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Infomat

A Weekly Review

Friday, March 23, 2001

OVERVIEW

◆ **Both exports and imports down**

Exports declined 0.4% in January, despite a resurgence in exports of automotive products and industrial goods and materials. Imports fell 2.9% as a result of a further decrease in imports of motor vehicle parts.

◆ **New motor vehicle sales weaken**

After two consecutive monthly increases, the number of new motor vehicles sold slipped 0.4% in January. Both passenger cars and trucks contributed to the decline.

◆ **Number of seniors expected to double by 2026**

According to new population projections, Canada's population will continue growing in the next quarter century, but it will age considerably and the proportion of young people will shrink significantly.

◆ **International travel deficit up for first time in three years**

Canada's international travel deficit rose for the first time since 1997, as Canadian travellers spent a record amount outside the country in 2000.

◆ **Many Canadians suffer from migraine**

One in every 12 Canadians aged 12 and over—nearly 2 million people—have been diagnosed as having migraine headaches, according to the 1998/99 National Population Health Survey. Migraine was three times more common in women than in men.

◆ **Households shop very little on the Internet**

In 1999, transactions on the Internet made by private households from home accounted for less than one-tenth of 1% of personal expenditure on products and services.

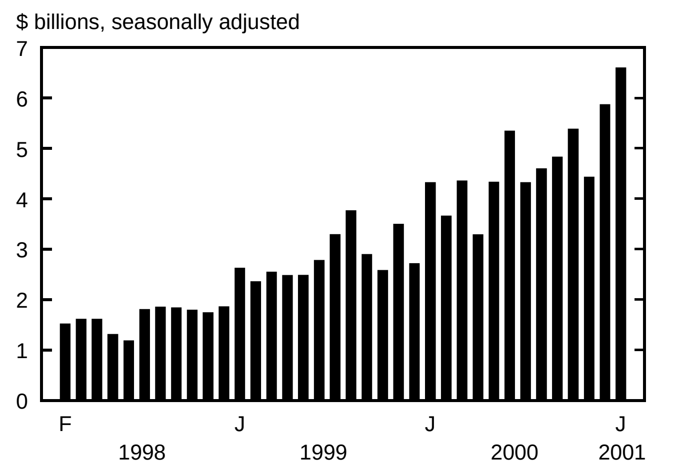
Both exports and imports down

In January, Canada's merchandise exports declined 0.4% to $36.7 billion, despite a post-Christmas resurgence in exports of automotive products and industrial goods and materials. Imports fell at a faster pace, declining 2.9% to $30.1 billion, largely owing to a further decrease in imports of motor vehicle parts. The result was an overall merchandise trade surplus of almost $6.6 billion, a monthly record.

The decline in exports was largely due to substantial decreases in exports of energy products and machinery and equipment. Exports in the energy sector dropped by 4.9%, following a record-setting December. Nevertheless, energy exports were nearly double what they were in January 2000. Machinery and equipment exports fell 4.7% in January, as telecommunications and television equipment exports retreated sharply from December's record levels.

Exports of automotive products grew 3.1% in January. Even though the number of plant closings was almost as high as during summer shutdowns, passenger car exports jumped 6.0%, as auto manufacturers drew down inventories. Truck exports edged up 0.5%, following two months of decline. However, exports of motor vehicle parts were down 1.0%, continuing a seven-month skid.

Merchandise trade balance



(continued on page 2)

... Both exports and imports down

Exports of industrial goods and materials, led by higher exports of chemicals, plastics and fertilizers, were up 5.1%.

At the same time, imports of automotive parts fell for the fifth straight month in January, as manufacturers continued to slow production to stem rising inventory levels. As a result, automotive product imports slumped 11.1% from December.

Imports of energy products grew by a mere 0.1%, as increases in the value of petroleum and coal product imports offset a decline in crude petroleum imports.

