



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, May 23, 2001

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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NEW PRODUCTS

Perspectives on labour and income

May 2001 online edition

The May 2001 issue of *Perspectives on labour and income*, available today, contains an article on the use of computers at work. Who uses them, what for, how often and how did they learn to use them?

For more information on "Working with computers," contact Katherine Marshall (613-951-6890; katherine.marshall@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

The May 2001 online edition of *Perspectives on labour and income*, Volume 2, number 5 (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

Natural gas sales

March 2001 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales totalled 7 144 million cubic metres in March, down 1.4% from March 2000. Sales to the industrial sector (including direct sales) fell 8.5% compared with March 2000, largely because of lower demand for natural gas by electric utilities and the chemical industry. Nearly offsetting this decrease were higher sales to the residential (+11.4%) and commercial (+6.4%) sectors. Residential and commercial sales increased due to colder-than-normal temperatures throughout most of Canada.

Natural gas sales

	March 2001 ^P	March 2000	March 2000 to March 2001 % change
	thousands of cubic metres		
Natural gas sales	7 144 002	7 242 114	-1.4
Residential	1 852 998	1 663 667	11.4
Commercial	1 331 230	1 251 011	6.4
Industrial	1 574 235	1 932 531	-8.5
Direct	2 385 539	2 394 905	
	Year-to-date		
			2000 to 2001
	2001 ^P	2000	
	thousands of cubic metres		
Natural gas sales	23 007 616	24 472 212	-6.0
Residential	6 263 281	6 327 830	-1.0
Commercial	4 417 491	4 475 313	-1.3
Industrial	5 000 146	5 898 383	-9.8
Direct	7 326 698	7 770 686	

^P Preliminary figures.

Year-to-date sales dropped 6.0% from the same period in 2000. Sales to the residential (-1.0%) and commercial (-1.3%) sectors decreased owing to milder weather in January and February. Decreased demand by the industrial sector (including direct sales) led to a 9.8% decline compared with the same period in 2000.

Available on CANSIM: tables 1290001-1290004 and matrices 1052-1055.

The March 2001 issue of *Natural gas transportation and distribution* (55-002-XIB, \$13/\$125) will be available in June. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gary Smalldridge (613-951-3567; gary.smalldridge@statcan.ca) or Tom Lewis (613-951-3596; tom.lewis@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Working with computers

2000

More than one-half of all workers in Canada now use a computer on the job, according to an article released today in *Perspectives on labour and income*.

Data from the General Social Survey, on which the article is based, show that an estimated 8.3 million workers, or 57% of the total employed, used a computer at their main job in 2000, compared with 33% in 1989. The vast majority, some 6.4 million, or almost 80%, worked at their computer every day.

Women were more likely to use a computer at work, in both 2000 and in 1989. Last year, about 60% of women used a computer at work, compared with 38% a decade earlier. Some 54% of men did so last year, up from 32%.

Computer use varied widely across the workplace. Workers were more likely to use a computer at work if they were under 55, had a high level of education or income, worked full-time or were in a high-skill or a clerical occupation.

While only 41% of workers with a high-school education worked at a computer, 85% of those with a university degree did so. Only 36% of individuals with an annual income of less than \$20,000 used a computer at work, compared with 80% of those with an income of \$60,000 or more.

On-the-job training was the most common employer-sponsored method of acquiring computer skills for both public- and private-sector employees. The largest difference between the two sectors was in classroom training: about 68% of public employees had taken formal training in the classroom, compared with 53% of those in the private sector.

The May 2001 online edition of *Perspectives on labour and income*, Vol. 2, no. 5, (75-001-XIE, \$5/\$48), 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 Katherine Marshall (613-951-6890;

marskat@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division. ■

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation

April 2001

Manufacturers shipped 2 667 622 square metres of R12 factor (RSI 2.1) mineral wool batts in April, up 11.2% from 2 399 803 square metres in March and up 21.7% from 2 192 837 square metres in April 2000.

