



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, September 28, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Industrial product and raw materials price indexes, August 2000** 2
Annual growth in the prices of industrial products and raw materials continued decelerating in August, partly the result of slower increases in energy costs.
- **Divorces, 1998** 6
The number of marriages ending in divorce rose in 1998 for the first time in four years. A total of 69,088 couples divorced, 2.5% more than in 1997. Based on 1998 divorce rates, 36% of marriages are expected to end in divorce.

OTHER RELEASES

Steel primary forms, week ending September 23, 2000	8
Asphalt roofing, August 2000	8
Stocks of frozen meat products, September 2000	8
Cereals and oilseeds review, July 2000	8
Electric power selling price indexes, May to August 2000	8
Airport activity statistics, 1999	9

NEW PRODUCTS 10



MAJOR RELEASES

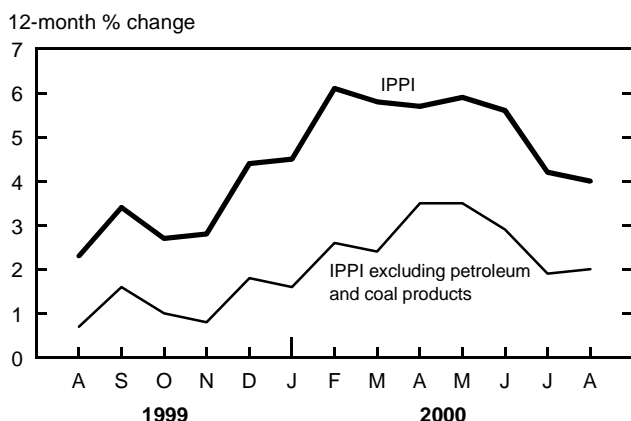
Industrial product and raw materials price indexes

August 2000

Annual growth in the prices of industrial products and raw materials continued decelerating in August, partly the result of slower increases in energy costs.

Manufacturers' prices, as measured by the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI), gained 4.0% between August 1999 and August 2000. Except in May, the annual increase in the IPPI has continued to slow since its peak of 6.1% in February 2000.

Petroleum product prices push up the IPPI



Rising petroleum and coal product prices accounted for half of August's annual increase. If the impact of petroleum and coal product prices were excluded, industrial product prices would have increased 2.0% instead of 4.0%. Paper and paper products, chemicals and chemical products also put upward pressure on the annual index. These increases were tempered by falling lumber prices.

On a month-to-month basis, industrial prices edged up 0.2% in August. Again, nearly half of this gain was attributable to petroleum and coal products. Prices for motor vehicles, chemical and chemical products and primary metal products also contributed to the increase, while continued weakness in lumber prices had a dampening effect.

Manufacturers paid 18.9% more for their raw materials in August compared with August 1999, largely because of climbing mineral fuel prices. This was

Note to readers

This release combines the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) and the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI), which were previously reported in separate releases. These releases were combined to provide a consolidated view of industrial prices.

The IPPI reflects the prices that producers in Canada 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 a good leaves the plant and the time the final user takes possession of it, including the transportation, wholesale, and retail costs.

Canadian producers export many goods. They often quote their prices in foreign currencies, particularly for motor vehicles, pulp, paper, and wood products. Therefore, a rise or fall in the value of the Canadian dollar against its U.S. counterpart affects the IPPI.

The RMPI reflects the prices paid by Canadian manufacturers for key raw materials. Many of these prices are set in a world market. Unlike the IPPI, the RMPI includes goods not produced in Canada.

slightly less than the year-over-year increase of 19.8% in July, and far below the recent peak of 37.3% in February.

On a month-to-month basis, the Raw Material Price Index (RMPI) rose 2.1% in August after having dropped by even more in July (-2.5%). This was achieved primarily on the strength of crude oil prices. Wood and non-ferrous metal prices were also up in August, while animal product prices fell for a fourth consecutive month.

