



# Infomat

## A Weekly Review

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Friday, October 16, 1998

### OVERVIEW

#### ◆ Unemployment rate remains unchanged

Despite higher employment in September, an increase in the size of the labour force kept the unemployment rate at the same level as in August.

#### ◆ Significant rebound for the housing sector

Residential building intentions gained steam in August for the first time in five months.

#### ◆ Spending on tourism in Canada up strongly

Spending on tourism activities in Canada rose markedly in all the major spending categories in the second quarter.

#### ◆ Department store sales showing volatility

Department store sales fell in August following an advance in July.

#### ◆ Growth rate of the population slows

Canada's population growth rate has slowed to less than 1% for the first time since 1986.

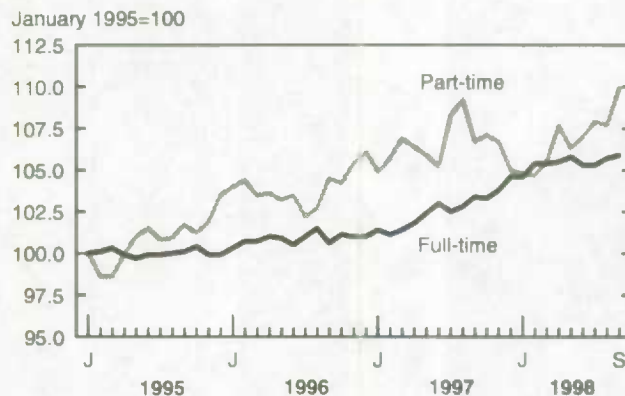
### Unemployment rate remains unchanged

**E**mployment rose an estimated 73,000 in September. Much of the increase was in part-time employment. So far this year, employment has grown by 264,000 or 1.9%, slightly slower than the 2.1% growth observed over the same period last year. Despite September's increase in jobs, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 8.3% because of an increase in the size of the labour force.

September's strong increase in part-time employment (+55,000) brings the total gain since the start of the year to 121,000 (+4.6%). Full-time employment increased slightly in September (+18,000) following a gain of 42,000 in August. Since the start of the year, full-time employment has grown by 1.2%.

Youths aged 15 to 24 accounted for more than half of the overall job growth in September. Youth employment rose by 43,000 — the third consecutive monthly increase. September's increase, contrary to those of July and August, was mostly in part-time employment (+40,000). Among adult women aged 25 and over, employment grew by 21,000 in September — all in part-time work. The job gains so far this year for adult women total 112,000 (+2.1%). In contrast, employment among adult men was little changed in September. So far this year, employment among adult men has risen only 0.8%.

#### Index of full-time and part-time employment



(continued on page 2)

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Disponible aussi sur le site INTERNET et  
INTRANET (prolique) de StatCanStatistics  
CanadaStatistique  
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Canada

### ... Unemployment rate remains unchanged

The number employed in the public sector climbed by 44,000 in September, with the gain spread in health and social services, education, and in transportation, communications and other utilities. After edging down in August, the number of private sector employees was little changed in September. Self-employment rose by 22,000 — the third consecutive monthly increase. This continues the upward trend that began in April.

Employment in business and personal services jumped by 84,000 in September, mainly in Ontario. Employment in health and social services climbed by 17,000, continuing the growth that began almost a year earlier. Employment rose by 14,000 in the finance, insurance and real estate industry. However, despite this gain, employment in the industry is down by 21,000 so far this year.

Manufacturing employment fell by 53,000, the largest of three consecutive monthly losses. Over this period, the majority of the job losses have been in non-durables manufacturing. More than half of September's decline was in Quebec. In the mining, quarrying and oil wells industry, employment fell in September by 13,000 jobs. The drop in commodity prices may explain the decreased activity in this industry and the decline in employment there since the start of the year (-22,000).

Among the provinces in September, employment in Ontario jumped by 62,000. This first significant increase since April was

concentrated in business and personal services. The job growth was accompanied by a strong increase in the size of the labour force. In Newfoundland, employment increased by 4,000, partially offsetting the sizeable loss of 12,000 between July and August. Employment in New Brunswick rose by 3,000 for a second consecutive month, so that the jobless rate there was down from August.