Machinery and equipment, which accounted for about 35% of all merchandise imports in January, posted a 1.9% decline due to lower imports of other machinery and equipment. Imports of office machines and equipment dropped 6.2%, while imports of industrial and agricultural machinery rebounded 3.2%.

Imports of industrial goods and materials remained fairly stable in January, advancing just 0.5%. Within this sector, metals and metal ores imports jumped by 10.7%, as temporarily reduced mining production led to the import of iron and copper ore. Strong demand and higher prices pushed imports of chemicals and plastics up 3.4%.

*The January 2001 issue of **Canadian international merchandise trade** (Internet: 65-001-XIB, $14/$141; paper: 65-001-XPB, $19/$188) contains tables by commodity and country on a customs basis. Current account data are available quarterly in **Canada's balance of international payments** (Internet : 67-001-XIB, $29/$93; paper: 67-001-XPB, $38/$124). For more information, contact Jocelyne Elibani (613-951-9647; 1 800 294-5583), International Trade Division.* *See also "Current trends" on page 8.*

New motor vehicle sales weaken

After two consecutive monthly increases, the number of new motor vehicles sold slipped 0.4% in January. Both passenger cars and trucks contributed to the decline. A total of 130,484 vehicles were sold, 579 fewer than in December.

The November and December increases were not enough to offset the sizeable drop reported in October. Sales have been slowing since the fall of 2000. Preliminary figures from the auto industry show fewer new motor vehicles sold in February, primarily because of lower sales of passenger cars.

In January, 71,234 new passenger cars were sold, 0.6% fewer than in December. This decline is entirely attributable to weaker sales of North American-built passenger cars, which were down 3.2%. Meanwhile, sales of overseas-built passenger cars jumped 7.9%. New passenger car sales have been moving downward since the fall of 2000, following a period of increases that lasted for about six months.

A total of 59,250 trucks were sold in January, 0.3% fewer than in December. This decrease followed gains in December (+3.0%) and November (+7.4%). Despite these advances, truck sales have been declining since the summer of 2000, following a period of growth that began in the spring of the same year.

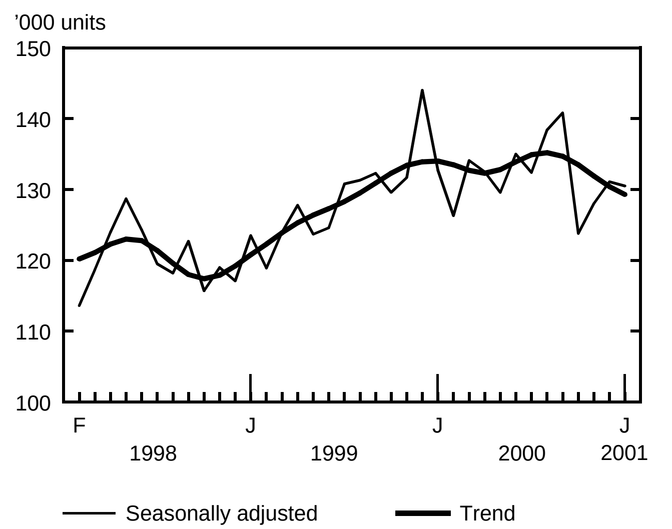
New motor vehicle sales varied considerably from province to province in January. Alberta registered the largest gain (+2.1%). This was the second consecutive monthly increase. Moreover, Alberta is the only province showing general increases in new motor vehicle sales since the beginning of 1999.

Quebec (+1.4%), Manitoba (+1.2%) and Saskatchewan (+1.1%) had the only other increases in January. Sales were up for the third straight month in Quebec and Saskatchewan and for the second consecutive month in Manitoba. Sales declined in all the Atlantic provinces and in the region formed by British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut; they were virtually unchanged in Ontario.

Note to readers

North American-built new motor vehicles include vehicles manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico. All other new motor vehicles are considered to have been manufactured overseas. All data presented here are seasonally adjusted.

