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A Weekly Review

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OVERVIEW

- **Sharp rise in full-time employment**

  Employment grew for a seventh consecutive month in January, as the unemployment rate fell to 7.8%—the lowest since June 1990. The latest growth was entirely in full-time jobs.

- **Manufacturers expect to maintain production and employment levels**

  In the coming three months, manufacturers expect to maintain their production and employment levels.

- **Little change expected in the short term for the economy**

  Economie analysts surveyed for their short-term expectations about the performance of the economy expect to see little change as the year begins.

- **Building permits at highest value since 1989**

  Although the value of building permits issued in December was down slightly from November, the value issued in 1998 was the highest since 1989.

- **Canadians are betting big on gambling**

  Thanks to government-regulated casinos and video lottery terminals, gambling revenue jumped by $4 billion from 1992 to 1997. Over this period, the amount that Canadians wagered on some form of government-run gambling activity more than doubled.

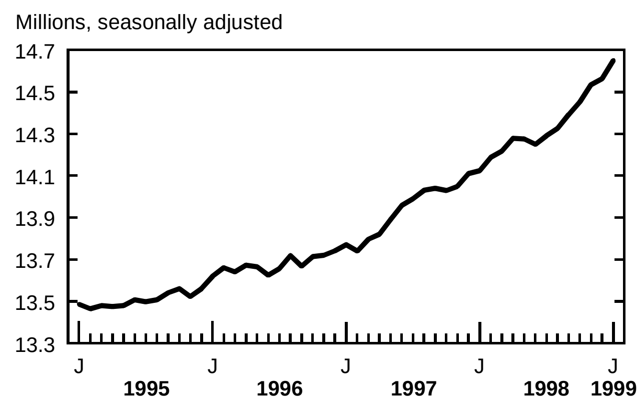
Sharp rise in full-time employment

Employment grew for a seventh consecutive month in January (+87,000), as the unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage points to 7.8%—the lowest since June 1990. The latest growth was entirely in full-time jobs. An average of 57,000 new jobs have been added each month for the last seven months. Moreover, from January to November 1998, the average level of employment was 2.8% higher than during the same period in 1997, matching the growth in gross domestic product. In 1998, employment grew strongly in the service sector but fell in several goods-producing industries. Full-time employment accounted for two-thirds of the overall job growth last year.

Continuing the trend set in 1998, employment among youths aged 15 to 24 climbed by 44,000 in January, with 33,000 of that growth in full-time jobs. The new jobs were concentrated in personal and household services such as food and accommodation. The youth unemployment rate fell 0.5 percentage points to 13.9%—the lowest since September 1990.

Following slow growth of 1.7% last year, employment among adult men rose in January by 41,000, all of it in full-time jobs. The job growth was in manufacturing, trade and educational services.

Employment



(continued on page 2)

... Sharp rise in full-time employment

Adult women saw little employment change in January, however. Robust job growth in educational and other services was offset by losses in health care and social assistance. Employment growth was strong for adult women in 1998 (+3.7%).

In the public sector, the number of employees climbed in January by 58,000, more than offsetting December's loss of 55,000. Meanwhile, the number of employees in the private sector rose by a slight 30,000. This followed strong growth in the fourth quarter of 1998. Self-employment was unchanged in January.

January's rise in overall employment was almost equally divided between both the goods-producing sector (+44,000) and the service sector (+43,000). Growth in manufacturing employment, which expanded by 55,000 jobs following two months of little change, was concentrated in Ontario. Employment in the forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas industries was little changed in January. That flatness followed a substantial decline in 1998 due to sinking commodity prices. In educational services, 37,000 new jobs were added in January, more than offsetting the losses of the prior three months. Trade employment also moved higher in January (+33,000), adding to the growth that began in June; the job gains in trade since June total 113,000. And, after several months of steady growth, employment fell by 55,000 in the health care and social assistance industry, with the losses concentrated in the private sector.

Turning to the provinces, job growth in Ontario continued along the upward trend that began there about two years ago. The province's unemployment rate fell to 6.6%—the lowest since August 1990. In British Columbia, January's jump in employment (+32.000) was almost all in the service sector and mainly in the Vancouver area. The province's unemployment rate declined by only 0.1 percentage point, however, because labour force participation increased nearly the same as employment. January's increase in employment in Alberta was the third consecutive advance. A similar rise in labour force participation kept Alberta's unemployment rate unchanged, however. In Nova Scotia, after two consecutive months without an increase, employment rose by 7,000, lowering the unemployment rate there by 0.6 percentage points. The employment picture was little changed in the other provinces in January.