In Quebec, employment remained unchanged, following a gain over the preceding two months. A slight dip in the size of the labour force in the province caused the unemployment rate to edge down in the province. Employment was also little changed in British Columbia in September; however, since the beginning of the year, employment has grown by 2.1% (+38,000). In Alberta, little change in employment and an increase in labour force participation brought the unemployment rate up to 6.2%; the rate had been below 6% since April 1997. In the other provinces, the labour market situation was little changed in September.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 3450-3471, 3483-3502 and table 00799999.**

**Labour force information, for the week ending September 19, 1998 (71-001-PPB, \$11/\$103) is now available. For further information, contact Deborah Sunter (613-951-4740), Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750), Household Surveys Division. See also "Current trends" on page 8.**

**Labour Force Survey, September 1998<sup>1</sup>**  
Seasonally adjusted

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	rate (%)
<b>Canada</b>	<b>15,680.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>14,379.2</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1,301.2</b>	<b>8.3</b>
Newfoundland	239.0	1.8	194.6	2.2	44.4	18.6
Prince Edward Island	71.1	1.3	61.1	0.7	10.0	14.1
Nova Scotia	451.7	0.4	400.3	-0.4	51.3	11.4
New Brunswick	366.9	0.6	324.3	1.0	42.6	11.6
Quebec	3,724.3	-0.2	3,342.6	0.1	381.7	10.2
Ontario	6,068.0	1.1	5,634.6	1.1	433.4	7.1
Manitoba	582.8	0.1	547.3	-0.4	35.6	6.1
Saskatchewan	508.2	-0.6	476.4	-0.3	31.7	6.2
Alberta	1,624.1	0.5	1,522.6	-0.3	101.5	6.2
British Columbia	2,044.4	0.2	1,875.4	0.6	169.0	8.3

<sup>1</sup> Data are for both sexes aged 15 and over.



## Significant rebound for the housing sector

Residential building intentions gained steam in August for the first time in five months. Municipalities issued \$1.5 billion worth of building permits for housing in August, up 6.4% from July, while the value of non-residential permits fell 1.3% to \$1.4 billion. This significant rebound for the housing sector was due mostly to permits for single-family dwellings, which increased 7.8% to \$1.1 billion. Prior to August, single-family dwelling permits had been hit particularly hard this year, declining five times in seven months. Single-family dwellings represent about 70% of the residential sector. The multi-family component recorded a more modest 2.7% increase over July rising to \$394 million.

The value of building permits increased in August for all components except industrial construction. Overall, municipalities issued \$2.9 billion in permits in August, up 2.5% from July and the third consecutive monthly increase. The total value of permits issued so far in 1998 stands at \$22.5 billion, 12.5% ahead of the first eight months of 1997. The increases on the residential side brought the total value of housing permits since the start of 1998 to \$11.9 billion, only 2.3% less than the first eight months of 1997, which was the strongest year since 1990.

Some indicators lend encouragement to the view that housing is headed for a rebound. For example, in Ontario — the biggest housing market in Canada — a halt to strikes in the construction industry and a low inventory of new houses should spark activity. Low interest rates, stable housing prices and an upturn in employment in July and August should also play a role. These positive indications are reflected in the resale figures for existing houses and in new housing starts. August's sales of existing houses (reported by the Canadian Real Estate Association) were 2.6% higher than in August 1997, and the total for the year so far is the second highest in 10 years. On the new construction side, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) reported an 11.7% rebound in new housing starts in August following four consecutive monthly declines. The CMHC also expects housing starts to remain unchanged in 1998 compared with 1997 (the strongest year for housing starts in the last four years). Moreover, CMHC expects starts to be slightly higher in 1999.

The increase in residential intentions in British Columbia was the highest since June 1996, due mostly to major plans for condominiums and apartment buildings in Vancouver. Nova Scotia recorded its best increase in four months due to apartment building projects in the Halifax area. Quebec's increase resulted from intentions for single-family dwellings, which more than offset a second monthly decline in the value of permits for multi-family dwellings.

Alberta's decline in residential permits was due to a drop in multi-residential construction plans. In Newfoundland and in the Northwest Territories, both residential components were responsible for the sharp drops. However, these declines followed strong activity in the multi-family component in July.

