



# Infommat

*A Weekly Review*

Friday, January 18, 2002

## OVERVIEW

### ◆ Jobless rate at highest level in nearly three years

Canada's unemployment rate surged half a percentage point to 8.0% in December, its highest level since April 1999. Employment in manufacturing fell 6,000, bringing total losses in 2001 to 111,000, the largest year-over-year decline since 1991.

### ◆ New motor vehicle sales surge

Boosted by widespread manufacturers' incentives, sales of new motor vehicles reached their second highest level since 1976.

### ◆ Building permits at highest level in 11 months

The value of building permits jumped 7.1% in November to just over \$3.5 billion, the highest level since the beginning of 2001.

### ◆ Record jump in foreign holdings of Canadian bonds

Foreign investors increased their holdings of Canadian bonds a record \$14.3 billion in October, after a major divestment of \$7.0 billion in September.

### ◆ Gains in labour productivity have slowed considerably

Labour productivity in the business sector was up only 0.3% in the third quarter of 2001 compared with the same quarter in 2000, considerably below the average annual rate of 1.7% between 1995 and 2000.

### ◆ Violent crime rates lower in Canada than in the U.S.

In the past 20 years, Canada recorded much lower rates of violent crime than the United States. However, rates

## Jobless rate at highest level in nearly three years

Canada's unemployment rate surged to 8.0% in December, its highest level since April 1999.

The rate jumped from 7.5% the month before, as employment declined by 18,000 and 68,000 new people joined the labour force to look for work. The rate finished the year 1.1 percentage points higher than the 2001 low of 6.9% in January and February.

Job losses in December were widespread across the economy, including manufacturing, retail and wholesale trade, agriculture, and transportation and warehousing. Employment in manufacturing fell 6,000, bringing total losses in 2001 to 111,000, the largest year-over-year drop since 1991. The decline was concentrated in computer and electronic products.

In retail and wholesale trade, employment declined by 16,000. Despite the loss, this sector gained 76,000 jobs in 2001, the largest advance of any sector.

**Labour Force Survey, December 2001**  
Seasonally adjusted<sup>1</sup>

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	rate (%)
<b>Canada</b>	<b>16,409.8</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>15,091.4</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>1,318.4</b>	<b>8.0</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	258.2	2.6	214.4	1.7	43.9	17.0
Prince Edward Island	75.8	-0.1	66.3	-0.6	9.4	12.4
Nova Scotia	475.3	0.3	427.6	-0.7	47.7	10.0
New Brunswick	380.2	0.2	336.9	0.3	43.3	11.4
Quebec	3,862.6	0.6	3,486.8	-0.3	375.8	9.7
Ontario	6,416.2	0.1	5,970.6	0.0	445.6	6.9
Manitoba	593.2	-0.1	565.5	0.2	27.7	4.7
Saskatchewan	496.8	0.0	465.9	-0.3	30.9	6.2
Alberta	1,733.2	0.7	1,644.2	0.1	89.0	5.1
British Columbia	2,118.4	0.7	1,913.3	-0.6	205.0	9.7

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

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### ... Jobless rate at highest level in nearly three years

Agricultural employment slid 10,000, continuing a downward trend that began in 1999. By the end of 2001, farm employment was down 35,000, or 10.0%. The transportation sector and warehousing sector lost 5,000 jobs in December, bringing the job losses during the year to 42,000. These were mainly in truck and air transportation. These declines were related to lower manufacturing activity and cutbacks in the airline industry.

Accommodation and food services added 14,000 jobs, bringing gains in 2001 to 26,000, or a 2.7% increase.

December's employment decline was mostly among adult men working full-time (-21,000). Among adult women, employment changed little. However, higher labour force participation pushed their unemployment rate up from 6.1% to 6.4%.

Employment among youths fell by 5,000, leaving losses during 2001 at 44,000 (-1.9%), a sharp contrast to the rise of 95,000 (+4.2%) in 2000. The youth unemployment rate rose from 13.7% to 14.0% in December, up 1.5 percentage points from December 2000.

Self-employment fell 34,000 in December, ending the year down 83,000 (-3.5%). This was the second consecutive year in which self-employment declined. Just under 2.3 million people were self-employed at the end of the year.

Employment fell in Quebec by 11,000 due to losses in manufacturing and an increase in labour force participation, which pushed the unemployment rate from 8.9% to 9.7%. The decline in December left employment gains in 2001 at 35,000 (+1.0%), all full-time jobs.

