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MAJOR RELEASES

(continued on page 2)

Perspectives on labour and income

December 2001 online edition

The December 2001 issue of *Perspectives on labour and income*, available today, features an article examining the male–female earnings gap. The article does not attempt to provide a single, definitive estimate of the wage gap, rather it demonstrates the importance of measurement, decomposition techniques, and differences in the gap along the wage scale.

Also in this issue is a brief note (available as a free PDF file) that examines private pension savings in 1999.

For more information on "The male–female wage gap," contact Marie Drolet, (613-951-5691; *marie.drolet@statcan.ca*), Business and Labour Market Analysis Division.

For more information on "*Private pension savings, 1999*," contact Client Services (1 888 297-7355; 613-951-7355; *income@statcan.ca*), Income Statistics Division.

The December 2001 (Vol. 2, no. 12) online edition of *Perspectives on labour and income, Volume 2, number 12* (75-001-XIE, $5/$48) is now available. See *How to order products*. For more information, contact Henry Pold, (613-951-4608; *henry.pold@statcan.ca*), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

OTHER RELEASES

MAJOR RELEASES

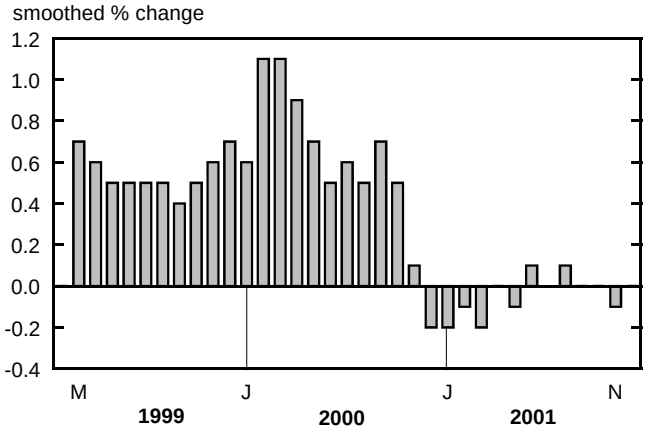
Composite Index

November 2001

The leading indicator edged down 0.1% in November, while the estimates for September and October were revised from 0.1% growth to no change. As a result, the leading index has levelled off in the second half of this year after trending down in the first half. In November, 7 of 10 index components fell—led by losses in manufacturing—while 2 were up and 1 was unchanged.

Manufacturing conditions worsened, as the impact of the events of September 11 aggravated already weak demand—especially in the resource and high-tech sectors. The drop in new orders for durable goods was one of the largest of seven straight declines. While shipment cuts deepened, manufacturing output could not keep pace with falling demand, and the ratio of shipments to inventories of finished goods continued to worsen. The slump spilled over into lower demand for labour, as the average work week posted its second straight slide.

Composite Index



Household demand remained uneven. Employment in services turned up 0.2% in November, led by a sharp rebound in the personal sector. The housing index edged down, but remained close to a 10-year high. Starts of single-family homes, which are steadier than the volatile multiple-units component, remain particularly strong. Conversely, weaker labour market conditions hampered sales of durable goods.

The trend of the U.S. leading index was flat, snapping five consecutive months of growth. Seven of the components fell, led by initial claims for unemployment insurance as labour market conditions have deteriorated rapidly since August. Job losses, as in Canada, were concentrated in manufacturing.

Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.

For more information on the economy, the December issue of *Canadian economic observer* (11-010-XPB, $23/$227) is available this week.