New motor vehicle sales



*The January 2001 issue of **New motor vehicle sales** (Internet: 63-007-XIB, $13/$124) is now available. For data or general information, contact Client Services (613-951-3549; 1 877 421-3067; retailinfo@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Michael Scrim (613-951-5668), Distributive Trades Division.*

Number of seniors expected to double by 2026

Canada's population will continue growing in the next quarter century. However, an enormous increase in the number of seniors, attributable to the aging of the baby boomers, combined with continuing low fertility levels and increasing longevity, will age the population rapidly and cause the proportion of young people to shrink significantly. In the medium-growth scenario, half the population will be over the age of 43.6 by 2026, compared with 36.8 in 2000.

On July 1, 2000, Canada's population was approximately 30,750,000. In 25 years, it is expected to be between 34 million and 39 million. However, the rate of population growth will continue to decelerate. From 1996 to 2000, the population grew at an average annual rate of 0.9%. This growth rate is projected to slow to 0.5% by 2026.

The baby boomers—those born in the two decades after the Second World War—will have the most profound impact on demographics in the next 25 years. In 2000, about one out of every eight people in the population was aged 65 and over. In 2026, one out of every five people will be a senior. By 2016 at the latest, Canada will have far more seniors than children aged 14 and under, a phenomenon never before recorded.

The number of people aged 65 and over is expected to double from nearly 4 million in 2000 to almost 8 million by 2026. Senior citizens will account for 21% of the population by 2026, compared with 13% in 2000. The age group 80 and over will grow the most rapidly.

The impact of continued aging of the population is readily apparent in the "potential support ratio"—the number of working-age people (aged 15 to 64) per senior. This ratio, which is already falling, is expected to decline from five working-age persons for each senior to just three between 2000 and 2026. While the proportion of senior citizens will be growing strongly, the proportion of working-age people will already have started to decline, from 68% in 2000 to 64% in 2026.

Note to readers

This article presents series of population projections based on a scenario of medium population growth. These projections are not predictions; rather, they are plausible long-term scenarios based on assumptions of fertility, life expectancy and migration, which are subject to varying degrees of uncertainty.

This decline will affect the "dependency ratio," the ratio of children and elderly to the working-age population. Currently, for every 100 people of working age, there are 46 children and elderly people. In 2026, the dependency ratio will range between 55 and 60.

Population gains are projected for all provinces to 2026, except for Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan. In general, rates of growth, though uneven, tend to decline over the projection period.

By and large, the ranking of provincial and territorial shares of Canada's population will likely remain the same as in 2000. However, the shares of the Atlantic provinces, Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan will likely decline. The shares of the territories will remain more or less constant, while those of Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta will increase. The most notable changes will be in Quebec and Ontario. Quebec's share will decline from 24% to 21% over the next 25 years, while Ontario's share will rise from 38% to 41%.

However, projections at the provincial and territorial level should be approached with caution, since interprovincial migration, a component that is very volatile and difficult to forecast, has a major impact on the growth of population in the provinces and territories.

*The publication **Population projections for Canada, provinces and territories, 2000-2026** (Internet: 91-520-XIB, $40; paper: 91-520-XPB, $100) is now available. To obtain data, contact Lise Champagne (613-951-2320; fax: 613-951-2307; chamlis@statcan.ca) or Statistics Canada's nearest Regional Reference Centre. For analytical information, contact M. V. George (613-951-9580), Demography Division.*

Age structure of population, medium-growth scenario

	0 to 14	15 to 64	65 and over	Total	0 to 14	15 to 64	65 and over	Total
	Number ('000)				Share (%)			
1996	5,992	20,098	3,582	29,672	20.2	67.7	12.1	100.0
2000	5,869	21,018	3,863	30,750	19.1	68.3	12.6	100.0
2006	5,527	22,400	4,302	32,229	17.1	69.5	13.3	100.0
2016	5,241	23,477	5,702	34,420	15.2	68.2	16.6	100.0
2026	5,382	23,056	7,753	36,191	14.9	63.7	21.4	100.0

International travel deficit up for first time in three years

In 2000, Canada's international travel deficit rose for the first time since 1997, as Canadian travellers spent more than ever before outside the country. Canadians spent a record $18.0 billion in foreign countries, up 6.7% from 1999. Meanwhile, foreign visitors injected $15.7 billion into the Canadian economy, up 4.2%.

