



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, July 19, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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- **Canadian international merchandise trade, May 2000** 3
Exports rebounded in May, rising 4.6% to \$34.3 billion, after declining in April. Imports recorded their third consecutive monthly increase, growing by 2.4% to \$30.6 billion. Because exports increased more than imports, the trade balance grew \$790 million to \$3.7 billion.
- **Private and public investment, revised intentions 2000** 6
Substantially higher investment by industries associated with the "new economy" will likely drive total investment in plant and equipment to record levels in 2000.

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Survey of Household Spending Public-use Microdata File

1998

Understanding consumer spending is important for many users, including social policy analysts, advocacy and community groups, businesses and all levels of government. The Public-use Microdata File from the 1998 Survey of Household Spending offers information about spending on a wide variety of goods and services as well as dwelling characteristics and information about household ownership of equipment. All records have been thoroughly screened to ensure respondents' anonymity.

The survey collects information about household and family expenditures on: food, shelter, communications, child care, furniture, clothing, health care, transportation, recreation, reading materials, education, tobacco and alcohol, gambling, taxes, insurance premiums, pension contributions, money gifts, and charitable contributions.

It also collects information on type of dwelling, whether repairs are needed, tenure (owned or rented), year of move, period of construction, number of rooms and bathrooms, and the age and type of heating equipment and fuel used. Household equipment presented includes: household appliances, communications and entertainment equipment, and the number of vehicles owned.

The Public-use Microdata File for the Survey of Household Spending in 1998 (62M0004XCB, \$3,000) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information about the current survey results and related products and services, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division.



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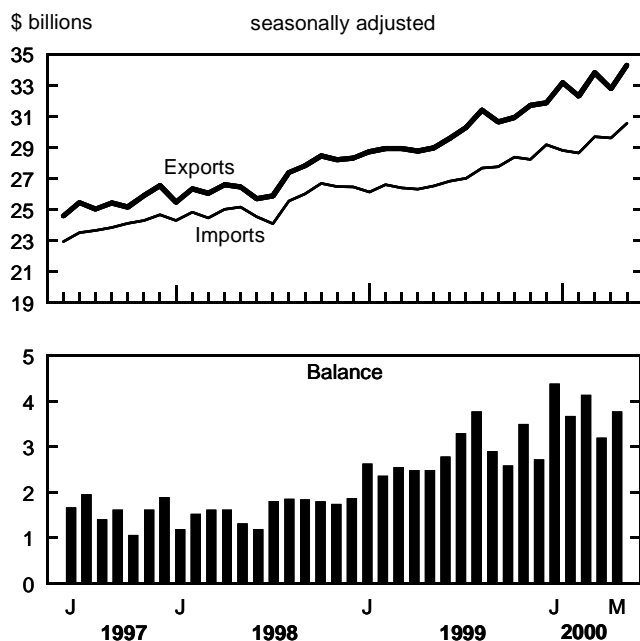
MAJOR RELEASES

Canadian international merchandise trade

May 2000

Exports rebounded in May, rising 4.6% to \$34.3 billion, after declining in April. Imports recorded their third consecutive monthly increase, growing by 2.4% to \$30.6 billion. Because exports increased more than imports, the trade balance grew \$790 million to \$3.7 billion.

Exports, imports and trade balance



Exports continued to be volatile, as they have been all year long. They rose more than \$1.5 billion in May (+4.6%), to \$34.3 billion, after dropping \$1.1 billion in April (-3.4%). Exports of high technology equipment, metals and crude oil contributed the most to the increase.

Imports increased 2.4% to \$30.6 billion. Machinery and equipment and energy products imports were the major contributors to this rise.

Exports of high technology equipment and metals pushed exports upward

Exports of high technology equipment were up. Telecommunications and television equipment exports

Note to readers

Merchandise trade is one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services.

have been particularly strong this year, rising 13.0% in May. Exports of electronic components used in fibre optics also rose significantly, strongly related to the growing demand for Internet services. Exports of office machines and equipment increased 14.5%.

Hot weather in California in May increased the demand for Canadian electricity, pushing these exports up \$99 million, or 61.5%. Also, higher prices boosted the value of crude oil exports by 24.9%. Overall, exports of energy products were up 10.2%.