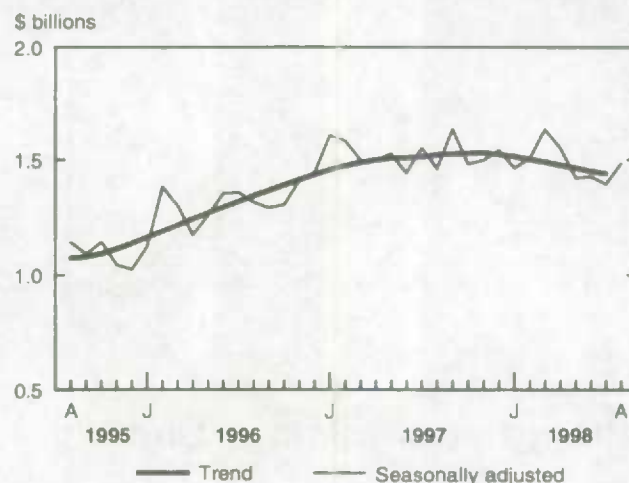
The picture is still positive for the non-residential sector despite August's decline. During the first eight months of the year, the total value of non-residential building permits reached \$10.7 billion, 35.4% higher than in the same period of 1997. Statistics Canada's most recent Private and Public Investment Survey reported high levels of planned private and public investment for 1998.

However, the value of permits for industrial construction, which reached their highest level of the year in July, tumbled

### Note to readers

The monthly Building and Demolitions Permits Survey covers 2,600 municipalities and represents 94% of the population. It is an early indicator of building activity. The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (waterworks, sewers, culverts etc.) and land. Unless otherwise stated, the data are seasonally adjusted.

### Value of building permits in the residential sector



20.9% in August to \$317 million. Most of the drop came from a decline in plans for factories and plants, which more than offset an increase for utilities and transportation buildings. Nevertheless, the cumulative value for industrial building permits during the first eight months of 1998 reached \$2.8 billion, 31.2% ahead of the same period in 1997.

The industrial sector was the only one to decline in August. The most significant increase was in the commercial component (+6.9% to \$796 million). It was the third consecutive increase and the third highest level of 1998. Most of the activity came from plans for offices and recreational buildings. Since the start of 1998, commercial intentions total \$5.5 billion, 36.9% ahead of the same period in 1997.

Institutional construction plans increased 5.5% to \$280 million, most of it for hospitals and institutions such as nursing homes and daycare centres. This brought the institutional permits total in 1998 to \$2.4 billion, 37.1% growth compared with the first eight months of 1997.

The largest monthly increase in the non-residential sector was in Ontario, due mostly to major industrial projects. This brought the year's total to \$4.3 billion, up 33.3% from the same period of 1997. August's declines in Alberta, British Columbia and Quebec came after a relatively strong July.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 80 (levels 3-7 and 33-48), 129, 137, 443, 989-992, 994, 995 and 4073.**

The August 1998 issue of **Building permits** (64-001-XIB, \$19/\$186) is now available via the Internet at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca). For further information, contact Joanne Bureau (613-951-9689; [burejoa@statcan.ca](mailto:burejoa@statcan.ca)) or Alain Paquet (613-951-2025; [paquala@statcan.ca](mailto:paquala@statcan.ca)), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

(continued on page 4)

## ... Significant rebound for the housing sector

**Building permits, August 1998**  
Seasonally adjusted

	Total		Residential		Non-residential	
	\$ millions	% change, previous month	\$ millions	% change, previous month	\$ millions	% change, previous month
<b>Canada</b>	<b>2,876.2</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1,482.7</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>1,393.5</b>	<b>-1.3</b>
Newfoundland	18.6	-15.5	9.0	-36.2	9.6	22.2
Prince Edward Island	10.7	-11.3	5.8	32.1	4.9	-36.2
Nova Scotia	58.8	0.7	37.2	41.1	21.5	-32.7
New Brunswick	58.0	7.7	21.7	-3.9	36.3	16.1
Quebec	455.6	-8.9	229.4	5.9	226.2	-20.2
Ontario	1,182.9	18.2	606.8	1.6	576.2	42.8
Manitoba	78.9	9.1	27.6	0.6	51.3	14.3
Saskatchewan	59.9	40.6	26.8	53.1	33.1	31.9
Alberta	465.0	-17.6	236.5	-6.4	228.5	-26.7
British Columbia	474.7	4.0	275.6	38.2	199.2	-22.6
Yukon	3.6	-23.1	1.8	-17.0	1.8	-28.4
Northwest Territories	9.4	-45.4	4.4	-66.9	5.0	28.7

**Note:** Data may not add to totals due to rounding. Some percentage changes should be interpreted with caution because of the small numbers involved.

