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A Weekly Review

Friday, March 16, 2001

OVERVIEW

- **Employment down slightly**

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- **Construction intentions start year on strong note**

  Municipalities issued $3.8 billion in building permits in January, the highest monthly figure on record and an increase of 21.5% from December. The gain was fuelled by strength in both the residential and non-residential sectors.

- **Investment in residential construction posts good performance**

  The total value of investment in the housing sector was $42.7 billion in 2000, up 3.9% from 1999. The biggest contributor to the increase was investment related to renovations.

- **Industrial capacity utilization slips**

  In the fourth quarter, the industrial capacity utilization rate slipped 0.2 percentage points to 85.4%, the second consecutive quarterly decline. Most industry groups showed decreases.

- **Sales by large retailers continue to grow**

  In December, sales by large retailers were up 7.0% from December 1999. For all of 2000, sales were up 5.1% from 1999, and they increased for all major product lines.

- **More overseas travellers visit Canada**

  Foreign travel to Canada grew for the eighth consecutive year in 2000, largely the result of an increase in the number of visitors from overseas, particularly Asia and the United Kingdom.

Employment down slightly

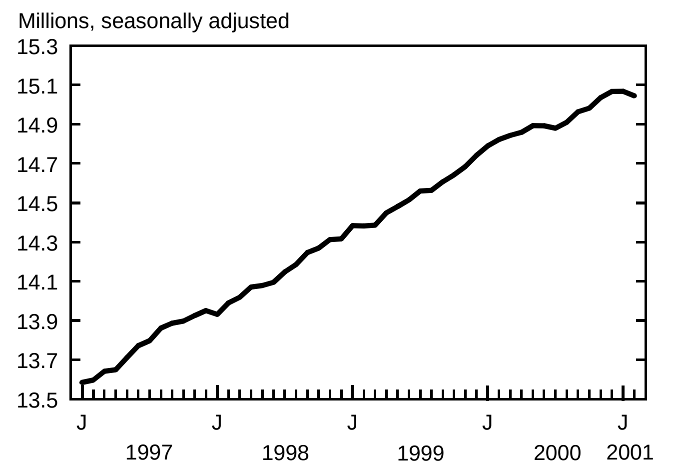
Employment edged down 24,000 in February, after no change in January. This follows steady growth over the last five months of 2000 (+187,000). The unemployment rate remained unchanged in February at 6.9%.

In February, employment fell 31,000 among youths (those 15 to 24). This decline, which occurred in part-time employment, pushed their unemployment rate up 0.8 percentage points to 12.9%. Among adult men (those 25 and over), employment increased by 15,000 jobs, all part-time. For adult women, employment was essentially unchanged for a second consecutive month.

After six consecutive months of growth totalling 281,000 jobs, the number of employees edged down 21,000 in February. The number of self-employed workers was little changed, after pursuing a downward trend since the beginning of 2000.

By industry, the largest declines in employment were in trade and manufacturing. Following two consecutive months of growth, employment in trade dropped by 29,000. Manufacturing employment fell 22,000, bringing total losses over the first two months of the year to 32,000. Employment in agriculture continued to contract, declining 11,000. The losses were concentrated in

Employment



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... Employment down slightly

Ontario and Saskatchewan. After sustained growth throughout 2000, employment in information, culture and recreation was down 11,000, after little change in January.

In contrast, employment in professional, scientific and technical services increased 12,000 in February. This continues a long-term upward trend that accelerated over the last 12 months. In construction, 12,000 jobs were added, bringing gains since last October to 29,000. Employment in management and administrative and other support services grew by 26,000, offsetting January's decrease.

Ontario saw a decline of 38,000 jobs in February. This decrease comes after four years of sustained growth. More than half of the decline was among youths. Losses were concentrated in manufacturing, trade and information, culture and recreation. The province's unemployment rate rose 0.4 percentage points to 6.1%. In Quebec, employment edged up 11,000 in February, and the unemployment rate dipped 0.2 percentage points to 8.4%.

In Nova Scotia, employment rose by 6,000, partly offsetting the decline in January. The unemployment rate dropped a full percentage point to 8.8%. Employment edged up by 900 in Prince Edward Island. In New Brunswick, employment fell by 8,000, following seven months of almost steady growth. February's decline pushed the unemployment rate up 1.6 percentage points to 11.6%. Saskatchewan lost 6,000 jobs. However, as the employment decline was nearly matched by a decrease in labour force participation, the unemployment rate edged up just 0.1 percentage points to 5.7%.

