



Infomat

A Weekly Review

Friday, February 14, 2003

INSIDE

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◆ Most francophone workers outside Quebec work in French

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◆ Demand for housing leads to record year for building permits

Municipalities issued \$45.9 billion in building permits in 2002, breaking the previous annual record of \$40.0 billion set in 1989. The feverish demand right across the country for new housing was the cornerstone of this exceptional year.

Census: Greying workforce may lead to worker shortages

Canada’s workforce is aging so much that some occupations may be hit with a shortage of workers within a decade, according to new data from the 2001 Census.

The census showed that the workforce has become much “greyer” during the past 10 years. The average age of the labour force rose from 37.1 years in 1991 to 39.0 years in 2001.

By the end of the decade, 15% of the labour force was within 10 years of retirement age. By 2011, when almost one-fifth of the baby boom generation will be at least 61 years of age, the potential exists for shortages in certain occupations.

In addition, fertility rates have remained at low levels for the past 30 years. As a result, fewer young people are entering the working-age population to replace individuals in the age group nearing retirement. In 2001, there were 2.7 people aged 20 to 34 in the labour force for every person aged 55 and over, down from a ratio of 3.7 in 1981.

(continued on page 2)

Age indicators, by selected occupations, Canada

	Percentage aged 55 and over		Average age	
	1991	2001	1991	2001
Health occupations				
Specialist physician	23.1	24.5	44.2	45.6
General practitioners and family physicians	18.0	21.4	42.2	45.2
Registered nurses	8.0	12.5	38.7	42.9
Education				
University professors	19.5	28.7	45.2	47.1
College and other vocational instructors	10.8	17.1	41.0	43.9
Specialized trades				
Pipefitting trades	17.5	18.1	43.4	44.1
Carpentry trades	16.8	15.8	41.4	43.1
Bricklayers	15.7	17.5	38.9	41.7
Plumbers	11.4	14.3	37.6	40.5
Occupations with a relatively young labour force				
Information technology occupations	2.5	3.6	33.6	35.7
Petroleum engineers	6.9	9.5	37.4	40.2
Aerospace engineers	10.0	9.6	37.8	39.8



Census: Greying workforce... (continued from page 1)

Canada has increasingly turned to immigration as a source of skills and knowledge. Census data show that immigrants who landed in Canada during the 1990s, and who were in the labour force in 2001, represented almost 70% of the total growth of the labour force over the decade.

If current immigration rates continue, it is possible that immigration could account for virtually all labour force growth by 2011.

Overall, there were 15.6 million people in Canada's labour force as of May 15, 2001, up from 14.2 million a decade earlier. Women accounted for almost two-thirds of the 1.3 million new workers. There were almost 7.3 million women in Canada's workforce in 2001, up 13.9% from 1991, and women made inroads in many "non-traditional" areas, particularly in highly skilled occupations.

An aging workforce is not unique to Canada. What distinguishes Canada is the relatively large size of the baby boom generation and the potential speed with which these aging boomers will leave the labour market.

Beginning in 2010, the proportion of the population in the age group 65 and over will expand rapidly, reinforced by a low birth rate and longer life expectancy.

Retiring baby boomers will have a significant impact on the size of the labour market, especially as relatively small cohorts of young people will be entering it. Boomers, those aged 37 to 55 in 2001, made up 47% of the labour force. Ten years from now, half of them will be 55 or over, and 18% of them will be over the age of 60.

As a result, a wide range of occupations — from doctors to nurses, to teachers, plumbers and electricians — may face potential shortfalls of workers by 2011.

In 2001, the average age of medical specialists was 45.6. Almost 25% were aged 55 and over, an increase from 23% in 1991, and more than double the proportion of older workers in the labour force as a whole.

Professors at university and college are already older, on average, than the overall labour force. In 2001, almost 29% of professors were aged 55 and over, much higher than the proportion of only 19% a decade earlier. In 2001, more than 17% of college teachers were aged 55 and over, compared to less than 11% in 1991.

