



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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Manufacturers paid 5.6% more for their products in May compared with May 1999. Once again, petroleum prices were central to these gains.
 - **Raw Materials Price Index, May 2000** 5
The price of raw materials, measured on a 12-month basis, recovered substantially in May in the wake of a jump in mineral fuel prices, chiefly crude oil. Manufacturers paid 24.9% more for raw materials than they did in May 1999.
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MAJOR RELEASES

Industrial Product Price Index

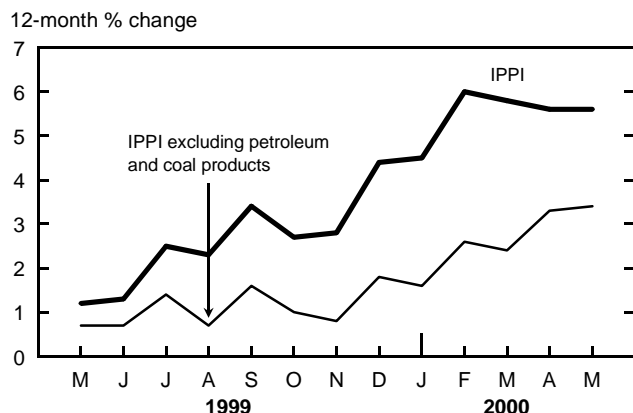
May 2000 (preliminary)

Manufacturers received 5.6% more for their products in May compared with May 1999. Once again, petroleum prices were central to these gains. The year-over-year increase was the same as in April, a slight deceleration from the annual increases of 5.8% in March and 6.0% in February.

Prices rose 0.3% in May compared with April, reflecting slight gains.

The Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) (1992=100) rose to 127.2 in May from 126.8 in April. The small gain was due to rising prices for petroleum and coal products, paper and paper products, and primary metal products.

Petroleum product prices influence the IPPI



Return to increasing petroleum prices

After declining in April for the first time since February 1999, refined petroleum prices resumed their upward trend in May. Prices for the refined petroleum products industry moved ahead 3.1% in May compared with April, partly on concerns of supply shortfalls for the upcoming summer driving season.

In the spring of 1999, members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) pledged to cut production in an effort to restore prices. As a result, prices have generally been escalating, leaving them 46.2% higher than in May 1999. Despite the fact OPEC rescinded on the cutbacks at the end of March,

Note to readers

The Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) reflects the prices that producers receive as the goods leave the plant gate. It does not reflect what the consumer pays. Unlike the Consumer Price Index, the IPPI excludes indirect taxes and all the costs that occur between the time when a good leaves the plant and the time when the final user takes possession of it, including the transportation, wholesale, and retail costs. IPPI data is not seasonally adjusted and has a six-month revision period.

Canadian producers export many goods. They often quote their prices in foreign currencies, particularly for motor vehicles, pulp, paper, and wood products. A rise or fall in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar therefore affects the IPPI. A 1.0% change in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar has been estimated to change the IPPI by approximately 0.3%.

prices continued to increase in May after declining briefly in April.

In the past year, the upward trend in petroleum product prices has had a substantial impact on the overall IPPI. If petroleum and coal products had been excluded in May, the year-over-year increase would have been reduced to 3.4% compared with an actual increase of 5.6% and the monthly increase would have been two-thirds (+0.2%) the actual increase.

Rising petroleum product industries prices have also contributed to monthly price increases in the organic chemicals industry (+1.1%), the plastic and synthetics resin industry (+1.0%) and the plastic products industry (+0.7%).

Declines in lumber prices

Decreasing prices in lumber products mainly offset the upward price pressures in the IPPI. The decline of 4.0% in May for lumber products is mainly due to lower prices for softwood. This followed a sharp decline in building permits issued in April, especially residential building permits. In May, housing starts were down in Canada (-10.4%) and in the United States (-3.4%), as were U.S. building permits.

Paper and paper product prices continue to strengthen

The paper and paper product category advanced 1.2% in May compared with April. Gains in newsprint paper prices (+4.7%) and pulp (+0.8%) brought the monthly increase in the paper and paper product prices.

