



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Monday, February 12, 2001**

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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There are no major releases today.

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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## OTHER RELEASES

### New Housing Price Index

December 2000

The price of new homes continues to increase at a strong rate. The New Housing Price Index, an index of contractors' selling prices, rose 2.4% in December compared with the same month of 1999. The index (1992=100) was 104.4 in December, up from 102.0 in December 1999.

### New Housing Price Index (1992=100)

	Dec. 2000	Dec. 1999 to Dec. 2000	Nov. to Dec. 2000
	% change		
<b>Canada total</b>	<b>104.4</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>0.1</b>
House only	106.6	3.0	0.1
Land only	103.2	0.9	0.1
St. John's	99.5	3.5	-
Halifax	116.7	2.9	-
Charlottetown	106.7	1.4	-0.1
Saint John–Moncton– Fredericton	93.4	-1.3	0.4
Québec	102.9	2.1	-
Montréal	110.6	4.3	-
Ottawa–Hull	116.1	12.9	1.4
Toronto	107.8	2.3	0.2
Hamilton	106.3	1.5	-
St. Catharines– Niagara	107.0	1.5	-0.3
Kitchener–Waterloo	107.7	4.4	0.3
London	102.4	3.0	-
Windsor	106.5	0.5	-
Sudbury–Thunder Bay	97.1	-1.7	-0.3
Winnipeg	118.1	1.8	-
Regina	132.7	1.6	-
Saskatoon	117.7	2.7	0.3
Calgary	133.1	1.5	-
Edmonton	112.2	1.0	-
Vancouver	82.9	-1.1	-0.4
Victoria	72.1	-1.4	-

- Nil or zero.

Annual changes varied considerably among the urban centres surveyed. The census metropolitan area of Ottawa-Hull recorded the highest annual increase, 12.9%, followed by Kitchener-Waterloo (+4.4%), Montréal (+4.3%) and St. John's, Nfld (+3.5%). Sudbury-Thunder Bay registered the largest year-over-year decline (-1.7%).

On a monthly basis, the CMA of Ottawa-Hull posted the highest increase from November (+1.4%) in the wake of strong demand, as well as higher prices for building materials, labour and land.

On a monthly basis, the index rose 0.1% in December, compared with a 0.4% increase in November.

Monthly increases were recorded in 5 of the 21 urban centres surveyed. The combined New Brunswick centres of Saint John–Moncton–Fredericton posted a 0.4% increase, following a monthly decrease in November. In both Kitchener–Waterloo and Saskatoon, the index rose 0.3% on a monthly basis, mostly as a result of higher prices for building materials and labour.

Monthly declines occurred in 4 of the 21 urban centres; the largest was in Vancouver (-0.4%). Twelve urban centres registered no change.

### Available on CANSIM: matrix 9921.

The fourth quarter 2000 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in March. 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; [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)), Prices Division. ■

### Biotechnology Use and Development Survey 1999

Data from the 1999 Biotechnology Use and Development Survey are now available. The survey examined how biotechnologies were developed and used in Canada's industrial sector during fiscal 1999. This release provides estimates for firms involved in developing new products and processes using biotechnologies.

There were 361 biotechnology firms in 1999; just over 40% of them were concentrated in the human health sector, 25% were in the agriculture sector and 10% were in the environment sector.

Of the firms surveyed, 75% were small (those with 50 or fewer employees), 14% were medium-sized (51 to 150 employees) and 11% were large (151 or more employees). The latter group accounted for more than 70% of biotechnology revenues and 60% of biotechnology research and development.

Biotechnology revenues exceeded \$1.9 billion in 1999, an increase of almost \$400 million, or 25%, over 1998 revenues. Biotechnology firms expect their revenues to exceed \$5 billion in 2002. In 1999, Ontario firms had \$635 million in biotechnology revenues, followed by Quebec (\$554 million).

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Biotechnology revenues contributed 8% of the more than \$24 billion in total revenues earned by firms engaged in biotechnology.

Biotechnology research and development expenditures were \$832 million in 1999, up 16% from \$699 million in 1998. Firms expect to spend almost \$1.5 billion in 2002 on biotechnology research and development.

Quebec had the largest expenditures on biotechnology research and development (\$337 million), followed by Ontario (\$222 million) and British Columbia (\$137 million). Firms in Quebec and British Columbia expect to almost double biotechnology research and development spending in 2002, and spending in Ontario is expected to increase almost 60%.

The 1999 Biotechnology Use and Development Survey was conducted as part of a project to develop biotechnology statistics and was funded under the Canadian Biotechnology Strategy. Several departments and agencies provided important inputs at various stages of the survey. They are: Industry Canada, the Canadian Biotechnology Secretariat, Agriculture Canada, the National Research Council, the Canadian Institutes for Health Research, Natural Resources Canada, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Health Canada, and Environment Canada.

**Note:** These estimates are derived from the 1999 Biotechnology Use and Development Survey. The survey was administered to a sample of 3,377 firms in selected North American Industry Classification System industries in Canada's industrial sector identified as having the potential to use biotechnologies. The response rate was 66%. Results were weighted to reflect the entire count of firms in the selected industry sectors. This data release reflects only those firms that reported the development of new products and processes using biotechnologies. Data on firms using biotechnologies in day-to-day operations will be published at later date.

To request data tables, for more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Chuck McNiven (613-951-1233; [chuck.mcniven@statcan.ca](mailto:chuck.mcniven@statcan.ca)), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

## Oils and fats

December 2000

Production of all types of deodorized oils totalled 91 769 metric tonnes in December, a decrease of 7.6% from 99 318 tonnes in November. Year-to-date production for all of 2000 was 1 149 636 tonnes, up 2.3% from 1 124 007 tonnes in the same period of 1999.

In December, domestic sales of deodorized margarine oil totalled 9 573 tonnes; sales of deodorized shortening oil were 27 728 tonnes; and deodorized salad oil sales were 25 358 tonnes.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 185.**

The December 2000 issue of *Oils and fats* (32-006-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511; [zylspet@statcan.ca](mailto:zylspet@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## Restaurants, caterers and taverns

December 2000

Estimated total receipts of restaurants, caterers and taverns for December were \$2.64 billion, an increase of 8.8% over the December 1999 estimate.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 62.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts methods or data quality of this release, contact Bill Birbeck (613-951-3506), Service Industries Division. ■

## Personal and laundry services

1998

Data on personal and laundry services (NAICS 812) are now available for 1998. The data will be available on CANSIM at a later date.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean-Pierre Goudreau (613-951-5276) or Peter Bailie (613-951-0122), Service Industries Division. ■

**Accounting and bookkeeping services**

1998

Data on accounting and bookkeeping services (NAICS 5412) for 1998 are now available. The statistics will be available on CANSIM at a later date.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, please contact Randy Smadella, (613 951-3472; [randy.smadella@statcan.ca](mailto:randy.smadella@statcan.ca)), Service Industries Division. ■

## NEW PRODUCTS

**Supply and disposition of crude oil and natural gas,**  
October 2000  
Catalogue number **26-006-XPB** (\$19/\$186).

**Oils and fats,** December 2000  
Catalogue number **32-006-XIB** (\$5/\$47).

**Employment, earnings and hours,** November 2000  
Catalogue number **72-002-XPB** (\$32/\$320).

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.

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