

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, August 17, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Consumer Price Index, July 2000** 3
Consumers paid 3.0% more in July for the goods and services in the Consumer Price Index basket than they did in July 1999. This follows a 2.9% annual increase in June.

OTHER RELEASES

- Travel between Canada and other countries, June 2000 6
- Steel primary forms, week ending August 12, 2000 7
- Railway carloadings, seven-day period ending July 21, 2000 7
- Crushing statistics, July 2000 7

(continued on following page)



Canadian economic observer

August 2000

The August issue of Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, *Canadian economic observer*, analyses current economic conditions, summarizes the major economic events that occurred in July and presents a feature article on income inequality in North America. A separate statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and the major industrial nations.

The August 2000 issue of *Canadian economic observer* (11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, contact Cyndi Bloskie (613-951-3634; ceo@statcan.ca), Current Economic Analysis Group.



Statistics
Canada

Statistique
Canada

Canada

NEW PRODUCTS	8
---------------------	---

REGIONAL REFERENCE CENTRES	9
-----------------------------------	---

MAJOR RELEASES

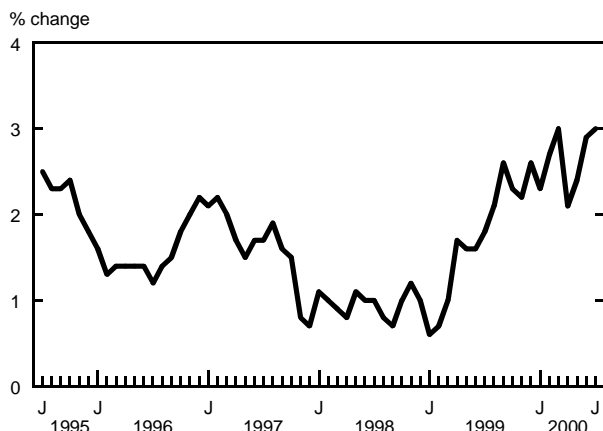
Consumer Price Index

July 2000

Consumers paid 3.0% more in July for the goods and services in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket than they did in July 1999. This follows a 2.9% annual increase in June.

Once again, higher energy prices were the major contributors to the upward pressure on the CPI. Every month since late 1999, increases in the energy index have accounted for roughly half of the annual increases in the All-items index. However, higher energy prices did not translate into generalized price increases for other goods and services in the CPI basket. Consequently, the index for all items excluding energy rose 1.5% in July, just slightly above the 1.4% advance in the annual average indexes in 1998 and 1999.

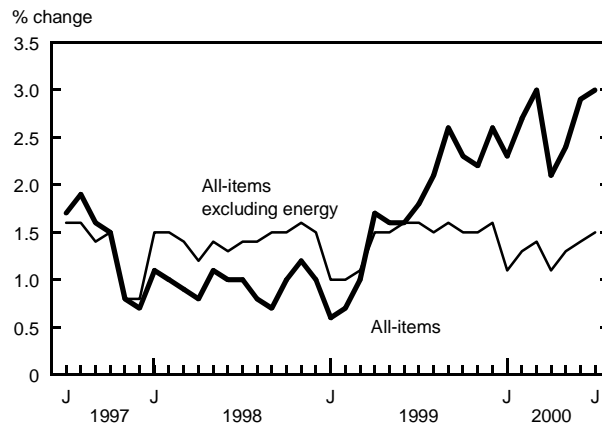
Percentage change in the Consumer Price Index from the same month of the previous year



Among the energy commodities, gasoline prices had the biggest impact. They rose 24.9% from July 1999 to July 2000; the latter was the 16th consecutive month of annual increases in the gasoline index. Natural gas prices increased by 27.8% over the same 12 months, while prices for fuel oil rose by 35.5%.

Other important contributors to the annual CPI increase were mortgage interest costs and tuition fees. Lower prices for automotive vehicles, computer equipment and supplies, and clothing put downward pressure on the CPI.

Annual change in the CPI and in the CPI excluding energy



Month-to-month growth slows

Consumer prices rose 0.4% in July compared with June; this follows an increase of 0.6% from May to June. Higher prices for traveller accommodation, natural gas and air transportation were partly offset by lower prices for automotive vehicles and gasoline.

Prices for traveller accommodation increased 7.3%, following a 10.5% rise in June and a 10.0% gain in May. The advances measured during those three months are in line with the increases in the same months of the last four years, and marks the peak tourist season.