## Spending on tourism in Canada up strongly

The amount of money spent on tourism in Canada reached \$11.5 billion during the second quarter of 1998, a 7.6% jump from a year earlier. Strong spending by American visitors more than offset lower expenditures by visitors from countries other than the United States. Spending rose markedly in all major categories (transportation, accommodation, and food and beverages).

Non-residents spent \$3.9 billion of the total, up 15%, and accounted for more than 60% of the increase in total tourism spending. One of every three dollars spent on tourism in the country came from non-residents — a record for a second quarter. Spending by Canadians on tourism within Canada reached \$7.6 billion, up 4.3% from the second quarter in 1997. Outlays for air transportation showed the strongest increase at 8.9%. Domestic spending on tourism, adjusted for inflation and seasonal factors, grew by 1.3% compared with the previous quarter.

The persistent weakness of the Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar, combined with favourable economic conditions in the United States, contributed to producing the lowest second-quarter travel deficit in 10 years. The number of same-day trips from the United States advanced 2.7% in the quarter, continuing an upward trend that began in 1994. The more expensive overnight trips jumped 11.2%, almost double the increase seen in the first quarter. (The first quarter's data on non-residents' expenditures on tourism in Canada were revised upward substantially after survey data on the characteristics of international travellers showed that American residents stayed longer in Canada and spent more per trip.)

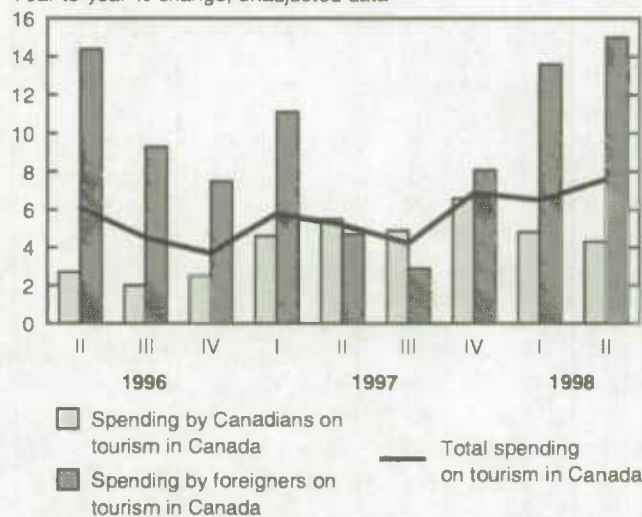
Conversely, because the value of the Canadian dollar rose against several other currencies in the second quarter, the number of visitors from countries other than the United States dropped 6%. In particular, the second quarter saw the fifth consecutive substantial decline in the number of visitors from the Asia/Pacific region. After adjusting for inflation and seasonal factors, the

### Note to readers

Unless otherwise noted, the data are unadjusted for seasonal factors and are expressed at current prices.

### Spending on tourism in Canada

Year-to-year % change, unadjusted data



amount that non-residents spent on tourism in Canada rose 2.4%, compared with a 5.8% increase in the first quarter. In the first half of 1998, prices for accommodation increased faster than prices for other categories of things that tourists spend money on.

The number of Canadians visiting the United States dropped by 10.2% compared with the second quarter of 1997. Again, the weakness of the Canadian dollar was a major factor. By contrast, Canadians made more trips to other countries (+6.5%).

(continued on page 5)



### ... Spending on tourism in Canada up strongly

The employment generated by tourism activities reached 527,000 jobs in the second quarter, up 2.8% from a year earlier. An 11.2% quarterly increase in employment in the air transport industry has been sustained since 1996. Seasonally adjusted, employment in tourism activities registered its seventh consecutive

quarterly increase (+0.4%), while overall business sector employment grew 0.8%.

*The second quarter 1998 issue of National tourism indicators (13-009-XPB, \$21/\$70) is now available. For further information, contact Katharine Kemp (613 951-3814) or Jacques Delisle (613-951-3796), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.*

## Department store sales showing volatility

Department store sales fell 1.7% in August to \$1,393.2 million (seasonally adjusted). This decline followed a 4.9% advance in July. After posting gains in the first three months of 1998, department store sales fell in each of the next five months with the exception of July. Sales have been volatile since the second quarter of 1998.

