



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Building permits, April 2000**

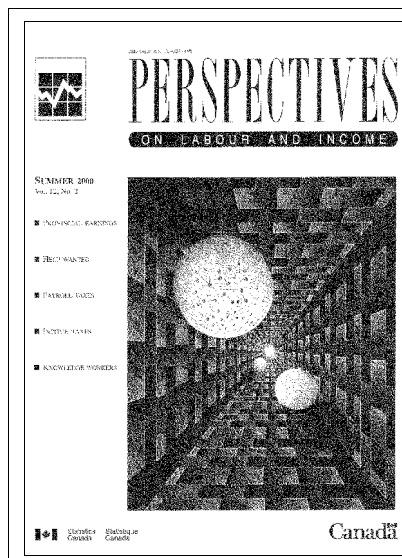
The value of building permits issued by municipalities declined 8.9% to \$2.9 billion in April, pushed down by a large decline in residential intentions.

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- **Industrial capacity utilization rates, first quarter 2000**

Industries operated at 87.6% during the first quarter of 2000, surpassing the peak of the 1987–88 economic expansion (86.8%). On the strength of surging exports and robust domestic demand, industries raised their rate of capacity use for a sixth straight quarter, reaching a level not seen since the mid-1960s.

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Perspectives on labour and income

Summer 2000

One of the articles in the summer issue of *Perspectives on labour and income* compares effective income tax rates in Canada and the United States.

This issue also looks at provincial earnings differences, the Help-wanted Index as a predictor of labour market conditions, payroll taxes, and knowledge workers on the move (adapted from the Spring 2000 issue of *Education quarterly review*).

The Summer 2000 issue of *Perspectives on labour and income* (75-001-XPE, \$18/\$58) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, contact Henry Pold (613-951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.



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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

MAJOR RELEASES

Building permits

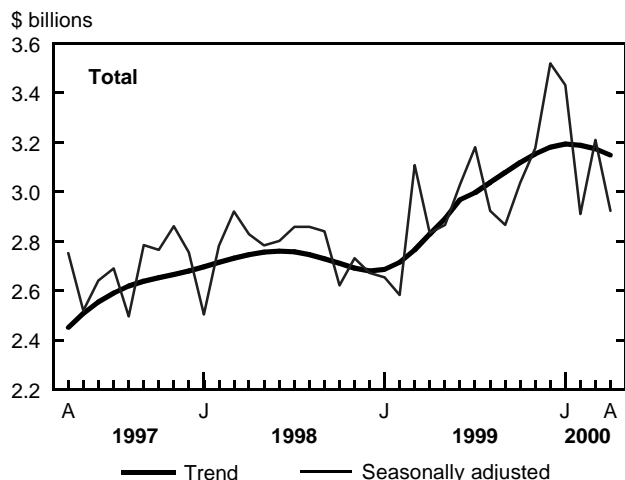
April 2000

The value of building permits issued by municipalities declined 8.9% to \$2.9 billion in April, pushed down by a large decline in residential intentions.

Residential building permits fell 15.2% to \$1.5 billion in April, due to lower intentions in both single- and multi-family dwellings. In the non-residential sector, municipalities issued \$1.4 billion in building permits, down 0.7% from March, the result of lower permits in the commercial component.

During the first four months of 2000, the value of building permits reached \$12.5 billion, up 11.6% over the same period in 1999. Both the residential sector (+11.8%) and non-residential sector (+11.3%) contributed to this performance.

Total value of permits down in April



Both components of residential sector contributed equally to the decline

Single- and multiple-family dwelling components contributed almost equally to the notable decrease in the residential building permits.

The value of building permits for single-family dwellings recorded their third consecutive monthly decline (-10.7% to \$1.2 billion). Intentions for

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

The Building and Demolitions Permits Monthly Survey covers 2,600 municipalities representing 94% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 6% of the population are very small, and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total.

The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (e.g., waterworks, sewers, and culverts) as well as land.

multiple-family dwellings fell 26.9% to \$366 million, after a substantial increase in March.