Natural gas prices rose 8.0% from June to July, the largest monthly increase since October 1996. The greatest part of this rise in the index for all Canada is because of price increases in Alberta (+18.6%) and British Columbia (+25.8%). Only small advances were registered for Ontario (+1.5%) and Quebec (1.4%). The upward pressure on domestic prices is the result of growing demand for exports of Canadian natural gas. Environmental concerns are causing more U.S. companies to switch to natural gas for thermal electric power generation.

Consumers paid an average 6.4% more for air transportation in July. This is the largest monthly increase for air transportation since March 1999. This rise is the result of high-season rates on some routes, especially domestic flights.

Automobile prices fell 2.4%, mainly because of manufacturer rebates and dealer discounts for certain automotive vehicle models. This is partly in preparation for the arrival of the 2001 models in the fall.

Gasoline prices fell, on average, by 0.3% from June to July. This marks the first monthly decrease in the price

of gasoline since April, when prices dropped by 5.6% due to the agreement to increase oil production by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). In July, prices fell in Ontario (-3.0%), Quebec (-1.6%) and Nova Scotia (-0.7%), but were unchanged in Prince Edward Island. All other provinces, Whitehorse and Yellowknife posted price increases ranging from 0.2% to 5.9%.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9940-9956.

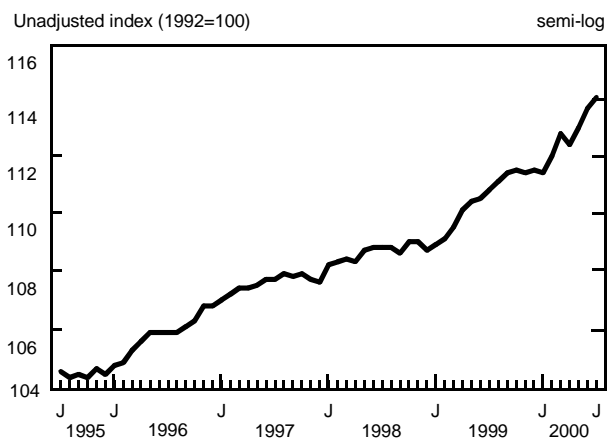
Data are available at 7 am on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca).

The July 2000 issue of the *Consumer price index* (62-001-XPB, \$11/\$103) is now available. See *How to order products*.

The August 2000 Consumer Price Index will be released on September 14.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division.

Consumer Price Index



Consumer Price Index and major components 1992=100

	July 2000	June 2000	July 1999	June to July 2000	July 1999 to July 2000
not seasonally adjusted					
	% change				
All-items	114.1	113.7	110.8	0.4	3.0
Food	113.4	112.9	111.3	0.4	1.9
Shelter	108.7	108.1	104.8	0.6	3.7
Household operations and furnishings	110.5	109.9	109.2	0.5	1.2
Clothing and footwear	104.7	104.6	104.5	0.1	0.2
Transportation	131.2	131.8	124.7	-0.5	5.2
Health and personal care	112.0	111.9	110.5	0.1	1.4
Recreation, education and reading	124.9	123.9	121.6	0.8	2.7
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	98.0	97.9	94.7	0.1	3.5
Goods	111.4	111.3	107.8	0.1	3.3
Services	117.2	116.5	114.3	0.6	2.5
All-items excluding food and energy	112.4	112.2	110.7	0.2	1.5
Energy	129.5	128.4	109.9	0.9	17.8
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar, in cents, compared with 1992	87.6	88.0	90.3		
All-items (1986=100)	146.2				

Consumer Price Index for the provinces, Whitehorse and Yellowknife
1992=100

	July 2000	June 2000	July 1999	June to July 2000	July 1999 to July 2000
not seasonally adjusted					
				% change	
Newfoundland	113.8	113.3	110.2	0.4	3.3
Prince Edward Island	112.0	111.9	107.0	0.1	4.7
Nova Scotia	114.1	114.2	110.1	-0.1	3.6
New Brunswick	113.4	113.1	109.3	0.3	3.8
Quebec	111.1	111.1	108.3	0.0	2.6
Ontario	114.7	114.5	111.2	0.2	3.1
Manitoba	118.4	117.8	115.4	0.5	2.6
Saskatchewan	117.0	116.5	113.6	0.4	3.0
Alberta	118.2	117.1	113.6	0.9	4.0
British Columbia	114.2	113.2	112.0	0.9	2.0
Whitehorse	115.7	115.1	112.9	0.5	2.5
Yellowknife	112.0	111.4	110.1	0.5	1.7



OTHER RELEASES

Travel between Canada and other countries June 2000

For the third consecutive month, Canadians took fewer trips to foreign countries — principally the United States. Canadians made an estimated 3.9 million international trips in June, down 0.8% from May. Meanwhile, foreigners travelled to Canada on 4.1 million occasions, down 0.2% from May. (Unless otherwise specified, the data are seasonally adjusted.)