*A summary, **Labour force information** (Internet: 71-001-PIB, $8/$78; paper: 71-001-PPB, $11/$103) for the week ending February 17, 2001, presents the full report. For more information, contact Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750) or Martin Tabi (613-951-5269), Labour Statistics Division. See also "Current trends" on page 9.*

Additional information on employment insurance

An estimated 501,700 Canadians (unadjusted for seasonal trends) received regular Employment Insurance Benefits in December (the most recent month for which data are available), down 7.2% from December 1999. All provinces and territories recorded a decrease except Nunavut. Regular benefit payments (adjusted for seasonal trends) were $592.3 million, down 10.7%.

Statistics Canada and Human Resources Development Canada are working to correct an underestimation in the calculation of the number of Employment Insurance beneficiaries for the period from January 1997 to April 2000. In the meantime, users should not make comparisons between the above data and any monthly or historical data previously released. For more information, contact Justin Lacroix (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

Labour Force Survey, February 2001
Seasonally adjusted[1]

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	rate (%)
Canada	**16,166.9**	**-0.1**	**15,043.9**	**-0.2**	**1,123.0**	**6.9**
Newfoundland	246.9	0.0	206.4	-0.1	40.5	16.4
Prince Edward Island	74.6	1.2	66.0	1.4	8.7	11.7
Nova Scotia	463.6	0.5	422.8	1.5	40.8	8.8
New Brunswick	377.0	-0.6	333.4	-2.3	43.6	11.6
Quebec	3,787.9	0.1	3,468.0	0.3	319.9	8.4
Ontario	6,321.6	-0.3	5,938.7	-0.6	382.9	6.1
Manitoba	583.6	-0.3	557.4	-0.2	26.1	4.5
Saskatchewan	506.2	-1.2	477.2	-1.3	29.0	5.7
Alberta	1,703.2	-0.1	1,624.6	0.3	78.6	4.6
British Columbia	2,102.3	0.2	1,949.4	0.4	152.8	7.3

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

Construction intentions start year on strong note

Municipalities issued $3.8 billion in building permits in January, the highest monthly figure on record and an increase of 21.5% from December. The gain was fuelled by strength in both the residential and non-residential sectors. The metropolitan areas of Montreal and Toronto were far ahead of other regions.

In January, the residential sector reported its best monthly performance since February 1990. Construction projects surged 22.0% to $2.0 billion, powered by strong demand for both single- and multi-family dwellings.

These results are consistent with key indicators showing a strong housing market. In January, housing starts were up 20.1%, sales of existing homes surged and prices for new housing increased at a strong rate. As well, employment levels remained high. Furthermore, the latest Survey of Public and Private Investment shows that investment in housing should increase for a sixth straight year in 2001.

Among the provinces, Ontario reported the strongest dollar increase in the residential sector in January, largely attributable to strong construction intentions for multi-family dwellings in the Toronto area. Quebec also posted a notable gain. Nova Scotia was the only province to post a decline in residential permits (-1.9%), for the third straight month.

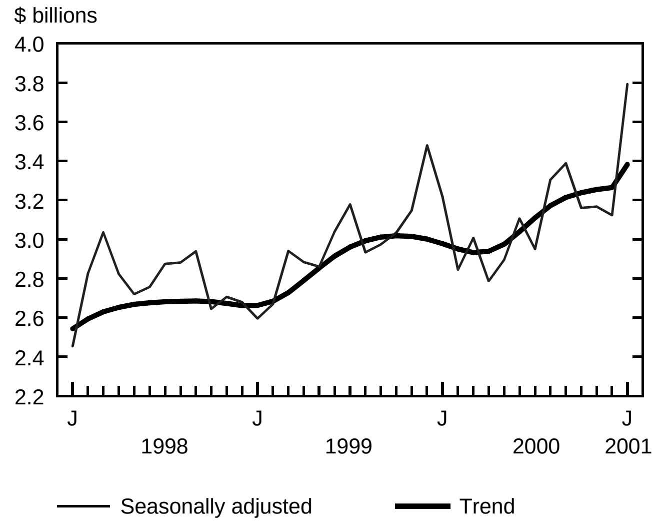
In January, the non-residential sector also posted its best monthly performance in 11 years. The value of permits rose 20.9% to $1.8 billion. This was almost entirely the result of a substantial increase in planned commercial construction (+46.7%), especially for offices and hotels. The industrial component increased 2.4%, driven largely by utility projects. Intentions in the institutional component declined 6.4%, with educational institutions showing the greatest loss. The outstanding results in the Montreal area led Quebec to post the largest dollar increase among the provinces. Ontario recorded the most significant decrease, following a strong month in December.