Several of the skilled trades in the construction sector, such as pipefitters, carpenters and bricklayers, have a relatively large share of older workers, which may also lead to shortages.

Immigration has been an important source of growth in the labour force during the 1990s. The census showed that as of May 15, 2001, almost 3.2 million people in the labour force, or 20% of the total, were born outside the country.

During the 1990s, an annual average of about 220,400 immigrants came to Canada. This was a considerable increase from the annual average of 125,400 who arrived during the 1980s.

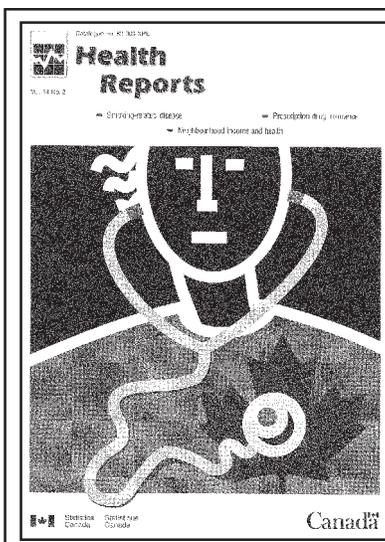
In 2001, a total of 977,500 immigrants who arrived in the 1990s were part of the labour force. They represented almost 70% of the total growth in the labour force over the decade. The lion's share of new foreign-born workers who arrived in the 1990s went to Ontario's labour market.

The census showed a dramatic increase in the proportion of recent immigrants working in high-skilled occupations. New immigrants clearly played a role in the growth of highly skilled occupations over the decade, particularly computer-related occupations and accountants.

For example, in 1991, only about 3% of recent immigrants aged 25 to 44 worked in information technology occupations. By 2001, the proportion had more than quadrupled to 12%. In contrast, 3% of the Canadian-born had an information technology occupation.

A large proportion of recent immigrants were still in low-skilled jobs in 2001, although their proportion was in decline. In 2001, 43% of those aged 25 to 44 were in low-skilled occupations, compared with 51% a decade earlier.

For more information, contact Media Relations (613-951-4636).



Health reports Volume 14, number 2

The latest issue of *Health reports* contains three research articles: "Age at diagnosis of smoking-related disease," "Neighbourhood low income, income inequality and health in Toronto" and "Validity of self-reported prescription drug insurance coverage."

The first article finds that people who began smoking in adolescence are at increased risk of developing smoking-related diseases. The second article, which analyses data for census tracts in Toronto, shows that self-perceived health is significantly associated with neighbourhood low income and income inequality. The third reveals substantial under-reporting of prescription drug insurance coverage among seniors and recipients of social assistance, largely because they are not aware of the provisions of provincial plans.

Health reports, Vol. 14, no. 2 (Internet: 82-003-XIE, \$15/\$44; paper: 82-003-XPE, \$20/\$58), is now available. For more information, contact Claude Graziadei (613-951-8374; claudio.graziadei@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division.

Million more drivers commuting daily

More Canadian commuters used public transportation to get to work in 2001 than in 1996, according to new data from the 2001 Census.

Even so, the vast majority still settled behind the wheel for their daily commute. In fact, there were almost 1 million more drivers on the road across Canada in the week before the May 15, 2001 census than there were on Census Day five years earlier.

The census enumerated 13.5 million people in the employed labour force who travelled to their place of work, a 10.4% increase from 1996.

Of these individuals, just over 1.4 million people usually travelled to work on some form of public transportation such as

bus, streetcar, subway, light-rail transit, commuter train, or ferry. About 10.5% of employed Canadians used public transportation to get to work in 2001, up marginally from 10.1% in 1996. Toronto, Montréal and Ottawa–Gatineau had the highest proportion of public transit users.

On the other hand, more than 9.9 million people drove to work in a car, truck or van. Nearly 74% of Canadian commuters drove to work in 2001.