Exports of industrial products rose 7.5%. After a large decline in April, copper and zinc ore exports to Japan rebounded, pushing metal ore exports up \$215 million, or 52.8%. On the whole, exports of metal ores have been on the rise since March 1999, owing especially to the strengthening of metal prices.

Automotive products remained stable in May. Exports of passenger vehicles rose only marginally, by 0.6%. Truck exports, down 5.3%, registered their second consecutive monthly decline and reached their lowest level since January 1999. However, production of trucks and cars in the United States was high in May, boosting exports of automotive parts.

Imports increased in May for the third consecutive month

Imports rose 2.4%, primary as a result of greater imports of machinery and equipment and energy products.

Machinery and equipment imports increased for the third consecutive month. One of the prime contributors to this rise was higher imports of parts for communications and computer equipment. In recent months, Canadian demand for telecommunication equipment parts has been stimulated by increased production in this sector. Imports of floating equipment for the offshore production and storage of petroleum, as well as aircraft imports, also contributed to the growth in the machinery and equipment sector.

Imports of energy products rose for the fourth consecutive month. The price of crude oil, which had flagged in April, rebounded in May, pushing the value of our imports of crude oil upward. Imports of coal, used in thermal power plants, were also up.

Automotive imports rose 1.3% in May. Imports of trucks and automotive parts regained some of the losses suffered in April, increasing 8.9% and 1.9% respectively. Imports of passenger vehicles dropped 3.5%, as Canadian new-car sales edged down in April and May. In spite of this decline, the demand for passenger vehicles such as sports utility vehicles and minivans was still higher than in 1999.

Revisions

In general, merchandise trade data are revised regularly for each month of the current year. Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs forms, replacement of estimates with actual figures (once available), changes in classification of merchandise based on more current information, and seasonal adjustments. Consult the appropriate CANSIM matrices for revised data.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3618, 3619, 3651, 3685-3699, 3701-3711, 3713, 3720, 3887-3913, 8430-8435 and 8438-8447.

This release contains a summary of the merchandise trade data to be published shortly in *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188; 65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141). The publication will include tables by commodity and country on a customs basis. Current account data (which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, service transactions, investment income and transfers) are available quarterly in *Canada's balance of international payments* (67-001-XPB, \$38/\$124). See *How to order products*.

Merchandise trade data are available by fax on the morning of release.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jocelyne Elibani, (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9647), International Trade Division. □

Merchandise trade

	April 2000 ^r	May 2000	April to May 2000	May 1999 to May 2000	Jan. to May 1999	Jan. to May 2000	Jan.-May 1999 to Jan.-May 2000
seasonally adjusted, \$ current							
	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		% change
Principal trading partners							
Exports							
United States	28,401	29,610	4.3	19.2	123,569	143,091	15.8
Japan	797	832	4.4	-3.1	3,925	4,057	3.4
European Union	1,604	1,734	8.1	23.6	7,191	8,433	17.3
Other OECD countries ¹	589	716	21.6	31.1	2,808	3,412	21.5
All other countries	1,403	1,407	0.3	6.6	6,785	7,495	10.5
Total	32,794	34,299	4.6	18.4	144,279	166,489	15.4
Imports							
United States	22,020	22,143	0.6	8.8	101,688	109,549	7.7
Japan	985	980	-0.5	11.2	4,182	4,731	13.1
European Union	2,818	2,947	4.6	32.9	10,983	13,780	25.5
Other OECD countries ¹	1,436	1,816	26.5	78.2	5,010	7,091	41.5
All other countries	2,578	2,664	3.3	31.0	10,013	12,441	24.2
Total	29,837	30,551	2.4	15.3	131,878	147,593	11.9
Balance							
United States	6,381	7,467	...	...	21,881	33,542	...
Japan	-188	-148	...	...	-257	-674	...
European Union	-1,214	-1,213	...	...	-3,792	-5,347	...
Other OECD countries ¹	-847	-1,100	...	...	-2,202	-3,679	...
All other countries	-1,175	-1,257	...	...	-3,228	-4,946	...
Total	2,957	3,748	...	...	12,401	18,896	...
Principal commodity groupings							
Exports							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,211	2,299	4.0	6.1	10,456	11,110	6.3
Energy products	3,289	3,623	10.2	44.3	10,172	17,408	71.1
Forestry products	3,535	3,525	-0.3	11.0	15,714	17,582	11.9
Industrial goods and materials	5,142	5,527	7.5	20.8	23,068	26,414	14.5
Machinery and equipment	8,305	8,997	8.3	36.1	34,166	41,368	21.1
Automotive products	7,901	7,928	0.3	3.5	39,351	40,750	3.6
Other consumer goods	1,174	1,198	2.0	9.1	5,608	5,850	4.3
Special transactions trade ²	653	662	1.4	6.3	3,056	3,144	2.9
Other balance of payments adjustments	584	539	-7.7	-2.0	2,685	2,861	6.6
Imports							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,455	1,510	3.8	2.9	7,328	7,478	2.0
Energy products	1,437	1,642	14.3	114.4	3,540	7,013	98.1
Forestry products	256	259	1.2	17.7	1,108	1,260	13.7
Industrial goods and materials	5,931	5,972	0.7	19.9	25,104	29,076	15.8
Machinery and equipment	9,974	10,354	3.8	18.5	43,773	49,043	12.0
Automotive products	6,369	6,451	1.3	4.2	30,827	32,190	4.4
Other consumer goods	3,328	3,304	-0.7	8.6	15,050	16,217	7.8
Special transactions trade ²	531	528	-0.6	-8.2	2,591	2,620	1.1
Other balance of payments adjustments	556	531	-4.5	1.5	2,561	2,695	5.2