Recent increases in long-term mortgage rates, higher selling prices for new housing and a weakening in house resale may have dampened the outlook for the housing market. However, high full-time employment levels, a low vacancy rate and continued economic growth should help maintain the overall housing market at a higher level than last year.

Among the provinces, Ontario recorded a substantial decrease (in dollar terms) in residential projects (-24.7% to \$721 million), their lowest value since February 1999. Ontario's decline was concentrated in the metropolitan centres, with a majority of them showing declines in both single- and multi-family dwelling intentions.

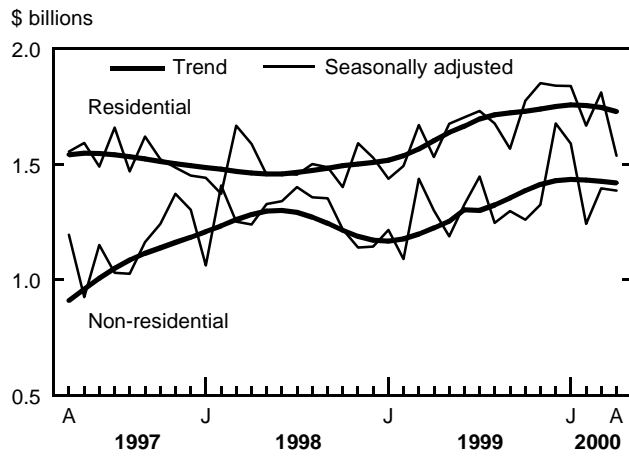
British Columbia (-12.7% to \$164 million), Newfoundland (-45.4% to \$15.2 million) and Quebec (-4.1% to \$251 million) made smaller contributions to the overall decline. In British Columbia and Newfoundland, both single- and multi-family dwellings accounted for the decrease, while in Quebec the decline was due solely to a reduction in single-family intentions.

Alberta showed the largest increase (in dollar terms) in April (+3.4% to \$256 million) on the strength of higher intentions for single-family dwellings.

On a year-to-date basis, the total value of residential permits reached \$6.9 billion during the first four months of 2000, 11.8% higher than in the same period of 1999. This gain was entirely attributable to higher construction intentions for single-family dwellings (+17.0%). Ontario had the largest gain (+14.3%), followed by Alberta and

Quebec. British Columbia and New Brunswick had the largest declines.

Both residential and non-residential sectors declined in April



Decline in non-residential commercial intentions

Lower intentions for commercial projects were partially offset by increase in institutional and industrial components in April. Commercial intentions fell 4.3% to \$753 million, mostly due to fewer projects in the office building and warehouses categories.

Building intentions in the institutional component maintained their momentum (+7.4% to \$332 million) in April after a very large increase in March. The largest contributions came mostly from the welfare and government building categories.

Industrial building permits remained virtually unchanged from March (+0.1% to \$301 million).

Among the provinces, the most significant monthly decreases (in dollar terms) were in Alberta (-28.0% to \$184 million), where all components declined, and Saskatchewan (-59.3% to \$35 million). In contrast, Nova Scotia showed the largest increase (+213.3% to \$110 million) on gains by all three components, followed by Quebec (+23.3% to \$307 million) supported by large gains in industrial projects.

On a year-to-date basis, municipalities issued \$5.6 billion in non-residential permits during the first four months of 2000, up 11.3%, their best showing for the first four months of any year since 1990. The year-to-date value for commercial building permits in 2000 reached \$3.2 billion, up 18.3% over the same period in 1999. The value for institutional building permits reached \$1.2 billion, 5.8% higher than the first four months of 1999. Permits for industrial projects were 0.9% higher.

Alberta showed the largest gain on a year-to-date basis, followed by British Columbia. In both cases, all components registered increases. On the other hand, Newfoundland was one of the few to show a decrease, pulled down by all three components.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 80 (levels 3-7 and 33-48), 129, 137, 443, 989-992, 994, 995 and 4073.

The April 2000 issue of *Building permits* (64-001-XIB, \$19/\$186) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

The May 2000 building permit release will be available on July 5.

