



Infomat

A Weekly Review

Friday, February 15, 2002

OVERVIEW

◆ First major jump in employment in a year

Employment rose by 76,000 in January, the first major increase in over a year. The jobless rate dipped to 7.9% from 8.0% in December. Manufacturing employment advanced 25,000 for only the third time in 13 months.

◆ Year-end review: Little job growth in 2001

The number of working Canadians grew by only 0.2% last year, compared with a 2.2% increase in 2000. Manufacturing suffered its largest year-over-year drop in employment since 1991.

◆ Record high in housing permits

Builders took out an estimated \$39.9 billion in building permits in 2001, just shy of the all-time high set in 1989. Construction intentions for housing broke an annual record.

◆ Services industries still outpacing goods industries

Output in the service-producing industries expanded by 0.3% in the third quarter of 2001. Goods output fell 2.0%.

◆ Movie-going reaches 40-year high

Canadians flocked to the movies in 1999/2000, setting a new 40-year record. Multi-screen theatres drew larger audiences, but more patrons did not bring greater profits.

First major jump in employment in a year

Employment rose by 76,000 in January, the first major increase in over a year. The jobless rate dipped to 7.9% from 8.0% in December. Manufacturing employment advanced 25,000.

Part-time employment rose 46,000 (+1.7%) in January, continuing the upward trend in recent months. At 18.5%, the proportion of employed people who were working part-time was the highest since mid-1999. Full-time work also rose in January (+30,000), but the increase was lower than the jump in part-time.

For only the third time in 13 months, factory employment increased. Despite rising 25,000 in January, manufacturing employment was down 70,000 (-3.0%) from January 2001. While computer and electronic product and transportation equipment manufacturing continued to decline in January 2002, paper production and printing gained.

Employment in educational services rose 25,000 from December, the largest increase in two years. Construction employment continued its upward momentum, rising 20,000 from

Labour Force Survey, January 2002
Seasonally adjusted¹

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	rate (%)
Canada	16,471.1	0.4	15,166.1	0.5	1,304.9	7.9
Newfoundland and Labrador	257.0	-0.4	212.3	-0.9	44.7	17.4
Prince Edward Island	75.3	-0.7	65.7	-0.9	9.6	12.7
Nova Scotia	472.1	-0.7	426.2	-0.3	45.9	9.7
New Brunswick	383.7	0.9	340.2	0.9	43.5	11.3
Quebec	3,866.7	0.1	3,513.0	0.8	353.7	9.1
Ontario	6,452.9	0.6	5,977.0	0.1	475.8	7.4
Manitoba	596.5	0.6	566.1	0.1	30.4	5.1
Saskatchewan	500.3	0.6	470.4	0.9	29.9	6.0
Alberta	1,737.7	0.3	1,655.3	0.7	82.4	4.7
British Columbia	2,128.9	0.4	1,940.0	1.4	188.9	8.9

¹ Data are for both sexes aged 15 and over.

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... First major jump in employment in a year

December, consistent with recent strength in housing starts. Since January 2001, construction employment has risen 5.1%.

Employment in the accommodation and food sector was up 19,000 in January from December, due entirely to added employment in restaurants and drinking places.

Transportation and warehousing employment fell 13,000 from December, due mainly to employment losses in air transportation. Employment in transportation and warehousing was down 7.1% from January 2001, led by a sharp decline in trucking.

Farm employment continued to slide in January, dropping another 7,000. During the last three years, agricultural employment has been on a steep downward trend, falling 39,000 (-11.2%) since January 2001 alone.

Employment among adult women rose 46,000, all in full-time positions, causing their unemployment rate to fall to 6.1% from 6.4%. However, the unemployment rate for adult men stayed at 7.3%, 1.2 percentage points higher than that of women. This is the largest gap between the two rates since 1992. Since January 2001, employment has risen 1.6% for adult women, but only 0.2% for adult men.