In British Columbia, employment decreased 11,000, bringing losses since the start of 2001 to 59,000 (-3.0%). The employment decline was accompanied by an increase in labour force participation, driving the unemployment rate from 8.5% to 9.7%. Many of the losses in 2001 were in forestry and logging, and wood products manufacturing. Employment edged down by 3,000 in Nova Scotia, where the unemployment rate rose from 9.2% to 10.0%.

In Ontario, employment was little changed in December. In 2001, manufacturing saw large losses (-81,000). However, these were offset by gains in several other industries, the largest in retail and wholesale trade (+41,000). With little change in employment in 2001, Ontario's unemployment rate ended the year at 6.9% in December, up from 6.0% in December 2000.

Although employment in Alberta changed little, an increase in the number of people seeking work pushed the unemployment rate from 4.6% to 5.1%.

Employment rose 4,000 in Newfoundland and Labrador, but the unemployment rate advanced from 16.2% to 17.0% due to increased labour force participation. The employment and unemployment rates changed little in the other provinces.

See **Labour force information for the week ending December 8** (Internet: 71-001-PIB, \$8/\$78; paper: 71-001-PPB, \$11/\$103). To order data, contact the Client Services Unit (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750) or Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325), Labour Statistics Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 8.)

## New motor vehicle sales surge

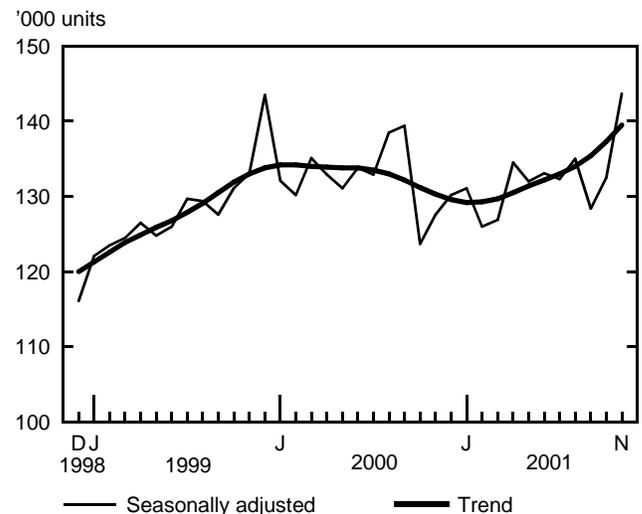
**B**oosted by widespread manufacturers' incentives, new motor vehicle sales surged 8.5% in November, after advancing 2.9% in October. In all, 143,730 new vehicles rolled out of dealers' showrooms in November, up 11,272 from October. Truck sales accounted for two-thirds of the increase.

November's rise was the largest monthly increase since the 10.4% gain in February 1998, when sales were recovering from the effects of that winter's ice storm. November's gain was also the second consecutive monthly increase.

The number of new vehicles sold in November was the second highest monthly result since 1976. The highest result was in December 1997, when 145,708 vehicles were sold, also with the help of attractive financing rates. In November 2001, strong sales were due largely to major incentives, such as the 0% financing introduced by some manufacturers, combined with existing incentives.

Incentives offered by automakers, especially in November, appear to have induced consumers to buy more trucks. In November, 66,996 new trucks were purchased, up a significant 13.1% from October, and the largest monthly figure since December 1997. Considering the high average price of trucks, the incentives offered by manufacturers may have brought more of these vehicles into the price range of consumers. In addition, the

### New motor vehicle sales



0% financing was offered primarily by the "Big Three" automakers, which hold the majority of the market share for trucks. For most of 2001, truck sales were generally stable, rising sharply in November to capture 46.6% of the market.

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### ... New motor vehicle sales surge

In November, dealers sold 76,734 new passenger cars, up 4.8% from October. This increase, which followed a 2.9% rise in October, is attributable to both North American-built cars, which advanced 5.0%, and overseas-built passenger cars, which rose 4.3%. The increase for overseas-built cars is sizeable, as most of the incentive programs were for cars built in North America.

New motor vehicle sales advanced in all provinces in November. The strongest gains were in Saskatchewan (+14.1%), and in Nova

Scotia (+11.1%). In Ontario, where purchases of new motor vehicles account for about 40% of the national market, sales advanced 9.7%. This was Ontario's strongest monthly gain in the last four years.