The recent closure or conversion of a number of department stores may have contributed to the sales volatility. In August, consumers had 64 fewer department stores to shop in than they did in March 1998, which marked the last peak in seasonally

adjusted department store sales. The number of department stores decreased in all provinces, with the greatest losses in Ontario (-27) and British Columbia (-11). The remaining provinces each lost between 1 and 6 stores.

Unadjusted for seasonality, sales in August were down from August 1997 levels in British Columbia (-6.3%), New Brunswick (-4.8%) and Nova Scotia (-0.6%). The largest year-over-year sales gains were posted in Saskatchewan (+5.5%), Alberta (+5.2%) and Manitoba (+4.7%).

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 111-113.**

*For further information, contact Jeff Fritzsche (613-951-2812; fritjef@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.*

### Department store sales including concessions

Not seasonally adjusted

	August 1998	August 1997 to August 1998	January-August 1998	January-August 1997 to January-August 1998
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>1,346.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>9,590.4</b>	<b>7.6</b>
Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island <sup>1</sup>	26.2	0.5	172.3	7.6
Nova Scotia	42.3	-0.6	288.5	7.3
New Brunswick	32.0	-4.8	214.3	6.5
Quebec	248.5	2.3	1,792.1	7.5
Ontario	558.0	0.8	4,028.2	8.4
Manitoba	57.0	4.7	403.8	8.2
Saskatchewan	46.3	5.5	321.2	9.7
Alberta	164.9	5.2	1,128.6	12.2
British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories	170.9	-6.3	1,241.4	0.8

<sup>1</sup> For reasons of confidentiality, the data for Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island are combined, as are the data for British Columbia, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

## Growth rate of the population slows

On July 1, 1998, Canada's population reached an estimated 30,300,400, an increase of 296,500 persons from the same date in 1997. This increase represents a growth rate of just under 1% — the first time since 1986 that the population has risen by less than 1%. By comparison, the population increased 1.1% between July 1, 1996, and July 1, 1997. The slowdown in the growth rate during 1997/98 was due to fewer births and fewer immigrants who settled in Canada.

The population increased during 1997/98 in only six provinces: Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Except for Alberta, however, all these provinces had slower population growth rates. For most provinces, interprovincial migration was a major factor behind the population changes in 1997/98, when an estimated 358,800 people migrated from one province to another. That was up 1.6% from the previous year.

### Note to readers

*These are preliminary population estimates for Canada, the provinces and territories as of July 1, 1998. For the purposes of this report, the reference date for every year is July 1.*

*These data are the first estimates based on the 1996 Census counts and adjustments for people who were missed in the Census (undercoverage), and those who were enumerated more than once, or enumerated when they should not have been (overcoverage). The difference between the two is referred to as the "net undercoverage".*

Interprovincial migration to Alberta was the highest in almost two decades, as the province's population grew 2.7%, compared with 2.0% in 1996/97. Alberta was one of only two provinces — Ontario was the other — to record a net inflow of people from

*(continued on page 6)*

### ... Growth rate of the population slows

other provinces and territories. Moreover, the net migration to Alberta from other provinces and territories was similar to the peak reached during the oil boom in 1980. In 1997/98, an estimated 46,800 more people moved into Alberta than moved out, compared with 24,700 during 1996/97. About 36% of those migrants to Alberta came from British Columbia, another 18% moved there from Ontario and 15% were from Saskatchewan.

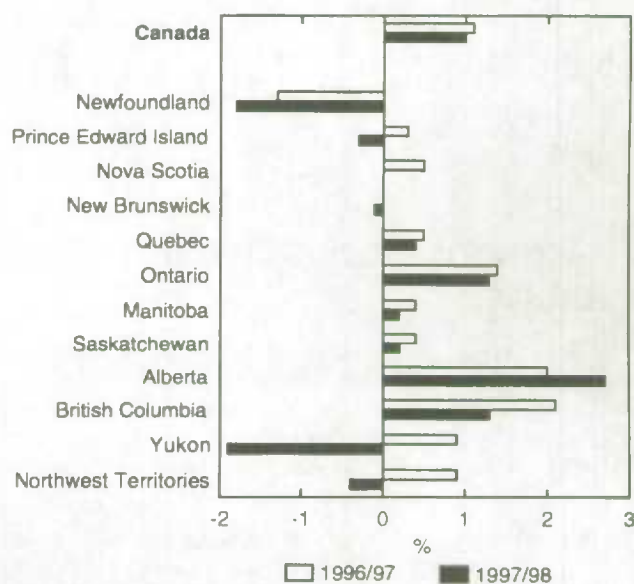
British Columbia's population increased by 1.3%, compared with 2.1% the year before. This significant slowdown occurred because fewer immigrants chose to settle there and because the province, which had strong net inflows through interprovincial migration in the early 1990s, experienced its first net outflow since 1985/86. During 1997/98, an estimated 4,200 more people moved out of British Columbia than moved in. Meanwhile, slower growth rates in Manitoba and Saskatchewan were due to the fact that more people moved out of those provinces in 1997/98 than moved in.