After dropping during 2001, youth employment rose 36,000 in January, mostly due to added work in the restaurant sector. As a result of these gains, the youth unemployment rate fell from 14.0% in December to 13.8% in January. This level was still 1.7 percentage points higher than in January 2001.

Led by gains in manufacturing, Quebec's employment rebounded 27,000 in January, after falling 10,000 in December.

With this gain, employment in Quebec rose 1.6% from January 2001, mostly due to strength in the Montréal labour market.

In British Columbia, employment was up 27,000. While this increase offset some of the recent declines, employment in the province remained 31,000, or 1.6%, below its March 2001 peak.

Employment changed little in Ontario, but higher labour force participation left the unemployment rate at 7.4%, up from 6.9% in December, and the highest since March 1998. With fewer manufacturing jobs, employment has been flat in Ontario for just over a year.

In Alberta, employment increased 11,000 from December, bringing year-over-year gains to 35,000 (+2.1%). Much of January's advance was in manufacturing, offsetting recent losses in this industry. The unemployment rate in Alberta fell to 4.7% from 5.1% in December.

Employment in Saskatchewan rose 4,000 in January, but was still 2.6% lower than in January 2001. Over the last year, falling farm employment has been the main reason for the decline. Employment edged up by 3,000 in New Brunswick, nudging the unemployment rate down from 11.4% to 11.3%.

*For a detailed summary, see **Labour force information for the week ending January 19** (Internet: 71-001-PIB, \$8/\$78; paper: 71-001-PPB, \$11/\$103). For general information, 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.)*

Year-end review: Little job growth in 2001

Little job growth occurred throughout 2001, according to a year-end review. By the end of the year, nearly 15.1 million people were working, only 25,000 more than at the start of 2001, a 0.2% increase. In contrast, the number of working Canadians grew by more than 325,000 in 2000, a 2.2% increase from 1999. (See table next page for details by sex and age.)

Employers cut back hiring by almost 7% in 2001, and the number of permanent layoffs increased 2.1%. The unemployment rate ended the year at 8.0%, the highest level since April 1999.

Manufacturing, which just two years earlier led employment growth, incurred its largest year-over-year drop in employment since 1991. Most of this decline was concentrated in the high-technology sector. With factories running at only 83% of capacity, compared with 86% in 2000, fewer workers were needed. Manufacturing employment peaked at 2.3 million in December 2000, but by the end of 2001 had plunged by 111,000, or 4.8%.

Much of the drop in manufacturing employment was concentrated in computers and electronic products, where the value of

shipments took a drastic dive in 2001. Towards the end of the year, companies were manufacturing \$1.7 billion worth of computer and electronic products, less than half the amount produced at the peak in October 2000.

However, in 2001 retail and wholesale trade made large gains; employment jumped 76,000 (+3.2%), a similar gain to that seen in 2000, as consumer spending maintained its momentum in 2001. Strong demand for new and resale homes helped boost construction employment, which rose 30,000, or 3.7%.

Last year's slight rise in employment was due entirely to an increase in part-time work. This halted four years of growth in full-time employment. From 1997 to 2000, full-time employment rose 13.4%, well ahead of the rate of growth of part-time employment (+3.5%). However, full-time employment declined 0.2% in 2001, but part-time employment rose 1.7%.

Weakness in manufacturing, computer systems design and other sectors of the economy that demand relatively long work weeks caused the number of full-time employees to level off at around 12.3 million. However, full-time employees still represented four out of every five workers.