Despite a fourth consecutive quarterly decline in the Conference Board of Canada's Index of Business Confidence, the outlook for the non-residential sector remains positive for the start of 2001. Corporate operating profits reached a record high in 2000, vacancy rates for office and commercial buildings shrank in many centres, and industrial capacity utilization rates were high. Non-residential construction activity (excluding engineering) is also expected to grow this year, according to the Survey of Private and Public Investment.

Note to readers

The monthly Building and Demolitions Permits Survey covers 2,500 municipalities representing 94% of the population. It is used as a leading indicator of building activity. The communities representing the other 6% of the population are very small, and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total. The value of planned construction activities excludes land and engineering projects (such as water works, sewers and culverts).

Total value of building permits



Compared with January 2000, the value of building permits issued by municipalities in January 2001 was up 17.9%. In the residential sector, the value of building permits was up 13.2%, with much of the increase in the multi-family dwellings component. In the non-residential sector, the value of building permits rose 23.5% during this one-year period. This was the best January result on record in this sector. All three components showed year-over-year increases, but the largest was posted by the industrial component (+76.1%).

The January 2001 issue of ***Building permits*** *(Internet: 64-001-XIB, $19/$186) is now available. For more information, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; saineti@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division.*

Investment in residential construction posts good performance

The total value of investment in the housing sector was $42.7 billion in 2000, up 3.9% from 1999. All three components contributed to this good performance. High levels of full-time employment, sustained growth in disposable income, continued consumer confidence and higher prices for new housing had positive repercussions on residential investment last year.

Investment related to renovations was the main contributor to the increase in residential construction investment in 2000, rising 5.9% to $18.2 billion. Acquisition costs climbed 2.5% to $3.6 billion.

The value of investment in new residential construction was $20.8 billion, up 2.4% from 1999. This increase stemmed primarily from higher expenditures for single houses and apartments. In the case of single houses, the gain was entirely owing to an advance in the average value of projects, while for apartments, the growth resulted from increases in both the number of units and the value of the units. Investment in conversions of existing buildings declined.

Among the provinces, the largest increases in dollar terms in residential investment were posted in Ontario, followed by Alberta. Appreciable gains were also reported for British Columbia and Quebec. Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories posted the greatest decreases.

Note to readers

Residential construction investment is divided into three main components: new housing construction, renovations and acquisition costs. These costs refer to the value of services relating to the sale of new dwellings.

Residential construction investment

	1999	2000	1999 to 2000
	$ millions		% change
Canada	**41,120.8**	**42,723.3**	**3.9**
Newfoundland	478.2	505.1	5.6
Prince Edward Island	139.1	155.8	12.0
Nova Scotia	990.3	1,057.1	6.7
New Brunswick	654.7	734.8	12.2
Quebec	8,144.7	8,297.9	1.9
Ontario	17,862.7	18,776.4	5.1
Manitoba	997.9	995.8	-0.2
Saskatchewan	918.9	889.0	-3.3
Alberta	5,222.7	5,418.5	3.7
British Columbia	5,569.3	5,754.9	3.3
Yukon	55.7	62.9	13.0
Northwest Territories	46.3	27.4	-40.8
Nunavut	40.4	47.7	18.1

For more information, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; saineti@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

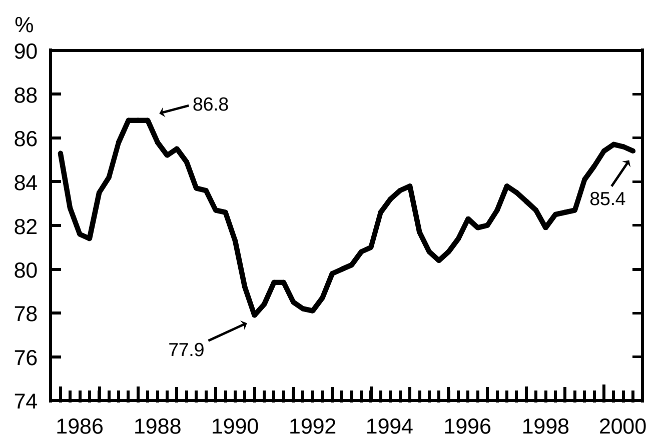
Industrial capacity utilization slips

In the fourth quarter, the industrial capacity utilization rate slipped 0.2 percentage points to 85.4%, the second consecutive quarterly decline. Most industry groups showed decreases.