Pulp prices continued to strengthen (+0.8%) in May. While pulp prices are considerably higher than they were a year ago (+30.6%), they still remained 25.9% below their peak in November 1995.

Prices for paper and paper products have climbed 14.1% compared with a year earlier.

Climb in primary metal products prices

Primary metal product prices increased 0.6% in May from April. Higher prices for copper and copper alloy products and nickel products were primarily responsible for these gains, which were tempered by declining prices for aluminum products.

For the first time since January, primary copper product prices jumped 11.5% in May compared with April. Gains in prices were mainly due to high demand for automotive, appliance, energy and industrial wire.

Nickel product prices rose 5.1% in May from April as concerns arose over a potential strike at a major operation. The yearly prices have climbed 90.7% compared with May 1999, reflecting robust demand from the stainless steel industry.

Aluminum product prices dropped 2.3%, thus playing an important role in the slowdown of primary metal prices. While aluminum product prices have been falling over the past three months, May's prices remained 5.7% above year earlier levels.

Primary metal product prices fared well on a yearly basis, advancing 9.6% compared with a year earlier. The increases were broadly based; primary copper product prices accounted for the bulk of the gains.

Exchange rate effect

Certain commodities, specifically motor vehicles, lumber, pulp, newsprint and certain metals, often have

their prices quoted in U.S. dollars. Consequently, exchange rate fluctuations have an impact on their contribution to the Industrial Product Price Index.

Between April and May, the U.S. dollar gained a little ground, pushing up prices that are quoted in U.S. dollars. The impact on the total IPPI was such that if the exchange rate had remained unchanged, the IPPI would have advanced 0.2% instead of 0.3%.

The U.S. dollar was worth more in May than it was in May 1999. If the exchange rate had been the same in May 1999 as in May 2000, the IPPI would have risen 5.2% instead of 5.6%.

International 12-month price changes

	Month	Change %
Manufacturer's prices		
Canada	May	5.6
United States	May	4.5
Japan (domestic wholesale prices)	May	0.3
United Kingdom (domestic manufacturing output prices)	May	1.7
Italy	April	5.3
Germany	April	2.1
France (including food and energy)	April	9.9

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1870-1878.

The May 2000 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011-XPB, \$22/\$217) will be available in July.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division. □

Industrial product price indexes (1992 = 100)

	Relative importance	May 1999	April 2000 ^r	May 2000 ^p	May 1999 to May 2000 % change	April to May 2000
Industrial product price index (IPPI)	100.00	120.4	126.8	127.2	5.6	0.3
Intermediate goods¹	59.28	119.9	128.2	128.6	7.3	0.3
First-stage intermediate goods ²	7.91	118.6	139.4	140.4	18.4	0.7
Second-stage intermediate goods ³	51.37	120.1	126.5	126.8	5.6	0.2
Finished goods⁴	40.72	121.0	124.7	125.2	3.5	0.4
Finished foods and feeds	10.38	114.3	116.6	116.8	2.2	0.2
Capital equipment	10.21	124.3	125.8	126.1	1.4	0.2
All other finished goods	20.13	122.9	128.4	129.1	5.0	0.5
Aggregation by commodities						
Meat, fish and dairy products	7.27	119.4	126.2	127.0	6.4	0.6
Fruit, vegetable, feed, miscellaneous food products	6.72	110.6	110.2	110.5	-0.1	0.3
Beverages	2.12	116.5	119.1	119.1	2.2	0.0
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.72	139.4	141.6	141.6	1.6	0.0
Rubber, leather, plastic fabric products	3.01	112.6	118.7	119.2	5.9	0.4
Textile products	1.82	108.4	109.0	109.0	0.6	0.0
Knitted products and clothing	1.93	109.9	110.3	110.2	0.3	-0.1
Lumber, sawmill, other wood products	5.20	148.8	143.3	138.8	-6.7	-3.1
Furniture and fixtures	1.46	115.8	118.8	118.8	2.6	0.0
Pulp and paper products	7.65	124.3	140.1	141.8	14.1	1.2
Printing and publishing	3.05	133.3	138.2	138.5	3.9	0.2
Primary metal products	7.58	118.3	128.9	129.7	9.6	0.6
Metal fabricated products	4.11	122.8	125.6	125.8	2.4	0.2
Machinery and equipment	4.08	114.3	116.3	116.4	1.8	0.1
Autos, trucks, other transportation equipment	18.76	130.3	132.2	132.5	1.7	0.2
Electrical and telecommunications products	6.03	106.1	105.1	105.1	-0.9	0.0
Non-metallic mineral products	2.12	114.6	117.6	117.6	2.6	0.0
Petroleum and coal products ⁵	6.01	105.4	149.4	154.1	46.2	3.1
Chemicals and chemical products	7.60	115.2	121.7	122.1	6.0	0.3
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.45	118.2	120.8	120.6	2.0	-0.2
Miscellaneous non-manufactured commodities	0.31	118.0	118.4	117.1	-0.8	-1.1