*The November 2001 issue of New motor vehicle sales (Internet: 63-007-XIB, \$13/\$124) is now available. To order data, or for general information, contact Client Services (1 877 421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Cl rance Kimanyi (613-951-6363; clerance.kimanyi@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.*

## Building permits at highest level in 11 months

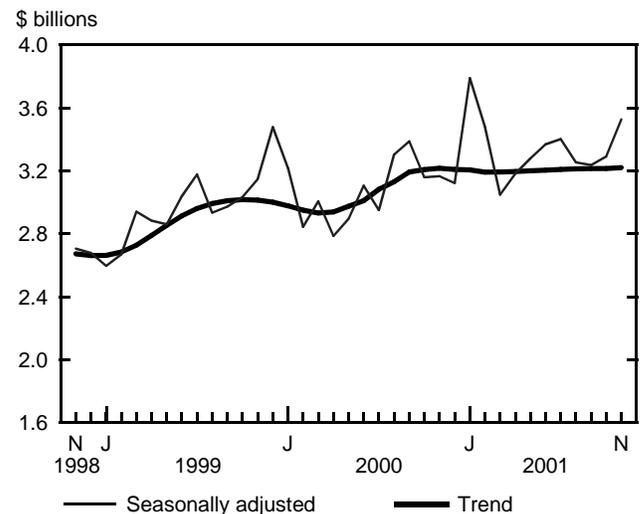
**S**trong construction intentions in both the housing and non-residential sectors increased the monthly level of building permits by 7.1% in November to just over \$3.5 billion. November was only the second month in the last decade in which building permits amounted to more than \$3.5 billion.

Construction intentions in the housing sector hit \$2.0 billion, up 6.6% from October and the best monthly performance since

### Value of building permits by census metropolitan area Seasonally adjusted

	November 2001	October to November 2001	January to November 2001	January- November 2000 to January- November 2001
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
St. John's	18.2	25.2	170.3	5.7
Halifax	20.8	61.5	289.9	-37.4
Saint John	5.7	-28.6	74.7	-17.2
Chicoutimi-Jonquiere	7.2	60.5	160.2	38.9
Qu�bec	55.1	-7.1	627.5	26.0
Sherbrooke	12.3	30.4	130.9	9.3
Trois-Rivi�res	10.5	43.0	104.1	-5.4
Montr�al	409.4	5.0	3,986.7	34.4
Hull	18.6	27.6	325.7	12.7
Ottawa	116.4	-8.4	1,328.5	-3.0
Oshawa	48.9	-31.8	531.1	-13.0
Toronto	751.2	11.1	7,804.9	1.4
Hamilton	77.2	26.9	787.6	17.9
St. Catharines-Niagara	19.3	-38.0	366.3	-21.3
Kitchener	106.4	26.4	918.1	28.4
London	68.4	35.4	644.9	60.7
Windsor	51.6	18.4	515.3	5.8
Sudbury	44.4	238.2	113.5	57.4
Thunder Bay	3.7	-59.4	92.7	6.2
Winnipeg	40.9	15.1	395.9	-19.0
Regina	18.0	69.5	201.0	52.1
Saskatoon	55.3	110.3	279.0	20.9
Calgary	292.9	63.7	2,111.4	-0.4
Edmonton	162.6	30.9	1,326.5	15.9
Vancouver	185.2	-28.0	2,785.0	13.6
Victoria	21.0	-42.8	333.5	26.4

### Value of building permits



February 1990. Powered by strong demand for both single- and multi-family dwellings, this was the sixth increase in the past seven months. The value of building permits for multi-family dwellings jumped 17.3% in November to \$604 million, the fourth consecutive monthly gain. Permits for single-family dwellings also contributed to the overall increase in the residential sector, rising 2.6% to \$1.4 billion.

Substantial gains in the industrial and commercial components drove non-residential permits 7.8% higher to \$1.5 billion. The largest dollar increase in non-residential permits occurred in Alberta, up 62.5% to \$313 million. The largest decrease was in British Columbia, down 28.0% to \$108 million.

Industrial component permit values jumped 21.7% to \$409 million, largely because of a gain in the utility and transportation category. Ontario recorded the largest growth, gaining 120.5% to \$180 million. The value of commercial permits increased 9.3% to \$683 million, thanks to gains in the warehouses category. Alberta recorded the largest increase, gaining 65.8% to \$175 million. However, intentions in the institutional component declined 4.5% to \$429 million, the result of reduced construction intentions in the welfare service category. Ontario posted the largest drop in this component.

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### ... Building permits at highest level in 11 months

Municipalities issued \$20.3 billion in residential permits from January to November, up 8.5% from 2000 and a record cumulative level for any year, with contributions from both single- and multi-family dwellings. The largest gain (in dollars) among the provinces in the cumulative value of residential permits occurred in Quebec (+14.8%), closely followed by British Columbia. Nova Scotia showed the largest retreat.