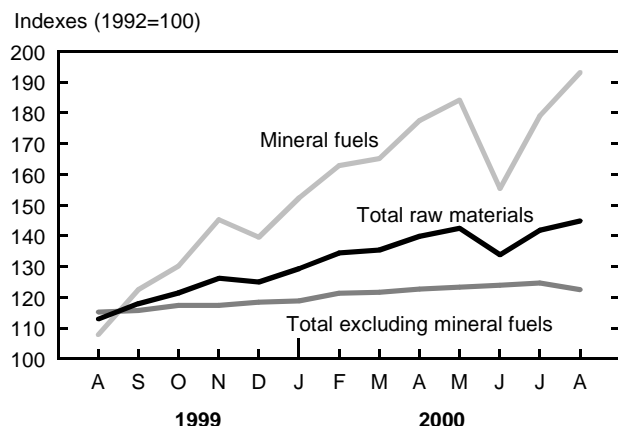
Mineral fuel prices were at the heart of both annual and monthly increases in the RMPI. If mineral fuels were excluded, the index would have advanced only 4.0% instead of 18.9% on an annual basis. The monthly index would have remained unchanged instead of advancing.

The IPPI (1992=100) was 127.8 in August, up from its revised level of 127.6 in July. The RMPI (1992=100) rose to 144.3 in August from its revised level of 141.3 in July.

Lumber prices continue to offset increases in oil, motor vehicles and copper

Crude oil prices were 5.4% higher in August compared with July, as low inventories raised concerns about meeting winter heating demand. This concern spilled over into the IPPI, as petroleum and coal product prices edged up 0.6%.

Crude oil prices back up



The lumber market continued its downward trend; prices dropped a further 2.7%, and Canadian housing starts also fell in August. In contrast, the raw material price for logs edged up 0.7%.

A higher-valued U.S. dollar was the driving force behind a 0.4% rise in motor vehicle prices. About 90% of motor vehicles manufactured in Canada are exported (mostly to the United States), leaving the prices quoted susceptible to exchange rate fluctuations.

On the raw material side, copper concentrate prices climbed 5.8%, reflecting in part diminished stocks of the metal in warehouses. Primary copper product prices were similarly robust.

Prices for finished goods were stable

Prices for finished goods remained flat in August compared with July, as higher prices received for autos, truck and other transportation equipment were offset by the finished goods portion of petroleum and coal products and paper and paper products.

On an annual basis, prices for finished goods rose 2.6% in August, continuing to decelerate from July (+2.9%) and June (+3.8%). This upward price pressure was concentrated in the petroleum and coal product, meat, beverage and autos, truck and other transport equipment categories.

"Finished goods" are considered to be those generally purchased either for consumption or investment. Most of the foods and feeds category ends up in the hands of consumers. Most capital goods are equipment and machinery, usually bought as investment by companies, government agencies, or governments. Much of the remainder is bought by consumers.

Slight increase in prices for input goods

Petroleum and coal, paper and paper products were the primary source of growth in intermediate good prices, which edged up 0.2% between July and August. Weaker lumber prices provided most of the downward pressure.

Producers of intermediate goods received 4.9% more for their goods in August compared with August 1999, down from 5.1% in July's annual rise. Again, prices for petroleum and coal products and paper and paper products were the driving force behind this increase. However, they were offset somewhat by falling lumber prices.

"Intermediate goods", sometimes referred to as "input goods", are goods which are generally bought by other manufacturers and are used to make other goods. Intermediate goods can be further broken down into two general categories that differ by the amounts of capital, materials and labour used. The first group of intermediate goods is more closely tied to the raw material component, using less capital and labour. As a result, its prices tend to follow raw materials prices more closely. The second group usually has a higher capital/labour content and less price volatility. The data above refers to the total intermediate goods category, which combines both groups.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1870-1879.