The rate of growth in production capacity surpassed the rate of growth in industrial production, which slowed in the fourth quarter. This expansion in production capacity was the result of spending on plant and equipment, which was especially strong in 2000. The latest Survey of Private and Public Investment reported that firms expect to continue to increase spending in 2001, although at a reduced pace. Rates of capacity use are still high, however. According to the Index of Business Confidence released in February by the Conference Board of Canada, 10.5% of respondents—the highest percentage ever recorded—stated that their firms were operating above optimal capacity.

At the same time, inflationary pressures remain in check. In January, much of the annual increase in the prices of industrial products and consumer prices was the result of rising energy prices. Unit labour costs, another key component of production costs, have been relatively stable for several years.

Industrial capacity utilization rates



The manufacturing sector operated at 85.7% of capacity during the fourth quarter, down 0.4 percentage points from the third. Nearly two-thirds of the industry groups making up this sector posted lower rates, owing to weaker U.S. demand. In the

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... Industrial capacity utilization slips

transportation equipment group, producers of motor vehicles and parts were among those most affected by lower export demand.

Caught in the ripple effect of cutbacks in the auto industry, producers of primary steel also reduced production, as did iron foundries and producers of steel pipe and tubing. As a result, the rate of capacity use in the primary metals group declined 1.6 percentage points. Cutbacks in the auto industry were also responsible for a decline in production in the rubber products industry, where the rate of capacity use slipped below 90% for the first time since the second quarter of 1999.

In the electrical and electronic products group, hefty spending on plant and equipment in recent years has led to increased production capacity. In the fourth quarter, this increase was more than enough to offset the growth in production. Even though this meant that the rate of capacity use fell 1.3 percentage points, the group was operating at full capacity (98.4%).

In the mining sector, capacity use moved up 0.7 percentage points. A surge in drilling and rigging activity in October was largely behind increased production in mining and quarrying. Meanwhile, the rate of capacity use for producers of crude oil and natural gas remained almost unchanged.

Both electric power and gas distribution systems stepped up production in the fourth quarter, as colder-than-normal weather in November and December led to increased demand for heating. Demand for power from the United States, in the wake of power outages, also led to greater output by electric utilities.

In logging and forestry, output has been flagging for some time because of a glut in markets for wood products. In the fourth quarter, output dropped by 12.2%, causing the rate of capacity use to fall 10.5 percentage points.

For more information, contact Susanna Wood (613-951-0655) or Richard Landry (613-951-2579), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

Industrial capacity utilization rates

	Fourth quarter 2000	Third to fourth quarter 2000	2000	1999 to 2000
	%	% point change	%	% point change
Total, non-farm goods-producing industries	**85.4**	**-0.2**	**85.5**	**2.0**
Logging and forestry	78.3	-10.5	86.1	1.6
Mining (including milling) and quarrying	92.3	2.0	91.1	11.6
Crude oil and natural gas	68.7	0.1	69.3	0.5
Manufacturing	85.7	-0.4	85.8	1.3
Wood	84.7	2.4	85.1	-2.2
Furniture and fixtures	85.3	-0.2	84.5	0.7
Primary metals	87.6	-1.6	90.4	-0.2
Fabricated metal products	81.6	-1.7	84.0	1.0
Machinery	79.2	-2.0	81.7	5.2
Transportation equipment	87.6	-2.2	89.2	-0.7
Electrical and electronic products	98.4	-1.3	96.1	11.3
Non-metallic mineral products	79.3	-2.2	81.2	-3.4
Food	81.3	1.4	80.7	0.6
Beverages	81.8	-1.4	83.1	0.2
Rubber products	89.7	-2.0	92.0	1.7
Plastic products	83.8	0.7	83.2	-1.5
Primary textile	82.8	2.5	79.7	-4.2
Textile products	78.6	-1.4	80.3	0.1
Clothing	83.3	-0.1	83.7	-0.8
Paper and allied products	93.3	-0.2	92.7	1.2
Printing and publishing	80.7	0.1	80.6	1.1
Refined petroleum and coal products	93.6	0.6	92.7	-0.9
Chemical and chemical products	83.0	4.2	78.7	-0.3
Construction	90.7	-0.3	91.4	2.1
Electric power	87.8	1.2	86.7	3.2
Gas distribution	83.0	3.2	79.2	5.1

Sales by large retailers continue to grow

In December, sales by large retailers totalled $9.6 billion, a 7.0% increase over December 1999. As in November, all major product lines recorded year-over-year sales increases.