Non-residential building intentions rose 9.6% to \$16.6 billion, their best year-to-date showing since 1989. The institutional component increased 35.3% to \$4.5 billion. Permits for commercial projects reached \$8.5 billion, up 3.2% from the same period in

2000, while those in the industrial component were virtually unchanged at \$3.6 billion.

Among the provinces, a tremendous increase in the value of multi-family permits in the Toronto area led Ontario to the largest dollar advance in the residential sector, rising 13.3% to \$966 million. In contrast, British Columbia posted the largest decline, dropping 32.0% to \$200 million.

*The November 2001 issue of **Building permits** (Internet: 64-001-XIE, \$14/\$145) is now available. To obtain data, contact Vere Clarke (613-951-6556; clarver@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; saineti@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division.*

## Record jump in foreign holdings of Canadian bonds

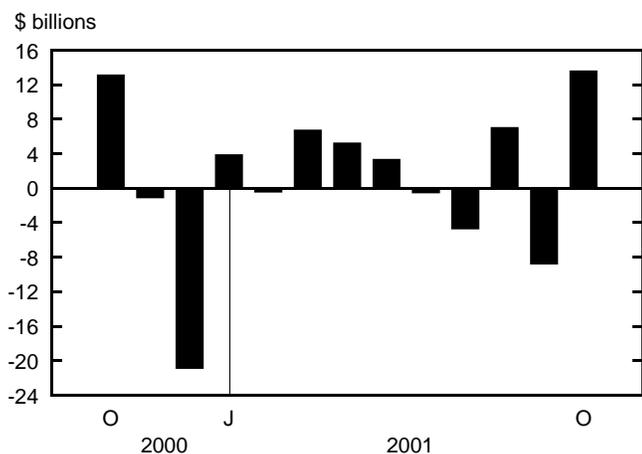
Foreign investors increased their holdings of Canadian securities by \$13.5 billion in October, as Canadian corporations issued a record amount of new bonds in international markets. For their part, Canadian investors reduced their holdings of foreign securities by \$3.4 billion, led by a record divestment of foreign bonds.

Foreign investors increased their holdings of Canadian bonds a record \$14.3 billion in October, after a major divestment of \$7.0 billion in September. The postponement of a number of bond issues after the events of September 11 contributed to the placement of a record amount of new issues in October, which surpassed retirements by \$11.6 billion.

For the first 10 months of 2001, new bonds issued in foreign markets totalled \$61.8 billion, surpassing the high recorded for all of 1998. Corporations played the leading role, accounting for three-quarters of the total. On the other hand, Canadian government new issues in 2001 have been more than offset by retirements of its foreign-held bonds.

The American market accounted for three-quarters of total bond investment in October, with the British market accounting for the balance, a distribution that has prevailed for most of 2001.

### Foreign investment in Canadian securities<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Includes bonds, stocks and money market paper.

### Related market information

*In October, a drop of nearly three-quarters of a percentage point in Canadian short-term rates versus a drop of nearly one-quarter of a percentage point in comparable U.S. rates reduced the differential to 21 basis points, from 71 in September. This is the smallest differential favouring investment in Canada since February 2001, when the two rates were equal. A slightly larger decline in long-term rates in the United States than in Canada pushed up the differential to 42 basis points, from 36 basis points in September. October marked the largest gap favouring investment in Canada this year.*

*The TSE 300 composite index managed a small gain of 0.7% in October, following a reduction of 16.2% between the May and September close. U.S. stock prices managed a 1.8% rise, after losing 17.1% in the previous four months.*

*The Canadian dollar stretched its consecutive monthly losses to four with nearly a half-cent decline in October. This brought the loss to over 3 U.S. cents against the American dollar since June, to close October at 62.94 U.S. cents.*

After reducing their holdings of Canadian money market paper by \$5.6 billion over the previous four months, foreign investors returned with a \$1.2 billion investment in October. This investment was split between federal treasury bills and other money market paper. European investors accounted for half of this investment, with American and Asian investors sharing the balance.

Foreign investment in Canadian stocks fell by \$2.1 billion in October. This followed two months of low activity. Underlying October's divestment was the acquisition of a Canadian company whose shares, including those held by foreign portfolio investors, were purchased for cash by a foreign direct investor. In October, foreign investors bought \$0.5 billion worth of existing secondary market shares. This brought their 10-month investment to only \$2.0 billion, a small fraction of the \$24.8 billion investment foreign investors made in Canadian stocks over the same period in 2000.

In October, Canadian investors reduced their holdings of foreign bonds by a record \$3.1 billion, largely Canadian pension funds. The October divestment, mainly in U.S. treasuries, more than reversed a large investment in September.