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

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	August 1999	July 2000 ^r	August 2000 ^p	August 1999 to August 2000	July to August 2000
					% change	
Industrial product price index	100.00	122.9	127.6	127.8	4.0	0.2
Intermediate goods¹	59.28	123.1	128.9	129.1	4.9	0.2
First-stage intermediate goods ²	7.91	124.6	143.7	145.2	16.5	1.0
Second-stage intermediate goods ³	51.37	122.8	126.7	126.6	3.1	-0.1
Finished goods⁴	40.72	122.5	125.7	125.7	2.6	0.0
Finished foods and feeds	10.38	114.6	117.4	117.4	2.4	0.0
Capital equipment	10.21	125.2	125.9	126.1	0.7	0.2
All other finished goods	20.13	125.2	129.9	129.8	3.7	-0.1
Aggregation by commodities						
Meat, fish and dairy products	7.27	122.8	127.9	127.6	3.9	-0.2
Fruit, vegetables, feed, miscellaneous food products	6.72	110.3	110.4	110.9	0.5	0.5
Beverages	2.12	115.0	120.2	120.2	4.5	0.0
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.72	139.4	143.8	143.8	3.2	0.0
Rubber, leather, plastic fabric products	3.01	114.6	120.0	120.0	4.7	0.0
Textile products	1.82	107.9	107.5	107.6	-0.3	0.1
Knitted products and clothing	1.93	110.1	110.7	110.7	0.5	0.0
Lumber, sawmill, other wood products	5.20	155.1	131.2	129.1	-16.8	-1.6
Furniture and fixtures	1.46	117.2	119.3	119.4	1.9	0.1
Pulp and paper products	7.65	125.9	145.5	145.6	15.6	0.1
Printing and publishing	3.05	134.3	138.8	138.9	3.4	0.1
Primary metal products	7.58	122.0	127.6	128.0	4.9	0.3
Metal fabricated products	4.11	123.3	125.6	125.0	1.4	-0.5
Machinery and equipment	4.08	114.7	116.4	116.4	1.5	0.0
Autos, trucks, other transportation equipment	18.76	131.3	132.0	132.4	0.8	0.3
Electrical and communications products	6.03	106.6	105.1	105.2	-1.3	0.1
Non-metallic mineral products	2.12	115.4	118.4	118.4	2.6	0.0
Petroleum and coal products ⁵	6.01	121.9	163.4	164.3	34.8	0.6
Chemicals and chemical products	7.60	117.6	123.6	124.2	5.6	0.5
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.45	118.7	119.9	119.9	1.0	0.0
Miscellaneous non-manufactured commodities	0.31	119.4	119.9	118.9	-0.4	-0.8

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

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

² First-stage intermediate goods are items used most frequently 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 indexes (1992=100)

	Relative importance	August 1999	July 2000 ^r	August 2000 ^p	August 1999 to August 2000	July to August 2000
					% change	
Raw materials price index (RMPI)	100.00	121.4	141.3	144.3	18.9	2.1
Mineral fuels	31.47	130.2	183.1	192.5	47.8	5.1
Vegetable products	9.41	112.4	111.6	111.6	-0.7	0.0
Animals and animal products	24.41	110.3	118.1	116.8	5.9	-1.1
Wood	14.88	136.7	140.9	142.1	4.0	0.9
Ferrous materials	3.17	118.5	118.6	118.4	-0.1	-0.2
Non-ferrous metals	13.81	112.3	116.8	118.3	5.3	1.3
Non-metallic minerals	2.85	118.1	121.2	121.2	2.6	0.0
RMPI excluding mineral fuels	68.53	117.4	122.1	122.1	4.0	0.0

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.



Divorces

1998

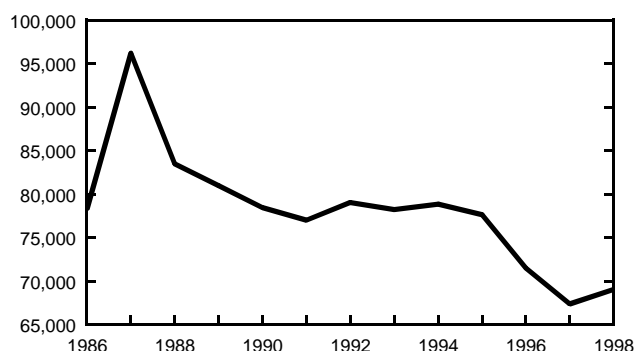
The number of marriages ending in divorce rose for the first time in four years in 1998.

A total of 69,088 couples divorced in 1998, up 2.5% from 1997. As a result, the crude divorce rate rose slightly from 225 divorces per 100,000 Canadians in 1997 to 228.

Based on 1998 divorce rates, 36% of marriages are expected to end in divorce within 30 years of marriage.

In recent years, both men and women have been getting divorced at a later age. In 1998, the average age at divorce was 42.0 years for men and 39.4 for women.

Number of divorces rose



Divorces up in all but three provinces

The rise in the number of divorces was seen in most provinces and territories, except Nova Scotia, Quebec and Manitoba.

In Ontario, 25,149 couples got divorced, 1,520 (6.4%) more than in the previous year. However, this level was 18.1% below the most recent high of 30,718 in 1994.

A notable increase occurred in Alberta. In 1998, 7,668 couples got divorced, 483 (6.7%) more than in 1997.