^r Revised figures

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

¹ Includes Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Poland, South Korea, Hungary and the Czech Republic.² These are mainly low-valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.

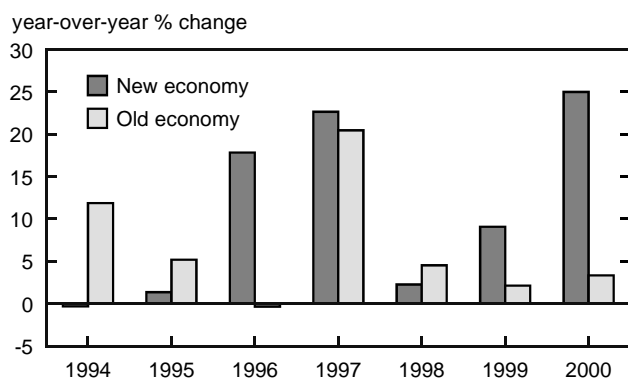
Private and public investment

Revised intentions 2000

Substantially higher investment by industries associated with the new economy will likely drive total investment in plant and equipment to record levels in 2000. Business and government investment is expected to reach \$140.2 billion, 5.1% higher than in 1999. Investment plans have been revised upward significantly for 2000, \$6.7 billion higher than the original investment intentions released in February.

Telecommunications, computer manufacturing, scientific and computer-related service industries are investing in new technologies this year at a dramatically faster pace than the rest of the economy. Total investment by these industries is expected to increase 25.0% to \$13.3 billion. The rest of the economy is looking forward to a 3.3% increase.

New economy outpaces the old



Spending plans for 2000 show increases coming from both machinery and equipment and non-residential construction. Leading the investment in machinery and equipment is the professional, scientific and technical services sector, where spending is expected to reach \$4.2 billion. Information and cultural industries expect an 8.5% increase in machinery and equipment spending, which can also be traced to new economy activity. The growth in construction is concentrated largely in the mining and oil and gas extraction sector, up \$4.0 billion, or 25.7%, from 1999.

Housing investment is expected to increase 6.2% to \$43.7 billion, largely owing to new home construction, although renovations are also increasing. This would bring total investment in 2000 to \$183.8 billion, a 5.3% increase over 1999, which is stronger than the 1.3% increase anticipated in February.

Note to readers

Revised investment intentions are based on a sample survey of 27,000 businesses, governments and institutions. Conducted from April to June 2000, the survey had a 82% response rate that covers 94% of the designed sample weight. The coefficient of variation, which measures the precision of the estimated data, is 1.0% at the Canada level. Data in this release are calendarized and expressed in current dollars.

For the purposes of this release aggregates for industries associated with the "new economy" include the following: computer and electronic product manufacturing; broadcasting and telecommunications; information services and data processing services; specialized design services; computer systems design and related services; management, scientific and technical consulting services; and scientific research and development services.

Communications leads the new economy

Information and cultural sector investment is expected to get a big boost from the broadcasting and telecommunications industry, which plans investment of \$9.2 billion, a 16.4% increase over 1999. This industry will have the largest increase in construction and equipment among those associated with the new economy.