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... Year-end review: Little job growth in 2001

Selected labour market estimates

Seasonally adjusted

	Dec. 2001	Dec. 2000 to Dec. 2001
	'000	Change ('000)
Employment	15,091.4	24.7
Men	8,090.0	-28.9
15-24	1,165.4	-51.5
25-54	5,937.3	-16.8
55+	987.3	39.4
Women	7,001.4	53.6
15-24	1,135.5	8.0
25-54	5,190.5	13.0
55+	675.4	32.6
Unemployment	1,318.4	215.1
Men	765.3	161.9
15-24	219.3	30.1
25-54	479.5	112.5
55+	66.5	19.3
Women	553.1	53.2
15-24	154.4	8.7
25-54	352.7	29.2
55+	46.0	15.3
	%	% point change
Unemployment rate	8.0	1.2
Men	8.6	1.7
15-24	15.8	2.3
25-54	7.5	1.7
55+	6.3	1.6
Women	7.3	0.6
15-24	12.0	0.6
25-54	6.4	0.5
55+	6.4	1.8

Self-employment fell for the second year in a row. Just under 2.3 million people were self-employed in December, down about 83,000 from December 2000.

In British Columbia, employment tailed off in the second half of 2001. By the fourth quarter, it was down 46,000 (-2.3%) from the fourth quarter of 2000. New rules restricting access to the American market caused many lumber producers to slow or halt operations.

About two-thirds of the national decline in manufacturing employment was concentrated in Ontario, where motor vehicle shipments fell, as did the production of computers and electronics. By the end of 2001, there were an estimated 83,000 fewer factory jobs in Ontario, a 7.1% decline, erasing all the gains made in 2000.

Total employment in Ontario was up only 10,000 from December 2000 to December 2001, a sharp change from 2000, when employment rose 189,000 from December 1999. This lack of job growth in 2001 pushed Ontario's unemployment rate from 6.0% in December 2000 to 6.9% at the end of 2001.

For more information, contact Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325; bowlgeo@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

Record high in housing permits

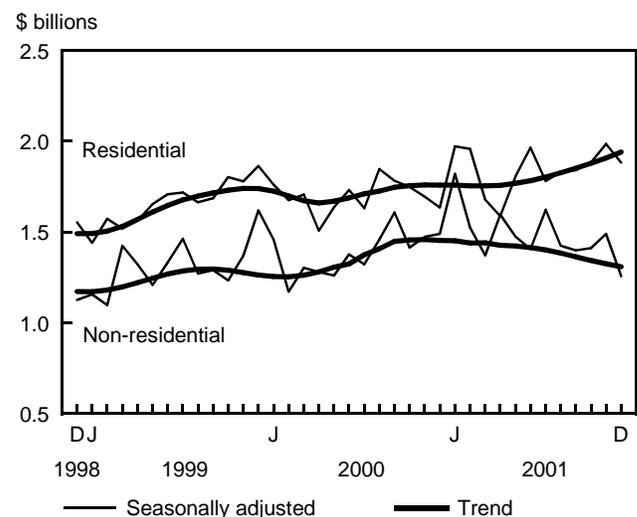
Builders took out an estimated \$39.9 billion in building permits in 2001, just shy of the all-time high set in 1989. Construction intentions for housing broke an annual record, and non-residential permits hit a 12-year peak.

The \$39.9-billion estimated annual total is an 8.1% increase from 2000, and just short of the best annual performance on record, \$40.0 billion. Advances in both the residential and non-residential sectors contributed to this strong showing.

Construction intentions in the residential sector rose 8.9% to a preliminary \$22.2 billion in 2001, a record which followed strong performances in 1999 and 2000. The upward trend in residential permits throughout 2001 was mainly the result of low mortgage rates, tight vacancy rates in several centres and high demand on the resale housing market.

In 2001, the key portion of the housing sector — the single-family component, which comprises more than 70% of the total residential value — led the advance (in dollars). The value of single-family permits climbed 8.2% to \$16.0 billion; multi-family permits rose 10.8% to \$6.2 billion.