For more information, or to inquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Economic Analysis Group. □

Composite Index

	June 2001	July 2001	August 2001	September 2001	October 2001	November 2001	Last month of data available
							% change
Composite leading indicator (1992=100)	**166.1**	**166.1**	**166.3**	**166.3**	**166.3**	**166.2**	**-0.1**
Housing index (1992=100)[1]	107.5	107.4	109.2	109.2	111.0	110.5	-0.5
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,500	2,493	2,486	2,477	2,476	2,481	0.2
TSE 300 stock price index (1975=1,000)	7,906	7,829	7,787	7,565	7,310	7,248	-0.8
Money supply, M1 ($ millions, 1992)[2]	96,929	96,929	96,990	97,376	98,980	100,233	1.3
U.S. composite leading indicator (1992=100)[3]	107.1	107.2	107.4	107.6	107.7	107.7	0.0
Manufacturing							
Average workweek (hours)	38.9	39.0	39.0	39.0	38.9	38.8	-0.3
New orders, durables ($ millions, 1992)[4]	22,347	22,062	21,924	21,565	21,484	21,158	-1.5
Shipments/inventories of finished goods[4]	1.77	1.75	1.72	1.71	1.70	1.68	-0.02[5]
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales ($ millions, 1992)[4]	1,611	1,617	1,619	1,626	1,627	1,624	-0.1
Other durable goods sales ($ millions, 1992)[4]	7,140	7,177	7,174	7,202	7,211	7,132	-1.1
Unsmoothed composite	167.0	167.2	166.8	165.5	165.1	166.3	0.7

1 *Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).*
2 *Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.*
3 *The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.*
4 *The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for two preceding months.*
5 *Difference from previous month.*

■

Multifactor productivity

2000

The business sector recorded a 1.0% gain in multifactor productivity in 2000—the ninth consecutive annual increase.

From 1995 to 2000, the multifactor productivity of Canada's business sector grew at the same pace as that of its U.S. counterpart (+1.3%).

Multifactor productivity growth—the growth of output minus the growth of the combined inputs—is designed to measure the joint influences on economic growth of technological change, efficiency improvements, returns to scale and other factors. Multifactor productivity, therefore, differs from the labour productivity (growth of output minus growth of hours worked) that is published annually and quarterly by Statistics Canada. This is because multifactor productivity requires information on capital services and other data. The multifactor productivity data for the years 1981 to 2000, released today, reflect many revisions to the estimates of output and inputs.

Multifactor productivity data, incorporating those comprehensive revisions, now show that the productivity performance from 1995 to 2000 was more robust than previously reported. However, the underlying story is basically unchanged—productivity growth slowed during the early 1990s and has recovered since then.

The 1995–2000 performance occurred during the most rapid economic growth of output (+4.9%) and the combined inputs (+3.6%) seen in 20 years. That is, businesses substantially boosted their output growth, hours at work (+3.3%) and capital used (+4.2%).

Over the last 20 years, capital services have grown more rapidly than hours worked in the business sector (averages of +3.4% and +1.6%, respectively). The skills of workers as measured by their education and work experience have also risen over this period (+0.5% on average). These shifts toward more capital-intensive production and workers with more human capital have supplemented multifactor productivity growth. As a result, output per hour has usually grown at a faster rate than multifactor productivity (+1.4% compared with +0.5% on average).

The 1.0% rise in multifactor productivity in 2000 reflected a 5.2% increase in output and a 4.2% advance in the combined capital and labour inputs. By comparison, in 1999 the rate of increase was 6.0% in output and 4.2% in combined inputs—or a 1.9% rise in multifactor productivity.

Labour input in 2000 continued to grow faster than the 3.2% annual average seen over the 1990s. (The growth rate of labour input reflects the growth rate of hours worked, adjusted for the effects of changing labour quality.) In the early 1990s, labour input followed a pattern of small increases in hours worked and modest increases in labour quality. In 2000, however, labour input reflected a large increase in hours worked but small increases in labour quality—more workers with relatively lower marginal products were drawn into the workforce. Hours continued to be the principal source of labour input growth in 2000 and rose 3.7%—accounting for more than four-fifths of the increase in labour input, compared with less than three-fifths in 1995.

