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A Weekly Review

Friday, March 19, 1999

OVERVIEW

◆ **Capacity use turns up**

Industrial capacity use rose in the fourth quarter of 1998 after declining for the previous four quarters. The upturn was mainly due to a surge in activity in the transportation equipment industries.

◆ **Employment little changed**

In February, after seven consecutive monthly increases, employment was little changed. The unemployment rate stayed at January's rate of 7.8%.

◆ **Public sector employment down marginally in 1998**

Last year, employment in the public sector started to stabilise, as wages and salaries rose for the first time in five years.

◆ **Motor vehicle sales rebound**

Advancing truck sales pushed up the number of new motor vehicles sold in January.

◆ **Building permits show first decline in three months**

The value of building permits declined for the first time in three months in January, as construction intentions fell in the housing sector. On the non-residential side, intentions rose for a straight second month.

◆ **Migrants prefer Alberta**

In 1997, the most popular destination for Canadians moving between provinces was Alberta. Ontario was the preferred choice for arrivals to Canada.

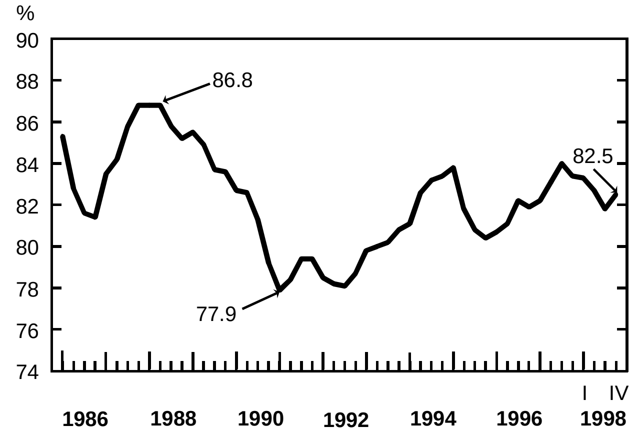
Capacity use turns up

Industries operated at 82.5% of capacity in the fourth quarter, an upturn of 0.7 percentage points from the third quarter. Capacity use had declined in each of the previous four quarters. In the non-farm industrial group, production grew 1.2%, but this growth in output was partly offset by an addition of new capacity. Business investment in plant and equipment in the past few years has been strong, leading to growth in industrial capacity. During the last two quarters of 1998, the growth in capacity exceeded the growth in output. This year, however, businesses intend to somewhat decrease capital spending, so the growth in capacity may slow.

Manufacturers raised their rate of capacity use in the fourth quarter by 2.4 percentage points to 85.1%. This followed three consecutive quarterly declines. Among the industry groups in the manufacturing sector, 13 of the 22 raised their rates. The transportation equipment industries led the upturn. This group raised its capacity use rate by a hefty 12.0 percentage points to a 20-year high of 90.3%, as producers rebuilt inventories both in Canada and in the United States.

Producers of glass, concrete and cement products stepped up output in the fourth quarter, and so were the main contributors behind a 3.4 percentage-point rise in the rate of capacity use in the non-metallic mineral industries, where the rate rose to 88.3%. In

Industrial capacity utilization rates



(continued on page 2)

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

... Capacity use turns up

the wood industries, the rate increased 2.6 percentage points to 86.5%, as building material producers boosted output. More activity by pulp and paper makers raised the rate of capacity use in the paper and allied products group by 2.5 percentage points to 87.6%. Producers of rubber products increased output and pushed up their rate of capacity use 2.5 percentage points to 95.5%. In the refined petroleum and coal industries, capacity use rose 2.5 percentage points to 97.9%, a new peak. However, that was because reduced capacity exaggerated a modest increase in production.

Also within manufacturing, a slight increase in capacity combined with a drop in production in the primary metal industries brought the rate there down 2.1 percentage points to 86.9%. Similarly, in fabricated metal products, a slight decrease in production was exaggerated by an increase in capacity, leading to a downturn of 1.4 percentage points to 80.8%. In the leather and allied products group, a drop in production was partly offset by a contraction in capacity. The result was that the rate of capacity use for the group fell a substantial 4.1 percentage points to 74.1%. Producers of footwear were mainly responsible. The primary textiles industries made a similar decline (-3.6 percentage points to 79.3%), as a drop in output was partly offset by cuts to capacity.

Turning to non-manufacturing industries, export demand for forestry products lifted production in logging and forestry, but that was partly offset by an increase in capacity. The rate of capacity use in these industries rose 1.4 percentage points to 83.3%. Due to more activity in residential construction, the construction industries posted a 0.5 percentage-point gain in capacity use, bringing it to 82.6%.