Commuting patterns have become more complex. Between 1981 and 2001, the number of workers travelling to a suburban municipality increased a dramatic 74% to 1.8 million, while those commuting to core municipalities rose only 28% to 1.3 million. These two streams were almost equal in 1981. By 2001, commuters to suburban municipalities outpaced those travelling to the core municipalities by 42%.

Most francophone workers outside Quebec work in French

Two-thirds of the 566,000 francophones who work outside Quebec use French on the job, according to the census. That is, they read, write or speak French “most often” or “regularly.”

The 2001 Census was the first to collect data on languages used on the job. The data were intended to provide a broader sense of the use of French among francophones.

The use of French on the job outside Quebec was highest among the 135,000 francophone workers in New Brunswick,

92% of whom used it at work. Its use was less widespread in Ontario, where 69% of francophone workers used it.

Inside Quebec, 99% of francophones used French at work. The census also showed that 63% of immigrant workers inside Quebec used French most often in 2001, compared with 47% who used English most often.

Allophones — those whose mother tongue is neither English nor French — accounted for nearly 70% of all immigrant workers in Quebec.

Among these allophone immigrant workers, French also predominated. In 2001, 60% used French most often, compared with 48% who used English. This overlap occurred because about 14% of these workers said they use both languages most often at work.

Women still doing majority of housework

Women are still doing the lion’s share of housework and child-rearing, the census found. This census was the second to include questions on unpaid work.

Respondents were asked to report the amount of time they spent in the week prior to the census providing care or assistance to seniors, doing unpaid housework or home maintenance and taking care of children without pay.

In 2001, about 21% of women aged 15 and over devoted 30 hours and more to unpaid household work, compared to 8%

for men. Only 7.5% of women reported that they did not devote any hours to unpaid household work, compared with 13.3% of men. In 1996, these proportions were very similar.

About 16% of women devoted 30 hours and more on child care, more than twice the proportion of 7% among men. About 21% of men allocated fewer than 15 hours to child care, compared with 18% of women.

About 20% of women reported taking care of a senior, compared with 15% of men. Only a fraction of the population — less than 4% of women and 2% of men — reported devoting more than 10 hours to caring for a senior.

Full-time employment still on the rise

The unemployment rate edged down 0.1 percentage points in January to 7.4%, as the number of people looking for work declined slightly. The upward trend in full-time employment continued in January with an increase of 34,000, bringing a 3.1% gain over the last 13 months.

Employment fell by 21,000 in professional, scientific and technical services, with most of the decline in Quebec and British Columbia. The loss in January follows gains of 52,000 during 2002 for this industry.

Factory employment fell slightly (-15,000) in January, with small losses spread among several provinces. This is the fourth decline in the last five months and brings losses since August to 38,000 (-1.6%). The largest decline in January was in computer and electronic products manufacturing.

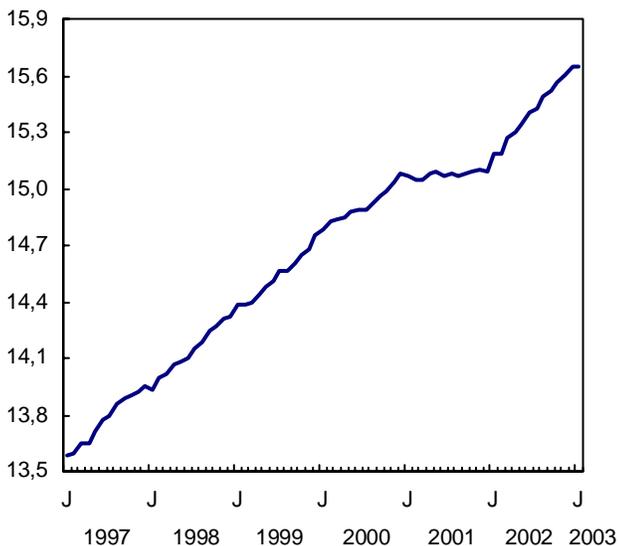
In January, employment rose by 16,000 in retail and wholesale trade, bringing gains since July 2002 to 53,000 (+2.2%). The increase in January was spread across most provinces.