For analytical information, contact Pierre Després (613-951-9691; desppie@statcan.ca). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Joanne Bureau (613-951-9689; burejoa@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Value of building permits

	March 2000 ^r	April 2000 ^p	March to April 2000	April 1999 to April 2000
seasonally adjusted				
	\$ millions		% change	
Canada	3,209.0	2,923.2	-8.9	3.2
Residential	1,812.7	1,537.1	-15.2	0.3
Non-residential	1,396.3	1,386.1	-0.7	6.5
Newfoundland	30.0	24.7	-17.6	13.9
Residential	27.9	15.2	-45.4	18.7
Non-residential	2.0	9.4	366.9	7.0
Prince Edward Island	8.5	13.3	56.2	7.1
Residential	5.1	8.2	62.6	35.7
Non-residential	3.5	5.1	46.8	-20.1
Nova Scotia	81.3	156.2	92.1	140.5
Residential	46.1	46.0	-0.3	2.0
Non-residential	35.2	110.2	213.3	454.9
New Brunswick	41.2	37.1	-10.0	-20.7
Residential	24.2	23.0	-4.6	-5.6
Non-Residential	17.0	14.0	-17.7	-37.2
Quebec	511.1	558.3	9.2	17.9
Residential	262.0	251.2	-4.1	10.6
Non-residential	249.1	307.1	23.3	24.7
Ontario	1,500.8	1,259.3	-16.1	-6.2
Residential	957.8	721.5	-24.7	-6.9
Non-residential	543.0	537.9	-0.9	-5.3
Manitoba	72.7	61.9	-14.8	-30.1
Residential	28.2	27.3	-3.1	-12.0
Non-residential	44.4	34.6	-22.2	-39.9
Saskatchewan	111.0	56.9	-48.8	-28.4
Residential	24.4	21.6	-11.5	-9.8
Non-residential	86.6	35.3	-59.3	-36.4
Alberta	503.1	440.0	-12.5	35.7
Residential	247.6	256.0	3.4	35.6
Non-residential	255.6	184.1	-28.0	35.8
British Columbia	347.7	310.6	-10.7	-15.4
Residential	188.5	164.5	-12.7	-14.7
Non-residential	159.2	146.2	-8.2	-16.2
Yukon	1.6	2.8	70.7	-60.0
Residential	1.0	1.3	33.5	9.4
Non-residential	0.6	1.4	129.5	-74.7
Northwest Territories	0.2	1.3	757.5	123.1
Residential	0.0	0.6	3,300.0	893.8
Non-residential	0.1	0.7	397.0	27.3
Nunavut	0.0	0.8	...	-83.7
Residential	0.0	0.6	...	-85.5
Non-residential	0.0	0.2	...	-66.7

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

Note: Data may not add to totals due to rounding.

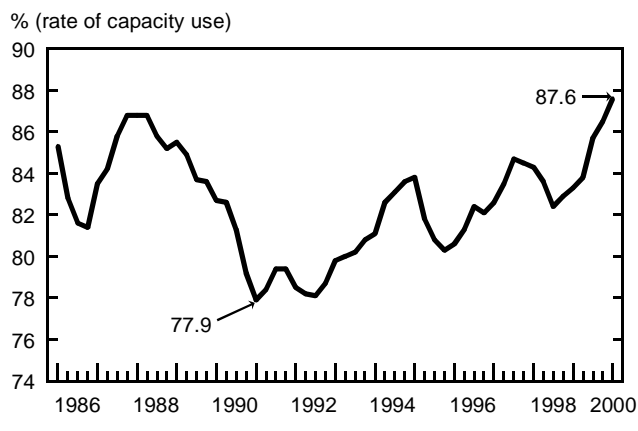


Industrial capacity utilization rates

First quarter 2000

Industries operated at 87.6% during the first quarter, surpassing the peak of the 1987–1988 economic expansion (86.8%). On the strength of surging exports and robust domestic demand, industries raised their rate of capacity use for a sixth straight quarter, reaching a level not seen since the mid-1960s. (The rates of capacity use have been revised back to the first quarter of 1998 to incorporate revisions in source data.)