Value of building permits



(continued on page 4)

... Record high in housing permits

Among the regions, the total value of residential building permits increased in 22 of the 26 census metropolitan areas. Calgary showed the largest rise (in dollars) in the single-family component; Vancouver posted the largest advance in multi-family permits. All other provinces and territories posted gains in residential permits, except Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and

Value of building permits by census metropolitan area

Seasonally adjusted

	December 2001	November to December 2001	January to December 2001	January-December 2000 to January-December 2001
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
St. John's	17.0	-1.4	186.2	8.0
Halifax	42.2	108.8	331.4	-32.8
Saint John	5.4	-6.2	80.1	-14.5
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	4.9	-28.7	164.8	37.4
Québec	110.0	92.6	739.6	36.7
Sherbrooke	7.3	-39.8	137.9	8.0
Trois-Rivières	12.0	17.8	115.9	1.9
Montréal	411.9	0.0	4,401.2	35.8
Hull	21.0	12.4	346.7	14.5
Ottawa	127.2	10.7	1,454.1	-3.5
Oshawa	49.0	1.3	579.5	-10.5
Toronto	551.0	-25.8	8,347.2	-2.3
Hamilton	53.8	-27.9	838.8	11.9
St. Catharines-Niagara	26.4	40.7	392.3	-26.8
Kitchener	87.9	-16.1	1,004.4	28.3
London	51.2	-24.4	695.5	61.9
Windsor	58.8	16.1	573.3	4.0
Sudbury	2.3	-94.9	116.7	29.3
Thunder Bay	16.4	350.0	109.0	13.5
Winnipeg	26.5	-34.1	421.7	-19.0
Regina	13.6	-23.9	214.3	52.1
Saskatoon	12.1	-78.0	290.9	19.9
Calgary	216.0	-25.9	2,325.9	1.7
Edmonton	164.8	1.8	1,490.6	19.3
Vancouver	222.8	23.7	3,002.8	9.7
Victoria	33.4	63.0	366.4	26.0

Nunavut. The largest dollar increases were in Quebec (+15.8%) and Alberta (+16.9%).

Following a strong performance from 1997 through 2000, construction intentions in the non-residential sector kept their momentum in 2001, rising 7.1% to a preliminary \$17.8 billion, the best showing since 1989. Declining vacancy rates for office and commercial buildings and a dearth of industrial space in many centres in 2000 contributed to the growth of non-residential building intentions in 2001. Others included low interest rates, good corporate profits in 2000 and higher proposed construction spending by government.

The institutional component was the main contributor to the annual growth in the non-residential sector. Institutional permits reached a record \$5.0 billion, up 33.6%, driven mainly by the education, medical and hospital categories. Commercial construction intentions reached \$9.1 billion in 2001, up 2.2% from 2000 and their highest level since 1989. Office building projects provided most of the impetus.

The industrial component halted a four-year upward trend, declining 6.8% to \$3.7 billion, following a 9.5% increase in 2000. The 2001 drop was largely due to declining construction intentions for plants. Among the provinces, the most significant growth in 2001 in dollar terms occurred in Quebec (+31.0% to \$4.0 billion), powered by booming commercial construction intentions in the Montréal area. Nova Scotia posted the largest decline (-34.3% to \$245 million), as all three non-residential components fell.

The value of building permits issued by municipalities dropped in December in the wake of a plunge in industrial construction intentions. Builders took out \$3.1 billion in permits, down 9.7% from November. The value of non-residential building permits fell 15.6% to its lowest level since February 2000. Housing intentions declined 5.2%, halting four consecutive monthly gains. Even so, the value of residential permits in December was 1.9% above the average monthly level in 2001.

*The December 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.*

Services industries still outpacing goods industries

The service-producing industries expanded their output in real terms by 0.3% in the third quarter of 2001, the lowest quarterly gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate for services in more than five years. Nevertheless, the services industries continued to outpace the goods industries. Goods output fell 2.0% from July to September, the fourth consecutive quarterly decline.

The services industries created 55,100 jobs in the third quarter of 2001. However, this increase was very weak, given the seasonal nature of many services industries, which usually expand their work forces far more sharply in the summer months.