High tech investment is also making its presence felt in the professional, scientific and technical services industries, where a 35.0% increase is expected, mostly in the computer systems design and related services industry.

Oil and gas investment continues strong

The oil and gas extraction industries expect to see significantly higher spending in both the conventional and non-conventional industries. In total, these industries are expected to jump by 25.9% to \$19.1 billion. This growth can also be seen in the current figures for drilling and well completion, which reflect the effect of current prices.

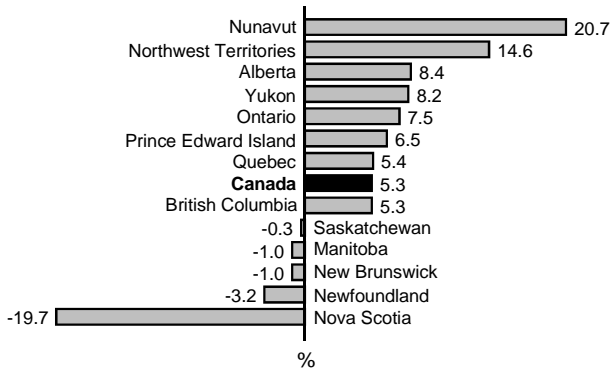
Growth returns to manufacturing

With capacity utilization at record levels and operating profits up 11.0% in the first quarter, manufacturing spending has rebounded from originally flat spending plans to an increase of 3.4%. This new-found strength originates from wood product manufacturing (+\$385 million) benefiting from the strength in domestic residential sector and the paper manufacturing industries (+\$482 million).

Pipelines completed

The largest decrease in spending is still found in the pipelines industry, as several projects across the country are completed. The investment sits at \$2.1 billion (-48.5%).

Most provinces and territories expecting growth



Most regions expect increases

Nunavut and Northwest Territories are expected to outpace all other regions in investment growth in 2000, with spending increasing by 20.7% and 14.6% respectively. Alberta (+8.4%) and Ontario (+7.5%) are also expecting significant increases, while the largest decline in expected in Nova Scotia (-19.7%).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 11500-11530 and 11532-11537.

Private and public investment in Canada, revised intentions 2000 (61-206-XIB, \$33) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilbert Paquette (1-800-571-0494; 613-951-9818; gilbert@statcan.ca) or Les Shinder (1-877-338-2368; 613-951-2030; shinder@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Capital spending intentions of private and public organizations

	Capital expenditures				Intentions 2000 to revised intentions 2000	Preliminary actual 1999 to revised intentions 2000
	Year ¹	Construction	Machinery and equipment	Total		
	\$ millions			% change		
Canada	1999	99,985.0	74,559.1	174,544.1		
	2000	105,467.1	71,776.7	177,243.8		
	2000	108,117.4	75,730.7	183,848.1	3.7	5.3
Newfoundland	1999	2,574.6	763.6	3,338.2		
	2000	2,336.3	735.4	3,071.7		
	2000	2,436.4	793.4	3,229.8	5.1	-3.2
Prince Edward Island	1999	271.7	182.9	454.5		
	2000	306.6	188.2	494.8		
	2000	301.8	182.3	484.1	-2.2	6.5
Nova Scotia	1999	3,335.6	1,750.5	5,086.1		
	2000	2,405.7	1,564.2	3,969.8		
	2000	2,353.4	1,732.8	4,086.2	2.9	-19.7
New Brunswick	1999	2,303.2	1,373.9	3,677.1		
	2000	2,307.8	1,301.8	3,609.7		
	2000	2,366.3	1,272.7	3,639.0	0.8	-1.0
Quebec	1999	17,325.9	15,180.2	32,506.0		
	2000	18,003.6	15,126.9	33,130.5		
	2000	18,422.1	15,824.2	34,246.3	3.4	5.4
Ontario	1999	32,986.4	31,509.8	64,496.2		
	2000	36,104.5	30,987.2	67,091.7		
	2000	36,105.4	33,256.2	69,361.5	3.4	7.5
Manitoba	1999	2,710.1	2,438.8	5,148.8		
	2000	2,512.1	2,382.2	4,894.3		
	2000	2,658.8	2,441.0	5,099.8	4.2	-1.0
Saskatchewan	1999	4,009.9	2,767.4	6,777.2		
	2000	3,827.6	2,347.1	6,174.7		
	2000	4,314.5	2,445.4	6,759.9	9.5	-0.3
Alberta	1999	20,803.4	10,561.9	31,365.3		
	2000	23,180.6	9,304.7	32,485.3		
	2000	24,114.4	9,892.7	34,007.2	4.7	8.4
British Columbia	1999	12,928.0	7,759.6	20,687.6		
	2000	13,706.7	7,559.3	21,265.9		
	2000	14,228.6	7,555.7	21,784.3	2.4	5.3
Yukon	1999	172.5	79.2	251.7		
	2000	166.9	76.4	243.2		
	2000	166.9	105.3	272.3	11.9	8.2
Northwest Territories	1999	419.8	132.0	551.8		
	2000	457.6	142.1	599.7		
	2000	473.6	158.6	632.2	5.4	14.6
Nunavut	1999	143.9	59.6	203.5		
	2000	151.0	61.4	212.5		
	2000	175.1	70.5	245.6	15.6	20.7