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Intermediate goods are goods used principally to produce other goods.

² First-stage intermediate goods are items most commonly used to produce other intermediate goods.

³ Second-stage intermediate goods are items most commonly used to produce final goods.

⁴ Finished goods are goods most commonly used for immediate consumption or for capital investment.

⁵ This index is estimated for the current month.

Raw Materials Price Index

May 2000 (preliminary)

The price of raw materials, measured on a 12-month basis, recovered substantially in May in the wake of a jump in mineral fuel prices, chiefly crude oil.

Manufacturers paid 24.9% more for raw materials than they did in May 1999. This was up significantly from the year-over-year increase of 19.5% in April, but still appreciably less than the peak of 37.3% in February.

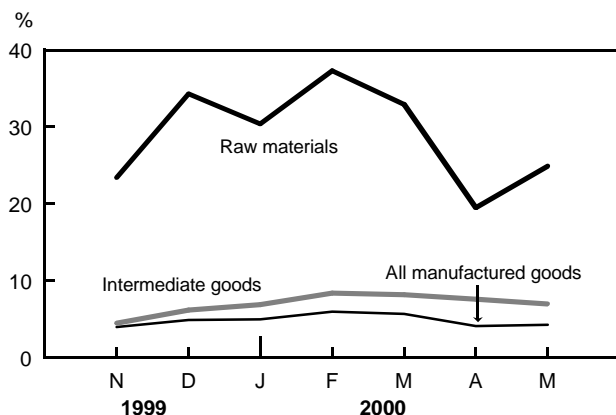
Crude oil prices in May were 73.3% higher than in May of 1999, as international hopes for lower oil prices failed in the face of relatively low crude oil inventories in the developed world, particularly in North America.

The Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100) stood at 141.9 in May, up from its revised April level of 133.8.

On a monthly basis, prices for raw material rose 6.1% in May from April, as prices in the mineral fuel category jumped 15.3%, but remained marginally lower than their March peak.

If mineral fuels had been excluded, the monthly increase would have been 0.6% with a year-over-year increase in raw materials prices of 6.8%, down from 8.1% in February.

**Annual change in manufacturing output prices
also down from recent peak**



Crude oil makes up about one-third of raw materials, but only about 1% of inputs into the economy. Another 1% or so of inputs consist of petroleum products. Consequently, crude oil and petroleum products form only about 2% of the inputs into the economy.

Note to readers

The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) reflects the prices paid by Canadian manufacturers for key raw materials. Many of these prices are set in a world market. Unlike the Industrial Product Price Index, the RMPI includes goods not produced in Canada.

Year-over-year change in manufacturing prices also down from recent peak

The annual growth in output prices of intermediate goods, goods that are used primarily as inputs in the manufacturing of other goods, was also down from its recent peak. In May, year-over-year growth was 7.3%, down from 8.4% in April (see the table in the Industrial Product Price Index release). This was also true of the annual change in the output price level for manufactured goods as a whole. It was 5.6% in May, compared with 6.0% in February.