Both multifactor productivity and labour productivity slowed in 2000 compared with 1999. Labour productivity rose 1.5% in 2000, down from a 2.5% increase in 1999. Capital productivity (output per unit of capital services) advanced 1.1%, down from a 1.7% gain in 1999. Capital services per hour worked (a measure of capital deepening, or capital intensity) increased 0.3% in 2000—the lowest gain since 1995.

Capital services grew 4.0% in 2000, while hours worked rose 3.7%. Capital services and hours worked saw sustained rapid growth from 1995 to 2000, but they did not surpass the growth of the late eighties. In 1999 and 2000, the growth of the ratio of capital services to the number of hours worked dropped sharply, mainly as hours worked rebounded remarkably. This rebound reflects a falling unemployment rate in recent years.

Note to readers

This release presents multifactor productivity estimates and related data for the business sector. The business sector accounts for about 71% of gross domestic product (GDP) and includes all GDP except the output of government and the rental value of owner-occupied real estate.

The multifactor productivity estimates in this release reflect major changes in the methodology used to measure output and inputs. This will increase comparability between Statistics Canada's productivity data and those published by the U.S. Bureau of Labour Statistics. Output series now reflect the capitalization of software expenditures introduced by the Canadian System of National Accounts on May 31, 2001.

Statistics Canada has also introduced a new methodology for deriving estimates of capital and labour inputs. The new method recognizes that different categories of capital assets and types of workers have different productive characteristics. In the case of capital input, this means that tangible assets have different service lives, depreciation rates, tax treatments and, ultimately, different marginal products. The growth rates of the various capital assets are Fisher-chain-weighted by their corresponding rental prices.

Much like the new estimates of capital input, which capture substitution across asset classes, the new estimates of labour input incorporate substitution between various types of heterogeneous labour (e.g., workers cross-classified by age, education and experience). The growth rates of the different types of labour are Fisher-chain-weighted by their corresponding wages. A brief description of the new method for calculating growth in labour and capital inputs is available at (www.statcan.ca). Click on Statistical methods, followed by Methodology, then Productivity growth in Canada—Appendices.

Canada—U.S. resurgence in productivity growth

From 1981 to 1999, the most recent period for which U.S. multifactor productivity estimates are available, Canada's multifactor productivity grew an average 0.4%, compared with 0.9% in the United States. This productivity gap between the two countries largely stems from the relatively modest economic growth in Canada from 1981 to 1995. Canada's lacklustre 0.2% gain in multifactor productivity from 1981 to 1995 (compared with the U.S. rate of +0.7%) reflects a 2.4% increase in output (+3.3% in the United States) and a 2.2% increase in combined capital and labour inputs (+2.5% in the United States).

From 1995 to 1999, Canada's multifactor productivity grew at the same pace as its U.S. counterpart, 1.3%. This was a major improvement compared with the 1981–1995 period, when the United States outperformed Canada. Given the order of magnitude of the recent downward revisions to the more recent U.S. labour productivity figures, and the fact that the U.S. multifactor productivity estimates have not yet been revised, the post-1995 results will likely be in favour of Canada. The downward revision in the U.S. labour productivity numbers—which are not yet reflected in their multifactor productivity figures—is a cumulative 1.6 percentage points from 1998 to 2000.

The acceleration in multifactor productivity growth in Canada and the United States in the post-1995 period is perhaps the most remarkable feature of the data. During this period, multifactor productivity contributed to 25% of Canada's output growth and 27% of the United States'. This was a jump from 8.3% in the 1981–1995 period in Canada and a climb from 22% in the United States. Although the recent resurgence in multifactor productivity in both countries does not surpass the pre-1973 performance, it is certainly one of the most important economic facts of the end of the twentieth century.

Available on CANSIM: table 383-0001.

Contact *productivity.measures@statcan.ca* to order data. For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact John R. Baldwin (613-951-8588; *baldjoh@statcan.ca*) or Tarek M. Harchaoui (613-951-9856; *harctar@statcan.ca*), Micro-economic Analysis Division (fax: 613-951-5403).