Year-to-date shipments to the end of April totalled 10 013 267 square metres, a 25.8% increase from the same period in 2000.

Available on CANSIM: table 3030004 and matrices 40 and 122 (series 32 and 33).

The April 2001 issue of *Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation*, Vol. 53, no. 4 (44-004-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 Yasmin Sheikh (613-951-2518; sheiyas@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard

March 2001

Oriented strandboard production totalled 626 196 cubic metres in March, down 7.4% from 676 252 cubic metres in March 2000. Particleboard production reached 255 442 cubic metres, an increase of 23.1% from 207 545 cubic metres in March 2000. Fibreboard production totalled 80 312 cubic metres, down 8.8% from 88 091 cubic metres in March 2000.

Year-to-date oriented strandboard production to the end of March totalled 1 931 282 cubic metres, a 1.9% decrease from 1 968 542 cubic metres for the same period in 2000. Year-to-date particleboard production was 691 589 cubic metres, up 16.7% from 592 428 cubic metres in the same period of 2000. Year-to-date fibreboard production reached 234 598 cubic metres, down 15.9% from 278 838 cubic metres during the same period in 2000.

Available on CANSIM: table 3030002 and matrices 31 (series 2, 3 and 5) and 122 (series 8).

The March 2001 issue of *Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard*, Vol. 37, no. 3 (36-003-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 ■

Deaths

1998

A female born in 1998 could still expect to live, on average, longer than a male, but the gap in life expectancy between the sexes continues to close, according to the latest vital statistics.

Life expectancy at birth, a key indicator of a population's health status, reached record highs for both sexes in 1998. Men, on average, could expect to live 76.1 years, up 0.3 years from 1997. However, women's life expectancy at birth reached 81.5 years, up only 0.1 years.

This gap in life expectancies between the sexes has been narrowing over the last two decades. The gap was widest in 1981, when women could expect to live 7.1 years longer than men. By 1998, the difference was down to 5.5 years.

In 1998, the mortality gap between the sexes was largest in New Brunswick, 6.3 years, and the smallest in Prince Edward Island, 4.9 years.

The number of deaths continues to rise each year because the population is growing and aging. In 1998, a total of 218,091 individuals died, up 1.1% from 1997. Among men, there were 113,007 deaths, a 0.9% increase; among women, there were 105,084 deaths, up 1.4%.

Death rates remained stable in the 10 years before 1998. The crude mortality rate (number of deaths per 1,000 population) was 7.2 per 1,000 in 1998, unchanged from 1997, and only slightly higher than 7.1 in 1988.

The rate of infant mortality (the death of children under the age of 1) declined to 5.3 deaths for every 1,000 live births in 1998, compared with 5.5 in 1997 and 7.2 in 1988. A total of 1,811 children under the age of 1 died in 1998.

The highest infant mortality rate occurred in Northwest Territories (which then included Nunavut), 18.5 deaths per 1,000 live births. Over the last 40 years, however, rates in the territories have been falling faster than in other parts of Canada. For example, the rate for Northwest Territories (including Nunavut) from 1961 to 1965 was 92.9 deaths per 1,000 live births, compared with 25.8 in the rest of Canada. Although regional disparities in infant mortality have been reduced, they have not been eliminated.

Life expectancy at birth¹ 1998

	Males	Females	Both sexes
Canada	76.1	81.5	78.8
Newfoundland	74.8	80.1	77.4
Prince Edward Island	75.0	79.9	77.5
Nova Scotia	75.1	80.4	77.8
New Brunswick	74.9	81.1	78.0
Quebec	75.3	81.3	78.4
Ontario	76.6	81.6	79.2
Manitoba	75.2	80.8	78.0
Saskatchewan	75.6	81.6	78.5
Alberta	76.4	81.9	79.1
British Columbia	77.0	82.1	79.5
Yukon	73.4	78.7	75.9
Northwest Territories (including Nunavut)	70.3	75.9	72.9

¹ Life expectancies are calculated using Greville's method and 1998 mortality data. Year-over-year changes in life expectancy at birth should be interpreted with caution, particularly for Prince Edward Island, Yukon, and Northwest Territories, given the small number of deaths involved. Life expectancy differences by sex used in the text are based on unrounded numbers.

