the volatile food and energy sectors, rose 1.4%.

Manufacturing continues to climb

The manufacturing sector was largely responsible for the overall growth in the rate of capacity use. Manufacturers operated at 87.8% of capacity in the fourth quarter of 1999, their highest level in over 25 years. Export demand and accumulation of inventories led manufacturers to step up their use of production facilities by 1.1 percentage points over the third quarter. Of the 22 industry groups in manufacturing, 15 raised their rates in the fourth quarter.

Manufacturing still in high gear



Capacity use for the electrical and electronic products group rose to 92.1% in the fourth quarter, a new historic peak. The rate was up 4.4 percentage points over the third quarter as producers built up inventories. These industries were also responding to strong export demand for television and telecommunications equipment.

The rate for the transportation equipment industries declined by 1.4 percentage points from the third quarter, which was at a record level, but still remained high at 93.0%. The drop was due to a reduction in the output of vehicles and parts early in the quarter.

Rates of capacity use in the primary metals group have remained at over 90% for 10 quarters. In the fourth quarter, their rate was 94.0%, up 2.7 percentage points from the third quarter as a result of increased production of primary steel, smelting, and production of steel pipes and tubes.

Beverage industries operated at 90.1% of capacity in the fourth quarter, registering a 25-year high as breweries stepped up output substantially.

A pronounced increase in the production of tires and tubes in the fourth quarter led to a marked increase

of 4.6 percentage points in the rate of capacity use for the rubber products industries, bringing the rate to 96.7%. The rate of capacity use for these industries has been over 90% for five straight quarters.

Most non-manufacturing industries up

Construction industries benefited from business spending, especially on engineering projects, as well as increased demand for new homes and the renovation of existing homes. For the first time since the third quarter of 1990, the rate of capacity use in construction industries surpassed the 90% mark. The rate rose 2.4 percentage points from the third quarter of 1999, bringing the level to 90.5%.

Higher levels of drilling and rigging activity led to increased production in the mining and quarrying group. The rate for these industries rose 6.9 percentage points to 88.9% in the fourth quarter, the highest level in the last two years. In the crude petroleum and natural gas segment of the mining sector, the rate of capacity use declined slightly. As of the fourth quarter, producers of crude petroleum did not seem to have responded to price increases by raising output. Production of natural gas during the fourth quarter was depressed due to the late onset of winter weather and lower-than-usual heating requirements.

Logging and forestry industries posted a 35-year-high rate of capacity use (93.5%) in the wake of increased exports.

Rates of capacity use in both electric power and gas distribution fell as warmer than usual weather in the late fall reduced heating demands.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 3140.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Susanna Wood (613-951-0655) or Richard Landry (613-951-2579), Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Industrial capacity utilization rates

	Third quarter 1999 ^r	Fourth quarter 1999	Third to fourth quarter 1999	1998 ^r	1999	1998 to 1999
			percentage point change			percentage point change
Total non-farm goods-producing industries	85.5	86.8	1.3	83.3	84.8	1.5
Logging and forestry	91.4	93.5	2.1	79.6	89.4	9.8
Mining (including milling), quarrying and oil wells	74.9	77.0	2.1	77.9	74.9	-3.0
Mining (including milling) and quarrying	82.0	88.9	6.9	83.1	82.1	-1.0
Crude petroleum and natural gas	71.1	70.8	-0.3	74.9	71.0	-3.9
Manufacturing	86.7	87.8	1.1	83.8	85.7	1.9
Durable goods	88.6	89.4	0.8	84.3	87.1	2.8
Wood	91.2	89.9	-1.3	86.3	89.1	2.8
Furniture and fixture	88.5	88.3	-0.2	84.7	85.4	0.7
Primary metal	91.3	94.0	2.7	92.0	92.8	0.8
Fabricated metal products	83.0	85.9	2.9	80.6	83.0	2.4
Machinery	77.3	77.9	0.6	80.6	76.5	-4.1
Transportation equipment	94.4	93.0	-1.4	86.1	91.4	5.3
Electrical and electronic products	87.7	92.1	4.4	82.5	85.9	3.4
Non-metallic mineral products	86.6	84.2	-2.4	84.5	86.6	2.1
Other manufacturing	85.0	85.6	0.6	81.8	84.4	2.6
Non-durable goods	84.1	85.6	1.5	83.1	83.8	0.7
Food	81.4	82.3	0.9	80.7	81.1	0.4
Beverage	88.5	90.1	1.6	86.7	87.0	0.3
Tobacco products	78.2	77.0	-1.2	80.2	78.6	-1.6
Rubber products	92.1	96.7	4.6	91.1	92.6	1.5
Plastic products	86.4	90.0	3.6	80.0	85.6	5.6
Leather and allied products	73.8	74.3	0.5	75.0	74.1	-0.9
Primary textile	83.8	85.8	2.0	83.3	82.5	-0.8
Textile products	79.1	82.7	3.6	77.2	80.2	3.0
Clothing	82.6	84.5	1.9	85.3	84.5	-0.8
Paper and allied products	92.8	95.0	2.2	86.1	91.5	5.4
Printing, publishing and allied	83.7	83.6	-0.1	81.4	83.0	1.6
Refined petroleum and coal products	92.1	91.2	-0.9	94.6	93.7	-0.9
Chemical and chemical products	80.4	81.9	1.5	83.7	80.2	-3.5
Construction	88.1	90.5	2.4	85.9	88.3	2.4
Electric power and gas distribution systems	87.1	86.2	-0.9	83.8	85.9	2.1
Electric power	89.4	88.8	-0.6	85.7	87.9	2.2
Gas distribution	71.3	68.1	-3.2	71.0	71.7	0.7

^r Revised figures.