Employment in transportation and warehousing rose by 10,000, bringing gains since March 2002, when employment in the industry picked up, to 43,000 (+5.8%).

Employment also rose in natural resources (+8,000), mostly in forestry and logging. The largest overall employment increases in this industry were in Ontario, British Columbia and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Employment

Millions, seasonally adjusted



Labour Force Survey, January 2003

Seasonally adjusted¹

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	rate (%)
Canada	16,906.1	-0.1	15,647.6	0.0	1,258.5	7.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	264.4	0.9	217.0	1.6	47.4	17.9
Prince Edward Island	76.0	-0.3	67.6	-0.4	8.4	11.1
Nova Scotia	479.1	0.5	434.3	0.5	44.8	9.4
New Brunswick	389.2	-0.3	349.4	-0.2	39.8	10.2
Quebec	3,981.6	-0.3	3,646.8	-0.2	334.8	8.4
Ontario	6,639.8	0.1	6,191.5	0.4	448.3	6.8
Manitoba	596.4	-0.8	567.3	-0.8	29.1	4.9
Saskatchewan	518.0	-0.6	488.2	-0.7	29.8	5.8
Alberta	1,794.3	-0.1	1,695.4	-0.7	99.0	5.5
British Columbia	2,167.3	-0.4	1,990.3	-0.2	177.0	8.2

¹ Data are for both sexes aged 15 and over.

There was added employment in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (+11,000) bringing gains since the start of 2002 to 41,000 (+4.4%). Some of the strength in this industry is likely a spin-off effect of robust construction activity in 2002.

Provincially, the job strength observed in the second half of 2002 in Ontario continued in January with an increase of 26,000. The largest employment gains were in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing as well as transportation. The unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage points to 6.8%.

Employment rose by 4,000 in Newfoundland and Labrador, the second consecutive monthly increase, bringing gains since November to 8,000. The largest increase in January was in the natural resource industries. The unemployment rate fell 0.6 percentage points to 17.9%.

Following strong growth over 2002, employment in Quebec was down slightly in January as a decline in part-time jobs was partly offset by a gain in full-time. The unemployment rate edged down 0.1 percentage points to 8.4%.

Employment in Alberta fell by 12,000 in January. The largest job losses occurred in construction and professional, scientific and technical services. The unemployment rate rose 0.6 percentage points to 5.5%.

In Manitoba, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.9%, and in Saskatchewan it rose 0.2 percentage points to 5.8%. There was little change in employment for the other provinces in January.

Labour force information is available for the week ending January 18 (Internet: 71-001-XIE, \$8/\$78). For general information, contact Client Services (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325) or Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750), Labour Statistics Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 7.)

Demand for housing leads to record year for building permits

Municipalities issued \$45.9 billion in building permits in 2002, breaking the previous annual record of \$40.0 billion set in 1989. The feverish demand right across the country for new housing was the cornerstone of this exceptional year.

Last year's total was a 16.0% increase from 2001 and a seventh straight annual increase in overall construction intentions.

The value of residential permits totalled \$29.0 billion in 2002, up 32.1% from 2001, fuelled by strong increases for both single- and multi-family dwellings. For the first time since 1989, the 200,000-unit mark was surpassed for a single year, as municipalities authorized the construction of 212,400 new dwelling units in 2002.

In 2002, permits for single-family dwellings (which represent more than 70% of the residential sector) totalled \$20.9 billion, up 32.0% from 2001. The value of multi-family permits advanced 32.3% in 2002 and totalled \$8.1 billion.