Note to readers

Three important changes have been made to the Labour Force Survey. First, the industry data are no longer based on the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification, instead the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is being used. Second, occupation data is now based on the 1991 Standard Occupational Classification, not that of 1980. Third, the definition of public sector has been modified. The data resulting from these and other changes are not comparable to previously published data. However, revised historical data are available on CANSIM. For more information on the changes to the survey, consult the Statistics Canada web site (www.statcan.ca), or contact Marc Lévesque (613-951-2793), Households Surveys Division.

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

Labour force information, for the week ending January 16, 1999 *(71-001-PPB, \$11/\$103) is now available. For further information, contact Deborah Sunter (613-951-4740) or Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750), Household Surveys Division.* *See also "Current trends" on page 8.*

Labour Force Survey, January 1999[1]
Seasonally adjusted

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	rate (%)
Canada	**15,898.7**	**0.4**	**14,650.8**	**0.6**	**1,247.9**	**7.8**
Newfoundland	245.1	-0.2	202.0	1.2	43.1	17.6
Prince Edward Island	72.6	2.4	60.7	1.2	11.9	16.4
Nova Scotia	454.4	1.1	408.9	1.8	45.5	10.0
New Brunswick	380.8	0.2	337.6	0.6	43.2	11.3
Quebec	3,765.7	-0.1	3,396.4	0.0	369.3	9.8
Ontario	6,149.3	0.3	5,744.2	0.7	405.0	6.6
Manitoba	586.7	-0.2	554.0	0.1	32.8	5.6
Saskatchewan	511.0	-0.4	477.8	-0.7	33.2	6.5
Alberta	1,637.4	0.7	1,543.5	0.7	93.8	5.7
British Columbia	2,095.8	1.6	1,925.7	1.7	170.1	8.1

[1] *Data are for both sexes aged 15 and over.*

Manufacturers expect to maintain production and employment levels

In January's Business Conditions Survey, manufacturers indicated that they are generally satisfied with prospects for production and employment in the coming three months. Overall, they do not feel that the current level of finished-product inventory is a source of concern. However, manufacturers are slightly less satisfied with the current levels of new orders.

Among the manufacturers surveyed, 17% expect to increase production in the coming quarter, while 74% plan to maintain the same level of production. Only 9% of manufacturers stated that production prospects for the coming three months would be lower. This survey's result can be seen as a return to a more normal balance of opinion, because the previous two surveys' readings were greatly affected by the effects of the General Motors strike in the United States.

Manufacturers are anticipating little change in their employment levels. In the January survey, 12% of manufacturers stated they will cut their workforce in the coming three months, whereas 14% said they will increase employment levels. Some 74% of manufacturers reported that their workforce will be little changed. According to the December 1998 Labour Force Survey, employment in manufacturing finished the year little changed (+15,000) after a strong 6.3% increase in 1997 (+132,000).

As in the October survey, 80% of manufacturers believe their current level of finished-products inventory is about right, 16% feel that inventories are too high, whereas 4% feel inventories are too low. The November 1998 Monthly Survey of Manufacturing showed manufacturers were holding some $17.3 billion in finished-products inventory, 7.5% higher than the inventory level posted for November 1997.

Note to readers

Most responses to the Business Conditions Survey, which is conducted in January, April, July and October, are recorded in the first two weeks of these months. The survey's results are based on replies from about 5,000 manufacturers and are weighted by a manufacturer's shipments or employment. Consequently, larger manufacturers have a correspondingly larger impact on the results. Except for the data on production difficulties, the data are seasonally adjusted.

Manufacturers are showing less satisfaction with the current level of orders being received. In fact, their balance of opinion turned negative, as the number who stated new orders are rising dropped by seven points. The transportation equipment industries are the major contributors to this decrease. Meanwhile, most manufacturers (81%) are still satisfied with their current level of unfilled orders, stating levels are about normal. That is a seven-point increase over October's result. Another 12% stated that the present backlog is lower than normal, and 7% said the backlog is higher than normal. That balance of opinion is little changed from the previous two surveys.