World prices continued to depress the mining, quarrying and oil well industries, where capacity use dropped 3.0 percentage points to 73.2%. In utilities, a 1.2 percentage-point increase in gas distribution was more than offset by a 3.9 percentage-point decline in electric power. As a result, the rate of capacity use for the electric power and gas distribution systems group was down 3.2 percentage points to 80.5%.

Note to readers

An industry's capacity use is the ratio of its actual output to its estimated potential output. Statistics Canada derives estimates of an industry's potential output from measures of its capital stock. Since 1987, Statistics Canada has surveyed companies for their estimates of annual capacity use, in order to produce survey-based industry measures. A company's measure of its level of operation, as a percentage of potential, takes into account changes in the obsolescence of facilities, capital-to-labour ratios and other characteristics of production techniques. The surveyed rates anchor the calculated quarterly series and ensure that the data series reflect such changes. Rates have been revised back to the first quarter of 1995.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3140.

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

Employment little changed

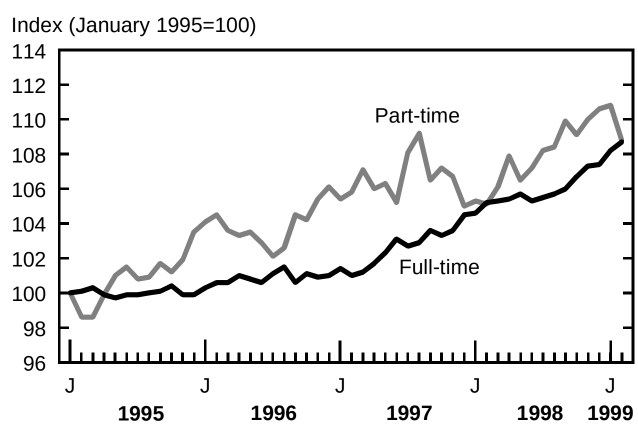
After seven consecutive monthly increases, employment was little changed (+13,000) in February at 14,664,000. This slight increase brought job growth over the latest 12 months to 476,000. The unemployment rate was unchanged from January's rate of 7.8%, the lowest since June 1990.

In February, sizable increases in full-time employment (+61,000) were offset by losses in part-time (-48,000). The full-time gains were shared by both men and women. Among adult men, the job growth stood at 23,000, mainly in full-time employees (+19,000). A similar increase in labour force activity left the unemployment rate for men unchanged at 6.7%. Among adult women, employment rose slightly (+16,000), as a gain of 49,000 full-time jobs was partly offset by a loss of 33,000 part-time positions. The unemployment rate among adult women was unchanged at 6.6%.

Youth employment, which had shown strong growth over the last year, dipped by 25,000. The job losses were split evenly between full- and part-time positions, and were concentrated in trade. The youth unemployment rate edged up 0.3 points to 14.2%. Despite the jobs lost in February, youth employment was up 7.2% on a year-over-year basis.

Self-employment grew by 34,000. The continued strength left employment for this group up by 7% compared with February 1998. The number of private-sector employees edged down 0.3% in February, while public-sector employment was little changed (+0.1%). By comparison, the number of private-sector employees has increased 2.8% from a year earlier; the number of public-sector employees is up 1.9%.

Full-time and part-time employment



The goods-producing sector added 22,000 jobs in February, with small gains widespread across many industries. In particular, the number employed in manufacturing was little changed after a large increase in January (+55,000). In the service sector, employment was little changed. A decrease of 26,000 in educational services was partly offset by widespread, though small, gains throughout the sector. The drop in educational services followed a large increase in January (+37,000), and it brought the level of employment in this industry closer to long-term levels.

(continued on page 3)

... Employment little changed

Among the provinces, employment in Quebec dropped by almost 30,000. The biggest losses were in trade and in public administration. The province's unemployment rate edged up two-tenths of a percentage point to 10%, after sitting just below 10% for the prior four months. Since February 1998, employment in Quebec has grown by 77,000. In Ontario, by contrast, employment grew by 23,000, but that was matched by a similar increase in the size of the labour force. The unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.6%. Employment in Ontario has grown by 203,000 since February 1998.

In Newfoundland, there was job growth of 7,000, mainly among women (+5,000), while the number unemployed dropped by 5,000. The unemployment rate fell 2.1 percentage points to 15.5%, the lowest since 1990. The employment situation in Newfoundland has improved over the last 12 months, with a gain of 14,000 jobs. In Prince Edward Island, the number of persons employed grew by 1,400. The unemployment rate dropped 1.5 percentage points to 14.9%. In the other provinces, the employment picture was little changed.

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

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 and on the 1998 Labour force historical review CD-ROM. 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.