The rate of GDP growth in services had already slowed prior to the third quarter. However, the third quarter gain was further

Real quarterly GDP growth rates

	Services	Goods
	%	
3 rd quarter 2000	1.1	0.6
4 th quarter 2000	0.5	-0.5
1 st quarter 2001	0.6	-1.3
2 nd quarter 2001	0.5	-0.4
3 rd quarter 2001	0.3	-2.0

curtailed by substantial declines for travel-related industries, which were hit hard by the events of September 11. Air transportation output dropped 5.0%, and the accommodation services GDP fell 3.9%.

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... Services industries still outpacing goods industries

In September alone, output plunged 19.1% in air transportation and 10.9% in accommodation services. This was due to airport shutdowns, reduced air travel demand, and an unprecedented number of cancellations for hotel accommodations. In addition, the economic slowdown already under way before September 11 likely contributed to the third quarter declines in both industries, as each had already seen output contractions in the second quarter.

Other services also saw declines. Truck transportation output contracted 3.5%, mainly because of the slowdown in manufacturing. The automotive equipment rental and leasing industry's GDP fell 1.6%, and the retail trade sector (-0.9%) incurred its steepest decline in at least four years, primarily the result of a substantial September drop in retail sales.

Output declined 0.4% in the professional, scientific and technical services sector, normally one of the fastest-growing in the economy. It was the sector's first quarterly drop since the second quarter of 1996. The economic slowdown has forced budget-conscious businesses to cut back on some of the business services that they purchase.

Among service industries expanding this quarter were: the pay-TV, specialty TV and program distribution industry (+5.3%),

which continued to enjoy growing demand; arts, entertainment and recreation services (+2.6%) due to strong growth for performing arts, spectator sports and heritage institutions; and transit and ground passenger transportation (+2.2%), largely because fewer travellers were willing or able to fly and public transit in Vancouver resumed following a second-quarter strike.

Consumers played a role in boosting services output in the third quarter. Personal expenditures on services rose 1.2% in nominal terms. Services prices were virtually unchanged. The spending increase in the third quarter largely resulted from a greater volume of services being consumed.

This consumer-induced growth was somewhat offset by a sharp 5.2% decline in Canada's services exports in the third quarter. Imports of services fell 4.2%. While some of the downturn in services trade was due to the events of September 11, some may have been due to the weakening of the overall economy that was already under way. Services imports and exports had already declined 3.4% and 0.5%, respectively, in the second quarter.

*The third quarter 2001 edition of **Services indicators** (Internet: 63-016-XIB, \$26/\$87; paper: 63-016-XPB, \$35/\$116) is now available. For more information, contact Don Little (613-951-6739; littdon@statcan.ca), Services Industries Division.*

Movie-going reaches 40-year high

The film industry reported its eighth consecutive annual increase in attendance in 1999/2000, reaching a 40-year high of 119.8 million. The growth rate of 5% was less than half the 13% growth reported in 1998/99.

Multi-screen theatre complexes contributed significantly to the overall growth in attendance since 1991/92. In 1999/2000 alone, 23 larger theatres (those with operating revenues of \$1 million and over) opened, along with 25 smaller theatres. The new larger establishments, mostly multiplexes, reported total attendance even greater than the overall industry increase.

The total number of cinemas grew 4% from 1991/92 to 1999/2000, while the number of screens expanded 75% and the

Note to readers

The Motion Picture Theatres Survey is a census of all movie theatres and drive-in theatres in Canada. The 1999/2000 survey included 646 movie theatres and 68 drive-ins that provided data for the fiscal year from April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000. Percentage comparisons between 1998/99 and 1999/2000 were done excluding the 14 theatres that were only added to the survey frame in 1999/2000 but were known to have been operating in 1998/99.

number of seats rose 46%. This pointed to a greater number of multiplexes, but a higher proportion of smaller viewing spaces.