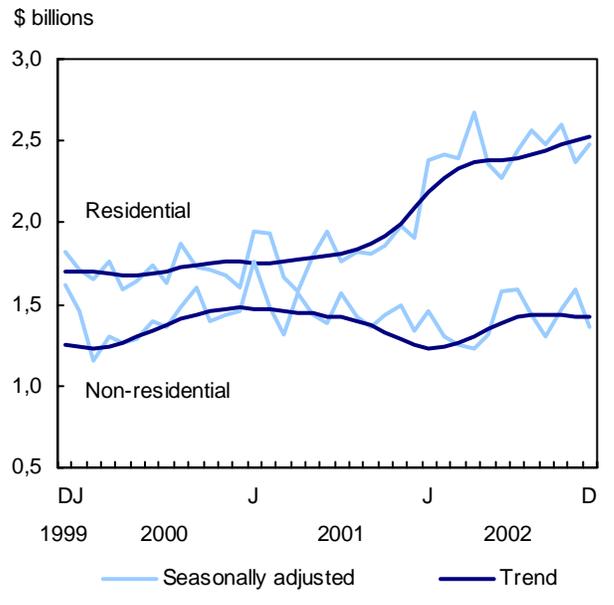
These great results arose from a combination of several factors. The highest annual growth rate in employment since 1987, very low mortgage rates, the scarcity of dwellings available for rent or sale, and rising disposable income together created exceptional conditions that attracted consumers to the new home market.

All provinces, territories and metropolitan areas showed growth in residential construction intentions in 2002. The Atlantic provinces, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and the Northwest Territories all set new annual highs in terms of value of residential permits. As well, 14 metropolitan areas reached new annual peaks in the residential sector. These are good indications that the housing boom hit every part of the country.

Despite a 4.1% drop, the non-residential sector recorded its second highest annual value in the last 13 years, reaching \$16.8 billion.

The institutional component was the only component to record an annual increase within the non-residential sector. Institutional permits reached a record \$5.5 billion, up 8.5%, driven mainly by the social services and educational categories.

Value of building permits



Commercial intentions fell for the second year in a row in 2002, down 8.4% from 2001 to \$8.1 billion. Mainly, the decline was due to fewer projects in the office buildings category.

The industrial component dropped 11.1% to \$3.2 billion, the lowest level since 1996. A strong drop in the manufacturing plant category caused this decrease, as fewer large projects were planned.

In December, the value of building permits declined for a second consecutive month, down 3.2% to \$3.8 billion. Non-residential building permits dropped 14.8% to \$1.4 billion, as the commercial and institutional components retreated. Residential permits remained high, however, increasing 4.6% to \$2.5 billion, as both single- and multi-family components gained ground.

*The December 2002 issue of **Building permits** (Internet: 64-001-XIE, \$14/\$145) is now available. To order data, contact Vere Clarke (1-800-579-8533; 613-951-6556; clarver@statcan.ca). For more information, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; saineti@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division.*

Largest increase in over 12 years for New Housing Price Index

Nationally, the annual average for the New Housing Price Index for 2002 rose 4.1% from 2001, the largest increase since 1989. This reflects the strength in the market for new homes, also evidenced by the record year for the issue of building permits by municipalities.

The New Housing Price Index rose 0.3% in December from November, capping off a strong year of growth in new house prices. Compared with December 2001, this index was up 5.1%, the highest 12-month increase in more than 12 years.

Monthly rises occurred in 12 of the 21 urban centres surveyed, with the largest increases in St. Catharines–Niagara (+0.9%) and Calgary (+0.8%). Higher material and labour costs were the main sources of this growth.

For the second time in a row, Edmonton led the way with the largest year-over-year increase for new home prices (+9.3%). Montréal was second with an increase of 8.3%, and Québec and Ottawa–Gatineau both went up 8.0% on a 12-month basis.

*The fourth quarter 2002 issue of **Capital expenditure price statistics** (paper: 62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available soon. For more information, contact Perry Kirkpatrick (613-951-3350), Prices Division.*

New from Statistics Canada

Sixth consecutive decline of Help-wanted Index

The Help-wanted Index (1996=100) fell for the sixth consecutive month to 111.6 in January, down 1.7% from December.

The largest declines were in Quebec (-2.3%), Ontario (-1.6%) and Saskatchewan (-1.1%). The only recorded increases were in Prince Edward Island (+1.5%) and Nova Scotia (+1.0%).