Labour force information*, for the week ending February 20, 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 9.*

Labour Force Survey, February 1999[1]
Seasonally adjusted

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	rate (%)
Canada	**15,912.8**	**0.1**	**14,664.0**	**0.1**	**1,248.9**	**7.8**
Newfoundland	247.3	0.9	209.1	3.5	38.3	15.5
Prince Edward Island	73.0	0.6	62.1	2.3	10.9	14.9
Nova Scotia	457.2	0.6	409.1	0.0	48.1	10.5
New Brunswick	378.9	-0.5	336.2	-0.4	42.7	11.3
Quebec	3,739.7	-0.7	3,366.7	-0.9	373.0	10.0
Ontario	6,171.2	0.4	5,767.0	0.4	404.3	6.6
Manitoba	584.4	-0.4	551.9	-0.4	32.5	5.6
Saskatchewan	511.7	0.1	477.8	0.0	33.9	6.6
Alberta	1,645.8	0.5	1,550.5	0.5	95.3	5.8
British Columbia	2,103.6	0.4	1,933.7	0.4	169.9	8.1

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

Public sector employment down marginally in 1998

Employment in the public sector started to stabilise in 1998 after an average decline of 1.8% in the prior five years. Last year, the public sector employed an average of just fewer than 2.8 million people, down from 1997 by a marginal 0.6% or 15,400 jobs. It was the smallest decline since 1993. Almost all the decline occurred in government, not in government business enterprises. By contrast, the public sector's workforce fell by approximately 88,000 in 1996 and 70,000 in 1997. (The public sector contains all the institutions controlled by government.)

Among the provinces, the largest declines in total public sector employment last year were in Ontario (-3,400 employees) and in Quebec (-13,400). Public sector employment increased the most in Alberta (+1,600).

Even though governments have for several years been restructuring and tightening their budgets, there are now as many people working in the public sector as in 1984. However, on average, there were 92 public sector employees per 1,000 population in 1998, down from 108 in 1984.

The decline in public sector employment in 1998 occurred mostly within the workforce of the three levels of government. In 1998, the federal, provincial/territorial and local governments employed an average of just more than 2.5 million people, down from 1997 by 0.6%. Meanwhile, employment in government business enterprises—the other major component of the public sector—remained virtually unchanged last year at 257,700 employees.

Employment fell at all three levels of government, with the federal workforce experiencing the largest drop (about 47% of the total decline). The federal government (including military)

(continued on page 4)

... Public sector employment down marginally in 1998

employed an average of 331,100 in 1998, down from 1997 by 2.0% or 6,900. A reduction in federal employment in Quebec included a transfer of almost 1,100 employees to the provincial government at the start of the year.

The provincial/territorial workforce declined by about 6,100 employees, down to 1.3 million. Hospitals in Ontario and Quebec, as well as the general administration in Ontario, accounted for most of the provincial/territorial decline.

The local government workforce decreased by about 1,700 employees to 889,800. Declines in the local workforce were highest in Quebec and British Columbia. Employment gains at the local level were highest in Ontario.

Wages and salaries in the public sector were up overall last year for the first time in five years. Public sector employees received $101.6 billion in wages and salaries last year, up from 1997 by 0.6%. The federal government paid out $14.4 billion in 1998, $116 million more than in 1997. The provinces and territories paid $43.2 billion in wages and salaries, an increase of $370 million over 1997. Most of the increase went to employees in health and social services. Local governments paid wages and salaries that totalled $33.0 billion. Although there was little change in total remuneration paid by local governments, wages and salaries paid by school boards rose by $351 million, whereas those paid to employees in municipal administration fell by $258 million. Government business enterprises paid salaries and wages of $11.1 billion.

Public sector employment, 1998

	Persons employed	% change previous year
Canada	**2,780,885**	**-0.6**
Newfoundland	55,205	0.8
Prince Edward Island	15,855	-1.7
Nova Scotia	105,490	-1.4
New Brunswick	78,829	1.5
Quebec	717,533	-1.8
Ontario	949,438	-0.5
Manitoba	128,113	1.0
Saskatchewan	111,845	0.8
Alberta	255,179	0.6
British Columbia	343,906	-0.4
Yukon	4,939	3.4
Northwest Territories	10,898	0.3
Exterior	2,935	-3.2

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2720, 2860, 2863, 2864 and 2866.