Capacity use surpasses its 1987-88 peak



Manufacturers contributed the most to the increase in industrial production and to the resulting rise in the rate of capacity use in the first quarter, followed by construction industries. Mining and utilities also had a significant impact.

The rate of capacity use has been rising because production capacity has not expanded fast enough to keep pace with industrial output. Industries have been raising production at a brisk clip for some time — over 1.0% in each of the past six quarters. However, according to the latest release of the National Economic and Financial Accounts, business spending on plant and equipment rose 2.7% in the first quarter, following even more robust spending in the fourth quarter of 1999. As they become fully productive, these new assets, incorporating the latest technological advances, should help businesses to accommodate future increases in demand for their products.

However, several industries posted rates in the first quarter that indicate that they may be nearing

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.

current production limits. Logging and forestry, mining and quarrying, construction, electric power systems, and 8 of the 22 manufacturing industry groups all posted rates over 90%.

Although the rates of capacity use have reached almost unprecedented levels, there is still no clear evidence that inflationary pressures are building. Labour costs, which account for a large part of total production costs, are still in check and, according to the latest release of the Business Conditions Survey, 86% of manufacturers reported no impediments to production. On the other hand, there has been upward movement in industrial prices recently. Most of the rise has been due to the steep climb in prices for petroleum and coal products, but prices have risen even when these items are excluded. In April, the year-over-year change in the Industrial Products Price Index excluding petroleum and coal products advanced 3.2%, its largest yearly rise since December 1995.

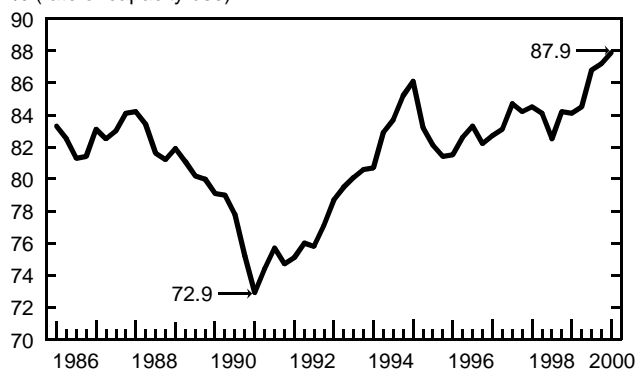
Consumer prices, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), showed a year-over-year advance of 2.1% in April, much of which was due to the impact of the rise in energy prices over the past year. The annual increase in the CPI, excluding food and energy, was 1.3%, still at the low end of the Bank of Canada's target range for inflation.

Strength persists in manufacturing

Manufacturers boosted their rate of capacity use in the first quarter by 0.7 percentage points, bringing the level to 87.9%, 1.0 percentage points shy of the 1974 historical peak. This marked the fourth consecutive quarterly increase. Thirteen of the 22 manufacturing industry groups (accounting for almost two-thirds of total factory output), raised their rates.

Manufacturing maintains upward momentum

% (rate of capacity use)



Three industry groups in manufacturing, electrical and electronic products, beverages, and rubber products, reached new peaks.

Stepping up output in response to export demand, producers of telecommunications equipment were largely responsible for the 2.6 percentage point rise in the rate for the electrical and electronic products group, bringing the level to 94.6%. Operating at 97.7% in the first quarter (+1.0 percentage points from the previous quarter), producers of rubber products appeared to be approaching full capacity. In the beverage industries, the rate of capacity use rose 1.7 percentage points to 91.4% mainly due to a jump in output in March by producers of soft drinks.

A sharp increase in the production of construction machinery, and sawmill and woodworking machinery in February was behind the first-quarter 6.9% jump in output in the machinery group of industries. As a result, the rate of capacity use went up by 5.5 percentage points to 84.2%. This was the first time in almost two years that this group of industries has operated over 80%.

Benefiting from increased residential construction activity, producers of sash, door and other millwork

played a major role in increasing the output of the wood industries, where the rate of capacity use rose 3.1 percentage points to 93.6%.

