

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, April 12, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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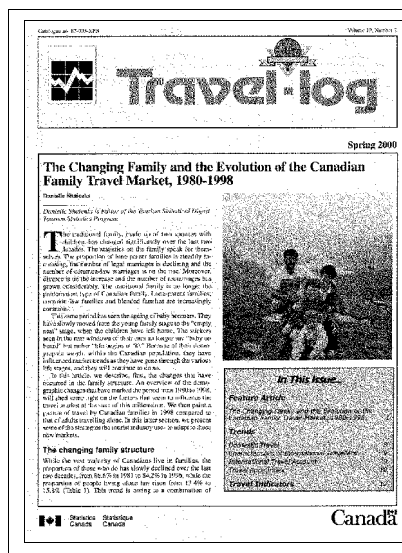
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Travel-log Spring 2000

The spring 2000 issue of *Travel-log*, Statistics Canada's quarterly tourism newsletter, features the article "The Changing Family and the Evolution of the Canadian Family Travel Market, 1980–1998." The first part of the article describes the changes that have occurred in the family structure, and provides an overview of the demographic changes from 1980 to 1998 in order to shed light on the factors that seem to influence today's travel market. The second part of the article describes travel by Canadian families in 1998 compared with that of adults travelling alone, and presents some of the strategies used by the tourism industry to adapt to these new markets.

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 spring 2000 issue of *Travel-log* (87-003-XPB, \$13/\$42; 87-003-XIE, \$5/\$16) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Monique Beyrouti (613-951-1673, fax: 613-951-2909; beyrmon@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.



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OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index

March 2000

In March, the Help-wanted Index (1996=100) increased by 0.6% to 171. At the Canada level, the index has not recorded a month-to-month decrease since March 1996; however, the rate of increase has slowed in recent months.

In March, none of the provincial indices posted a decrease.

Help-wanted Index (1996=100)

	March 1999	Feb. 2000	March 2000	March 1999 to March 2000	Feb. to March 2000
seasonally adjusted and smoothed					
	% change				
Canada	153	170	171	11.8	0.6
Newfoundland	151	178	179	18.5	0.6
Prince Edward Island	169	206	207	22.5	0.5
Nova Scotia	162	169	169	4.3	0.0
New Brunswick	173	193	194	12.1	0.5
Quebec	154	159	159	3.2	0.0
Ontario	167	188	188	12.6	0.0
Manitoba	175	166	166	-5.1	0.0
Saskatchewan	130	136	137	5.4	0.7
Alberta	128	156	157	22.7	0.6
British Columbia	122	146	147	20.5	0.7

Available on CANSIM: matrix 105 (levels 8, 9 and 10).

Note:

The historical revision of the Help-wanted Index has been implemented this month. This revision includes the period from January 1997 to date. The Help-wanted Index is compiled from the number of help-wanted ads published in 22 newspapers in 20 major metropolitan areas. The index is a measure of companies' intentions to hire new workers. These indices have been seasonally adjusted and smoothed to ease month-to-month comparisons.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Robert Keay (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division. ■

New Housing Price Index

February 2000

The New Housing Price Index rose 0.4% from January to February. On an annual basis, this index of contractors' selling prices for new houses increased 2.1%. This is the highest annual increase since May 1990, when it rose 3.8%.

On a monthly basis, the 0.4% increase at the Canada level was the highest in more than six years. The largest increases were noted in Kitchener-Waterloo and London (+1.5%). In Kitchener-Waterloo, builders faced higher prices for building materials, such as insulation and drywall, as well as higher labour costs. In London, builders paid more for building lots, municipal permits and building materials.

Higher prices for building materials and labour also contributed to the monthly increase in St. John's (+1.1%). Marginal decreases were noted in Sudbury-Thunder Bay (-0.2%) and Victoria (-0.1%), and five urban centres registered no change from January.