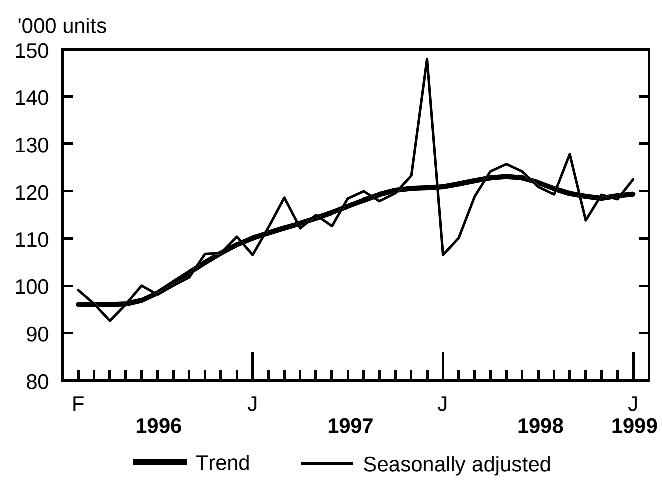
Public sector employment and wages and salaries, 1996 *(72-209-XPB, $44) is now available, as are custom tabulations of the data. For general information, or to order, contact Viola Jabbour (613-951-0767; jabbvio@statcan.ca). For further analytical information, contact Robert Sauvé (613-951-8306), Public Institutions Division.*

Motor vehicle sales rebound

Advancing truck sales pushed up the number of new motor vehicles sold in January by 3.6% to 122,527. This followed a sales decline in December 1998 of 0.8%. Sales of new vehicles generally declined from the spring of 1998 to the end of 1998.

Sales of new trucks rose 8.9% in January to 58,842 units. This was the first monthly advance since September and the largest gain since March 1998 (+10.4%). On the whole, truck sales have been slipping since early 1998. Car sales, meanwhile, declined in January by 0.9%. It was the second straight monthly decline. Sales fell both for cars made in North America (-1.0%) and for cars assembled overseas (-0.3%). Since the spring of 1996, car sales have generally been on the rise, but at a decelerating rate.

New motor vehicles sales



Note to readers

Passenger cars include those used for personal and commercial purposes (such as taxis or rental cars). Trucks include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans, coaches and buses.

Sales data for the Big Three automakers (General Motors, Ford and Chrysler) are discontinued due to the merger of Daimler-Benz and Chrysler.

Unless otherwise noted, all data are seasonally adjusted. For reasons of confidentiality, data for the Yukon and Northwest Territories are included with the British Columbia data.

January's sales were 15.0% higher than in January 1998, a month when sales were exceptionally weak. It is possible that dealers might have drawn some business into December 1997 by offering customers strong incentives on purchase of new vehicles. This shift in sales, coupled with the ice storm, contributed to a substantial decline in new vehicle sales in January 1998.

This January, dealers in all but the three most western provinces posted year-over-year increases in new vehicle sales (unadjusted for seasonally). The strongest year-over-year sales growth was posted by dealers in Quebec (+42.3%). Compared with January 1998, sales of new vehicles fell in Saskatchewan (-7.1%), Alberta

(continued on page 5)

... Motor vehicle sales rebound

(-6.6%) and British Columbia (-2.5%). Dealers in each of these provinces saw sales of new trucks slip, whereas only dealers in British Columbia saw a decline in new car sales. Weakness in commodity prices in these three provinces may be affecting consumer confidence, which in turn may be contributing to the lacklustre sales of new vehicles.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 64.

*The January 1999 issue of **New motor vehicle sales** (63-007-XIB, $13/$124) can be viewed and downloaded at www.statcan.ca. To order data, or for general information, contact Client Services (613-951-3549; 1 877 421-3067; retailinfo@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division. For analytical information, contact Greg Peterson (613-951-3592; petegre@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.*

Building permits show first decline in three months

The value of building permits declined for the first time in three months in January. Municipalities issued permits worth $2.7 billion, down from December by 2.9%. Construction intentions in the housing sector declined for a second straight month in January (-7.5% to $1.5 billion). In the non-residential sector, intentions rose for a second month (+3.2% to $1.2 billion).

Within the housing sector, intentions fell for both components. However, intentions to build multi-family dwellings dropped more sharply (-13.7% to $388 million). Intentions to build single-family dwellings fell 5.1% to $1.1 billion. Despite January's decline, housing construction intentions remained 1.1% higher than in January 1998.

The outlook for the housing sector remains positive for 1999, even though housing starts slipped in January by 1.4% and sales of existing homes made their largest monthly decline (-6.9%) in over a year. Among the factors that should stimulate activity in the residential sector this year are the following: the substantial rise in consumer confidence in the fourth quarter of 1998, the increased investment in housing that is expected for a fourth consecutive year in 1999, the favourable outlook for long-term mortgage rates, the stable housing prices seen in January, the gains that were made in full-time employment in 1998, and the fact that personal disposable income picked up.