Americans took 1.3 million overnight trips to Canada in June, the same number as in May. Meanwhile, the number of such trips by Canadians to the United States decreased for the fourth consecutive month to 1.2 million, down 0.2% from May.

The number of same-day car trips between Canada and the United States decreased on both sides of the border in June. Americans made 2.2 million car excursions to Canada, down 3.8% from May. Despite a slight appreciation (+1.3%) of the Canadian dollar against its U.S. counterpart in June, the number of same-day car trips by Canadians to the United States decreased for the third consecutive month to 2.2 million, down 0.5% from May.

Canadians made a record 392,000 overnight trips to overseas destinations, up 1.2% from the previous high of 388,000 set in May. Overseas residents, for their part, made 368,000 overnight trips to Canada, up 0.4% from May.

Among Canada's top 12 overseas overnight markets, France (-4.0%), Germany (-2.1%) and Japan (-1.2%) were the only ones to show a decline from June 1999. However, these represented three of the four most important sources of overseas travellers. Compared with the same period last year, all other markets advanced: South Korea (+55.7%), Netherlands (+13.6%) and Australia (+11.4%) made the strongest gains (unadjusted data).

Note: Month-to-month comparisons use seasonally adjusted data. Year-over-year comparisons use unadjusted data.

Travel between Canada and other countries

	May 2000 ^r	June 2000 ^p	May to June 2000	June 2000 ^p	June 1999 to June 2000
	seasonally adjusted		unadjusted		
	'000	% change	'000	% change	
Canadian trips abroad¹	3,927	3,894	-0.8	3,784	2.5
Same-day car trips to the United States	2,235	2,224	-0.5	2,334	0.9
Total trips, one or more nights	1,594	1,597	0.1	1,363	5.6
United States ²	1,207	1,204	-0.2	1,072	3.1
Car	645	641	-0.7	588	-2.5
Plane	449	449	-	346	12.5
Other modes of transport	112	115	2.2	139	7.4
Other countries ³	388	392	1.2	290	15.7
Travel to Canada¹	4,115	4,105	-0.2	5,146	1.2
Same-day car trips from the United States	2,284	2,197	-3.8	2,435	-4.5
Total trips, one or more nights	1,622	1,624	0.1	2,345	6.4
United States ²	1,256	1,256	-	1,807	6.0
Car	803	788	-1.8	1,144	5.2
Plane	308	316	2.7	430	6.0
Other modes of transport	145	151	4.3	232	9.7
Other countries ³	367	368	0.4	539	7.6
Most important overseas markets					
United Kingdom	..	..	..	104	5.0
Japan	..	..	..	55	-1.2
Germany	..	..	..	49	-2.1
France	..	..	..	40	-4.0
Australia	..	..	..	21	11.4
Taiwan	..	..	..	20	7.8
Netherlands	..	..	..	18	13.6
Hong Kong	..	..	..	18	7.5
South Korea	..	..	..	17	55.7
Mexico	..	..	..	15	7.9
Italy	..	..	..	13	2.5
Switzerland	..	..	..	12	0.2

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Totals exceed the sum of same-day car trips and total trips, one or more nights because they include all same-day trips.

² Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.

³ Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only via the United States.

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

.. Figures not available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2661-2697, 5780-6049 and 8200-8329.

The June 2000 issue of *International travel, advance information* (66-001-PIB, \$6/\$55) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For data requests, contact Michel Campbell (613-951-9169; fax: 613-951-2909; michel.campbell@statcan.ca). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jocelyn Lapierre (613-951-3720; fax: 613-951-2909; jocelyn.lapierre@statcan.ca), Tourism Statistics Program. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending August 12, 2000 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending August 12 totalled 321 422 tonnes, up 7.9% from 297 897 tonnes a week earlier and up 5.2% from 305 394 tonnes in the same week of 1999. The year-to-date total at the end of the reference week was 10 451 844 tonnes, a 5.8% increase compared with 9 878 074 tonnes for the same period in 1999.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean-Marie Houle (613-951-4925; houlejm@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending July 21, 2000

Non-intermodal traffic loaded during the seven-day period ending July 21 increased 10.4% to 4.5 million tonnes compared with the same period of 1999. The number of cars loaded was up 10.3%.

Intermodal traffic tonnage totalled 421 000 tonnes, a 10.5% increase from the same period of 1999. The year-to-date figures advanced 15.8%.