The other goods and services category reported the largest increase in sales over December 1999 (+12.5%). Once again, higher gasoline prices boosted the value of sales of automotive fuels, oils and additives. Pet food also continued to post strong sales.

Sales of health and personal care products were up 10.8%. Other toiletries and personal care products and prescription drugs were the largest contributors.

Note to readers

Data have not been adjusted for seasonality, or for changes owing to differences in the number or significance of shopping days contained in the various months of the year.

Sales of home furnishings and electronics rose 9.5% compared with December 1999. Growth continued in furniture sales. Consumer demand for home electronics also continued to grow, especially for computer software, telephones and home office electronics and televisions and audio/visual equipment. However, sales of computers and computer components were down.

Sales of sporting and leisure goods posted the weakest sales increase in December (+2.5%). Lower sales of hunting, fishing and camping equipment and toys helped to drag down the overall advance.

... Sales by large retailers continue to grow

For all of 2000, sales by large retailers totalled $75.9 billion, a 5.1% increase over 1999. They accounted for approximately 37.0% of total retail trade, excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers. Among larger retailers, sales by food stores were up 3.1%, by department stores 2.0%, and by remaining stores 9.1%. Respectively these retailer groups accounted for 36.6%, 24.1% and 39.3% of sales.

Annual sales rose for all major product lines in 2000. The largest increase, 11.2%, was posted by the all other goods and services category. Higher gas prices were the major contributor to the overall increase in this category. Health and personal care products tallied the second largest increase (+10.0%), owing to higher sales of prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs.

Sales of home furnishings and electronics jumped 9.2% over 1999. The largest sales gains were for home electronics and indoor furniture, followed by appliances and home furnishings (such as floor coverings, draperies and linens).

In the sporting and leisure goods category, sales of sporting goods were up 11.8% as a result of notable sales gains for all other sporting goods, exercise and fitness equipment and ski equipment and accessories. Sales of leisure goods posted a weaker gain, 4.1%. The smallest annual increase in 2000 was for clothing, footwear and accessories (+1.2%).

To order data, or for general information, contact Client Services (1 877 421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). A detailed list of retailers included in the survey is available on request. For analytical information, contact Elton Cryderman (613-951-0669), Distributive Trades Division.

Sales of large retailers
Not seasonally adjusted

	December 1999	December 2000	December 1999 to December 2000	1999	2000	1999 to 2000
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
Commodities, total	**8,922**	**9,550**	**7.0**	**72,204**	**75,911**	**5.1**
Food and beverages	2,510	2,642	5.3	24,984	25,672	2.8
Clothing, footwear and accessories	2,121	2,255	6.3	14,700	14,871	1.2
Home furnishings and electronics	1,519	1,662	9.5	10,071	10,995	9.2
Health and personal care products	662	733	10.8	5,468	6,018	10.0
Housewares	414	427	3.2	3,395	3,539	4.3
Sporting and leisure goods	662	678	2.5	3,485	3,722	6.8
Hardware, lawn and garden products	251	270	7.6	2,846	3,027	6.4
All other goods and services	785	883	12.5	7,255	8,066	11.2

More overseas travellers visit Canada

Foreign travel to Canada grew for the eighth consecutive year in 2000, largely the result of an increase in the number of visitors from overseas, particularly Asia and the United Kingdom.

Last year, almost 19.6 million people travelled to Canada for at least one night, up 0.7% from 1999. Americans accounted for about three-quarters of this total; 15.1 million of them made overnight trips to Canada, down 0.4%.

The number of visitors from countries other than the United States increased 4.9% to 4.4 million, breaking the previous record set in 1996. Travel from the United Kingdom, Canada's largest overseas market, jumped 10.9% to a record high of 914,000. The Asian market expanded 6.8% to 1.4 million trips but still fell short of the 1.5 million recorded in 1996, prior the Asian crisis.