Provincially, the largest declines in the value of residential building permits in January took place in Ontario and Alberta. In both provinces, the decreases resulted mainly from lower intentions to build multi-family dwellings. The highest monthly gains occurred in British Columbia, Quebec and Nova Scotia. In all three provinces, single-family housing permits led the way. This was especially the case in Quebec, where this category was at its highest level since mid-1994.

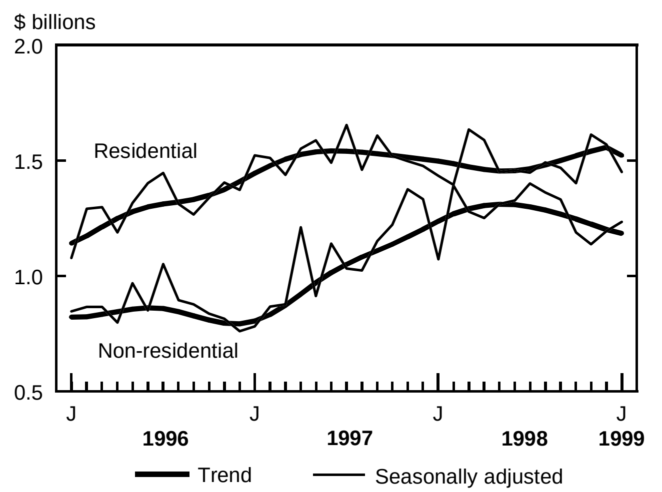
Intentions to build industrial projects fuelled the gain in non-residential permits in January. The value of industrial permits jumped 33.8% to $385 million, the highest value since last July. The jump was due mostly to major projects in Ontario and Quebec.

The value of permits to build institutional projects rose 16.6% to $228 million. Most of this activity came from welfare and nursing home projects. The most significant increase was in Alberta, where institutional projects more than quadrupled (+345.4%) to $79 million—the highest value since May 1989.

Note to readers

The monthly Building and Demolitions Permits Survey covers 2,600 municipalities and represents 94% of the population. It is an early indicator of building activity. The value of planned construction activities shown in this article excludes engineering projects (waterworks, sewers, culverts etc.) and land. Unless otherwise stated, the data are seasonally adjusted.

Value of building permits



The commercial component was the only one in the sector to fall in January (-12.8% to $621 million). Showing the most significant drops were trade, service and recreation projects. The largest decreases were in Alberta (-39.0% to $10 million) and British Columbia (-38.1% to $49 million).

January's value of permits in the non-residential sector was 15.1% higher than in January 1998. The outlook for non-residential construction is positive in 1999, based on the strong performance of the Canadian economy in the fourth quarter of 1998 and on the 15.1% increase in corporate operating profits. The Conference Board of Canada reported that corporate confidence levels were up in the fourth quarter of 1998. In addition, non-residential construction (excluding engineering) is expected to increase more than 6% in 1999, according to Statistic Canada's Survey on Private and Public Investment.

(continued on page 6)

... Building permits show first decline in three months

Among the provinces, the largest increases in the non-residential sector occurred in Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba. The most significant decreases were reported in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Excluding the institutional component in Alberta, decreases in these three provinces occurred in all components.

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

*The January 1999 issue of **Building permits** (64-001-XIB, $19/ $186) can be viewed and downloaded 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, January 1999
Seasonally adjusted

	Total		Residential		Non-residential	
	$ millions	% change, previous month	$ millions	% change, previous month	$ millions	% change, previous month
Canada	**2,684.4**	**-2.9**	**1,450.6**	**-7.5**	**1,233.8**	**3.2**
Newfoundland	52.0	41.7	11.8	6.1	40.2	57.2
Prince Edward Island	4.7	-50.1	2.1	-60.0	2.6	-37.2
Nova Scotia	72.5	14.3	36.0	10.7	36.5	18.0
New Brunswick	30.1	-30.3	21.1	4.3	9.0	-60.9
Quebec	582.9	5.3	287.0	2.4	295.9	8.3
Ontario	1,124.7	-3.8	629.4	-16.3	495.2	18.6
Manitoba	85.6	29.8	34.4	2.6	51.1	58.0
Saskatchewan	35.1	-43.2	13.9	-31.4	21.2	-49.0
Alberta	432.2	-5.4	233.9	-4.3	198.4	-6.8
British Columbia	254.1	-14.4	177.3	7.8	76.9	-42.1
Yukon	2.5	-32.3	2.5	-4.5	0.0	-97.5
Northwest Territories	7.9	234.3	1.1	-40.9	6.8	1,217.4

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

Migrants prefer Alberta

Nearly 1.2 million Canadian residents moved within Canada between 1996 and 1997. Compared with the 1995-to-1996 period, this migration between provinces and territories was virtually unchanged (+0.4%) and was offset by a slight decrease (-0.5%) in the number of residents who moved within their own province. Ten of the country's census metropolitan areas had net declines due to migration, all of which were less than 1% of their total population.