The overall travel deficit amounted to just over $2.2 billion, well above the revised $1.7 billion for 1999, which was the lowest level in more than a decade. Most of this increase is attributable to the fact that Canadian travellers made a record number of international trips in 2000, the first advance since 1996. By contrast, the number of trips to Canada by foreign visitors declined for the first time in eight years.

Canada's travel deficit with the United States increased last year, as Canadians spent a record $11.2 billion south of the border. Spending by Canadians in the United States outpaced spending by American travellers in Canada, which totalled $9.5 billion.

As a result, the travel deficit with the United States grew from a revised $1.4 billion in 1999 to slightly less than $1.7 billion in 2000, the highest since 1997. The rise in the travel deficit occurred with the Canadian dollar averaging US$0.67, practically unchanged from 1999.

The deficit with countries other than the United States increased despite record spending of $6.2 billion in Canada by overseas residents. However, this was not enough to offset a 10.1% jump in overseas spending by Canadians to just under $6.8 billion.

Consequently, the travel deficit between Canada and countries other than the United States almost doubled from a revised $300 million in 1999 to $557 million last year. The appreciation of the Canadian dollar against many European currencies was one factor that may have contributed to the increase.

To obtain data, contact Michel Campbell (613-951-9169; michel.campbell@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Jocelyn Lapierre (613-951-3720; fax: 613-951-2909; jocelyn.lapierre@statcan.ca), Tourism Statistics Program.

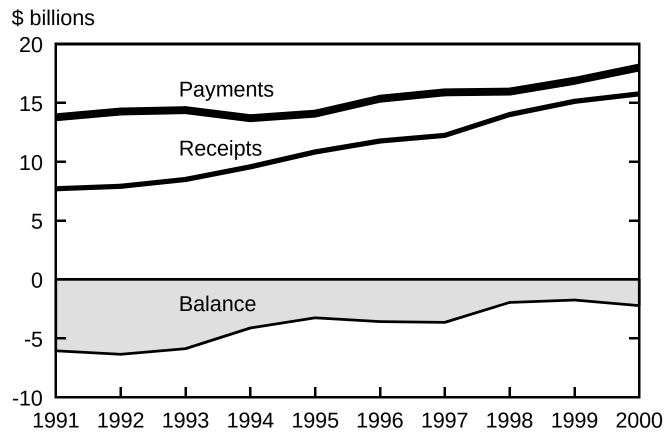
Note to readers

International travel receipts represent spending by foreigners travelling in Canada, including education-related spending and medical-related spending. Payments represent spending by Canadians travelling abroad, including education-related spending and medical-related spending. Amounts are in Canadian dollars and are not adjusted for inflation.

International travel account receipts and payments

	1999	2000	1999 to 2000
	$ millions		% change
Total			
Receipts	15,114	15,749	4.2
Payments	16,858	17,983	6.7
Balance	-1,744	-2,235	28.2
United States			
Receipts	9,257	9,529	2.9
Payments	10,701	11,206	4.7
Balance	-1,444	-1,677	16.1
All other countries			
Receipts	5,857	6,220	6.2
Payments	6,157	6,777	10.1
Balance	-300	-557	85.7

International travel account deficit



Many Canadians suffer from migraine

One in every 12 Canadians aged 12 or over—nearly 2 million people—have been diagnosed by a health professional as having migraine headaches, according to the 1998/99 National Population Health Survey. Because many migraine sufferers may not receive a clinical diagnosis, the survey likely underestimates the prevalence of this condition.