*For further detail, consult the October 2001 issue of **Canada's international transactions in securities** (67-002-Internet: XIB, \$14/\$132; paper: 67-002-XPB, \$18/\$176). For more information, contact Donald Granger (613-951-1864), Balance of Payments Division.*

## Gains in labour productivity have slowed considerably

Gains in labour productivity in Canada's business sector have slowed considerably.

Labour productivity was up only 0.3% in the third quarter of 2001 compared with the same quarter in 2000. This increase was identical to the rate of growth in the second quarter of 2001, and considerably below the average annual rate of 1.7% between 1995 and 2000.

Growth in labour productivity reached a peak of 3.5% in the fourth quarter of 1998, and in general has been decelerating since.

Labour productivity growth is positive when more output is produced with the same, or fewer, hours worked. During the third quarter of 2001, productivity grew because companies cut the number of hours their employees worked faster than they cut production.

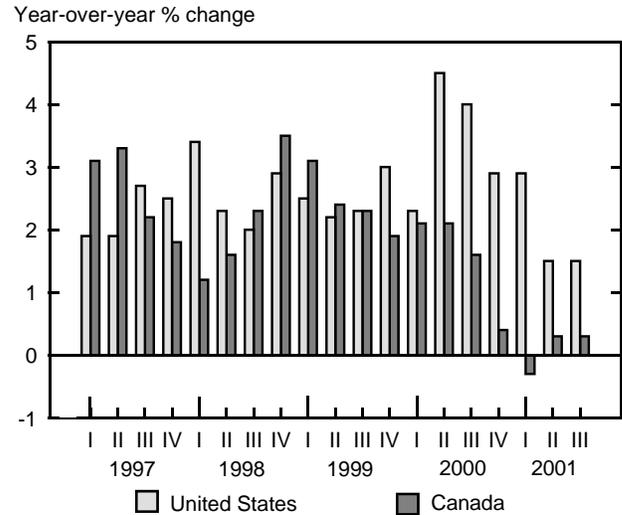
Output was stagnant at 0.0%, while the number of hours worked declined 0.4%. This decline was the first quarterly reduction in the year-over-year annual pace since the fourth quarter of 1992.

Productivity is a measure of production efficiency that most economists regard as the foundation of a country's standard of living. Labour productivity is a measure of the output per hour worked, and is closely related to the remuneration paid to employees. It grows both when businesses become more efficient, and when businesses increase the amount of machinery and equipment and advanced technologies used by each worker.

Productivity gains in Canada continue to lag those in the United States. In the third quarter, year-over-year productivity growth among American businesses was 1.5%, five times the Canadian gain. American businesses adjusted their workforce more rapidly to the slowdown in output than their Canadian counterparts did.

In Canada, unit labour costs, a key measure of competitiveness, increased 3.3% during the third quarter of 2001, compared with the same quarter in 2000. This occurred because of a 3.5%

## Labour productivity of the business sector in Canada and the United States



increase in hourly compensation costs that far exceeded the 0.3% gain in productivity.

However, unit labour costs are rising more slowly in Canada than in the United States, where the year-over-year increase for the third quarter was 4.2%, as hourly compensation costs rose 5.8%. This gap in earnings between the two countries continues a trend that started in the second quarter of 2000.

When expressed in American dollars, the gap in unit labour costs between the two countries widened considerably in Canada's favour. Because the Canadian dollar has fallen in value, Canada's unit labour costs in terms of U.S. dollars actually declined 1.0% during the third quarter of 2001.

For further information, contact Jean-Pierre Maynard (613-951-3654; maynard@statcan.ca), Micro-economic Analysis Division.

## Violent crime rates lower in Canada than in the U.S.

Over the past 20 years, Canada recorded much lower rates of violent crime than the United States. However, rates for property offences have generally been higher in Canada, according to a comparison of police-reported crime between the two nations.

Crime rates in both countries followed similar trends during the past two decades. After peaking in 1991, rates for both violent and property crime generally declined throughout the 1990s.

American police reported 5.5 homicides for every 100,000 population in 2000, triple the Canadian rate of 1.8. The number of homicides has declined in both countries during the 1990s, particularly in the United States. Two decades ago, the American homicide rate was about four times that of Canada.

### Crime, Canada and the United States, 2000

	Canada		United States	
	Real terms	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Real terms	Rate <sup>1</sup>
Homicide	542	1.8	15,517	5.5
Aggravated assault <sup>2</sup>	43,933	143	910,744	324
Robbery	27,012	88	407,842	145
Break and enter	293,416	954	2,049,946	728
Motor vehicle theft	160,268	521	1,165,559	414
Other theft	683,997	2,224	6,965,957	2,475
Arson	13,724	45	78,280	32

<sup>1</sup> Rates are per 100,000 population.