For people moving within Canada, the most popular destination was Alberta. The province saw net interprovincial migration of 26,300—more than triple the gain in the 1995-to-1996 period. Alberta's growing economy brought a large number of job seekers into the province, and it kept residents from leaving. British Columbia had the second largest interprovincial net gain (+9,900), but this was down from the net gain of 22,000 people in the previous period.

Between 1996 and 1997, there were 262,500 international arrivals to Canada: 224,900 immigrants and 37,600 returning Canadians, returning military/embassy staff, and non-permanent residents. Of those who left the country between 1996 and 1997, 49,600 were emigrants and 4,700 were military/embassy staff and non-permanent residents. Ontario was the preferred destination for 52% of the immigrants and returning Canadians, followed by British Columbia (22%) and Quebec (13%).

Note to readers

These migration data are based on the addresses supplied on personal income tax returns filed in the spring of 1996 and 1997. Population estimates were also used. Moves across town or within the same census division are not counted as migration, whereas moves between census divisions are considered as migration.

As for overall net migration (interprovincial plus international), Ontario had the largest net inflow of migrants (+114,800); Newfoundland had the largest net outflow (-7,800). Quebec had the largest net outflow of people moving to other provinces and territories (-17,400). However, this outflow was offset by a net international gain of 26,700, resulting in a total net inflow of just fewer than 9,300 migrants to Quebec.

Among census metropolitan areas, Toronto and Vancouver continued to have the largest inflows and outflows of migration. In total, 265,000 people moved into or out of the Toronto area, while total movement into and out of the Vancouver area was 156,000. The Toronto area recorded a net migration gain of 76,600 people, of which 59% were international arrivals. More than one in three (38%) of the international arrivals to Canada chose to settle in the Toronto area. As for Vancouver, migration increased the population of its census metropolitan area between 1996 and 1997 by 45,300. Of Vancouver's 100,500 arrivals, 52% were from outside Canada, 27% from other provinces, and the rest were from elsewhere in the province.

(continued on page 7)

... Migrants prefer Alberta

Calgary had the third largest net gain of migrants (+21,200). Edmonton, meanwhile, benefited from the increase in job opportunities related to natural resource industries. It ended up with a net gain of 6,100 people due to migration.

Although the Montreal metropolitan area suffered a net loss of 14,500 residents due to interprovincial migration, it still had a net gain of 6,500 migrants. This occurred because that loss to other provinces and territories was offset by a net gain of 22,700 international arrivals.

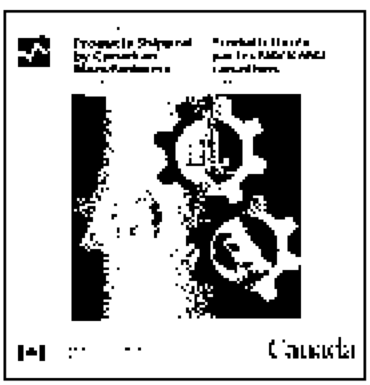
Available on CANSIM: matrix 6981.

For further information, including migration data for census divisions, contact Client Services (613-951-9720; fax: 613-951-4745; saadinfo@statcan.ca), Small Area and Administrative Data Division.

Migration, 1996 to 1997

	Interprovincial		International		**Total net, 1996-97**	Total net, 1995-96
	In	Out	In	Out		
Newfoundland	6,960	15,100	690	340	**-7,780**	-7,140
Prince Edward Island	2,690	2,560	240	100	**290**	690
Nova Scotia	15,880	17,530	3,750	1,010	**1,090**	1,650
New Brunswick	11,230	12,490	1,240	1,090	**-1,110**	-690
Quebec	20,440	37,870	34,170	7,460	**9,280**	9,990
Ontario	69,980	68,000	136,150	23,310	**114,830**	92,330
Manitoba	13,880	19,760	5,590	2,570	**-2,850**	-2,150
Saskatchewan	16,770	19,570	2,500	1,130	**-1,430**	-1,350
Alberta	70,330	44,050	18,830	8,810	**36,300**	14,130
British Columbia	59,430	49,550	59,010	8,320	**60,580**	62,150
Yukon	1,910	1,960	130	70	**10**	580
Northwest Territories	2,840	3,920	140	100	**-1,040**	-650

New from Statistics Canada



Products shipped by Canadian manufacturers — CD-ROM
1988-1996

Products shipped by Canadian manufacturers, 1988-1996 is a new analytical tool that will help you research the value and quantity of the goods made in Canada and in each province. It also provides the origins of manufactured goods by SIC (Standard Industrial Classification).