¹ Preliminary actual 1999, followed by intentions 2000, and then revised intentions 2000.

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

Capital spending intentions of private and public organizations

	Preliminary actual 1999	2000 intentions	2000 revised intentions	Intentions 2000 to revised intentions 2000	Preliminary actual 1999 to revised intentions 2000
	\$ millions			% change	
Total	174,544.1	177,243.8	183,848.1	3.7	5.3
Plant and equipment	133,423.3	133,565.9	140,170.2	4.9	5.1
Housing	41,120.8	43,677.9	43,677.9	0.0	6.2
NAICS sectors					
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	4,643.4	4,709.3	4,736.9	0.6	2.0
Mining and oil and gas extraction	18,217.7	20,938.1	22,450.7	7.2	23.2
Utilities	8,122.4	7,973.9	8,201.6	2.9	1.0
Construction	3,268.0	3,425.0	3,570.6	4.3	9.3
Manufacturing	20,252.3	20,068.2	20,945.6	4.4	3.4
Wholesale trade	2,674.3	2,653.5	2,765.1	4.2	3.4
Retail trade	4,037.0	4,044.3	4,089.6	1.1	1.3
Transportation and warehousing	13,762.7	11,674.3	11,968.5	2.5	-13.0
Information and cultural industries	8,832.4	9,110.5	9,990.7	9.7	13.1
Finance and insurance	13,827.7	12,739.7	12,838.1	0.8	-7.2
Real estate and rental and leasing	8,984.1	8,673.1	8,742.1	0.8	-2.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	3,306.60	3,353.2	4,464.4	33.1	35.0
Management of companies and enterprises	184.4	191.2	180.9	-5.4	-1.9
Administrative, and support, waste management and remediation services	584.8	503.0	705.9	40.3	20.7
Educational services	2,855.4	2,981.8	3,264.1	9.5	14.3
Health care and social assistance	2,866.0	3,032.2	3,422.0	12.9	19.4
Arts, entertainment and recreation	941.6	740.0	1,133.5	53.2	20.4
Accommodation and food services	1,333.6	1,252.8	1,186.0	-5.3	-11.1
Other services (except public administration)	1,146.6	1,128.9	1,181.0	4.6	3.0
Public administration	13,582.3	14,372.5	14,332.8	-0.3	5.5

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



OTHER RELEASES

New release date for Employment Insurance

May 2000 (preliminary)

Statistics Canada and Human Resources Development Canada have uncovered an error in the calculation of the number of beneficiaries of Employment Insurance. This error affects the beneficiaries file from January 1997 to April 2000. Consequently, the departments have agreed to correct the error and conduct a historical revision to correct the data series dating back to January 1997.

The regular monthly Employment Insurance release containing preliminary data for May 2000 will be delayed. The release, scheduled for Thursday, July 20, has been postponed to Friday, July 28.

For the next few months, data on the number of beneficiaries in the monthly Employment Insurance release will be aggregated only at the provincial level and will be unadjusted for seasonal trends. These data series will not be available on CANSIM.

However, the data series on claims received and allowed, benefit payments and weeks paid, which are correct, will continue to appear in both *The Daily* and on CANSIM as regularly scheduled following July 28.