Non-ferrous metal prices up in May

Prices for raw materials other than mineral fuels increased 0.6% in May. Most of this was due to an increase in non-ferrous metal prices. The price level was also up for vegetable products and animal products, but was down for wood and ferrous materials.

Prices were up 11.5% for copper concentrates, 5.9% for nickel prices and 3.6% for zinc prices. May's increase for copper was the first since January. The media reported that the U.S. copper market was becoming increasingly tight as U.S. copper refining capacity was down compared with 1999, while industrial production increased. Demand in the United States for copper remained strong across most downstream market sectors, though there was some weakness in demand from the construction sector.

Nickel prices were up in May because of an anticipated strike at a major world nickel producer. The media reported that the stainless steel industry was accumulating nickel to ensure that they can meet their contracts should the world price of nickel rise.

May saw the price of zinc concentrates recover to near its January level. Although world zinc stocks are lower than they have been for some years, and world demand is strong given widespread increases in industrial production, the expected rise in zinc prices was slowed by rising Chinese zinc exports.

Other commodities contributing to the rise in the raw material price level were hogs for slaughter (+4.7%), refined sugar (+8.8%), wheat (+3.7%) and corn (+4.0%). Partly offsetting these increases were declines in the prices for cattle for slaughter (-2.8%), wood (-0.5%), iron and steel scrap (-2.6%) and canola (-3.2%).

Wood prices were down in May, both for logs for sawmilling and for pulpwood. Prices for sawmilling products were also down in May, and housing starts declined in both Canada and the United States. The decline in pulpwood prices occurred as prices rose slightly for pulp and remained flat for wood chips, a by-product of sawmilling.

Competitive factors were the most common explanation for the decline in prices for iron and steel scrap.

Raw materials price indexes (1992=100)

	Relative importance	May 1999	April 2000 ^r	May 2000 ^p	May 1999 to May 2000 % change	April to May 2000
Raw materials price index (RMPI)	100.00	113.6	133.8	141.9	24.9	6.1
Mineral fuels	31.47	106.8	155.6	179.4	68.0	15.3
Vegetable products	9.41	116.2	112.6	113.9	-2.0	1.2
Animals and animal products	24.41	110.5	122.6	122.9	11.2	0.2
Wood	14.88	136.9	142.1	141.4	3.3	-0.5
Ferrous materials	3.17	114.6	124.4	122.6	7.0	-1.4
Non-ferrous metals	13.81	106.2	114.4	118.3	11.4	3.4
Non-metallic minerals	2.85	118.3	120.0	120.0	1.4	0.0
RMPI excluding mineral fuels	68.53	116.7	123.8	124.6	6.8	0.6

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

Prices for canola, a genetically modified crop, have been weak throughout 1999 and to date in 2000. International demand for this commodity has declined in the face of the controversy over the cultivation of all genetically modified crops.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 1879.

The May 2000 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011-XPB, \$22/\$217) will be available in July. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Employment, earnings and hours

April 2000 (preliminary)

In April, employees' average weekly earnings were virtually unchanged for the second month in a row. Average earnings were estimated at \$622.31, up 2.5% from April 1999 and slightly above the year-over-year gain in the Consumer Price Index of 2.1 % in April.

At the provincial level, New Brunswick saw the strongest year-to-year increase in weekly earnings, 4.8%. Earnings in Newfoundland were virtually unchanged.

Average weekly hours for hourly rated employees were down 0.2 hours in April to 31.7 hours per week. Average overtime hours were unchanged from March. Average hourly earnings for hourly rated employees were also unchanged in April at \$15.76, but up 3.5% since April 1999.

In April, payroll employment was almost unchanged compared with March. By industry, employment gains in manufacturing and business services were offset by losses in wholesale and retail trade and construction. By province, the only significant employment change was in Alberta (+6,200).