In the early 1990s, the industry began to rebound after decades of decline. Attendance soared about 70% from 1991/92 to 1999/2000. At the same time, the industry underwent rationalization and restructuring. Larger multiple-screen houses replaced many small- and medium-sized unprofitable theatres. From 1991/92 to 1999/2000, for example, the number of larger cinemas grew 57%, from 167 to 263. This growth came at the expense of small- and medium-sized theatres, the number of which dropped 15% to 383.

While larger new theatres recorded 8.6 million visits, the attraction of existing theatres seemed to be diminishing. Attendance at previously existing larger theatres fell 5%. Older medium-sized theatres declined 21%, while small theatres declined 18%.

Along with the slowing of attendance growth, 1999/2000 also saw market shares stabilize. After rising gradually from 1991/92 to 1997/98, market share for larger theatres remained stable at 84% over 1998/99 and 1999/2000. The loss of market share for small theatres also appeared to be ending, although they reported

Movie and drive-in theatres, 1999/2000

	Movie theatres	Drive-ins	Total
Number of theatres	646	68	714
Number of screens	2,817	106	2,923
Full-time employees	1,772	104	1,876
Part-time employees	13,056	723	13,779
		'000	
Attendance	117,845	1,940	119,785
		'000	
Box office receipts	647,234	11,425	658,659
Total revenues	931,366	19,636	951,002
Profit	39,616	2,446	42,062

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... Movie-going reaches 40-year high

a small loss in 1999/2000. Medium-sized establishments actually saw a slight increase in market share.

Profits for the industry declined 39% from 1998/99 to \$42.1 million. Full-time employment increased 6% to 1,876, and the number of part-time employees expanded 17% to 13,779. Total profits of movie theatres amounted to \$39.6 million, or 4% of total revenue. As in previous years, larger theatres turned a profit but smaller ones suffered losses. The profit margin for the very large movie complexes was about 7%, while large theatres reported a 6% profit margin. However, medium-sized theatres lost 9%, and small theatres lost 5%.

After declining at an average annual rate of 8% from 1995/96 to 1998/99, attendance at drive-in theatres remained almost unchanged in 1999/2000. The number of drive-ins remained

stable at 68, since a small number of closures were offset by the same number of openings of new establishments. Drive-in theatres posted profits of \$2.4 million in 1999/2000, up 11% from 1998/99. The profit margin rose one percentage point to 12%.

Canadians went to a movie theatre or drive-in 3.93 times a year on average in 1999/2000. Residents of Alberta and British Columbia are Canada's most avid movie-goers, at 5.19 and 4.21 visits, respectively. At 1.47 visits per year, Newfoundland and Labrador residents continued to go to the movies least often.

*The survey **Movie theatres and drive-ins** (paper: 87F0009XPE, \$50) is now available. For general information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; cult.tourstats@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Norman Verma (613-951-6863; fax: 613-951-1333; norman.verma@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.*

New from Statistics Canada

Case processing in criminal courts

A new study of the court system, *Juristat: Case processing in criminal courts, 1999/2000*, shows that adult criminal courts are handling fewer cases, but their workload is increasing.

Cases are taking longer to process, largely because they are becoming more complex. In 1999/2000, adult criminal courts in the seven provinces and two territories that participated in the study processed 378,600 cases, down 4% from 1998/99 and down 13% since 1995/96. Since 1995/96, the total number of appearances heard has risen 3%, and the average number of appearances for the most serious offence has jumped 14%.

The latest Juristat: Case processing in criminal courts, 1999/2000 (Internet: 85-002-XIE, \$8/\$70; paper: 85-002-XPE, \$10/\$93) is now available. For more information, contact the Information and Client Services Unit (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Police resources in Canada

Canada had just over than 57,000 police officers on June 15, 2001, a 2% gain from the same date in 2000. Half this gain was a result of a 5% rise in the number of RCMP officers. After declining from 1991 to 1998, the number of police per 100,000 population rose for the third consecutive year, to 184.