OTHER RELEASES

Domestic sales of refined petroleum products

January 2000 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products totalled 7 478 000 cubic metres in January, down 2.3% from the same month a year earlier. The overall decrease was due to lower sales of heavy fuel oil (-226 700 cubic metres or -30.1%), petrochemical feedstocks (-67 500 cubic metres or -15.4%) and light fuel oil (-67 500 cubic metres or -8.4%).

The decline in heavy fuel oil, the tenth consecutive monthly year-over-year decrease, was partly due to greater use of natural gas in place of heavy fuel by the industrial sector. Total motor gasoline sales remained unchanged from January 1999, although sales of mid- and premium grades dropped by 25.1% and 22.7%, respectively.

Sales of refined petroleum products

	Jan. 1999 ^r	Jan. 2000 ^p	Jan. 1999 to Jan. 2000 % change
	thousands of cubic metres		
Total, All products	7 654.7	7 478.0	-2.3
Motor gasoline	2 921.4	2 920.8	0.0
Diesel fuel oil	1 702.7	1 787.0	5.0
Light fuel oil	807.8	740.3	-8.4
Heavy fuel oil	753.8	527.1	-30.1
Aviation turbo fuels	474.6	477.0	0.5
Petrochemical feedstocks ¹	437.2	369.7	-15.4
All other refined products	557.2	656.1	17.7

^r Revised

^p Preliminary

¹ Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce chemicals, synthetic rubber and a variety of plastics.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 628-642 and 644-647.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Eleonore Harding (613-951-5708; hardele@statcan.ca) or Michael Westland (613-951-3060; westmic@statcan.ca), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Steel wire and specified wire products

January 2000

Shipments of steel wire and specified wire products totalled 68 068 tonnes in January, up 8.7% from 62 611 tonnes (revised) in January 1999. Production and export market data for selected commodities are also available.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (series 19).

The January 2000 issue of *Steel wire and specified wire products* (41-006-XIB, \$5/\$47) 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; saineti@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Steel pipe and tubing

January 2000

Steel pipe and tubing production for January totalled 235 348 tonnes, a 14.4% increase from 205 650 tonnes a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 35.

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

Farm families' total income

1997

Farm families earned an average \$59,195 in 1997, 4.2% more than in 1996. Average farm family income advanced at a faster pace than in 1996 (+0.3%), largely because of higher off-farm employment income. The overall increase in 1997 resulted from a 5.2% gain in off-farm income and a 2.1% increase in net farm operating income (before depreciation).

Higher off-farm employment income explains most of the improvement in farm families' income. Almost four-fifths of farm families had off-farm employment income, which averaged \$27,393, up 8.2% from 1996. In 1997, the labour market was robust. The Labour

Force Survey reported that employment grew 2.7% during that year, the second-best performance in the 1990s. This rate of employment growth was more than double that of 1996 (+1.3%), but it was slightly lower than the 2.9% gain observed in 1994.

Investment income fell 3.7% due to lower interest rates — the Bank of Canada rate fell from an average of 4.53% in 1996 to 3.52% in 1997. Higher capital expenditures in the agricultural sector (construction, machinery and equipment) may also explain the lower income stream from investments. The proportion of farm families who received investment income (75.4%) decreased 1.7 percentage points from 1996 (77.1%).

Higher average pension income (+5.2%) also contributed to farm families' total income growth, but average other off-farm income dropped 2.7% due to decreases in Employment Insurance benefits and in the 'other income' component of this category.

Farm families specializing in poultry and egg production, who recorded the highest average total income (\$78,246), posted the largest gain (+27.1%) due to substantial growth in both their average net farm operating income (+47.8%) and off-farm income (+11.8%). Families operating tobacco farms were a close second at \$76,491, followed by those operating grain and oilseed farms (\$66,264). Families running livestock combination farms had the lowest average total income (\$46,703). Only three of the major farm types recorded a drop in average total family income: potato (-10.6%), tobacco (-8.2%), and greenhouse and nursery (-4.6%).

Ontario's farm families posted the highest average total income, \$63,087, up 2.4% from 1996, staying ahead of farm families in Alberta and British Columbia. Manitoba families posted the largest gain among the provinces, up 12.6% to \$53,853 in 1997. Prince Edward Island families, who had the lowest average income (\$49,956) in 1997, posted the largest drop (-5.1%). Average off-farm income ranged from \$30,784 in Quebec to \$52,404 in British Columbia.