Migraine was three times more common in women than in men. The proportion of females diagnosed with migraine has increased significantly, from 10% in 1994/95 to 12% in 1998/99. For males, the proportion was only 4%, and it was unchanged over those four years. The increase in diagnosed migraine among women could be due in part to greater awareness, among both patients and doctors, of migraine and new treatment options. Women aged 25 to 54 were particularly affected by migraine.

(continued on page 5)

... Many Canadians suffer from migraine

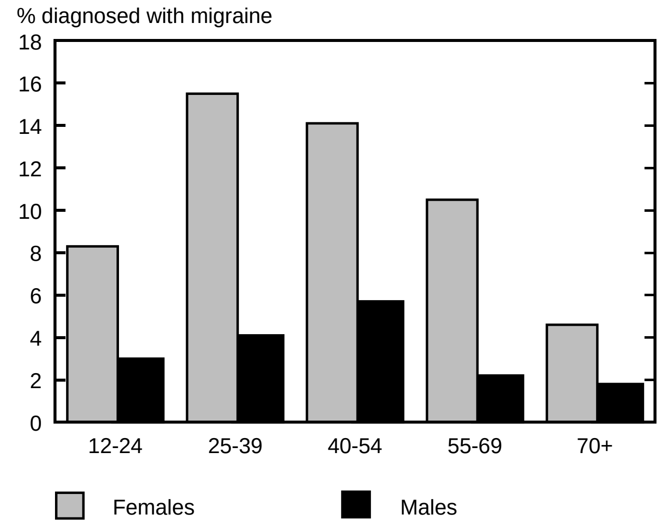
About 56% of migraine sufferers reported getting treatment for their headaches in 1998/99, up from 48% in 1996/97. However, this still meant that a large proportion of people—4 out of 10—were not seeking medical care for the condition.

Migraine sufferers made relatively heavy use of health care services. In the 12 months before their interview, 33% of those who had been diagnosed with migraine had had seven or more consultations with health care professionals, compared with 16% of those with no history of migraine. The presence of other chronic conditions likely contributes to this high rate of use of health care services.

Thus, nearly 30% of females and 20% of males with migraine reported other chronic conditions such as allergies, arthritis and rheumatism, back problems, sinusitis and ulcers. These proportions are significantly higher than for those without migraine. In addition, 13% of female and 7% of male migraine sufferers had experienced depression, more than twice the proportion of those without migraine.

Migraine can compromise productivity and lifestyle. It can result in days away from work, hinder job performance and generally restrict activities. Migraine sufferers reported an average of 1.8 disability days for the two-week period before the survey, while non-sufferers reported only 0.8 days. Studies have estimated that migraine accounts for 7 million lost working days annually in Canada.

Prevalence of migraine, by sex and age group



*The publication **Health reports**, Vol. 12, no. 2 (Internet: 82-003-XIE, $15/$44; paper: 82-003-XPE, $20/$58) is now available. For more information, contact Heather Gilmour (613-951-1679; gilmhea@statcan.ca) or Kathryn Wilkins (613-951-1769; wilkkat@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division.*

Households shop very little on the Internet

Transactions on the Internet made by private households from home accounted for less than one-tenth of 1% of personal expenditure on products and services in 1999. Some 806,000 households used the Internet to place 3.3 million orders for goods and services, spending $417 million. These households represented about 7% of the 11.6 million households in Canada. By comparison, total personal expenditure in Canada amounted to $570 billion.

Households that had at least one person purchase products and services over the Internet from home spent an average of $517 on goods and services over the Internet in 1999. Each household placed an average of four orders, each worth about $125. Households were inclined toward products and services that had smaller price tags. Books, magazines and newspapers were at the top of their list, followed by travel arrangements, computer software and hardware, automotive products and music.