Total traffic rose 10.4% during the reference period. This brought the year-to-date total to 149.3 million tonnes, an increase of 7.1% from the same period of 1999.

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. ■

Crushing statistics

July 2000

Canadian oilseed processors crushed 204 905 metric tonnes of canola in July, according to the monthly survey of crushing plants. Oil production totalled 85 965 tonnes, and meal production amounted to 126 740 tonnes.

In the 1999/2000 crop year, the canola crush volume was 2 983 380 tonnes, a 2.6% decline from 3 062 474 tonnes in the 1998/99 crop year.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5687.

The July 2000 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XIB, \$11/\$112; 22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149) will be released in October. 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 Karen Gray (204-983-2856; karen.gray@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Canadian economic observer, August 2000
Catalogue number 11-010-XPB (\$23/\$227).

International travel, advance information, vol. 16,
no. 6
Catalogue number 66-001-PIB (\$6/\$55).

Industrial research and development, 1999
Catalogue number 88-202-XIB (\$35).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; and -XPB or -XPE denote a paper version.

How to order products

Order products by phone:

Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.

In Canada and the United States call:

1-800-267-6677

From other countries call:

1-613-951-7277

To fax your order:

1-877-287-4369

Address changes or account inquiries:

1-800-700-1033


To order a product by mail write: Statistics Canada, Circulation Management, Dissemination Division, Ottawa, K1A 0T6.

Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

To order by Internet: write to order@statcan.ca or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca), under the headings *Products and services*, *Downloadable publications*.

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.

Catalogue 11-001E (Parque 11-001E) ISBN 0897-6405



Statistics Canada

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

MAJOR RELEASES



- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Change the statistics on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow moderate growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
Short-term Expectations Survey
- **Steel primary forms, year ending May 31, 1997** 12
Egg production, April 1997 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

11

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".

Editor: Tom Vradenburg (613-951-1103, vradtom@statcan.ca)

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

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2000. Citation in newsprint, magazine, radio, and television reporting is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source. Any other reproduction is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source on all copies as follows: Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, catalogue 11-001E, along with date and page references.

REGIONAL REFERENCE CENTRES

Statistics Canada's Regional Reference Centres offer a full range of the Agency's products and services. Each reference centre is equipped with a library and sales counter where you can consult or purchase publications, diskettes, CD-ROM discs, microfiche, maps and more.

Each centre has facilities to retrieve information from CANSIM, Statistics Canada's data retrieval system. A telephone inquiry service is available with toll-free access for those located outside local calling areas. Many other valuable services—from seminars to consultations—are also offered. For information, contact your nearest Regional Reference Centre.

Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick

Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
1741 Brunswick Street
2nd Floor, Box 11
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3X8
Local calls: (902) 426-5331
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136
Fax: 1-902-426-9538
E-mail: atlantic.info@statcan.ca

Quebec and Nunavut

Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
4th Floor, East Tower
Guy Favreau Complex
200 René Lévesque Blvd. W.
Montréal, Québec
H2Z 1X4
Local calls: (514) 283-5725
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136
Fax: 1-514-283-9350

National Capital Region

Statistical Reference Centre (NCR)
Statistics Canada
Lobby, R.H. Coats Building
Holland Avenue
Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0T6
Local calls: (613) 951-8116
Fax: 1-613-951-0581
E-mail: infostats@statcan.ca

Ontario

Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
10th Floor
Arthur Meighen Building
25 St. Clair Avenue East
Toronto, Ontario
M4T 1M4
Local calls: (416) 973-6586
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136
Fax: 1-416-973-7475

Manitoba

Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
Via Rail Building, Suite 200
123 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 4V9
Local calls: (204) 983-4020
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136
Fax: 1-204-983-7543
E-mail: statswpg@solutions.net

Saskatchewan

Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
Park Plaza, Suite 440
2365 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 4K1
Local calls: (306) 780-5405
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136
Fax: 1-306-780-5403
E-mail: statcan@sk.sympatico.ca

Southern Alberta

Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
Discovery Place, Room 201
3553-31 Street N.W.
Calgary, Alberta
T2L 2K7
Local calls: (403) 292-6717
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136
Fax: 1-403-292-4958
E-mail: degagnej@cadvision.com

Northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories

Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
15th Floor, Park Square
10001 Bellamy Hill
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 3B6
Local calls: (780) 495-3027
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136
Fax: 1-780-495-5318
E-mail:
Johane.Tremblay@a.statcan.ca

British Columbia and the Yukon

Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
Library Square Tower, Suite 600
300 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6B 6C7
Local calls: (604) 666-3691
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136
Fax: 1-604-666-4863

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