Data for this release came from 1997 personal income tax returns. Estimates refer to the income of families (husband-wife, common-law and lone-parent) involved in a single unincorporated farm with gross operating revenue of \$10,000 or more in 1997.

Sources of farm families' income

	1996	1997	1996 to 1997 % change
	\$		
Off-farm employment income	25,311	27,393	8.2
Wages and salaries	23,144	24,830	7.3
Net non-farm self-employment	2,167	2,563	18.3
Investment income	4,716	4,542	-3.7
Pension income	4,674	4,919	5.2
Other off-farm income	4,430	4,310	-2.7
Total off-farm income¹	39,131	41,165	5.2
Net farm operating income ²	17,658	18,029	2.1
Total farm families' income	56,788	59,195	4.2

¹ Excluding taxable capital gains.

² Before capital cost allowance.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Lina Di Piéto (613-951-3171; fax: 613-951-3868; lina.dipietro@statcan.ca) or the Client Services Unit (613-951-5027; agriculture@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Innovation in manufacturing

University research plays a key role in the innovation process in Canadian manufacturing, according to a new analytical study. Firms in industries relying on science-based university research were more likely to be innovative.

The probability of being an innovator was 40% for those firms that do a substantial amount of collaborative research with universities, compared with 28% for those who do little. Both Canadian and foreign-owned firms are equally likely to partner with Canadian universities to develop innovations. It is the ground-breaking innovations that make the greatest use of the university community.

Research and development also played a major role in stimulating innovation. Firms that performed research and development were four times as likely to have introduced a major innovation as firms that did not. Although important, research and development was not the only input into the innovation process; marketing and technological competence were close behind.

Large plants, those with 500 or more employees, were significantly more innovative than were small plants, those with fewer than 100 employees, after other firm characteristics, such as intensity of research and development, competitive environment, nationality of ownership and degree of technological competency were controlled for. The probability of innovating was

close to 70% for large firms, compared with only 30% for smaller firms.

These patterns persisted across different innovation types. The same factors that stimulated ground-breaking or world-first innovations also stimulated Canadian-first innovations—that is, innovations that were the first of their kind in Canada. Research and development and plant size were of equal importance to both world- and Canadian-first innovations, as were using effective marketing and technology strategies and drawing on university-based research.

The study also found that innovators, particularly foreign-owned ones, filed many patents. The probability that an innovator would protect their intellectual property rights by patents was 75%. The likelihood that a firm would use patents was higher for foreign-owned firms (22%) than for Canadian firms (15%).

Note: This study investigates the contribution of various plant and industry characteristics to the innovation process in Canadian manufacturing by using simultaneous multivariate analysis. Data come from the 1993 Statistics Canada Survey of Innovation and Advanced Technology. This study investigates the probability that a firm will innovate if it uses intellectual property rights and, at the same time, the probability that a firm will claim intellectual property rights if it innovates.

Using logistic regression analysis, the study estimates the probability of being innovative, taking into account plant and industry characteristics, including: whether the firm performs research and development; whether it conducts collaborative research with universities; the firm's size; the degree of competition it faces; the nationality of its ownership; and its internal

capabilities in marketing, technology, production and human resources.

The research paper "Determinants of innovative activity in Canadian manufacturing firms: The role of intellectual property rights" (11F0019MPE, no. 122) is now available. To obtain a copy, contact Louise Laurin (613-951-4676), or access Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact John Baldwin (613-951-8588) or David Sabourin (613-951-3735), Micro Economic Analysis Division. ■

Postcensal estimates of Census families for Canada, provinces and territories

July 1, 1997 to 1999

Census family estimates for Canada, the provinces and territories as of July 1 for 1997 and 1998 (updated postcensal) and 1999 (preliminary postcensal) are now available. Estimates are distributed by a number of key demographic and geographic characteristics.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 6343 and 6513.

These estimates will appear in *Annual demographic statistics, 1999* (91-213-XPB and 91-213-XIB) which will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to obtain data, contact Lise Champagne (613-951-2320; fax: 613-951-2307; chamlis@statcan.ca, Demography Division or your nearest Regional Reference Centre. To enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Daniel Larrivée (613-951-0694; fax: 613-951-2307; lardani@statcan.ca). ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Steel wire and specified wire products, January 2000
Catalogue number 41-006-XIB
(Canada: \$5/\$47).

Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing,
January 2000
Catalogue number 41-011-XIB
(Canada: \$5/\$47).

Trucking in Canada, 1998
Catalogue number 53-222-XIB
(Canada: \$39).

Education quarterly review, 2000, vol. 6, no. 2
Catalogue number 81-003-XIE
(Canada: \$16/\$51).

Education quarterly review, 2000, vol. 6, no. 2
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Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Discusses the statistics on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, 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 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow moderate growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

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Fax: 1-604-666-4863

National toll-free enquiries line (Canada and the United States): 1-800-263-1136
Toll-free order-only line (Canada and the United States): 1-800-267-6677
Toll-free fax order line (Canada and the United States): 1-877-287-4369
Toll-free telecommunications device for the hearing impaired: 1-800-363-7629