Households that purchased goods and services on the Internet were concentrated in higher income levels and had members who were more highly educated: 48% had incomes greater than $65,000, and 75% had incomes of $45,000 or more. Fifty-five percent had at least one member with a university degree and almost all had at least one high school graduate.

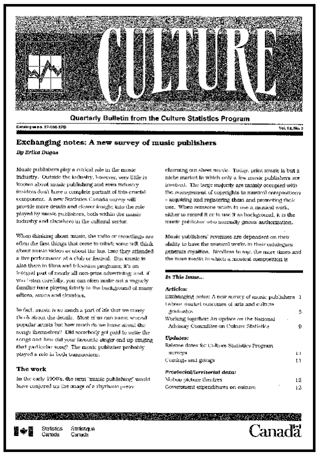
Along with households that made purchases on the Internet, some 971,000 households in which someone regularly surfed the Internet used it simply for window-shopping from home, without placing on-line orders. These households browsed the Web for purchasing ideas and to check out prices and availability of products and services. There may be various reasons why they did not place orders, including concerns about the security of financial transactions and privacy on the Web. These concerns may have affected both the frequency and intensity of household e-commerce. Payment options or the fact that Web sellers do not offer full retail facilities may have also played a role in this regard.

Note to readers

This article presents data collected for the first time by the Household Internet Use Survey. The survey collected information on e-commerce from households that used regularly the Internet from home solely for household purposes between November 1998 and November 1999. A designated member of the household enumerated the on-line orders made by all members of the household during that period.

***Internet shopping in Canada** (Internet: 56F0004MIE, free), the third issue of the Connectedness series, is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site. From the Products and services page, choose Research papers (free), then Communications. Among other things, this paper describes the size and scope of Internet shopping, the destination of e-commerce orders and payments, methods of payment and the type of products and services ordered. For data or information, contact Marc Nadeau (613-951-2183; marc.nadeau@statcan.ca), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division.*

New from Statistics Canada



Focus on culture
Vol. 12, no. 3

Focus on culture, Statistics Canada's quarterly publication for culture statistics, presents reports and analysis of current issues and trends in culture.

This latest issue features the article "Labour market outcomes of arts and culture graduates," based on data from the 1995 National Graduates Survey. This article examines problems faced by the culture sector in replenishing a skilled, but aging, workforce.

*The quarterly bulletin **Focus on culture**, Vol. 12, no. 3 (Internet: 87-004-XIE, $7/$20; paper: 87-004-XPB, $9/$27) is now available. For more information, contact Marla Waltman Daschko (613-951-3028; fax: 613-951-9040; marla.waltman-daschko@statcan.ca), or Pina La Novara (613-951-1573; fax: 613-951-9040; pina.lanovara@statcan.ca) Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.*

Literacy, numeracy and labour market outcomes in Canada
1994

The study *Literacy, numeracy and labour market outcomes in Canada* attempts to isolate the impact of literacy on the wages of Canadian workers. The findings confirm the importance of literacy to individual economic success in the labour market.

The study used Canadian data from the International Adult Literacy Survey to investigate the relationship between labour market success and literacy skills. The most commonly used and widely accepted measure of labour market success is earnings. Accordingly, this paper focussed on the relationship between literacy and annual, weekly and hourly earnings. It also takes into account other factors that influence labour market outcomes, such as educational attainment, gender and experience. For example, educational attainment appears to have a much larger impact on literacy than does work experience.

*The report **Literacy, numeracy and labour market outcomes in Canada** (Internet: 89-552-MIE, free; paper: 89-552-MPE, $10) is now available. For more information, contact Scott Murray (613-951-9035), Institutions and Social Statistics Branch.*

Employment structure in rural and small town Canada: An overview
1981 to 1996

The analysis bulletin *Employment structure in rural and small town Canada: An overview* uses census data to show the structure and change in employment in rural areas between 1981 and 1996.