Female officer recruitment increased 8% from 2000. By comparison, the number of male officers rose 1%. Females now account for about 15% of all police officers. Spending on federal, provincial and municipal policing in 2000 totalled \$6.8 billion. The 6% increase in total expenditures in 2000 was the largest annual rise in policing costs in a decade.

The report Police resources in Canada, 2001 (Internet: 85-225-XIE, \$26) is now available. For more information, contact Information and Client Services (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Changes to municipal boundaries, status and names

The report *Interim list of changes to municipal boundaries, status and names* summarizes the changes to municipal boundaries, status and names that occurred from January 2, 1996 to January 1, 2001, based on information received from the provinces and territories.

The report titled Interim list of changes to municipal boundaries, status and names (paper: 92F0009XPB, \$25) is now available. For more information, or to order this product, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre. (See page 11.)

Growers of genetically modified grain corn and soybeans in Quebec and Ontario

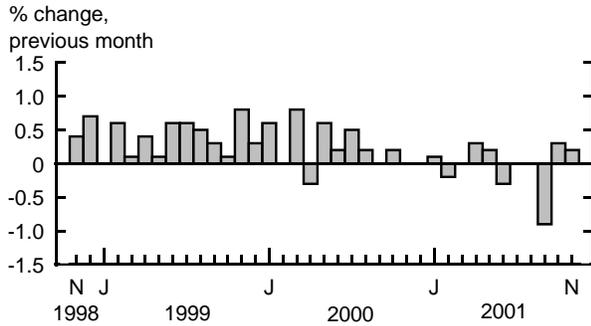
The study *Growers of genetically modified grain corn and soybeans in Quebec and Ontario: A profile* is based on acreage data from the June 2000 Crops Survey and data on average yields from the November 2000 Crops Survey.

In 2000, farmers planted 16% of all soybean acreage in Quebec, and 18% in Ontario, with genetically modified seed (GMS). The proportion for grain corn in both provinces was 27%. Average yields of genetically modified grain corn were higher than for non-genetically modified seed, but for soybeans the differences were negligible. GMS was of interest to all farm categories, even though smaller farms used it more than large farms.

The study Growers of genetically modified grain corn and soybeans in Quebec and Ontario: A profile (Internet: 21-601-MIE, free) is available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the Our products and services page, choose Research papers (free), then Agriculture. For more information, contact Bernard Hategekimana (613-951-5304), Agriculture Division.

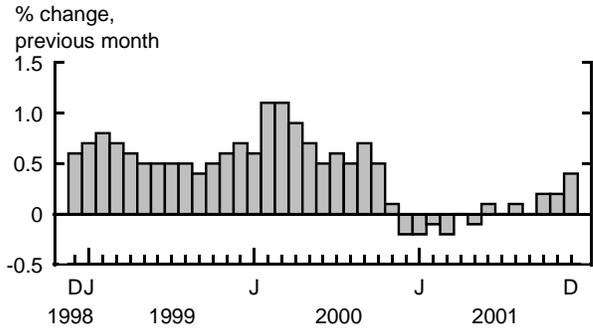
Current trends

Gross domestic product



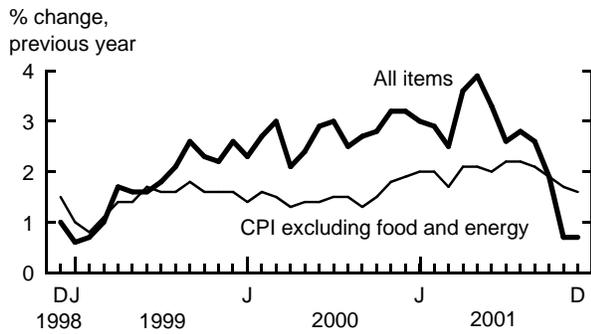
Total economic activity advanced 0.2% in November, after rising 0.3% in October.