Productivity and related data, business sector

	Compound average annual rates of growth				1997[p]	1998[p]	1999[p]	2000[p]
	1981 to 2000	1981 to 1988	1988 to 1995	1995 to 2000				
	%				% change			
Productivity								
Multifactor productivity[1]	0.5	0.5	0.0	1.2	1.6	0.9	1.9	1.0
Output per hour	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.7	2.5	2.1	2.5	1.5
Output per unit of capital services	-0.3	-0.2	-1.0	0.6	0.9	-0.1	1.7	1.1
Output	3.1	3.3	1.6	4.9	5.9	4.6	6.0	5.2
Inputs								
Labour input[2]	2.1	2.4	1.0	3.3	3.9	3.1	4.2	4.3
Hours	1.6	2.0	0.3	3.1	3.3	2.5	3.5	3.7
Labour composition[3]	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Capital services	3.4	3.5	2.6	4.2	4.9	4.8	4.2	4.0
Combined units of labour and capital inputs[4]	2.6	2.8	1.6	3.6	4.3	3.7	4.2	4.2
Analytic ratio								
Capital services per hour	1.7	1.5	2.4	1.1	1.6	2.2	0.7	0.3

p Preliminary estimates.
1 Output per unit of combined labour and capital inputs.
2 Index of Hours Worked; hours worked by education and experience group are weighted by each group's share of labour compensation.
3 Ratio of labour input to hours.
4 Labour Input Index combined with Capital Services Input Index, weighted by labour's and capital's share of nominal output.
Note: *Numbers may not add exactly due to rounding.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Inter-corporate ownership

Fourth quarter 2001

Of the more than 1 million incorporated businesses in Canada, the inter-corporate ownership database tracks the ownership of the largest corporations—currently numbering around 86,000. More than 83,000, or 97% of these, are controlled by G7 countries. The table below shows that Canadian-controlled corporations are in the majority (87%) in Canada, followed by those that are U.S.-controlled (8.5%).

G7 foreign ownership by country

G7 country	Number of corporations controlled
1 Canada	72,437
2 United States	7,050
3 United Kingdom	1,287
4 Germany	947
5 France	678
6 Japan	583
7 Italy	130
G7 total	**83,112**
All countries	85,926

The next table illustrates another dimension of the *Inter-corporate ownership on CD-ROM*. It provides a provincial snapshot of foreign control in Canada. The number of corporations controlled by owners in the United Kingdom are shown according to the location of the head office. Given Ontario's population and high level of industrial concentration, it is not surprising to see that most of the U.K.-controlled firms have their head offices in Ontario.

Province of head office of U.K.-controlled corporations

Head office location	Number of U.K.-controlled corporations
Ontario	749
Quebec	207
Alberta	125
British Columbia	122
Nova Scotia	28
Newfoundland	15
Saskatchewan	12
New Brunswick	10
Manitoba	10
Prince Edward Island	7
Northwest Territories	1
Yukon	0
Total	**1,286**

The inter-corporate ownership database provides up-to-date information reflecting recent corporate mergers and takeovers and other substantial changes for the largest Canadian corporations. Ultimate corporate control is determined through a careful study of holdings by corporations, the effects of options, insider holdings, convertible shares and interlocking directorships. This information is based on non-confidential returns filed by Canadian corporations under the *Corporations Returns Act*.

This is a unique database of "who owns whom" in Canada. It contains legal corporate name(s), the country of control, the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code, the province of the head office, the enterprise parent name and the percentage of voting rights owned. Users can search, sort, evaluate and download data by company name, company type, industry, province, country of ownership and more. It also allows the user to cross-tabulate a search by selecting a number of companies in a particular industry, the province of residence, country of control, or other variables.

The fourth quarter 2001 issue of *Inter-corporate ownership on CD-ROM* (61-517-XCB) is now available. An annual subscription with quarterly updates costs $995; a single copy without updates is $350. See *How to order products*.