Divorces

	1989	1997	1998	1997 to 1998 % change
Divorces granted				
Canada	80,998	67,408	69,088	2.5
Newfoundland	1,005	822	944	14.8
Prince Edward Island	248	243	279	14.8
Nova Scotia	2,527	1,983	1,933	-2.5
New Brunswick	1,649	1,373	1,473	7.3
Quebec	19,829	17,478	16,916	-3.2
Ontario	31,298	23,629	25,149	6.4
Manitoba	2,912	2,625	2,443	-6.9
Saskatchewan	2,460	2,198	2,246	2.2
Alberta	8,237	7,185	7,668	6.7
British Columbia	10,658	9,692	9,827	1.4
Yukon	82	101	117	15.8
Northwest Territories	93	79	93	17.7
	1989	1997	1998	

divorces per 100,000 population

Crude divorce rates			
Canada	295.8	224.7	228.4
Newfoundland	174.0	148.3	173.1
Prince Edward Island	189.9	177.6	203.6
Nova Scotia	278.7	212.1	206.5
New Brunswick	223.4	182.1	195.5
Quebec	285.4	239.2	231.0
Ontario	308.3	209.8	220.9
Manitoba	263.2	230.9	214.7
Saskatchewan	240.5	215.0	219.1
Alberta	328.9	253.2	263.8
British Columbia	332.1	244.8	245.8
Yukon	299.5	313.3	370.4
Northwest Territories	161.6	116.5	137.8

Divorce rate up slightly

The slight increase in the crude divorce rate in 1998 contrasts with the trend of generally declining rates since 1987.

The 1998 rate of 228 divorces for every 100,000 people was far below the peak of 355 per 100,000 in 1987, following amendments to the *Divorce Act*. These changes allowed divorce after one year of separation instead of three.

Crude divorce rates in 1998 were highest in Yukon (370), Alberta (264), and British Columbia (246). The remaining provinces and territories had rates lower than the national average; the lowest rates were in the Northwest Territories (138), Newfoundland (173) and New Brunswick (196).

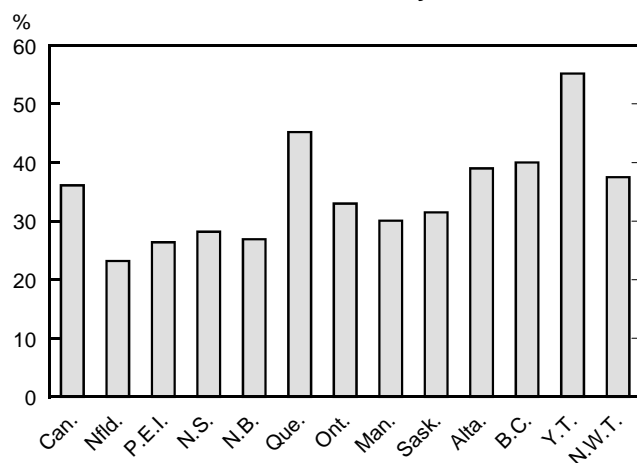
Over one-third of marriages eventually end in divorce

Marriage stability can also be assessed using divorce rates based on years of marriage. In 1998, the divorce rate peaked during the fifth year of

marriage, unchanged from 1997. The sum of the marriage-duration-specific divorce rates is called the total divorce rate. Based on the 1998 total divorce rate, 36% of marriages are now expected to end in divorce within 30 years of marriage, and 39% are expected to end within 50 years.

Married couples living in Newfoundland are the least likely to divorce (23% within 30 years). In contrast, 45% of couples living in Quebec are expected to divorce within this time span. In Yukon, 55% of marriages end in divorce within 30 years.

Percentage of marriages expected to end in divorce within 30 years



Couples divorcing at an older age

Men who got divorced in 1998 were, on average, 42.0 years old, while women were 39.4 years old.

Since 1989, the average age at divorce has increased 2.6 years for both men and women. This trend may be associated with the fact that couples have been getting married at older ages in recent years. Among divorced couples, the average age of husbands at marriage was 28.3 in 1998, up from 26.5 in 1989. The average age of wives at marriage rose from 23.9 to 25.7 years over this period.

Marriages that ended in divorce in 1998 lasted an average of 13.7 years, compared with 12.9 in 1989.