Canada's top major overseas markets

	2000	1999 to 2000
	thousands	% change
United Kingdom	914	10.9
Japan	540	-1.9
France	417	-2.5
Germany	417	-2.1
Australia	180	11.4
Mexico	147	10.6
Hong Kong	145	1.6
South Korea	149	37.2
Taiwan	166	3.5
Netherlands	132	6.5
Italy	126	-2.8
Switzerland	107	3.2

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... More overseas travellers visit Canada

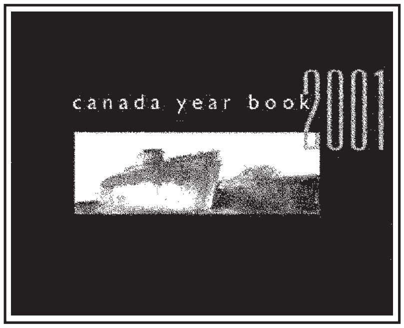
In particular, travel from South Korea rose 37.2%. This was the largest percentage increase among Canada's top 12 overseas markets. Among the other countries recording an increase were Australia (+11.4%) and Mexico (+10.6%). However, there was decreased travel from Italy (-2.8%), France (-2.5%), Germany (-2.1%) and Japan (-1.9%).

For their part, Canadians made 19.1 million overnight trips abroad in 2000, up 4.1% from 1999. About 14.6 million were made to the United States (+3.5%). The number of trips to destinations other than the United States reached a record 4.5 million, up 6.2%, exceeding the figure for 1999.

Same-day car trips to Canada by Americans dipped 2.5% to 26.6 million in 2000. The number of Canadians making same-day cross-border car trips remained unchanged at 27.1 million. Over 2000, the value of the Canadian dollar averaged US$0.67, unchanged from 1999.

The December 2000 issue of ***International travel, advance information*** *(Internet: 66-001-PIB, $6/$55) is now available. To obtain data, contact Pearl Bellefeuille (613-951-1674; fax: 613-951-2909; pearl.bellefeuille@a.statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Laurie McDougall (613-951-6766; fax: (613-951-2909; laurie.mcdougall@statcan.ca), Tourism Statistics Program.*

New from Statistics Canada



Canada Year Book
2001

The 2001 edition of the *Canada Year Book* invites readers on a voyage of discovery as it examines the people and culture of Canada's vast, ocean-fringed land. Enjoyable and easy to read, this reference resource draws on various Statistics Canada surveys to describe leading Canadian social, economic and environmental trends. Works by some of the nation's best photographers and artists enrich the book's 15 chapters, while detailed tables and figures zero in on today's important issues.

Feature articles invite readers to discover distinctive aspects of life in Canada: What does the average household spend most of its income on? How many men are now stay-at-home fathers? What percentage of Canadians exercise? What is the most commonly spoken mother tongue after English and French in Canada? For work, home or school, this edition of the *Canada Year Book* is sure to engage, enlighten and educate readers.

Get your copy of the 2001 ***Canada Year Book*** *(paper: 11-402-XPE, $65) today. For more information, contact Nathalie Turcotte (613-951-4673; fax: 613-951-5116; turcnat@statcan.ca), Communications Division.*

Measuring economic well-being of rural Canadians using income indicators
1970 to 1997

The analysis bulletin *Measuring economic well-being of rural Canadians using income indicators* compares trends in income for rural families with trends among urban families. Data show that while, on average, rural families had lower incomes in the 1970 to 1997 period, the income gap between rural and urban families was closing.

The bulletin, published in collaboration with the Rural Secretariat of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, is the thirteenth in a series examining trends in rural Canada. It is of particular interest to researchers, academics and rural planners.