Ontario's population as of July 1, 1998 was up 1.3%, which compares with a growth rate of 1.4% the previous year. This slowdown occurred because Ontario's net inflow from the other provinces was more than offset by a decrease in the number of immigrants to the province. During 1997/98, Ontario recorded a net inflow of 6,700 from other provinces, compared with a net outflow of 4,800 the year before. About one in three (33%) of the migrants to Ontario came from Quebec, while 18% arrived from British Columbia. Quebec's marginally slower growth rate of 0.4%, compared with 0.5% the year before, was due to a decline in the number of births.

All four Atlantic provinces lost population in 1997/98, almost entirely because of interprovincial migration as all four experienced net outflows to other provinces. It was the second decline in 10 years for Prince Edward Island. For Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the decrease was marginal. The decrease in Newfoundland's population was the fifth consecutive annual decline and the largest. Since 1993, Newfoundland's population has shrunk 6.4%.

The major factor behind population declines in both territories was higher net outflow of internal migrants. The proposed new northern territory of Nunavut will be officially created on April 1,

### Population growth rates



**Note:** The reference date for each year is July 1.

1999, when the Northwest Territories is divided into two. Nunavut's population has been estimated using the 1991 and 1996 censuses adjusted for net undercoverage. In 1996, the population of Nunavut would have been 25,600, an increase of 16.0% from 1991. This compares with an increase of 5.9% for Canada's population during the same time period. The Western region, which has not yet been named, would have had a population of 41,900 in 1996, up 8.6% from 1991.

**Available on CANSIM:** matrices 1-6, 397, 5731, 5772-5779, 6470, 6471, 6516 and 6981; tables 10102, 20104 and 40102.

For further information, contact Daniel Larrivée (613-951-0694), or François Nault (613-951-9582), Demography Division. For more information on other demographic estimates, contact Lise Champagne (613-951-2320), Demography Division.

### Population estimates as of July 1<sup>1</sup>

	1986	1996	1997	1998	1997 to 1998
					% change
		'000			
<b>Canada</b>	<b>26,100.6</b>	<b>29,671.9</b>	<b>30,004.0</b>	<b>30,300.4</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Newfoundland	576.5	560.6	553.2	543.2	-1.8
Prince Edward Island	128.4	136.2	136.6	136.2	-0.3
Nova Scotia	889.3	931.2	936.3	936.1	0.0
New Brunswick	725.1	753.0	753.3	752.4	-0.1
Quebec	6,708.4	7,274.0	7,308.4	7,334.1	0.4
Ontario	9,437.8	11,100.9	11,253.6	11,404.8	1.3
Manitoba	1,091.7	1,134.3	1,138.9	1,141.0	0.2
Saskatchewan	1,029.3	1,019.5	1,023.4	1,025.6	0.2
Alberta	2,430.9	2,780.6	2,836.2	2,913.4	2.7
British Columbia	3,004.1	3,882.0	3,963.7	4,014.3	1.3
Yukon	24.5	31.9	32.2	31.6	-1.8
Northwest Territories	54.7	67.6	68.2	67.9	-0.5

<sup>1</sup> Independently rounded to the nearest hundred.



## New from Statistics Canada



### Canada Year Book 1999

Statistics Canada has just released the 1999 *Canada Year Book*. Containing 15 chapters on the social, economic and cultural life of Canada, this edition provides 280 tables, charts and graphs with the latest socio-economic statistics available on Canada, including data from the 1996 Census. This edition also features the works of some of Canada's finest photographers, portraying many aspects of the nation through some 120 photographs.

The *Canada Year Book* is one of Canada's oldest and most reliable reference sources. First published in 1867, it provides an on-going record of life in Canada, with factual data and analytical observations about the trends and developments characterizing our national life.