Note: In May 1998, Statistics Canada completed the incorporation of administrative records in the production of employment, earnings and hours estimates (the third phase of the re-design). As a result of this change in methodology, estimates derived from administrative

records may show a different pattern than the previous data, which may affect the historical comparability of employment and earnings series. Beginning with the January 2001 data, estimates from the Survey on Employment, Payrolls and Hours will be based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) instead of the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification. At the same time, the historical series will be revised to reflect the new Phase 3 levels of employment and earnings derived from administrative records on a NAICS basis. In addition, seasonal factors will be revised, thus improving the historical consistency of seasonally adjusted estimates. For more information on the NAICS, consult Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca) or contact Jean Leduc (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; labour@statcan.ca).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4285-4466, 4493, 4494, 9438-9452, 9639-9664 and 9899-9911.

Detailed industry data and other labour market indicators will be available in July in standard tables in the monthly publication *Employment, earnings and hours* (72-002-XPB, \$32/\$320). Annual averages for 1999 are now available through CANSIM and by custom tabulations from Labour Statistics Division. See *How to order publications*.

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

Average weekly earnings for all employees

Industry group (1980 Standard Industrial Classification)	April 1999	March 2000 ^r	April 2000 ^p	March to April 2000	April 1999 to April 2000
seasonally adjusted					
	\$			% change	
Industrial aggregate	607.13	622.72	622.31	-0.1	2.5
Logging and forestry	758.91	815.47	816.66	0.1	7.6
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	1,102.26	1,139.36	1,141.99	0.2	3.6
Manufacturing	745.86	780.34	777.51	-0.4	4.2
Construction	698.65	726.24	721.08	-0.7	3.2
Transportation and storage	740.77	748.76	749.48	0.1	1.2
Communication and other utilities	816.54	818.99	820.77	0.2	0.5
Wholesale trade	660.01	666.51	662.79	-0.6	0.4
Retail trade	370.20	372.71	371.19	-0.4	0.3
Finance and insurance	803.42	828.39	823.29	-0.6	2.5
Real estate operators and insurance agencies	649.06	625.97	620.44	-0.9	-4.4
Business services	695.68	719.63	710.19	-1.3	2.1
Education-related services	671.04	666.89	672.10	0.8	0.2
Health and social services	525.42	534.76	535.78	0.2	2.0
Accommodation, food and beverage services	234.89	241.98	242.27	0.1	3.1
Public administration	736.02	752.10	756.73	0.6	2.8
Miscellaneous services	409.07	419.98	419.90	0.0	2.6
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland	552.54	555.73	552.13	-0.6	-0.1
Prince Edward Island	480.14	490.89	481.98	-1.8	0.4
Nova Scotia	522.58	522.20	524.17	0.4	0.3
New Brunswick	523.01	547.84	548.21	0.1	4.8
Quebec	570.32	582.07	581.00	-0.2	1.9
Ontario	644.76	664.30	664.63	0.0	3.1
Manitoba	546.02	560.41	560.64	0.0	2.7
Saskatchewan	539.79	555.42	553.30	-0.4	2.5
Alberta	622.67	638.88	637.78	-0.2	2.4
British Columbia	628.26	636.39	636.84	0.1	1.4
Yukon	662.53	705.40	695.69	-1.4	5.0
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	733.85	805.16	810.29	0.6	10.4