The shelf tables *Deaths*, 1998 (84F0211XPB, \$20) are now available. To order this product or custom tabulations, call Client Services (613-951-1746), Health Statistics Division. Additional shelf tables from the mortality database, *Leading causes of death at different ages*, 1998 (84F0503XPB, \$20); *Mortality, summary list of causes*, 1998 (84F0209XIB, free; 84F0209XPB, \$20); and *Causes of death*, 1998 (84F0208XPB, \$20) will be available soon.

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

contact Leslie Geran (613-951-5243), Health Statistics Division. ■

Annual Survey of Manufacturers 1999

The Annual Survey of Manufacturers provides information on over 250 different industries. Data for the industries listed in the following tables are now available for Canada.

Available on CANSIM: table 3010003 and matrices 11623, 11624, 11685, 11686, 11689, 11690, 11692, 11693, 11705, 11706, 11712, 11713, 11716, 11717, 11735, 11737, 11742, 11772, 11775, 11790, and 11806.

Data for the industries listed in the table will appear in *Manufacturing industries of Canada: National and provincial areas* (31-203-XPB, \$68). See *How to order products*. Industry review papers are available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Research papers (free)*, then *Manufacturing*.

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

Value of shipments

Industry	North American Industry Classification System	1998	1999	1998 to 1999	Matrix
		\$ millions		% change	
Industry					
Flour milling	311211	993.5	979.1	-1.4	11623
Rice milling and malt manufacturing	311214	341.0	363.4	6.6	11624
Breweries	312120	3,431.5	3,948.3	15.1	11686
Distilleries	312140	969.3	940.5	-3.0	11690
Tobacco stemming and redrying	312210	436.7	392.0	-10.2	11693
Nonwoven fabric mills	313230	305.3	313.8	2.8	11706
Fabric coating	313320	256.3	264.4	3.1	11713
Carpet and rug mills	314110	919.2	966.8	5.2	11717
Men's and boys' cut and sew underwear and nightwear manufacturing	315221	44.3	67.8	53.2	11735
Men's and boys' cut and sew shirt manufacturing	315226	518.0	434.9	-16.0	11737
Women's and girls' cut and sew blouse and shirt manufacturing	315232	141.9	138.7	-2.2	11742
Softwood veneer and plywood mills	321212	962.1	1,203.7	25.1	11772
Waferboard mills	321217	1,425.2	2,119.3	48.7	11775
Chemical pulp mills	322112	5,799.0	6,356.5	9.6	11790
Sanitary paper product manufacturing	322291	1,033.6	931.6	-9.9	11806

Deliveries of major grains

April 2001

Data on April grain deliveries are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 10001 and matrices 976-981.

The April 2001 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XIB, \$11/\$112; 22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149) will be available in July. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Susan Anderson (613-951-3859; sue.anderson@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard,
March 2001, Vol. 37, no. 3
Catalogue number 36-003-XIB (\$5/\$47).

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation,
April 2001, Vol. 53, no. 4
Catalogue number 44-004-XIB (\$5/\$47).

Retail trade, March 2001
Catalogue number 63-005-XIB (\$16/\$155).

Wholesale trade, March 2001
Catalogue number 63-008-XIB (\$14/\$140).

Perspectives on labour and income, May 2001,
Vol. 2, no. 5
Catalogue number 75-001-XIE (\$5/\$48).

Deaths, 1998
Catalogue number 84F0211XPB (\$20).

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

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are getting it less and less. In 1995, about 10 million took an average of about 10 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 relatively weak again in 1995 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 8
- **Steel primary forms, season ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, April 1997** 13

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