Measuring economic well-being of rural Canadians using income indicators *(Internet: 21-006-XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). On the Products and Services page, choose Free Publications, then Agriculture. To order data, call 1 800 465-1991. For more information, contact Carlo Rupnik (613-951-6835; fax: 613-951-3868; carlo.rupnik@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.*

Canadian social trends
Spring 2001

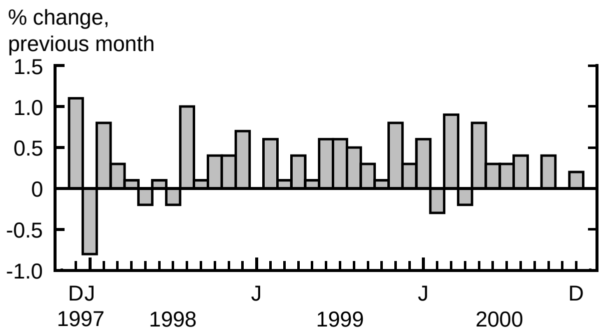
The Spring 2001 issue of *Canadian social trends* features the following articles: "Getting ready for the 2001 Census," "Net shopping," "You snooze, you lose? - Sleep patterns in Canada," "The evolution of communication" and "Learning on your own."

Each quarter, *Canadian social trends* integrates data from many sources to examine emerging social trends and issues. It also features the latest social indicators, as well as information about Statistics Canada's products and services.

The Spring 2001 issue of ***Canadian social trends*** *(Internet: 11-008-XIE, $8/$27; paper: 11-008-XPE, $11/$36) is now available. For more information, contact Cara Williams at (613-951-6972; cstsc@statcan.ca), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.*

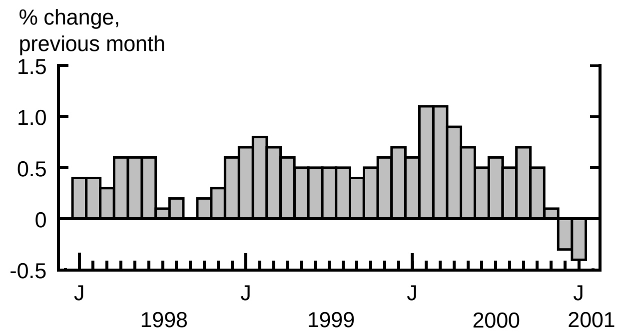
Current trends

Gross domestic product



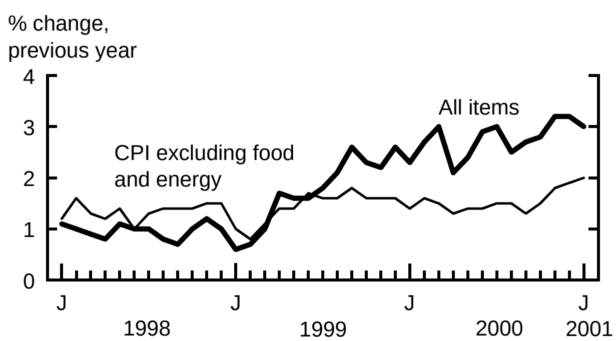
Continued weakness in manufacturing held the gross domestic product to a 0.2% gain in December.

Composite Index



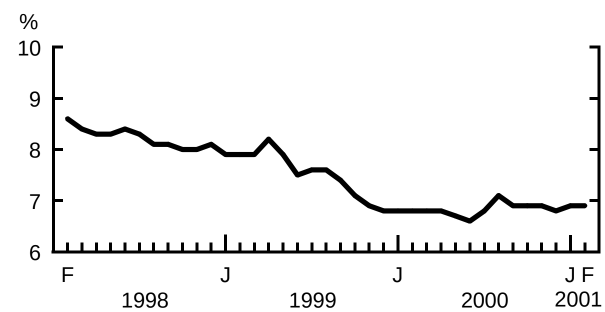
The leading indicator posted a 0.4% drop in January after a 0.3% dip in December, consistent with a slowing economy.

Consumer Price Index



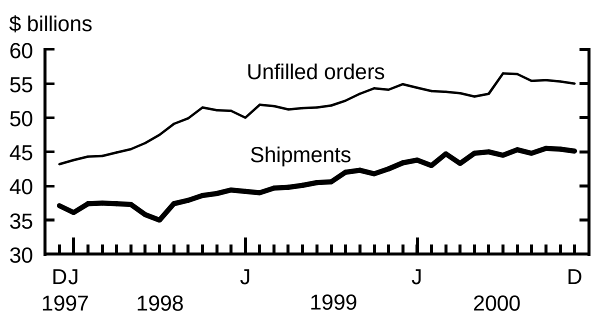
Consumer prices for goods and services were 3.0% higher in January 2001 than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 2.0%.