Skilled labour shortages are less of a concern this survey. About 87% of manufacturers reported not having production impediments in early January. A shortage of skilled labour continues to be a concern for 5% of manufacturers, a 3% improvement over the October survey. Only 2% of manufacturers said that a shortage of raw materials is a concern, down from 13% in July and 3% in October. (The abnormally high July level was mostly attributable to a break in the flow of auto parts due to the strikes in the United States.) Working capital shortages are a concern for 3% of respondents, up from 2% in October.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2843-2845.

For further information, contact Claude Robillard (613-951-3507; robilcg@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Manufacturers' expectations and business conditions
Seasonally adjusted

	January 1998	April 1998	July 1998	October 1998	January 1999
	% of manufacturers who said				
Volume of production in next three months will be:					
About the same as in previous three months	68	60	45	44	74
Higher	23	22	22	41	17
Lower	9	18	33	15	9
Employment in next three months will:					
Change little	74	70	70	73	74
Increase	17	19	17	14	14
Decrease	9	11	13	13	12
Finished-product inventory is:					
About right	79	80	84	80	80
Too low	6	3	2	2	4
Too high	15	17	14	18	16
Orders received are:					
About the same	60	59	72	69	76
Rising	27	18	14	18	11
Declining	13	23	14	13	13
Backlog of unfilled orders is:					
About normal	74	77	80	74	81
Higher than normal	14	10	7	10	7
Lower than normal	12	13	13	16	12

Little change expected in the short term for the economy

> ***Note to readers***
>
> *The Short-term Expectations Survey is faxed each month to a group of economic analysts from Canadian businesses across the country to obtain a representative view of the performance of the economy for the upcoming three months. The analysts are asked to forecast the year-over-year changes in the consumer price index (CPI), the unemployment and participation rates of the labour force, the level of merchandise exports and imports, and the monthly change in gross domestic product (GDP).*

The Short-term Expectations Survey covering the beginning of 1999 shows that little change is expected short term in the performance of the economy. This survey, the analysts' forecasts tended to be more pessimistic than the actual figures.

For November, the group's mean forecast of the month-to-month growth in gross domestic product was 0.1%. November's actual GDP growth rate came in at four times that (+0.4%). The analysts expect little change to show up in the economy's growth rate for either December 1998 (+0.2%) or January 1999 (+0.1%).

As for international trade, a slight decrease is expected over the December 1998 through February 1999 period. The economists' mean forecast is for a trade surplus of $1.7 billion for each of these three months, slightly less than November's actual trade surplus of $1.9 billion. Their forecasts for both exports and imports were slightly lower than the actual figures for November.

The surveyed forecasters are expecting a slight increase in the Consumer Price Index for the January-to-March period. In the past, the actual year-to-year inflation rate has been lower than the forecasters expected. For instance, the forecasted average for December was 1.3%, compared with the CPI's actual rate of 1.0%.

The unemployment rate remained steady at 8.0% for December, while the participation rate increased slightly to 65.6%. The surveyed forecasters are anticipating a slight increase in the unemployment rate for the January-to-March period. The mean of their forecasts is 8.1% for the three months. They expect that higher rate to accompany steady participation rates for both January and February (65.6%), followed by a slight decrease for March (65.5%). The actual unemployment rate for January did not rise, but instead fell to 7.8%—the lowest rate since June 1990. Meanwhile, the participation rate in January did not hold steady, but rose 0.2 percentage points to 65.8%.

For further information about the results of the Short-term Expectations Survey, or for a set of tables, contact Jenny Grenier (613-951-1020; fax: 613-951-1572; grenjen@statcan.ca), Small Business and Special Surveys Division.

Building permits at highest value since 1989

Municipalities issued $33.5 billion in building permits in 1998, a 7.2% increase from 1997 and the highest value since 1989, when construction intentions hit a record $40 billion. December showed a slight 0.4% dip from November, at $2.8 billion, as permits to construct housing declined (-2.2% to $1.6 billion) and as non-residential building permits rose for a second straight month (+2.0% to $1.2 billion). Both the single- and the multi-family dwelling components declined in December, down 1.5% and 3.7% respectively. Housing starts in December were up 9.6%, while existing home sales increased 1.0%, a slight gain.

Non-residential intentions climbed for a second straight month in December (+2.0% to $1.2 billion), following three monthly decreases. However, the value of the commercial component was the only one that rose (+13.0%). Increases for trade, warehouse and recreation buildings led the way. The largest decline was in institutional construction plans (-13.1%)—its lowest level since February 1997. The drop was mainly in the welfare and nursing homes category. The industrial component recorded a 9.7% decline.