New Housing Price Index (1992=100)

	Feb. 2000	Feb. 1999 to Feb. 2000	Jan. to Feb. 2000
	% change		
Canada total	102.4	2.1	0.4
House only	104.1	3.1	0.6
Land only	102.3	0.3	-
St. John's	97.4	1.1	1.1
Halifax	113.7	3.3	0.3
Charlottetown	105.2	1.6	-
Saint John-Moncton-Fredericton	94.3	0.9	-
Québec	102.2	2.4	-
Montréal	106.4	3.0	0.2
Ottawa-Hull	103.4	5.0	0.9
Toronto	105.9	2.6	0.6
Hamilton	105.1	2.4	0.4
St. Catharines-Niagara	106.2	5.5	0.8
Kitchener-Waterloo	104.7	3.7	1.5
London	100.9	2.3	1.5
Windsor	106.7	1.4	0.7
Sudbury-Thunder Bay	98.6	-1.3	-0.2
Winnipeg	116.0	3.2	-
Regina	131.2	3.2	0.5
Saskatoon	114.6	1.7	-
Calgary	131.3	3.1	0.1
Edmonton	111.4	2.3	0.1
Vancouver	83.8	-0.9	0.2
Victoria	72.6	-5.3	-0.1

- Null or zero.

Annual changes varied considerably among the urban centres surveyed. The highest annual increases occurred in St. Catharines–Niagara (+5.5%) and Ottawa–Hull (+5.0%), mostly as a result of higher prices for materials and labour. Notable increases were also observed in Kitchener–Waterloo, Halifax, Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary and Montréal. Three urban centres registered decreases on an annual basis, with the largest drop in the highly competitive Victoria market.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9921.

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 or data quality of this release, contact Louise Chaîné (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Client Services Unit, Prices Division. ■

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending March 21, 2000

Non-intermodal traffic loaded during the seven-day period ending March 21 increased 12.7% to 5.1 million tonnes compared with the same period of last year. The number of cars loaded increased 12.3%.

Intermodal traffic tonnage totalled 418 000 tonnes, 9.4% more than in the same period of last year. The year-to-date figures grew 16.7%.

Total traffic increased 12.5% during the reference period. This brought the year-to-date total to 60.0 million tonnes, a rise of 12.7% from the previous year.

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. ■

Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard

February 2000

Oriented strandboard production in February totalled 603 301 cubic metres, up 2.9% from 586 174 cubic metres in February 1999. Particleboard production reached 184 899 cubic metres, a decrease of 0.3% from 185 493 cubic metres in February 1999. Fibreboard production totalled 89 773 cubic metres, up 38.7% from 64 743 cubic metres in February 1999.

For January and February 2000, year-to-date oriented strandboard production totalled 1 292 290 cubic metres, a 2.4% increase from 1 262 529 cubic metres for the same period in 1999. Particleboard production reached 384 883 cubic metres, up 1.1% from 380 794 cubic metres produced over the same period in 1999. Year-to-date fibreboard production reached 190 747 cubic metres, up 37.4% from 138 870 cubic metres during the same period in 1999.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 31 (series 2, 3, 5) and 122 (series 8).

The February 2000 issue of *Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard* (36-003-XIB, \$5/\$47), is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Simard (613-951-3516; simales@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard,
February 2000
Catalogue number **36-003-XIB** (\$5/\$47).

Construction price statistics, fourth quarter 1999
Catalogue number **62-007-XPB** (\$24/\$79).

Canada's international transactions in securities,
January 2000
Catalogue number **67-002-XIB** (\$14/\$132).

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

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

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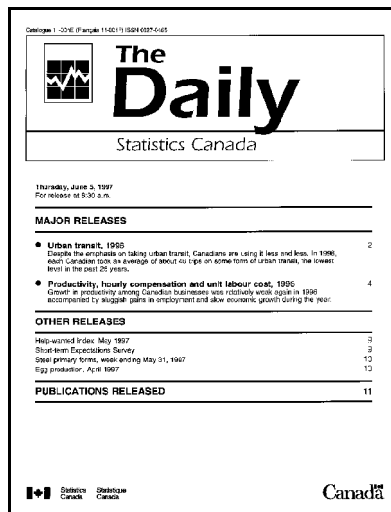
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