Composite Index



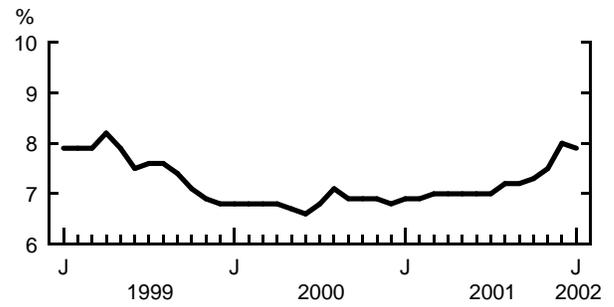
The leading indicator rose 0.4% in December. Housing made the largest contribution to the increase.

Consumer Price Index



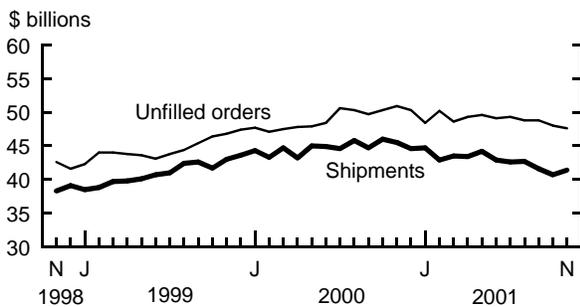
Consumer prices for goods and services were 0.7% higher in December than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 1.6%.

Unemployment rate



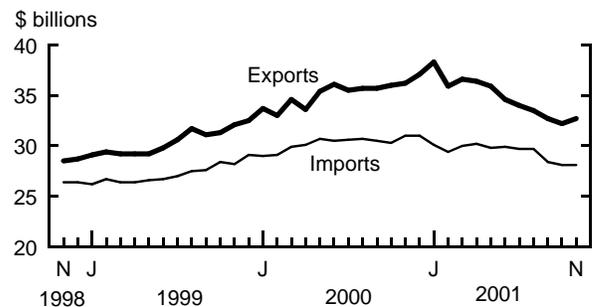
In January, the unemployment rate dipped 0.1 percentage points to 7.9%.

Manufacturing



Manufacturers' shipments climbed 1.7% in November to \$41.4 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders declined 0.8% to \$47.6 billion.

Merchandise trade



In November, the value of merchandise exports rose 1.3% to \$32.7 billion. Imports declined 0.3% to \$28.1 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	933.7	0.2%	-0.3%
Composite Index (1992=100)	December	167.7	0.4%	0.4%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billions)	Q3 2001	37.6	-14.4%	-24.0%
Capacity utilization rate (%) ²	Q3 2001	79.4	-2.5†	-7.0†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade (\$ billions)	November	24.6	1.4%	5.2%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	December*	145.7	0.9%	11.9%
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	November	32.4	0.4%	2.2%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	January*	15.2	0.5%	0.7%
Unemployment rate (%)	January*	7.9	-0.1†	1.0†
Participation rate (%)	January*	66.4	0.1†	0.3†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	November	670.84	0.19%	1.94%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	January	125	-0.8%	-27.3%
Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries (in thousands)	November	557.1	3.6%	17.5%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports (\$ billions)	November	32.7	1.3%	-9.8%
Merchandise imports (\$ billions)	November	28.1	-0.3%	-9.3%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billions)	November	4.6	0.5	-0.7
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billions)	November	41.4	1.7%	-9.1%
New orders (\$ billions)	November	41.0	2.7%	-11.0%
Unfilled orders (\$ billions)	November	47.6	-0.8%	-6.4%
Inventory/shipments ratio	November	1.53	-0.03	0.09
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	January*	116.2	0.3%	1.3%
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	December	105.4	-0.8%	-2.3%
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	December	101.8	-1.4%	-12.8%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	December*	107.3	0.2%	2.8%

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 Industrial Classification System (NAICS), which has replaced the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification.

Infomat

A weekly review

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