The most notable decrease in the first quarter occurred in the primary textile industries where production fell 10.6%. Consequently, the rate of capacity use fell 8.4 percentage points to 74.8%.

All but one non-manufacturing industries up

The rate of capacity use grew 3.2 percentage points to 93.0% in mining and quarrying industries. Output rose 3.0% in the first quarter, largely due to increased drilling and rigging activity. Output of potash also rose sharply (+13.3%) in response to export demand, especially from China.

Construction industries raised their rate 1.8 percentage points to 91.8%. All three categories of construction activity (residential, non-residential and engineering) increased in the first quarter.

Electric power systems increased output in the first quarter because of cooler temperatures in January and February, as well as increased exports to the United States in February. The rate of capacity use rose 1.8 percentage points to 90.7%, a new peak. Similarly in gas distribution systems, output increased in the first two months of the quarter, in response to increased demand from residential and commercial customers. Capacity use increased by 4.2 percentage points to 74.4%.

Forestry, where output fell in the first two months of the quarter, was the only non-manufacturing industry where the rate of capacity use dropped. Despite the 2.2 percentage point decline, the industry is still operating at 92.0% of capacity.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 3140.

For more information, or to inquire 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

	First quarter 1999 ^r	Fourth quarter 1999 ^r	First quarter 2000	First quarter 1999 to first quarter 2000 percentage point change	Fourth quarter 1999 to first quarter 2000
Total non-farm goods-producing industries	83.3	86.5	87.6	4.3	1.1
Logging and forestry	85.2	94.2	92.0	6.8	-2.2
Mining (including milling), quarrying and oil wells	74.2	77.6	79.2	5.0	1.6
Mining (including milling) and quarrying	81.0	89.8	93.0	12.0	3.2
Crude petroleum and natural gas	70.5	71.2	72.1	1.6	0.9
Manufacturing	84.1	87.2	87.9	3.8	0.7
Durable goods	84.9	89.0	90.6	5.7	1.6
Wood	86.8	90.5	93.6	6.8	3.1
Furniture and fixtures	82.7	86.6	87.4	4.7	0.8
Primary metal	93.2	94.5	93.1	-0.1	-1.4
Fabricated metal products	81.6	85.3	86.9	5.3	1.6
Machinery	73.1	78.7	84.2	11.1	5.5
Transportation equipment	89.7	92.3	93.2	3.5	0.9
Electrical and electronic products	80.0	92.0	94.6	14.6	2.6
Non-metallic mineral products	89.0	83.9	85.2	-3.8	1.3
Other manufacturing	84.2	83.8	82.6	-1.6	-1.2
Non-durable goods	83.0	84.8	84.4	1.4	-0.4
Food	80.5	82.0	81.7	1.2	-0.3
Beverage	84.4	89.7	91.4	7.0	1.7
Tobacco products	81.4	76.8	72.0	-9.4	-4.8
Rubber products	89.9	96.7	97.7	7.8	1.0
Plastic products	82.5	88.2	85.8	3.3	-2.4
Leather and allied products	73.7	72.8	70.8	-2.9	-2.0
Primary textile	82.7	83.2	74.8	-7.9	-8.4
Textile products	79.3	83.1	86.5	7.2	3.4
Clothing	85.3	84.7	86.3	1.0	1.6
Paper and allied products	89.5	94.5	94.0	4.5	-0.5
Printing, publishing and allied	81.6	84.7	85.5	3.9	0.8
Refined petroleum and coal products	96.4	91.2	92.5	-3.9	1.3
Chemicals and chemical products	81.1	79.2	78.2	-2.9	-1.0
Construction	87.2	90.0	91.8	4.6	1.8
Electric power and gas distribution systems	84.0	86.5	88.6	4.6	2.1
Electric power	85.4	88.9	90.7	5.3	1.8
Gas distribution	74.8	70.2	74.4	-0.4	4.2

^r Revised figures.



OTHER RELEASES

Income taxes in Canada and the United States

1997

Canadian families saw higher effective income tax rates on average in 1997 than did U.S. families, according to a new study published today in *Perspectives on labour and income*.