Custody orders for children in nearly one-third of all divorces

In 1998, 21,448 divorce cases involved a custody order for dependent children, representing 31% of the total number of divorces granted. These orders covered 37,851 children. It should be noted, however, that in many cases not involving a custody order, residential arrangements are negotiated by parents outside of the divorce proceedings; therefore, care should be taken in interpreting these statistics as representing all outcomes for children involved in divorce.

Among cases with a custody order, custody was granted to the wife in 60% of these cases, far ahead of joint custody to both husband and wife (30%) or to the husband only (10%).

Total divorce rates¹

	1998 divorces per 1,000 marriages at 30 years
Canada	361
Newfoundland	232
Prince Edward Island	264
Nova Scotia	282
New Brunswick	269
Quebec	452
Ontario	330
Manitoba	301
Saskatchewan	315
Alberta	390
British Columbia	400
Yukon	552
Northwest Territories	375

¹ The 30-year total divorce rate (TDR-30) represents the proportion of married couples who are expected to divorce before their 30th wedding anniversary. For example, a TDR-30 of 361 per 1,000 marriages for Canada in 1998 indicates that 36.1% of marriages are expected to end in divorce before the 30th year of marriage (if the duration-specific divorce rates calculated for 1998 remain stable).

Available on CANSIM: matrix 7.

The standard tables *Divorces, 1998* (84F0213XPB, \$20) are now available. To order this product or custom tabulations, call Client Services (613-951-1746), Health Statistics Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Patric Blouin (613-951-1670) or Leslie Geran (613-951-5243), Health Statistics Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Steel primary forms

Week ending September 23, 2000 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending September 23 totalled 268 111 tonnes, down 16.5% from 321 080 tonnes a week earlier and down 18.7% from 329 694 tonnes a year earlier. The year-to-date total at the end of the reference week was 12 384 643 tonnes, a 4.8% increase compared with 11 818 995 tonnes for the same period in 1999.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Julie Mayer (613-951-4924; mayerjul@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Asphalt roofing

August 2000

Production of asphalt shingles totalled 3 371 962 metric bundles in August, a 19.1% decrease from 4 169 922 metric bundles produced in August 1999.

Year-to-date production was 29 112 430 metric bundles, a 1.5% decrease from 29 542 760 metric bundles produced during the same period of 1999.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 32 and 122 (series 27).

The August 2000 issue of *Asphalt roofing* (45-001-XIB, \$5/\$47) 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 Sara Breen (613-951-3521; sara.breen@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Stocks of frozen meat products

September 2000

Total frozen red meat in cold storage at the opening of the first business day of September amounted to 54,767 tonnes, compared with 58,218 tonnes in August and 58,683 tonnes in September 1999.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 87 and 9518-9525.

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

For data enquires, please 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), Agriculture Division. ■

Cereals and oilseeds review

July 2000

Data from the July issue of the *Cereals and oilseeds review* are now available; this includes data on production, stocks, cash and futures prices, domestic processing, exports, farmers' deliveries and supply-disposition analyses.

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

Electric power selling price indexes

May to August 2000

Electric power selling price indexes (1992=100) are now available for May to August.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 1880.

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

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Denise Potvin (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539), Prices Division. ■

Airport activity statistics

1999 (preliminary)

Annual airport activity data for 1999 are now available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Rolf Hakka (613-951-0068), Transportation Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Stocks of frozen meat products, September 2000
Catalogue number 23-009-XIE
(Free).

Asphalt roofing, August 2000
Catalogue number 45-001-XIB (\$5/\$47).

Retail trade, July 2000
Catalogue number 63-005-XPB (\$21/\$206).

Divorces, 1998
Catalogue number 84F0213XPB (\$20).

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; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB are electronic versions on diskette and -XCD are electronic versions on compact disc.

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:

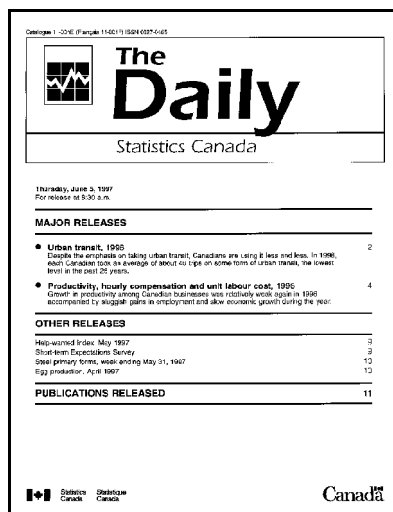
1-800-700-1033

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.



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 lstproc@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.