For general information, or to oder data, contact Jeannine D'Angelo (613-951-2604; *jeannine.dangelo@statcan.ca*), Client Services. To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Stewart Taylor (613-951-6564; *taylste@statcan.ca*), Industrial Organization and Finance Division. ■

Dairy statistics

October 2001 (preliminary)

Consumers purchased almost 726 000 kilolitres of milk and cream during the first quarter of the 2001/02 dairy year, down 1.3% from the same period of the previous 2000/01 dairy year (a dairy year runs from August to July). Sales of milk have declined 1.7%, whereas cream sales were up 3.4%.

These data will appear in the October–December 2001 issue of *The dairy review* (electronic: 23-001-XIB, $27/$89; paper: 23-001-XPB, $36/$119), which will be released in February 2002. See *How to order products*.

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Anna Michalowska (613-951-2442 or 1 800 465-1991; fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division. ■

Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard

October 2001

Oriented strandboard production in October totalled 680 980 cubic metres, down 1.3% from 690 264 cubic metres in October 2000. Particleboard production reached 243 334 cubic metres, down 0.2% from 243 724 cubic metres in October 2000. Fibreboard production totalled 74 550 cubic metres, a 10.4% drop from 83 201 cubic metres in October 2000.

Year-to-date production of oriented strandboard to the end of October 2001 totalled 6 592 151 cubic metres, up 1.0% from 6 528 443 cubic metres in the same period of 2000. Particleboard production reached 2 394 767 cubic metres, up 12.7% from 2 124 344 cubic metres in the same period of 2000. Year-to-date fibreboard production reached 855 097 cubic metres, down 1.2% from 865 438 cubic metres during the same period of 2000.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0002.

The October 2001 (Vol. 37, no. 10) issue of *Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard* (36-003-XIB, $5/$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For general information, or to order data, contact the Dissemination Officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *manufact@statcan.ca*). 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. ■

Steel wire and specified wire products

October 2001

Shipments of steel wire and specified wire products totalled 64 980 metric tonnes in October 2001, up 8.8% from 59 751 tonnes in October 2000. Data on production and export markets for selected commodities are also now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0010.

The October 2001 (Vol. 56, no. 10) issue of *Steel wire and specified wire products* (41-006-XIB, $5/$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For general information, or to order data, contact the Dissemination Officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *manufact@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact David Routliffe (613-951-4925; *david.routliffe@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Steel pipe and tubing

October 2001

Steel pipe and tubing production for October totalled 241 334 metric tonnes, an 2.6% increase from 235 178 tonnes a year earlier.

Year-to-date production to the end of October 2001 totalled 2 240 581 tonnes, a 0.3% increase from 2 234 329 tonnes during the same period in 2000.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0003.

The October 2001 (Vol. 25, no. 10) issue of *Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing* (41-011-XIB, $5/$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For general information, or to order data, contact the Dissemination Officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *manufact@statcan.ca*). To inquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Dragos Ifrim (613-951-3527; *dragos.ifrim@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

For-hire motor carriers of freight, top carriers

Third quarter 2001

In the third quarter, the top 82 for-hire motor carriers of freight (Canada-based trucking companies earning $25 million or more annually) generated operating revenues of $1.75 billion. Average revenue per carrier increased 2% to $21.40 million, while average expenses rose only 1% to $20.17 million.

At 0.94, the top for-hire carriers' operating ratio—operating expenses divided by operating revenues—improved from the third quarter of 2000 (0.95). A ratio of greater than 1.00 represents an operating loss.

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. ■

Employer pension plans (trusteed pension funds)

Second quarter 2001

In the second quarter, the market value of the assets of trusteed pension funds declined 2.0% to $568.6 billion. This marked the third successive quarterly decline from the peak value of $610.0 billion reached in the third quarter of 2000. The drop in value reflects the drop in stock prices, since trusteed pension funds are heavily invested in stock markets. From the closing of the third quarter of 2000 to the closing of the second quarter of 2001, the TSE 300 Composite Index lost 34% of its value.