However, each country's rates for families with similar incomes varied considerably. This reflected variations in family circumstances other than income, as well as the myriad provisions of tax systems over and above the structure of nominal tax rates.

Because the income tax systems of both countries are generally progressive, with higher income families paying tax at higher average rates, this study divides families on either side of the border into groups with similar incomes. U.S. incomes were adjusted to reflect purchasing power parities. In 1997, US\$79 spent by an American household was equivalent in purchasing power to C\$100 spent in Canada.

The study found that, in 1997, Canada had proportionally fewer families with an annual income of \$150,000 or more, and proportionally fewer with annual income under \$10,000. (All income data are in Canadian dollars.)

About 11% of families in the United States had incomes of less than \$10,000, compared with just over 7% in Canada. In contrast, the United States had about three times as many families with an annual income of \$150,000 or more.

According to the study, American families who had incomes of \$150,000 or more paid 5.2% less of their total income in income taxes and payroll taxes than did comparable Canadian families in 1997.

The results were similar for other income groups. For example, American families who had an annual income of \$25,000 to \$49,999 paid 4.4% less of their total income in income taxes than did comparable Canadian families. American families with income ranging from \$50,000 to \$99,999 paid 5.3% less.

The only families in both countries who were taxed similarly in 1997 were those with incomes of \$10,000 to \$24,999.

Specifically, a Canadian family with income of \$40,000 paid about \$6,900 in income tax on average in 1997, compared with \$5,200 for a U.S. family. Similarly, a Canadian family with income of \$70,000 paid an average \$17,000, compared with \$13,300 south of the border.

Effective tax rates vary within income groups, and both countries have many provisions intended to adjust taxes to particular circumstances. As a result, the actual amount of income tax paid by any one family depends on a number of factors, including dependants, the way in which total income is divided among family members, and the deductions and tax credits that members of the family are able to claim.

The study found that, in both countries, at least one-quarter of all families in the group with incomes between \$10,000 and \$24,999 paid no income tax.

On the other hand, 95% of families with incomes of \$150,000 or more paid taxes amounting to at least 21% of their income in Canada. In the United States, 95% of families in this income group paid at least 18% of their income.

Families by income group, and their average effective tax rates

Income (1997 C\$)	Proportion of families		Average effective tax rate ¹	
	Canada	United States	Canada	United States
	%			
All families	100.0	100.0	16.4	13.8
Less than 10,000	7.3	10.9	1.0	2.3
10,000 to 24,999	24.8	21.1	6.2	6.2
25,000 to 49,999	30.4	27.3	17.3	12.9
50,000 to 99,999	29.9	26.5	24.3	19.0
100,000 to 149,999	5.9	8.6	27.9	24.1
150,000 or more	1.8	5.7	32.8	27.6

¹ The ratio of taxes paid to total income for each family is averaged (using the sample weights) over all the families in the income group. Generally, such an average of ratios is lower than the ratio of averages, which takes total taxes paid by all families in a given income group, and divides it by total income received by these families.

Note: To paint an accurate picture of taxes actually paid by individuals and families — that is, effective rather than statutory tax rates — this analysis uses the most recent detailed sample data from both countries. For Canada, data are from Statistics Canada's 1997 Survey of Consumer Finances, with imputed payroll taxes added. For the United States, the data are from the microdata file of the Census Bureau's March 1997 supplement to the Current Population Survey.

The Summer 2000 issue of *Perspectives on labour and income* (75-001-XPE, \$18/\$58) 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 Michael Wolfson (613-951-8216; wolfson@statcan.ca) or Brian Murphy (613-951-3769; murphy@statcan.ca), Social and Economic Studies Division. ■

Help-wanted Index

May 2000

In May, the Help-wanted Index (1996=100) increased by 1.2% to 169. The index increased or remained the same in all provinces except New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Help-wanted Index

(1996=100)

	May 1999	April 2000	May 2000	May 1999 to May 2000	April to May 2000
seasonally adjusted and smoothed					
	% change				
Canada	158	167	169	7.0	1.2
Newfoundland	158	183	184	16.5	0.5
Prince Edward Island	177	218	230	29.9	5.5
Nova Scotia	165	172	171	3.6	-0.6
New Brunswick	178	192	187	5.1	-2.6
Quebec	158	156	157	-0.6	0.6
Ontario	173	186	187	8.1	0.5
Manitoba	175	164	164	-6.3	0.0
Saskatchewan	130	136	136	4.6	0.0
Alberta	129	158	161	24.8	1.9
British Columbia	126	145	145	15.1	0.0

Note: 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.