Looking at 1998, a rise in the value of permits for multi-family dwellings was insufficient to offset a slowdown in permits for single-family dwellings. As a result, the value of residential building permits last year was lower than expected, down 2.0% at $17.9 billion. This followed double-digit increases in the prior two years. Housing starts fell 6.6% in 1998. Similarly, after a record year in 1997, activity in the resale market was off 4.6%. The biggest decline in 1998 was in British Columbia. Nova Scotia also recorded a significant decline. The most significant increases were in Alberta and Ontario.

Last year saw the highest annual value in non-residential building permits since 1989, as the value grew to $15.5 billion, a 20.1% advance on top of the 23.9% gain in 1997. The value of non-residential permits rose in all the provinces and territories except the Yukon last year.

(continued on page 5)

Building permits, 1998
Seasonally adjusted

	Total, $ millions	Total	Residential	Non-residential
		Annual % change		
Canada	**33,477.7**	**7.2**	**-2.0**	**20.1**
Newfoundland	245.7	15.1	-2.7	50.4
Prince Edward Island	117.3	6.6	-3.1	18.4
Nova Scotia	620.3	-1.7	-19.5	36.5
New Brunswick	482.9	5.2	-1.7	12.8
Quebec	5,585.7	8.9	0.4	18.5
Ontario	14,189.6	6.7	1.5	14.5
Manitoba	1,052.5	52.6	15.6	85.9
Saskatchewan	674.5	7.6	3.1	10.7
Alberta	5,586.5	25.6	13.1	43.1
British Columbia	4,804.5	-13.2	-22.7	4.0
Yukon	37.9	-23.6	-35.6	-5.8
Northwest Territories	80.2	71.2	331.4	4.6

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

... Building permits at highest value since 1989

All three components—commercial, industrial and institutional—contributed to the advance. The largest contribution came from the commercial component (+25.8% $8.2 billion), followed by the industrial (+16.1% to $4.0 billion) and the institutional (+12.3% to $3.3 billion). Despite the significance of the gain in non-residential permits in 1998, the fourth quarter of the year showed a 12.4% decline. Lower operating profits, weak commodity prices, and expectations of slower growth in most of the major economies might, in particular, be pointing to decreased investment in industrial building projects.

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

The December 1998 issue of ***Building permits*** *(64-001-XIB, $19/$186) can be downloaded from the Internet at www.statcan.ca. For further information, contact Joanne Bureau (613-951-9689; burejoa@statcan.ca) or Ginette Gervais (613-951-2025; gervgin@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division.*

Building permits, December 1998
Seasonally adjusted

	Total		Residential		Non-residential	
	$ millions	% change, previous month	$ millions	% change, previous month	$ millions	% change, previous month
Canada	**2,787.4**	**-0.4**	**1,572.2**	**-2.2**	**1,215.2**	**2.0**
Newfoundland	36.5	90.1	11.0	20.8	25.5	152.4
Prince Edward Island	9.3	2.5	5.3	17.1	4.1	-11.7
Nova Scotia	67.2	8.1	35.8	-10.2	31.3	40.9
New Brunswick	42.5	24.2	19.5	-0.5	23.0	57.3
Quebec	550.1	12.6	280.0	17.5	270.0	8.0
Ontario	1,179.7	-2.2	740.2	-1.3	439.5	-3.7
Manitoba	52.4	-36.0	35.8	2.8	16.6	-64.7
Saskatchewan	60.6	2.8	19.5	-12.6	41.1	12.2
Alberta	467.3	13.5	254.7	10.4	212.6	17.4
British Columbia	317.2	-24.4	167.2	-34.3	150.0	-9.1
Yukon	3.5	-7.3	2.4	47.5	1.1	-48.6
Northwest Territories	1.2	-50.8	0.7	-44.2	0.5	-57.8

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

Canadians are betting big on gambling

Government-regulated casinos and video lottery terminals, introduced during the 1990s, have turned gambling into a multi-billion dollar industry, the growth of which has far outstripped that of most other industries. In 1997, Canadians wagered $6.8 billion on some form of government-run gambling activity, 2.5 times the $2.7 billion wagered in 1992. The gambling industry's total revenue jumped by $4 billion in five years. In particular, casinos and VLTs represented just 10% of all government gambling revenue in 1992; by 1997, they accounted for 59%.