<sup>2</sup> For comparison purposes, the Canadian category of aggravated assault includes attempted murder, assault with a weapon and aggravated assault.

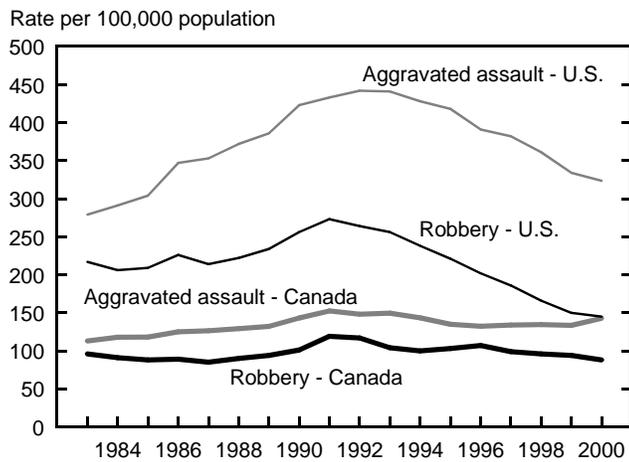
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### ... Violent crime rates lower in Canada than in the U.S.

Americans were also far more likely than Canadians to be victims of aggravated assault, as the U.S. rate was more than double the Canadian rate. However, the U.S. rate has been falling since 1994, culminating in a 3% decline in 2000. In contrast, the Canadian rate has remained relatively stable since 1994, but was up 7% in 2000. (To make the American and Canadian categories of aggravated assault comparable, three Canadian offences – attempted murder, assault with a weapon and aggravated assault – were collapsed into one.)

The American rate of reported robbery was 65% higher than in Canada in 2000. There was a pronounced difference in the proportion of robberies committed with a firearm. In 2000, firearms were involved in 41% of robberies in the United States, compared with only 16% in Canada. Since 1991, police-reported robbery rates have been declining in both countries. During this period, rates fell 47% in the United States, almost twice the 26% decline in Canada.

#### Aggravated assault<sup>1</sup> and robbery in Canada and the U.S.



<sup>1</sup> For comparison purposes, the Canadian category of aggravated assault includes attempted murder, assault with a weapon and aggravated assault.

For most of the 1980s, the Canadian and American rates for breaking and entering were similar. However, between 1989 and 1991, the Canadian rate rose 21% while the American rate fell 2%.

Since 1991, both nations have reported declines. In 2000, Canada had a nation-wide rate of 954 break-ins for every 100,000 population, compared with the American rate of 728.

In 2000, Canadian police reported 521 motor vehicle thefts for every 100,000 population, 26% higher than the U.S. rate of 414. Canada's rate has surpassed the U.S. level for the past five years. While shoplifting and "other thefts" such as pick-pocketing were greater in the United States, Canadian police reported higher rates of bicycle theft. Since 1991, both countries have experienced general declines in total thefts.

Canada's arson rate in 2000 was 41% higher than the American rate.

Two decades ago, the Canadian and American drug arrest rates were almost equal. Since 1980, however, the American arrest rate for drug possession, trafficking and production has doubled, while the Canadian rate has declined 29%. That large increase in the United States is due to increases in arrests for drug possession.

In 2000, U.S. police arrested 454 people for every 100,000 population for drug possession, over four times the rate of 100 in Canada. However, the difference in these arrest rates may be more a reflection of the level of police enforcement and resources rather than actual behavioural patterns.

For metropolitan areas with populations over 500,000, American cities had higher rates of homicide, aggravated assault, and robbery, while police-reported rates of breaking and entering and motor vehicle theft were higher among Canadian urban centres. This is consistent with the overall national patterns.

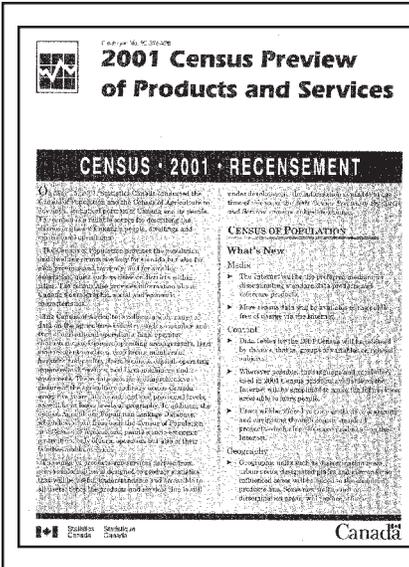
*The vol. 21, no. 11 issue of Juristat: Crime comparisons between Canada and the United States (Internet: 85-002-XIE, \$8/\$70; paper: 85-002-XPE, \$10/\$93) is now available. For more information, contact Information and Client Services (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.*