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

Number of employees

Industry group (1980 Standard Industrial Classification)	Feb. 2000	March 2000 ^r	April 2000 ^p	Feb. 2000 to March 2000	March 2000 to April 2000
seasonally adjusted					
	thousands			% change	
Industrial aggregate	12,043	12,079	12,085	0.3	0.0
Logging and forestry	68	69	69	1.5	0.0
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	143	144	143	0.7	-0.7
Manufacturing	1,985	1,992	1,997	0.4	0.3
Construction	559	563	559	0.7	-0.7
Transportation and storage	514	515	517	0.2	0.4
Communication and other utilities	388	389	391	0.3	0.5
Wholesale trade	794	796	790	0.3	-0.8
Retail trade	1,454	1,465	1,458	0.8	-0.5
Finance and insurance	527	527	528	0.0	0.2
Real estate operators and insurance agencies	196	196	194	0.0	-1.0
Business services	920	933	936	1.4	0.3
Education-related services	926	925	929	-0.1	0.4
Health and social services	1,222	1,224	1,225	0.2	0.1
Accommodation, food and beverage services	871	873	876	0.2	0.3
Public administration	679	680	680	0.1	0.0
Miscellaneous services	723	724	724	0.1	0.0
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland	155	156	156	0.6	0.0
Prince Edward Island	53	54	53	1.9	-1.9
Nova Scotia	338	339	339	0.3	0.0
New Brunswick	269	269	270	0.0	0.4
Quebec	2,855	2,864	2,863	0.3	0.0
Ontario	4,751	4,766	4,762	0.3	-0.1
Manitoba	471	472	472	0.2	0.0
Saskatchewan	362	359	357	-0.8	-0.6
Alberta	1,260	1,260	1,266	0.0	0.5
British Columbia	1,499	1,510	1,511	0.7	0.1
Yukon	16	16	16	0.0	0.0
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	28	27	28	-3.6	3.7

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

Electric power generation, transmission and distribution 1998

Electric power producers earned operating revenues of \$38.6 billion, up 6.1% from 1997. The industry registered a net income of \$3.6 billion in 1998, after posting a \$4.1 billion loss in 1997 because of a large corporate write-down in Ontario. Saskatchewan utilities were the most profitable; net income represented 15.4% of operating revenues. Net electricity generation decreased 2.2% during the same period to total 545 terawatt hours.

The 1998 issue of *Electric power generation, transmission and distribution* (57-202-XPB, \$30) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the methods, concepts or data quality of this release, contact Serge Grenier (613-951-3566, grenier@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Stocks of frozen meat products June 2000

Total frozen meat in cold storage at the opening of the first business day of June was 71,792 tonnes, up from 71,266 tonnes last month and 63,839 tonnes a year ago.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 87 and 9518-9525.

Data on stocks of frozen meat products (23-009-XIE) is available free on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). On the *Products and services* page, choose *Downloadable publications (free)*.

For data inquiries, call 1-800-216-2299. For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Barbara McLaughlin (902-893-7251; barbara.mclaughlin@statcan.ca) or Robert Plourde (613-951-8716; robert.plourde@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Cereals and oilseeds review

April 2000

Data from the April issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* are now available, including information on production, stocks, cash and futures prices, domestic processing, exports, farmers' deliveries and supply-disposition analyses.

The May situation report, an overview of current market conditions, both domestic and international, is also included in the March issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149; 22-007-XIB, \$11/\$112), which will be available in July. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release contact Les Macartney (613-951-8714; les.macartney@statcan.ca) or Karen Gray (204-983-2856; karen.gray@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Energy supply and demand

Third quarter 1999

Data on energy supply and demand are now available for the third quarter of 1999.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4945, 4946, 4950-4962 and 7976-8001.

The third quarter 1999 issue of *Quarterly report on energy supply/demand in Canada*

(57-003-XPB, \$43/\$141), will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact John Svab (613-951-7382; svabjw@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Environment industry

1998 (preliminary)

Data from the Environment Industry Survey, 1998 are now available on request.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release please contact Annabella Elliot (613-951-0297; fax: 613-951-0634; annabella.elliott@statcan.ca), Environment Accounts and Statistics Division. ■

Environmental practices in Canadian businesses

1997

Preliminary tables on environmental practices of Canadian businesses in 1997 are now available on request. Data are derived from the Survey of Environmental Protection Expenditures, 1997.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Annabella Elliot (613-951-0297; fax: 613-951-0634; annabella.elliott@statcan.ca), Environment Accounts and Statistics Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES



- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Changes in the number of people taking urban transit. Canadians are taking it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about six 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 relatively weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow moderate growth during the year.

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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <http://www.statcan.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by E-mail, send an E-mail message to listproc@statcan.ca. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

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