The 1999 edition of *Canada Year Book* (11-402-XPE, \$54.95) is now available. The CD-ROM version will be available in early 1999. For further information, contact Jonina Wood (613-951-1114), Communications Division.

### Rural and small town population is growing in the 1990s 1976 to 1996

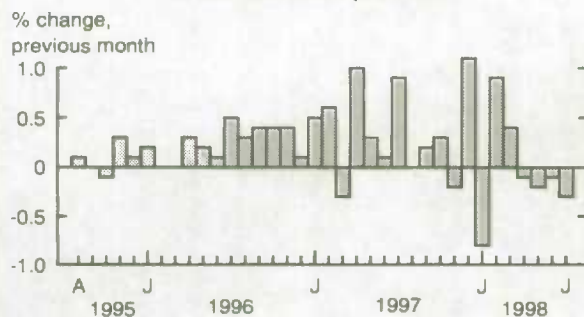
Today, Statistics Canada launches the first bulletin in an occasional series that will document trends in rural Canada. The series is a collaboration of Statistics Canada and the Rural Secretariat of Agriculture and Agri-food Canada.

This first bulletin, *Rural and small town population is growing in the 1990s*, shows that Canada's rural and small town population (defined as the population outside the commuting zones of larger urban centres) has grown in each intercensal period since 1976. However, the share of the population in rural and small town areas has declined from 34% in 1976 to 22% in 1996.

*Rural and small town population is growing in the 1990s* (21-006-XPB, free) is now available in print and on the Internet (21-006-XIE, free) at Statistics Canada's web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). For further information, contact Robert Mendelson (613-951-5385 or 1 800 465-1991; fax: 613-951-0569; [mendrob@statcan.ca](mailto:mendrob@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. Statistics Canada has also established a rural data advisory line for sub-provincial data. Phone your nearest Regional Reference Centre at 1 800 263-1136.

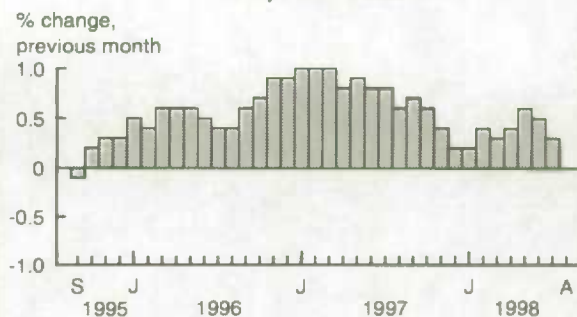
## Current trends

### Gross domestic product



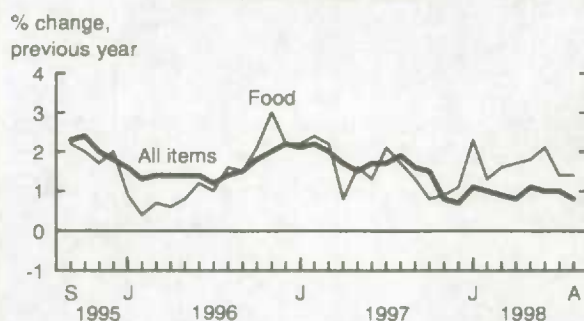
Economic activity edged down for a fourth consecutive month in July, falling by 0.3%.

### Composite Index



The leading indicator continued to slow gradually from its high so far this year of 0.6% in May to no growth in August.

### Consumer Price Index



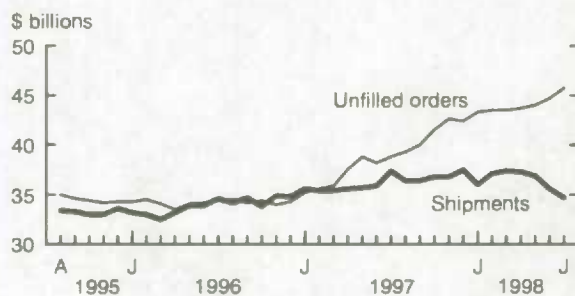
Consumers paid 0.8% more for goods and services in August 1998 than they did a year earlier. Food prices rose 1.4%.