The CD-ROM is user-friendly. In just seconds, using a commodity code or word search, you can obtain the value and quantity of any product shipped. You can also follow the trend of goods manufactured, or simply calculate the market share in Canada or in a province. In addition, this disc contains a system that allows you to trace any historical changes in commodity codes. It also includes the standard classification of goods and the Standard Industrial Classification.

The CD-ROM on ***Products shipped by Canadian manufacturers, 1988-1996*** *(31-211-XCB, $430 for single use) is now available. For further information, contact Jean-Marie Houle (613-951-9497; fax: 613-951-3522; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction, and Energy Division.*

New from Statistics Canada

Canadian families at the approach of the Year 2000
1991 Census

Canadian families at the approach of the Year 2000, the fourth in a series of census monographs, compares the structure and composition of households and families in 1991 with those of the early 1960s. It approaches the study of the family by examining how adults are affected by recent changes in marriage, divorce and child-bearing patterns. It goes on to explore how these changes alter their life courses.

This monograph also studies children and their environments, which are affected by parental decisions. Finally, it looks at the demographic aspects of family life by integrating several aspects of living conditions such as housing, parental occupation and financial resources.

Canadian families at the approach of the Year 2000 *(96-321-MPE, no. 4, $34.95) is now available. For further information about this monograph or others in the series, contact Gustave Goldmann (613-951-1472; goldgus@statcan.ca), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.*

Canadian social trends
Spring 1999

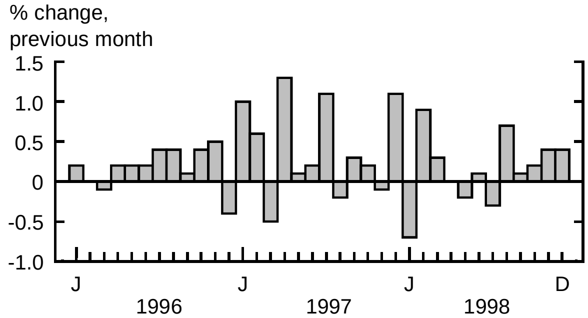
The Spring 1999 issue of *Canadian social trends* features five articles: “The crowded nest: Young adults at home”, “Educational achievement of young aboriginal adults”, “At work despite a chronic health problem”, “Recent immigrants in the workforce”, and “Seniors: A diverse group aging well”.

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 1999 issue of ***Canadian social trends*** *(11-008-XPE, $11/$36) is now available. For further information, contact Warren Clark (613-951-2560; cstsc@statcan.ca), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.*

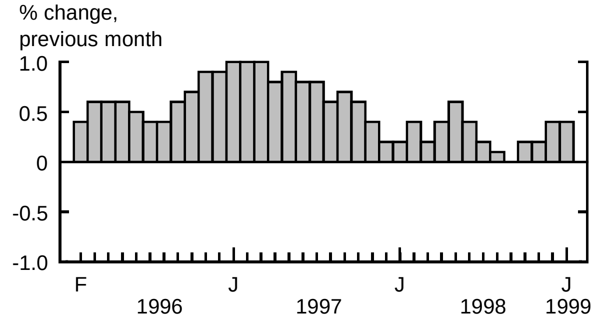
Current trends

Gross domestic product



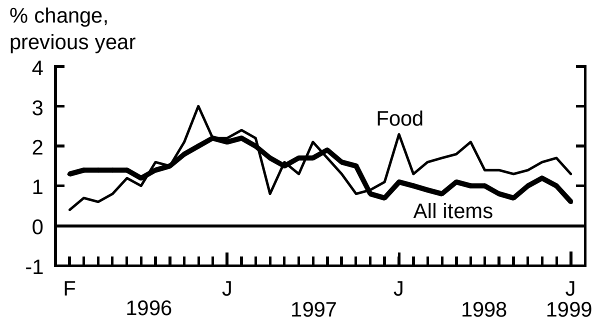
Economic activity advanced 0.4% in December, the fifth consecutive month of growth since a mid-year lull.

Composite Index



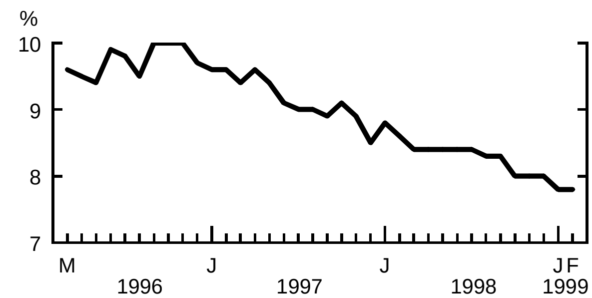
In January, the leading indicator grew 0.4%, matching its upward revised gain in December.