That growth in gambling revenue is reflected in the steep increase in economic output and employment in the industry. Between 1992 and 1997, the gross domestic product of the gambling industry leapt 125%, compared with 14% growth in all industries. Although gambling represented only 0.1% of the country's economic output in 1997, it accounted for 0.5% of the total growth in gross domestic product during the previous five-year period.

The profits from gambling for provincial governments have also more than doubled, from $1.7 billion in 1992 to $3.8 billion in 1997. Profits from gambling have increased in every province and territory during the past five years. Furthermore, gambling

Definitions

Gambling operation: *Any establishment primarily engaged in legal gambling operations, such as casinos, lotteries and bingos. (Horse racing is classified as a commercial spectator sport.)*

Video lottery terminal (VLT): *A coin-operated, free-standing electronic game of chance. Winnings are paid out through a computer-receipt system, as opposed to cash payments from slot machines. Such terminals are regulated by provincial lottery corporations.*

Government casino: *A government-regulated commercial casino.*

Gambling revenue: *All revenue from provincial and territorial government-run lotteries, casinos and VLTs, less prizes and winnings. Gambling revenue generated by and for charities and on Indian reserves is excluded.*

Gambling profit: *The net income from provincial and territorial government-run lotteries, casinos and VLTs, after deducting prizes, winnings and operating expenses (wages and salaries, payments to the federal government and other overhead costs).*

(continued on page 6)

... Canadians are betting big on gambling

profits as a proportion of total government revenue rose in every province except British Columbia. As of 1997, British Columbia, along with the two territories, had not yet permitted government casinos or VLTs.

Adults in Quebec spent an average of $348 on gambling in 1997, the highest per capita level of any province. They were followed by adults in Prince Edward Island, who spent an average of $340, and by those in New Brunswick and in Alberta, at $328 each. Alberta's average more than tripled from the 1992 level of $99.

In 1996, a majority of Canada's households (82%) gambled some money on at least one gaming activity, spending an average of $423. Among households that gambled, those with incomes of less than $20,000 spent an annual average of $296, or about 2.2% of total household income. Those with $80,000 or more spent $536, only 0.5% of total income. About three-quarters (74%) of households reported spending money on government-run lotteries. Only 12% of households reported that they played bingo. However, of all households that participated in gambling, these households had the highest average expenditure ($677).

From 1992 to 1997, employment in gambling almost tripled from 12,000 jobs to 35,000. By contrast, employment in all other industries only increased by 8%. Although employment in gambling represented just 0.3% of all jobs in 1997, the net increase of 23,000 jobs since 1992 accounted for 2% of the country's employment growth during the five-year period. In 1997 alone, employment in gambling grew by 10,000, about 4% of all job growth that year.

Those working in the gambling industry in 1997 tended to be young and female, and they tended to have a high school education at most. This is reflected in a lower average hourly wage rate for full-time workers in the gambling industry compared with other industries. Half of all jobs in gambling were located in Ontario. In large measure, that situation can be attributed to the three large government casinos in Ontario, as well as to its 300 roving Monte Carlo charity casinos.

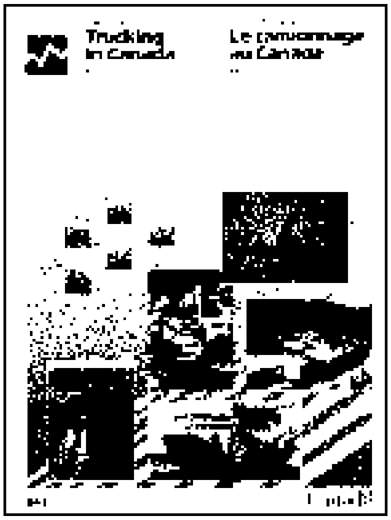
This statistical portrait of the gambling industry in Canada is based on an article titled "The gambling industry: Raising the stakes", which appears in the Winter 1998 issue of ***Perspectives on labour and income*** *(75-001-XPE, $18/$58). The article examines economic output, jobs and government revenue, providing provincial comparisons. For further information, contact Katherine Marshall (613-951-6890, marskat@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.*