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

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. ■

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending May 7, 2000

Non-intermodal traffic loaded during the seven-day period ending May 7 increased 4.1% to 4.8 million tonnes compared with the same period of 1999. The number of cars loaded increased 4.0%.

Intermodal traffic tonnage totaled 441 000 tonnes, an 11.6% increase from the same period of 1999. The year-to-date figures show an increase of 7.7%.

Total traffic increased 4.7% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 96.1 million tonnes, an increase of 8.9% from 1999.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For more information, or to inquire 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. ■

For-hire motor carriers of freight, all carriers

Third and fourth quarter 1999

In the second half of 1999, there were approximately 2,500 for-hire trucking companies based in Canada with annual revenues of \$1 million or more compared with an estimated 2,350 carriers during the same period in 1998.

Second-half 1999 operating revenues climbed to \$9.0 billion (\$4.4 billion in the third quarter and \$4.6 billion in the fourth quarter). Operating expenses reached \$8.3 billion (\$4.1 billion in the third quarter and \$4.3 billion in the fourth quarter).

Average operating expenses increased 11% over the second half of 1998 to \$3.35 million. In particular, for-hire trucking companies reported a 19% increase in average owner-operator expenses and spent substantially more on fuel (+12%) compared with the last six months of 1998. The operating ratio (operating expenses divided by operating revenues) was 0.93, unchanged from the same period in 1997. Any ratio under 1.00 represents an operating profit.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 144.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Paré (613-951-2517; fax: 613-951-0579; paregil@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Steel wire and specified wire products

April 2000

Shipments of steel wire and specified wire products totalled 68 809 tonnes in April, down 6.7% from 73 732 tonnes (revised) in April 1999. Production and export market data for selected commodities are also available.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (series 19).

The April 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 or data quality for this

release, contact Etienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-9837; saineti@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division ■

Socio-economic profiles of independent truck drivers

1997

The nearly 50,000 self-employed Canadians who were independent truckers (owner-operators) in 1997 worked long hours for low pay and were far more likely to feel stressed than drivers employed by trucking companies.

Data on the work patterns of truck drivers reveal that independent truckers worked an average of 52.3 hours per week. This was somewhat longer than the average of 49.7 hours a week put in by wage-earning truck drivers employed by trucking companies, and far more than the average of 36.7 hours put in by other workers in the paid labour force.

On the other hand, independent truckers had average after-tax earnings of \$16,000, lower than the average of \$18,600 for other self-employed traders and labourers, and only 60% of the \$26,800 in after-tax earnings of drivers who were employed by trucking companies.

In addition, 8 out of 10 independent truckers reported they felt very high to somewhat high levels of work-life stress, compared with two-thirds of drivers who were employees of trucking companies.

These findings are documented in a new research paper, *The cost of independence: Socio-economic*

profiles of independent truck drivers, available as part of a series of transportation-related research papers released in recognition of National Transportation Week. This paper (53F0002XIE, free) as well as other reports and studies on various aspects of transportation can be downloaded free at Statistics Canada's Web site, www.statcan.ca. On the *Products and services* page, choose *Downloadable research papers*. Copies can also be obtained from Jean-Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; laroque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Irwin Bess (613-951-9605; fax: 613-951-0579; bessirw@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Egg production

April 2000 (preliminary)

Egg production estimates for April are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1145, 1146 and 5689-5691.

To order *Production of eggs* (23-003-XPB;\$110), contact Julie Gordon (613-951-5039), Agriculture Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact Sandy Giefeldt (613-951-2505), or Gilles Beaudry (613-951-6480), Agriculture Division. ■

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
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