### Unemployment rate



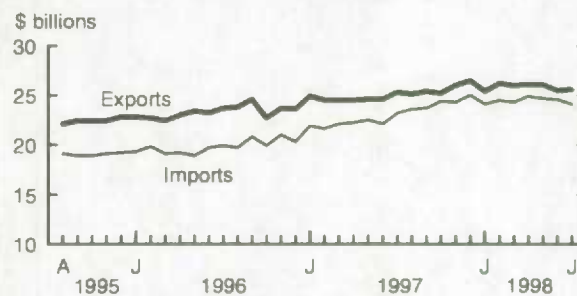
In September, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 8.3%.

### Manufacturing



Manufacturers' shipments fell 2.4% in July to \$34.7 billion. The level of unfilled orders increased 2.3% to \$45.7 billion.

### Merchandise trade



In July, the value of merchandise exports inched up 0.6% from June to \$25.6 billion. Imports fell 2.1% to \$24.1 billion.

**Note:** All series are seasonally adjusted except the Consumer Price Index.



## Latest monthly statistics

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
<b>GENERAL</b>				
Gross domestic product (\$ billion, 1992)	July	705.1	- 0.3%	1.1%
Composite Index (1981=100)	August	207.3	0.0%	4.6%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billion)	Q2 1998	25.7	- 4.6%	- 4.3%
Capacity utilization (%)	Q2 1998	85.6	- 0.1†	1.3†
<b>DOMESTIC DEMAND</b>				
Retail trade (\$ billion)	July	20.7	- 1.4%	4.1%
New motor vehicle sales (thousand of units)	August*	120.1	- 1.2%	- 0.6%
<b>LABOUR</b>				
Employment (millions)	September*	14.38	0.5%	2.5%
Unemployment rate (%)	September*	8.3	0.0†	- 0.7†
Participation rate (%)	September*	65.2	0.3†	0.3†
Labour income (\$ billion)	June	38.2	- 0.2%	3.1%
Average weekly earnings (\$)	July	609.14	- 0.5%	1.6%
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>				
Merchandise exports (\$ billion)	July	25.6	0.6%	1.3%
Merchandise imports (\$ billion)	July	24.1	- 2.0%	3.6%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billion)	July	1.5	0.0	- 0.6
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>				
Shipments (\$ billion)	July	34.7	- 2.4%	- 7.0%
New orders (\$ billion)	July	35.8	- 1.4%	- 5.9%
Unfilled orders (\$ billion)	July	45.7	2.3%	17.7%
Inventory/shipments ratio	July	1.42	0.04	0.18
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	August	108.8	0.0%	0.8%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	August	120.1	0.5%	0.1%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	August	106.6	- 0.7%	- 15.8%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	August*	100.2	0.0%	1.0%

*Note: All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of the price indexes.*

\* new this week

† percentage point

## Infomat

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			Canada (C\$)	Outside Canada (US\$)
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>				
Field crop reporting series no. 7: Estimates of production of principal field crops, Canada	September 1998	22-002-XPB	15/88	15/88
Rural and small town population is growing in the 1990s				
Internet		21-006-XIE	Free	Free
Paper		21-006-XPB	Free	Free
<b>HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS</b>				
Labour force information, week ending September 19, 1998	September 1998	71-001-PPB	11/103	11/103
<b>INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE</b>				
Quarterly financial statistics for enterprises	Second quarter 1998	61-008-XPB	35/114	35/114
<b>INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK</b>				
Building permits	August 1998	64-001-XIB	19/186	19/186
<b>LABOUR</b>				
Employment, earnings and hours	July 1998	72-002-XPB	32/320	32/320
Quarterly estimates of trustee pension funds	First quarter 1998	74-001-XPB	19/62	19/62
<b>MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY</b>				
Coal and coke statistics	July 1998	45-002-XPB	12/114	12/114
Electric power statistics	July 1998	57-001-XPB	12/114	12/114
Natural gas transportation and distribution	1997	57-205-XPB	30	30
Oil pipeline transport	July 1998	55-001-XPB	12/114	12/114
Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products	1997	55-201-XPB	25	25
Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing	August 1998	41-011-XPB	7/62	7/62
Steel wire and specified wire products	August 1998	41-006-XPB	7/62	7/62
<b>SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY REDESIGN PROJECT</b>				
Science statistics service bulletin: Total spending on R & D in Canada (1987 to 1998) and the provinces (1987 to 1996)	Vol. 22, no. 5	88-001-XIB	6/59	6/59

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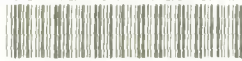
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