# New from Statistics Canada

## 2001 Census Preview of Products and Services

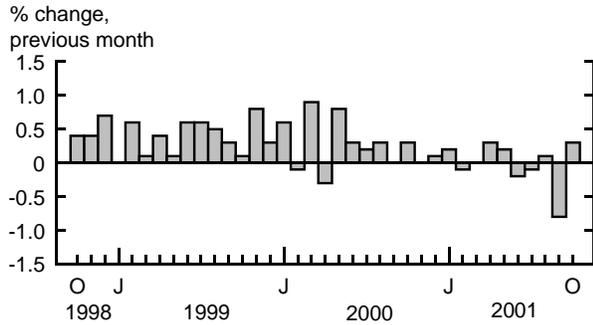
The *2001 Census Preview of Products and Services* offers a first look at the range of products and services available from the Census of Population and the Census of Agriculture of 2001. This publication outlines general information on the content, release dates, formats and prices for various products. It also describes reference, geography, analytical and standard data products, as well as custom data services.

*The 2001 Census preview of products and services (Internet: 92-376-XIE, free; paper: 92-376-XPB, free) is now available. For more information, contact the Statistics Canada regional reference centre nearest you. (See the complete listing of regional reference centres on page 11.)*



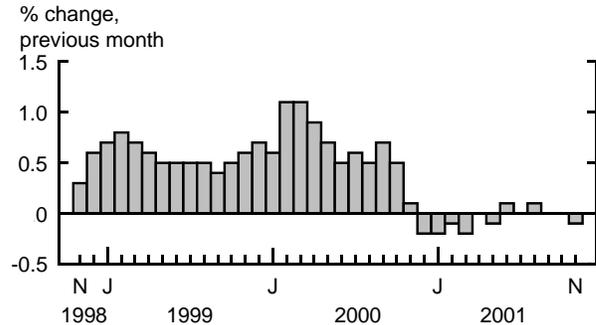
## Current trends

### Gross domestic product



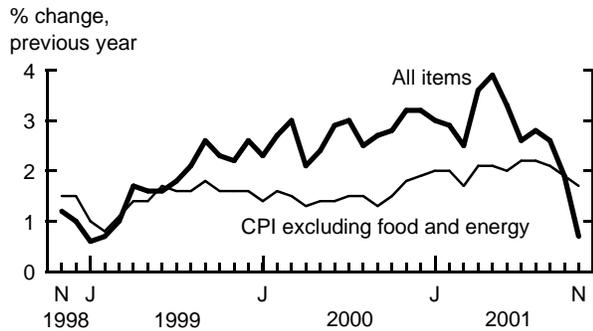
Total economic activity advanced 0.3% in October, after declining 0.8% in September.

### Composite Index



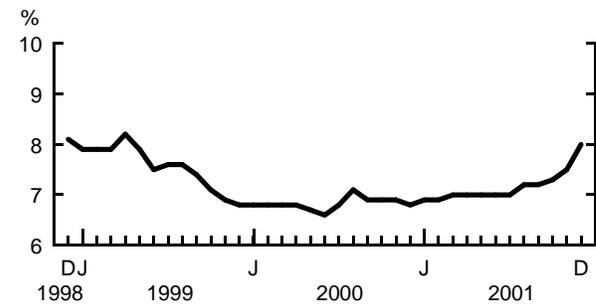
The leading indicator edged down 0.1% in November, mainly as a result of worsening conditions in manufacturing.

### Consumer Price Index



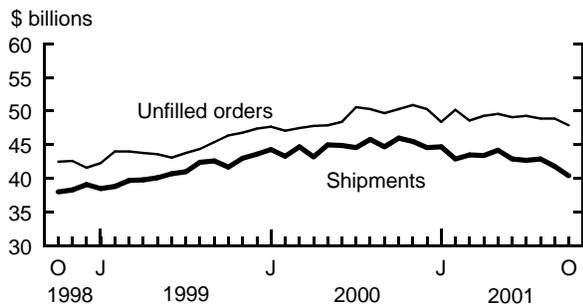
Consumer prices for goods and services were 0.7% higher in November than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 1.7%.