Consumer Price Index



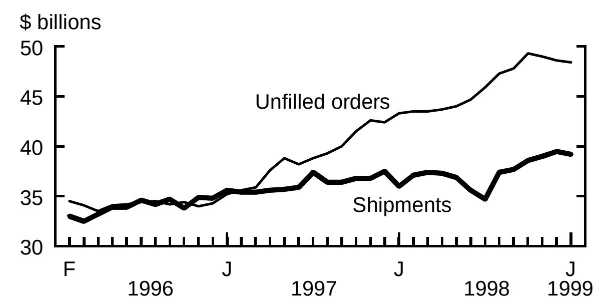
Consumers paid 0.6% more for goods and services in January 1999 than they did a year earlier. Food prices rose 1.3%.

Unemployment rate



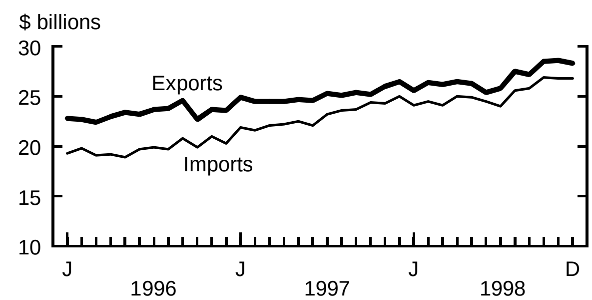
In February, the unemployment rate stayed at 7.8% – its lowest point since June 1990.

Manufacturing



Manufacturers' shipments slipped 0.7% in January to $39.2 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders declined 0.3% to $48.4 billion.

Merchandise trade



In December, the value of merchandise exports slipped 0.7% from November to $28.3 billion. Imports remained steady at $26.8 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)	December	727.5	0.4%	2.1%
Composite Index (1981=100)	January	210.1	0.4%	3.8%
Operating profits of enterprises ($ billion)	Q4 1998	28.7	15.1%	– 1.0%
Capacity utilization (%)	Q4 1998	82.5	0.7†	– 0.9†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade ($ billion)	December	20.8	– 0.3%	0.1%
New motor vehicle sales (thousand of units)	January*	122.5	3.6%	15.0%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	February*	14.66	0.1%	3.4%
Unemployment rate (%)	February*	7.8	0.0†	– 0.8†
Participation rate (%)	February*	65.8	0.0†	0.8†
Labour income ($ billion)	December*	39.4	0.5%	3.4%
Average weekly earnings ($)	December	608.04	0.1%	1.2%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	February	148	0.7%	8.8%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports ($ billion)	December	28.3	– 0.7%	6.9%
Merchandise imports ($ billion)	December	26.8	0.0%	7.3%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in $ billion)	December	1.5	– 0.3	0.0
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments ($ billion)	January*	39.2	– 0.7%	8.9%
New orders ($ billion)	January*	39.1	0.8%	5.9%
Unfilled orders ($ billion)	January*	48.4	– 0.3%	11.6%
Inventory/shipments ratio	January*	1.26	0.00	– 0.07
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	January	108.9	0.2%	0.6%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	January	119.2	– 0.3%	– 0.3%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	January	103.5	3.8%	– 9.9%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	January	100.3	0.0%	0.5%

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

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Division/Title of publication	Period	Catalogue number	Price: Issue/Subscription Canada (C$)	Outside Canada (US$)
CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS				
A one-day snapshot of inmates in Canada's adult correctional facilities	1996			
Internet		85-601-XIE	40	40
Paper		85-601-XPE	85	85
DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES				
New motor vehicle sales	December 1998	63-007-XIB	13/124	13/124
HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS				
Labour force information, week ending Feb. 20, 1999	February 1999	71-001-PPB	11/103	11/103
HOUSING, FAMILY AND SOCIAL STATISTICS				
Canadian social trends	Spring 1999	11-008-XPE	11/36	11/36
Census monographs, No. 4: Canadian families at the approach of the Year 2000	1991 Census	96-321-MPE	34.95	34.95
LABOUR				
Employment, earnings and hours	December 1998	72-002-XPB	32/320	32/320
MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY				
Construction type plywood	January 1999	35-001-XIB	5 / 47	5 / 47
Gas utilities	November 1998	55-002-XPB	17/165	17/165
Oils and fats	January 1999	32-006-XIB	5/47	5/47
Primary iron and steel	January 1999	41-001-XIB	5/47	5/47
Production and disposition of tobacco products	January 1999	32-022-XPB	7/62	7/62
PRICES				
Farm input price index	Third quarter 1998	62-004-XPB	25/83	25/83
Industry price indexes	January 1999	62-011-XPB	22/217	22/217

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