Private-sector fund managers reported a negative cash flow for a second consecutive quarter. However, net income for all trusteed pension funds totalled $2.8 billion, a 20.5% drop from the first quarter of 2001. The first quarter's net income was already down 80.6 % from the fourth quarter of 2000.

Net income was very high throughout 2000. These high net income levels were the direct result of large profits made from the sale of stocks at a time when their market values were much higher than the prices the funds originally paid for them. The greatly reduced net income posted in the first two quarters of 2001 was primarily a result of reduced profits on the sale of stocks. These lower profits are likely the consequence of a switch from a profit-taking strategy to one of buy and hold.

This publication provides data on the revenues, expenditures and assets of employer-sponsored pension plans as of June 30, 2001. It also contains a time series and an analysis that relates changes in the data to financial indicators.

Available on CANSIM: table 280-0001.

The second quarter 2001 (Vol. 29, no, 2) issue of *Quarterly estimates of trusteed pension funds* (electronic: 74-001-XIB, $14/$47; paper: 74-001-XPB, $19/$62) is now available. See *How to order products*.

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

Information and communications technologies

2000

The rapidly evolving information and communications technology (ICT) sector contributed $57.5 billion to gross domestic product last year. That $57.5 billion accounted for 7.3% of the business sector's GDP, according to a new comprehensive statistical profile of the ICT sector—defined as the combination of manufacturing and services industries that electronically capture, transmit and display data and information.

Economic output in the ICT sector climbed a remarkable 68.7% between 1997 and 2000. This was more than four times the growth rate of the total business sector (+16.1%), and nearly five times the growth in the total economy (+13.8%).

The ICT sector employed 469,000 people in 1999, accounting for 3.9% of economy-wide employment that year. Employment between 1994 and 1999 grew 32.5%—more than three times the job-growth rate of the entire economy (+9.9%).

Revenues in the sector reached $89.6 billion in 1999 (not including ICT wholesaling), or 4.5% of total industry revenues.

Trade also grew at a remarkable pace: exports more than doubled and imports nearly doubled between 1994 and 2000. In 2000, the ICT sector's exports of goods and services totalled $42.4 billion, accounting for 9.6% of total exports. Imports reached $63.8 billion, accounting for 16.5% of the total. The ICT sector's spending on research and development reached $5.0 billion in 2000, accounting for 45.7% of total private-sector spending on research and development.

Produced under Statistics Canada's Connectedness program, *Information and Communications Technologies in Canada* examines the growth and performance of the ICT sector on the basis of such variables as economic output, employment, exports, imports, revenues and research and development. Statistics Canada's first quantification of the ICT sector appeared in the compendium *Networked Canada* (56-504-XIE, free), which appeared in April 2001. *Information and communications technologies in Canada* updates those estimates with the most recent data. It also improves the industrial coverage and presents an in-depth analysis of the sector.

Information and communications technologies in Canada (56-506-XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website (*www.statcan.ca*). From

Products and services, click on *Free publications*, then *Communications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Heidi Ertl (613-951-1891) or Chantal Vaillancourt (613-951-5067), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

Food services and drinking places
1999

Revenues for the food services industry grew in 1999 by 8.2 % to $30.5 billion. Limited-service restaurants registered the largest growth rate with a 10.4 % increase in revenues. Drinking places had the second highest growth rate at 8.2 %, followed by full-service restaurants at 7.4 %. The special food services industry—includes food contractors, social caterers and mobile food services—had a relatively flat growth rate of 2.5 %.

The industry's profit margin also improved in 1999, rising from 4.2 % in 1998 to 5.1%.

Data for 1999 are now available on the food services and drinking places industry, which comprises full-service restaurants, limited-service restaurants, special food services and drinking places.