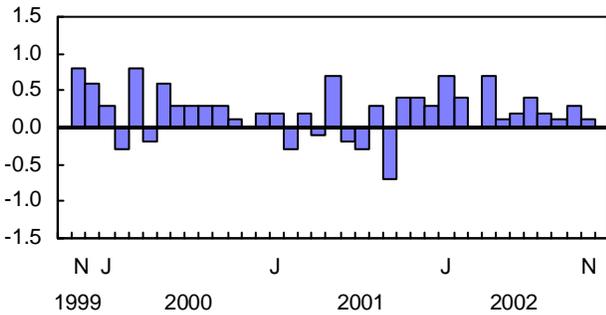
The Help-wanted Index is compiled from the number of help-wanted ads published in 22 newspapers in 20 metropolitan areas and is considered an indicator of labour demand, measuring companies' intentions to hire new workers. The index has been seasonally adjusted and smoothed to ease month-to-month comparisons.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091) or Jamie Brunet (613-951-6684), Labour Statistics Division.

Current trends

Gross domestic product

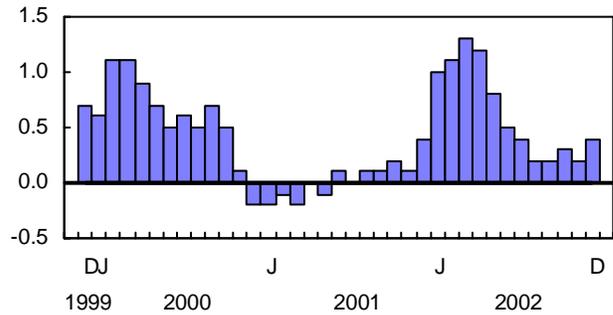
% change, previous month



Total economic activity edged up 0.1% in November, following a 0.3% gain in October.

Composite Index

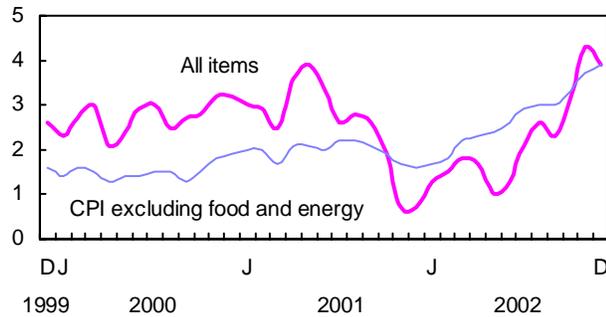
% change, previous month



The leading indicator grew 0.4% in December after fluctuating around 0.2% for four straight months.

Consumer Price Index

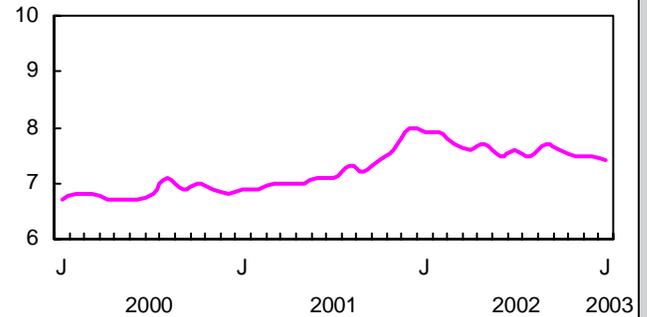
% change, previous year



Consumer prices for goods and services were 3.9% higher in December than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices also rose 3.9%.

Unemployment rate

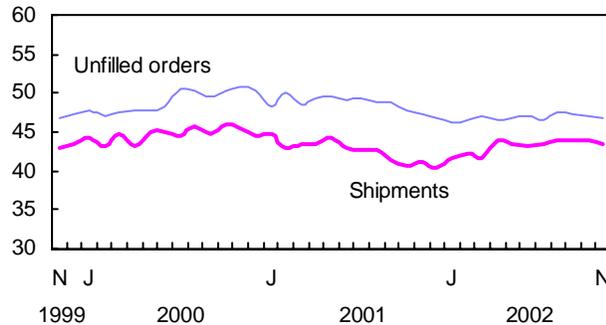
%



In January, the unemployment rate edged down 0.1 percentage points to 7.4%.