Published in collaboration with the Rural Secretariat of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, this bulletin is the fourteenth in a series profiling trends in rural Canada. It is useful for researchers and decision-makers who need information on the structure of employment among industrial sectors in rural Canada to create appropriate strategies for rural development.

*The bulletin **Employment structure in rural and small town Canada: An overview**, Vol. 2, no. 6 (Internet: 21-006-XIE, free) is 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 Roland Beshiri (613-951-6506; fax: 613-951-3868; roland.beshiri@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.*

(continued on page 7)

New from Statistics Canada

Geography working paper series

The Geography working paper series was begun to stimulate discussion on conceptual, methodological or technical issues involved in developing and disseminating geographic data, products and services. Readers of the series are encouraged to contact Statistics Canada with comments and suggestions.

*The paper, **Geographic structures as census variables: Using geography to analyse social and economic processes** (Internet: 92F0138MIE, free) is available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the Products and services page, choose Research papers (free), then Geographic reference. Paper copies (paper: 92F0138MPE, $10) can be ordered from the nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre. For more information about the series, contact Geography Division (613-951-3889; fax: 613-951-0569; geohelp@statcan.ca).*

Inter-corporate ownership
First quarter 2001

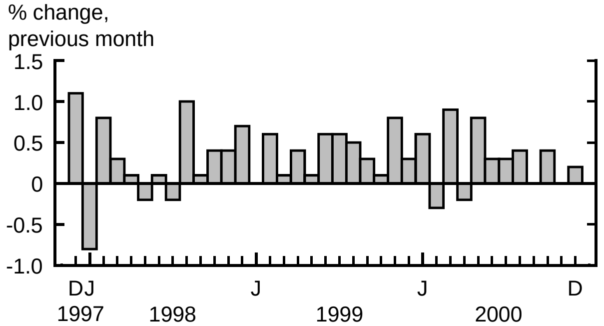
The inter-corporate ownership database, which now lists more than 85,000 corporations, tracks the ownership of the largest Canadian corporations and provides up-to-date information reflecting recent corporate mergers and takeovers and other substantial changes. Ultimate corporate control is determined through a careful study of holdings by corporations, the effects of options, insider holdings, convertible shares and interlocking directorships.

Users can search, sort, evaluate and download data by company name, company types, Standard Industrial Classification (SIC), province or country of ownership, and more. It also allows the user to cross-tabulate a search by selecting number of companies in a particular industry and cross-tabulate by province of residence, country of control, or other variables.

*The CD-ROM **Inter-corporate ownership** (61-517-XCB) is now available. An annual subscription with quarterly updates is $995; a single copy without updates is $350. The **Inter-corporate ownership** 2000 directory (paper: 61-517-XPB, $350) is also available. For more information, contact Jeannine D'Angelo (613-951-2604) or Steve Dufour (613-951-2651), Industrial Organization and Finance Division.*

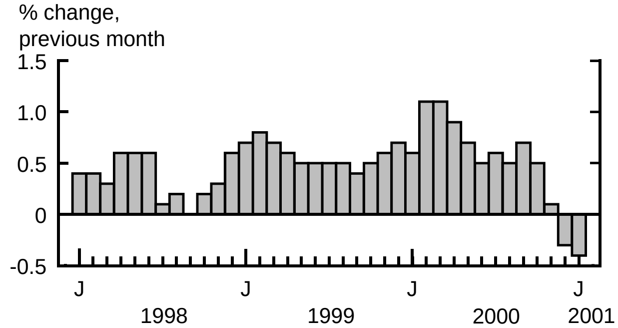
Current trends

Gross domestic product



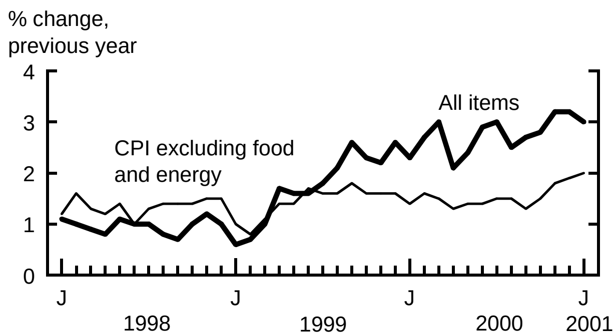
Continued weakness in manufacturing held the gross domestic product to a 0.2% gain in December.