For more information, contact Justin Lacroix (613-951-0775; fax: 613-951-4087; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division. ■

Monthly railway carloadings

May 2000

The freight loaded by railways during May totalled 22.2 million metric tonnes (excluding intermodal traffic). This represented an increase of 14.5% compared with May 1999. The intermodal tonnage, represented by "container-on-flat-cars" and "trailer-on-flat-cars," rose by 14.4% compared with the same period in 1999 to 2.3 million metric tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 1430.

The May 2000 issue of *Railway carloadings (monthly)* (52-001-XIE, \$8/\$77) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact J.R. Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; larocque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Export and import price indexes

May 2000

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1992=100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1992 to May 2000 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted U.S. price indexes (1992=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1992 to May 2000. Included with the U.S. commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and U.S.-only standard international trade classification section indexes.

Indexes for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups are also now available on a customs basis.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3618, 3619, 3651, 3685, 8430-8435, and 8438-8447.

The May 2000 issue of *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188; 65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jocelyne Elibani (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9647), International Trade Division. ■

Civil aviation operating statistics

April and May 2000

In April, Air Canada reported a 4% increase in its total passenger-kilometres, while the operations of Canadian Airlines remained constant. In May, Air Canada's operations remained constant and those of Canadian Airlines decreased by 3%. (All data are seasonally adjusted.)

Available on CANSIM: matrix 385 (series 1 to 6).

The April and May operational data on civil aviation for Air Canada and Canadian Airlines will appear respectively in the July and August issues of *Aviation service bulletin* (51-004-XIB, \$8/\$82). A print-on-demand service is also available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release,

contact Robert Lund (613-951-0125), Transportation Division. ■

Air charter statistics

Fourth quarter 1999 (preliminary)

Domestic charter flights carried 303,400 passengers, and international charter flights carried 704,400 passengers in the fourth quarter of 1999. This was a 13% advance for the domestic sector and a 4% advance for the international sector compared with the fourth quarter of 1998 when there were 269,000 domestic passengers and 675,000 international passengers.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Brent Day (613-951-0145; daybren@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Survey of Household Spending: User guide and notes

1998

Information about the Survey of Household Spending is now available in three new documents: the *1998 User guide for the Survey of Household Spending*, the *Note to former users of data from the Family Expenditure Survey*, and the *Note to former users of data from the Household Facilities and Equipment Survey*.

Starting with the 1997 survey year, the Survey of Household Spending (SHS) replaced the Family Expenditure Survey and the Household Facilities and Equipment Survey. The SHS collects information about spending by households and families on a variety of goods and services. It also collects information about dwelling characteristics and the presence in the household of various appliances, communications and entertainment equipment, and the number of vehicles owned.

The *1998 User guide for the Survey of Household Spending* (62F0026MIE00001) provides information for data users and prospective data users about survey concepts, methodology and data quality.

The two notes provide information on the differences between the SHS and the surveys it replaced. Topics covered in the *Note to former users of data from the Family Expenditure Survey* (62F0026MIE00002) include sample size, number of questions, coverage and concepts. Topics covered in the *Note to former users of data from the Household Facilities and Equipment Survey* (62F0026MIE00003) include sample size, weighting, collection method, reference period and concepts.

All three are available free at the Statistics Canada Web site at www.statcan.ca. On the Products and services page, choose *Downloadable research papers*; then Income, expenditures, pensions, assets and debts, and Expenditures.

For more information about survey results and related products and services, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of the SHS, contact Client Services (1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; fax 613-951-3012; income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division. ■

Crushing statistics

June 2000

Canadian oilseed processors crushed 242,234 metric tonnes of canola in June, according to the monthly survey of crushing plants. Oil production totalled 100,748 tonnes while meal production amounted to 148,714 tonnes.

In the first 11 months of the 1999/2000 crop year, the canola crush volume was 2,778,475 tonnes, a 3.5% decline from the 2,878,849 tonnes crushed in the same 11 months of 1998/99.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5687.

The June 2000 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149; 22-007-XIB, \$11/\$112) will be released in September. See *How to order products*.

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 Rick Burroughs (613-951-2890; rick.burroughs@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Railway carloadings (monthly), May 2000
Catalogue number 52-001-XIE (\$8/\$77).

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
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Head of Official Release: Madeleine Simard (613-951-1088), simamad@statcan.ca

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