Provincial/territorial government profits[1] from gambling

	Gambling profits			Share of total revenue[2]	
	1992	1997	1992 to 1997	1992	1997
	$ millions		% change	%	
Newfoundland	43	75	74	2.3	3.6
Prince Edward Island	8	13	63	1.8	2.4
Nova Scotia	69	102	48	2.6	3.4
New Brunswick	48	68	42	1.9	2.1
Quebec	473	1,054	123	1.6	3.0
Ontario	530	1,242	134	1.3	2.6
Manitoba	105	211	101	2.4	4.1
Saskatchewan	40	141	253	1.0	2.7
Alberta	125	643	414	1.1	4.2
British Columbia	239	262	10	1.6	1.2
Yukon and Northwest Territories	- -	1	100	- -	0.3

1 *Total gambling revenue less operating and other expenses.*
2 *Refers to the fiscal year, and excludes transfer payments from the federal and local governements.*
- - Amount too small to be expressed.

New from Statistics Canada



Trucking in Canada
1997

Trucking in Canada provides a comprehensive view of the Canadian trucking industry. The report details the segments, structure and economic performance of the industry's for-hire and private truckers.

Text, data tables and charts present the financial and operating characteristics of the industry, along with the types of commodities moved and their origins and destinations. This year's edition also features an article on the new North American Industrial Classification system and its impact on the trucking sector.

Trucking in Canada, 1997 *(paper: 53-222-XPB; Internet: $52; 53-222-XIB, $39) is now available. For further information, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; laroque@statcan.ca) or Yves Gauthier (613-951-0188; fax: 613-951-0579; gautyve@statcan.ca), Transportation Division.*

Police personnel and expenditures
1997 and 1998

This new report, *Police personnel and expenditures in Canada, 1997 and 1998*, provides an analysis of police personnel on a national basis between 1962 and 1998, and on a provincial and census metropolitan area (CMA) basis for 1998. It also contains an analysis of police expenditures at the national level between 1985 and 1997, and at the provincial level for 1997 alone.

Police personnel and expenditures in Canada, 1997 and 1998 *(paper: 85F0019XPE, $31; Internet: 85F0019XIE, $23), is now available. For further information, contact Information and Client Services (613-951-9023; 1-800-387-2231), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.*

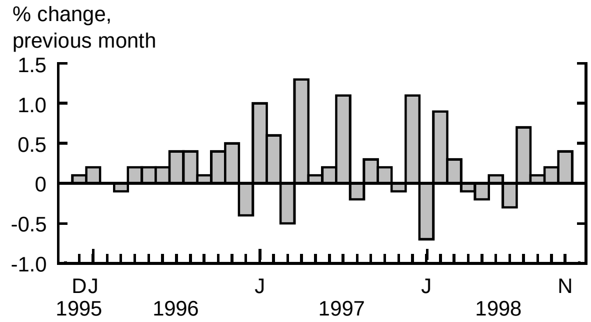
Legal Aid in Canada: Description of operations
March 1998

Legal Aid in Canada: Description of operations describes the structure and administration of provincial legal aid services and includes information on legislation, organization, coverage, eligibility, duty counsel and tariffs. Lists of resource persons and legal aid office locations are also provided.

The report ***Legal Aid in Canada: Description of operations*** *(diskette: 85-217-XDB, $35; Internet: 85-217-XIB, $30) is available. For further information, contact Information and Client Services (613-951-9023 or 1 800 387-2231), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.*

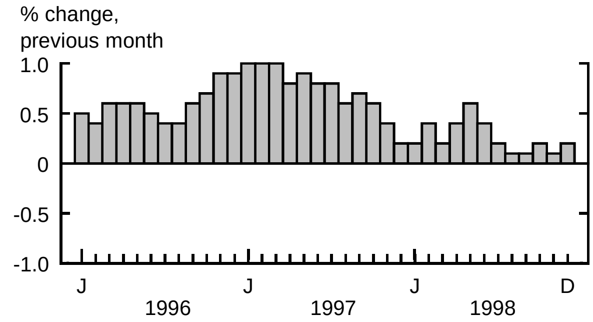
Current trends

Gross domestic product



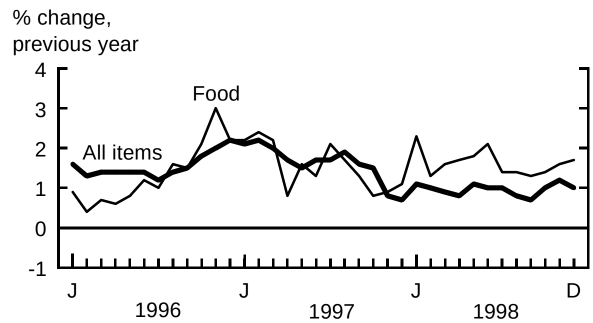
Economic activity advanced 0.4% in November. It was the fourth consecutive month of growth.