Manufacturing

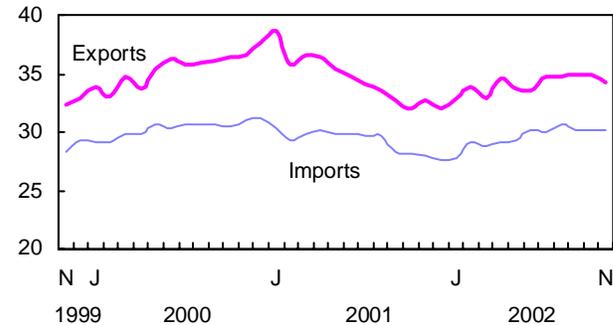
\$ billions



Manufacturers' shipments declined 1.3% in November to \$43.6 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders declined 0.2% to \$46.9 billion.

Merchandise trade

\$ billions



In November, the value of merchandise exports declined 2.2% to \$34.3 billion. Imports edged down 0.1% to \$30.2 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 (\$ billions, 1997) ¹	November	984.4	0.1%	3.7%
Composite Index (1992=100)	December	180.6	0.4%	7.9%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billions)	Q3 2002	40.3	2.6%	12.9%
Capacity utilization rate (%) ²	Q3 2002	83.3	0.8†	2.5†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade (\$ billions)	November	25.8	-0.6%	5.1%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	December*	150.3	6.3%	2.7%
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	November	35.9	0.3%	8.8%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	January*	15.6	0.0%	3.1%
Unemployment rate (%)	January*	7.4	-0.1†	-0.5†
Participation rate (%)	January*	67.3	-0.2†	-0.8†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	November	684.76	0.31%	2.05%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	January	111.6	-1.7%	-11.3%
Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries (in thousands)	November	550.5	-1.1%	-1.6%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports (\$ billions)	November	34.3	-2.2%	5.0%
Merchandise imports (\$ billions)	November	30.2	-0.1%	7.8%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billions)	November	4.1	-0.8	-0.6
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billions)	November	43.6	-1.3%	5.8%
New orders (\$ billions)	November	43.5	-0.9%	6.8%
Unfilled orders (\$ billions)	November	46.9	-0.2%	-1.1%
Inventory/shipments ratio	November	1.46	0.04	-0.07
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	December	120.4	-0.3%	3.9%
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	December	108.2	-0.4%	2.8%
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	December	118.4	4.2%	17.6%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	December*	112.8	0.8%	5.1%

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

* new this week

† percentage point

¹ 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.

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

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A weekly review

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Farm business cash flows - Agriculture economic statistics, Vol. 1, no. 2		21-018-XIE	free
HEALTH STATISTICS			
Health reports, Vol. 14, no. 2		82-003-XIE	15/44
Health reports, Vol. 14, no. 2		82-003-XPE	20/58
INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK			
Building permits	December 2002	64-001-XIE	14/145
LABOUR STATISTICS			
Labour force information, week ending January 18, 2003		71-001-XIE	8/78
MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY			
Cement	December 2002	44-001-XIB	5/47
Energy statistics handbook	Q3 2002	57-601-XCB	150
Energy statistics handbook	Q3 2002	57-601-XIE	35/100
Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins	December 2002	46-002-XIE	5/47
Steel wire and specified wire products	December 2002	41-006-XIB	5/47
SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND ELECTRONIC INFORMATION			
Science statistics, Vol. 27, no. 1		88-001-XIB	6/59
SERVICE INDUSTRIES			
Services indicators	Q3 2002	63-016-XIB	26/87
Services indicators	Q3 2002	63-016-XPB	35/116

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