Available on CANSIM: table 355-0004.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Daphne Bennett (613-951-3472; *daphne.bennett@statcan*), Service Industries Division ■

Real estate rental and leasing and property management industries
1999

In 1999, revenue for the real estate rental and leasing industries and the property management service industries increased by 22% to total $37.9 billion. The non-residential sector accounted for more than 55% of that total revenue, at $20.8 billion, followed by the residential sector with 39% of the total revenue, or $14.7 billion. Property management posted 6% of total revenue, at $2.4 billion.

Total expenses reached $30.1 billion, an increase of 16% from 1998. Mortgage interest and property taxes were the two major expenses items, with each accounting for 16% of the total expenses.

Data on the real estate rental and leasing industries and property management service industries are now available for 1999. The industries comprise lessors of residential buildings (excluding social housing), non-residential buildings, self-storage mini-warehouses and other real estate property, as well as property managers. These data provide information such as revenue, expenses, salaries and wages and profit before income tax at the provincial and territorial level

Available on CANSIM: table 352-0003.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Jean Hamilton (613-951-7358; *hamijea@statcan.ca*) or Francine Monette (613-951-0240; *francinemonette@statcan.ca*), Service Industries Division. ■

The male-female wage gap: what do the various estimates mean?
1997

This article, released today in the online edition of *Perspectives on labour and income*, shows that the gap in earnings between men and women is sensitive to the choice of measurement and statistical method. The article discusses this topic using data from the 1997 Survey of Labour Income and Dynamics.

Men's and women's earnings are compared using a range of statistics, including annual earnings, earnings of full-year, full-time workers and hourly wages. The article shows that, in order to understand the meaning of these comparisons, one must consider three main facts. First, women work much fewer annual hours than men. Second, they have less labour market experience than men have. Third, other factors such as education level and major field contribute to the pay difference between men and women.

For instance, the average annual earnings of women were 61.6% of men's average annual earnings. Meanwhile, pay rates—as measured by hourly wages—show that women earned 80.4% of what men did on average. However, this ratio does not account for any differences in work experience, occupation, industry, education level and major field of study. When these factors are taken into account, women's average hourly wage was 89.4% of the men's average.

In addition to the measurement of the gap, conclusions are often sensitive to the researcher's choice of methodology. Most studies examine the average pay differential and assume that the size and components of the wage gap are constant along the whole wage distribution. However, such a method fails

to accurately represent the differences encountered along the wage distribution.

As well, questions are often framed in a manner that examines the extent to which women are paid the same as comparable men. Most studies use the male pay structure to make comparisons. However, alternative pay structures can be used—estimates of the unexplained portion of the gap range from 39% to 94%.

The analytical article "The male-female wage gap" is available in the December 2001 edition. For more information on the article, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Marie Drolet (613-951-5691; *marie.drolet@statcan.ca*), Business and Labour Market Analysis Division.

The December 2001 (Vol. 2, no. 12) online edition of *Perspectives on labour and income* (75-001-XIE, $5/$48) is now available. For more information, contact Henry Pold, (613-951-4608; *henry.pold@statcan.ca*), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboad, Vol. 37, no. 10, October 2001
Catalogue number 36-003-XIB ($5/$47).

Steel wire and specified wire products, Vol. 56, no. 10, October 2001
Catalogue number 41-006-XIB ($5/$47).

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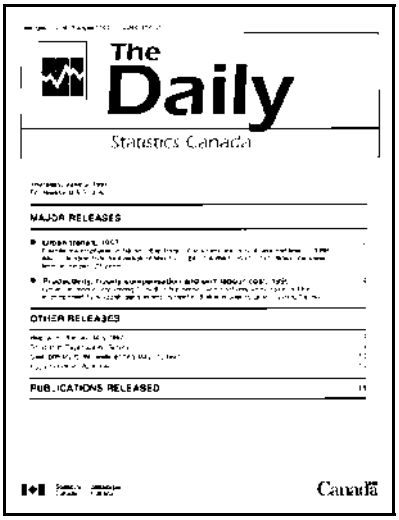
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