### Unemployment rate



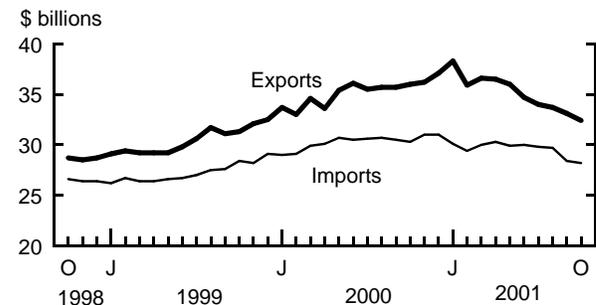
In December, the unemployment rate surged half a percentage point to 8.0%.

### Manufacturing



Manufacturers' shipments declined 2.9% in October to \$40.4 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders fell 1.8% to \$47.9 billion.

### Merchandise trade



In October, the value of merchandise exports fell 1.0% to \$32.4 billion. Imports declined 0.6% to \$28.2 billion.

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

## Latest statistics

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
<b>GENERAL</b>				
Gross domestic product (\$ billions, 1997) <sup>1</sup>	October	932.1	0.3%	-0.6%
Composite Index (1992=100)	November	166.2	-0.1%	-0.7%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billions)	Q3 2001	37.6	-14.4%	-24.0%
Capacity utilization rate (%) <sup>2</sup>	Q3 2001	79.4	-2.5†	-7.0†
<b>DOMESTIC DEMAND</b>				
Retail trade (\$ billions)	October	24.2	1.7%	3.7%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	November*	143.7	8.5%	12.6%
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	October	32.2	-0.9%	0.8%
<b>LABOUR</b>				
Employment (millions)	December*	15.1	-0.1%	0.2%
Unemployment rate (%)	December*	8.0	0.5†	1.2†
Participation rate (%)	December*	66.3	0.3†	0.1†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	October	669.99	0.23%	2.04%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	December	126	-5.3%	-27.6%
Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries (in thousands)	October	537.9	1.3%	15.5%
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>				
Merchandise exports (\$ billions)	October	32.4	-1.0%	-10.1%
Merchandise imports (\$ billions)	October	28.2	-0.6%	-7.0%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billions)	October	4.2	-0.1	-1.5
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>				
Shipments (\$ billions)	October	40.4	-2.9%	-12.3%
New orders (\$ billions)	October	39.5	-5.1%	-15.2%
Unfilled orders (\$ billions)	October	47.9	-1.8%	-4.7%
Inventory/shipments ratio	October	1.57	0.03	0.16
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	November	115.8	-0.9%	0.7%
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	November	106.5	0.0%	-1.9%
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	November	103.5	-2.9%	-16.2%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	November*	107.1	0.3%	2.7%

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

\* new this week

† percentage point

<sup>1</sup> 1997 replaces 1992 as the base year used in determining prices for gross domestic product by industry. Also, valuation has been changed from factor cost to basic prices.

<sup>2</sup> Calculation of the rates of capacity use is now based on the 1997 North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS), which has replaced the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification.

# Infomat

## A weekly review

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SUBJECT AREA Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price (\$) (issue/subscription)
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>			
Production of eggs	November 2001	23-003-XIB	free
<b>BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL FLOWS</b>			
Canada's balance of international payments	Q3 2001	67-001-XPB	38/124
Canada's international transactions in securities	October 2001	67-002-XIB	14/132
<b>CENSUS OPERATIONS</b>			
2001 Census preview of products and services	2001	92-376-XIE	free
2001 Census preview of products and services	2001	92-376-XPB	free
<b>DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES</b>			
New motor vehicle sales	November 2001	63-007-XIB	13/124
<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS</b>			
National income and expenditure accounts	Q3 2001	13-001-XIB	33/109
National income and expenditure accounts	Q3 2001	13-001-XPB	44/145
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>			
Exports by commodity	October 2001	65-004-XMB	37/361
Exports by commodity	October 2001	65-004-XPB	78/773
<b>INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK</b>			
Building permits	November 2001	64-001-XIE	14/145
<b>LABOUR STATISTICS</b>			
Employment, earnings and hours	October 2001	72-002-XIB	24/240
Labour force information	December 2001	71-001-PIB	8/78
Labour force information	December 2001	71-001-PPB	11/103
<b>MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY</b>			
Electric lamps, lights bulbs and tubes	November 2001	43-009-XIB	5/47
Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins	November 2001	46-002-XIB	5/47
Oils and fats	November 2001	32-006-XIB	5/47
Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard	November 2001	36-003-XIB	5/47
Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products	August 2001	55-001-XIB	9/86
Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing	November 2001	41-011-XIB	5/47
Sawmills and planing mills	October 2001	35-003-XIB	9/86
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
Monthly railway carloadings	October 2001	52-001-XIE	8/77

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