Unemployment rate



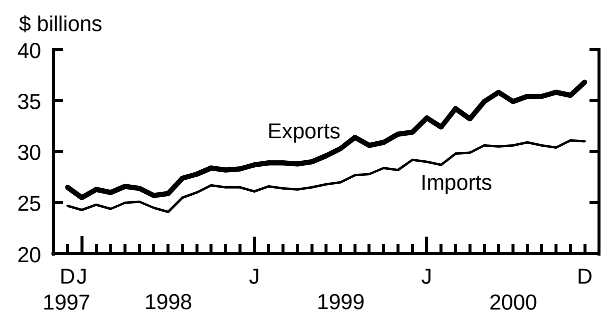
In February, the unemployment rate remained unchanged from January at 6.9%.

Manufacturing



Manufacturers' shipments slipped 0.8% in December to $45.1 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders edged down 0.6% to $55.0 billion.

Merchandise trade



In December, the value of merchandise exports rose 3.7% to $36.8 billion. Imports declined a marginal 0.4% to $31.0 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, 1992)	December	796.2	0.2%	3.3%
Composite Index (1992=100)	January	166.3	-0.4%	6.1%
Operating profits of enterprises ($ billions)	Q4 2000	54.0	2.2%	13.9%
Capacity utilization (%)	Q4 2000*	85.4	-0.2†	0.7†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade ($ billion)	December	23.7	0.9%	5.1%
Department store sales ($ billions)	January	1.63	3.6%	6.6%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	January*	130.5	-0.4%	-1.7%
Wholesale trade ($ billion)	December	31.7	-0.1%	1.7%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	February*	15.04	-0.2%	1.5%
Unemployment rate (%)	February*	6.9	0.0†	0.1†
Participation rate (%)	February*	66.0	-0.1†	0.2†
Average weekly earnings ($)	December	631.87	0.0%	2.4%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	February	171	-3.4%	0.6%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports ($ billions)	December	36.8	3.7%	15.7%
Merchandise imports ($ billions)	December	31.0	-0.4%	6.3%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in $ billions)	December	5.8	1.4	3.2
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments ($ billions)	December	45.1	-0.8%	4.0%
New orders ($ billions)	December	44.7	-1.2%	1.1%
Unfilled orders ($ billions)	December	55.0	-0.6%	0.0%
Inventory/shipments ratio	December	1.35	-0.01	0.07
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	January	114.7	-0.3%	3.0%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	January	128.6	-0.2%	3.1%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	January	144.0	0.7%	6.4%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	January*	104.6	0.2%	2.5%

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

Infomat

A weekly review

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Products released from March 8 to 14, 2001

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AGRICULTURE			
Measuring economic well-being of rural Canadians using income indicators	1970 to 1997	21-006-XIE	no charge
COMMUNICATIONS			
Canada year book	2001	11-402-XPE	65
DEMOGRAPHY			
Population projections for Canada, provinces and territories	2000 to 2026	91-520-XIB	40
Population projections for Canada, provinces and territories	2000 to 2026	91-520-XPB	100
HEALTH STATISTICS			
Births—Shelf tables	1998	84F0210XPB	20
HOUSING, FAMILY AND SOCIAL STATISTICS			
Canadian social trends	Spring 2001	11-008-XIE	8/27
Canadian social trends	Spring 2001	11-008-XPE	11/36
INDUSTRY MEASURES AND ANALYSIS			
Industrial monitor on CD-ROM	March 2001	15F0015XCB	995
INTERNATIONAL TRADE			
Exports by commodity	December 2000	65-004-XMB	37/361
Exports by commodity	December 2000	65-004-XPB	78/773
LABOUR STATISTICS			
Labour force information	February 2001	71-001-PIB	8/78
Labour force information	February 2001	71-001-PPB	11/103
MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY			
Electric lamps, light bulbs and tubes	January 2001	43-009-XIB	5/47
Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins	January 2001	46-002-XIB	5/47
Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined pretroleum products	December 2000	55-001-XIB	9/86
Refined petroleum products	November 2000	45-004-XIB	16/155
Refined petroleum products	November 2000	45-004-XPB	21/206
PRICES			
Industry price indexes	January 2001	62-011-XPB	22/217
SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND ELECTRONIC INFORMATION			
Innovation analysis bulletin	February 2001	88-003-XIE	no charge
TRANSPORTATION			
Aviation service bulletin, Vol. 33, no. 2		51-004-XIB	8/82

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