Composite Index



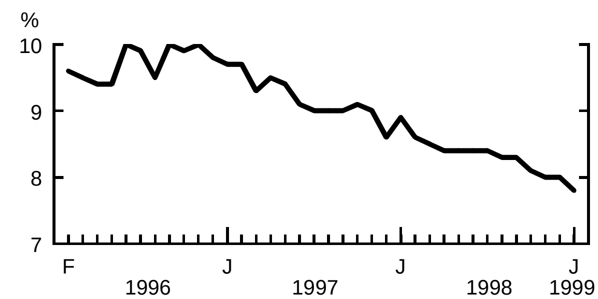
In December, the leading indicator grew 0.2%, maintaining the modest growth it has shown since June.

Consumer Price Index



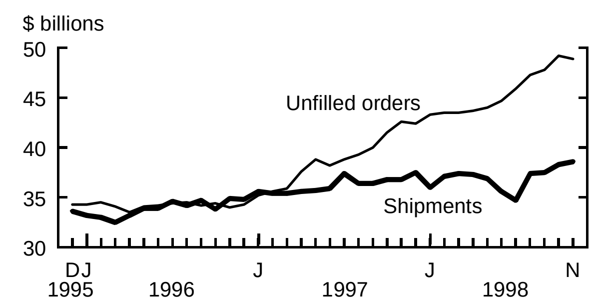
Consumers paid 1.0% more for goods and services in December 1998 than they did a year earlier. Food prices rose 1.7%.

Unemployment rate



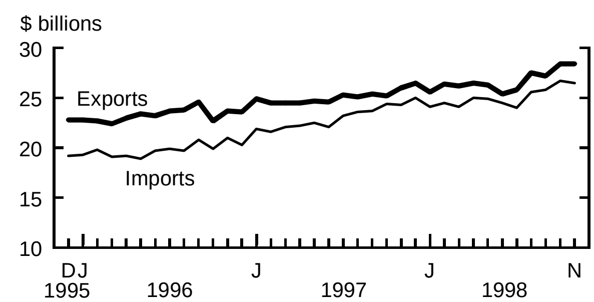
In January, the unemployment rate fell to 7.8% – its lowest point since June 1990.

Manufacturing



Manufacturers' shipments rose 1.0% in November to $38.6 billion. The level of unfilled orders declined 0.6% to $48.9 billion.

Merchandise trade



In November, the value of merchandise exports slipped 0.1% from October to $28.4 billion. Imports fell 0.8% to $26.5 billion.

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

Latest statistics

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
GENERAL				
Gross domestic product ($ billion, 1992)	November	724.2	0.4%	2.7%
Composite Index (1981=100)	December	208.7	0.2%	3.3%
Operating profits of enterprises ($ billion)	Q3 1998	25.6	3.7%	– 9.1%
Capacity utilization (%)	Q3 1998	83.5	– 0.6†	– 1.2†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade ($ billion)	November	20.8	1.1%	4.1%
New motor vehicle sales (thousand of units)	November	118.6	6.2%	– 6.0%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	January*	14.65	0.6%	3.7%
Unemployment rate (%)	January*	7.8	– 0.2†	– 1.0†
Participation rate (%)	January*	65.8	0.2†	0.9†
Labour income ($ billion)	November*	39.2	0.1%	3.7%
Average weekly earnings ($)	November	607.58	0.0%	1.2%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	January	147	0.7%	10.5%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports ($ billion)	November	28.4	– 0.1%	9.4%
Merchandise imports ($ billion)	November	26.5	– 0.8%	8.8%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in $ billion)	November	1.9	0.2	0.3
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments ($ billion)	November	38.6	1.0%	4.9%
New orders ($ billion)	November	38.3	– 3.4%	1.0%
Unfilled orders ($ billion)	November	48.9	– 0.6%	14.8%
Inventory/shipments ratio	November	1.30	– 0.01	0.00
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	December	108.7	– 0.3%	1.0%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	December	119.4	– 0.3%	– 0.7%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	December	111.9	– 9.1%	– 1.7%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	December*	100.3	0.1%	0.6%

Note: *All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of the price indexes.*
* *new this week*
† *percentage point*

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