Composite Index



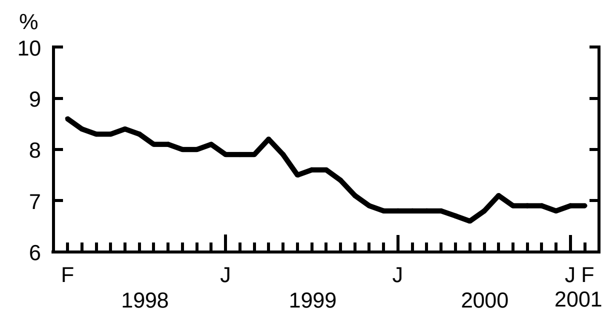
The leading indicator posted a 0.4% drop in January after a 0.3% dip in December, consistent with a slowing economy.

Consumer Price Index



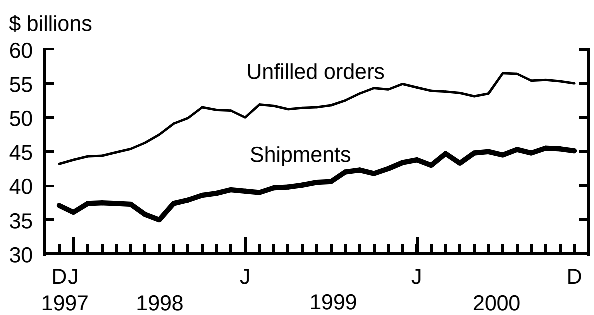
Consumer prices for goods and services were 3.0% higher in January 2001 than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 2.0%.

Unemployment rate



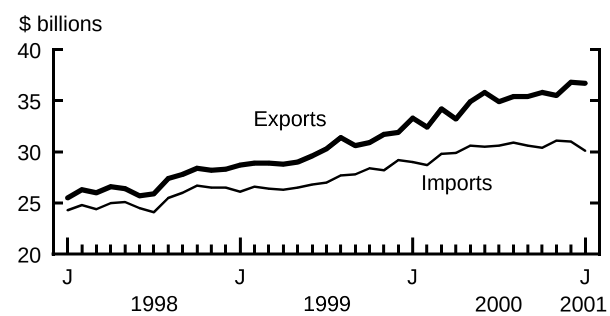
In February, the unemployment rate remained unchanged from January at 6.9%.

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 January, the value of merchandise exports declined 0.4% to $36.7 billion. Imports fell at a faster pace, declining 2.9% to $30.1 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, 1992)	December	796.2	0.2%	3.3%
Composite Index (1992=100)	February*	167.1	0.1%	5.5%
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)	January*	23.8	0.6%	5.4%
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)	January*	32.3	0.8%	3.0%
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)	January*	36.7	-0.4%	10.3%
Merchandise imports ($ billions)	January*	30.1	-2.9%	4.0%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in $ billions)	January*	6.6	0.7	2.3
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)	February*	115.2	0.4%	2.9%
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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Canada's international transactions in securities	December 2000	67-002-XPB	18/176
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INTERNATIONAL TRADE			
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Exports by country	2000	65-003-XPB	124/412
Imports by commodity	January 2001	65-007-XMB	37/361
Imports by commodity	January 2001	65-007-XPB	78/773
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MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY			
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Primary iron and steel	January 2001	41-001-XIB	5/47
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Consumer Price Index	February 2001	62-001-XIB	8/77
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