



# Infomat

*A Weekly Review*

Friday, April 14, 2000

## OVERVIEW

### ◆ Full-time job growth leads employment higher

In March, employment continued the climb it began three years earlier by adding 30,000 new jobs. All of the latest job growth was in full-time positions, mostly among adult women. The overall unemployment rate remained steady at 6.8%.

### ◆ Annual growth in weekly earnings remains below inflation rate

In January, average weekly earnings rose from a year earlier by 2.0%. This was slightly below the annual inflation rate shown by January's Consumer Price Index.

### ◆ Construction intentions ease back

In February, the value of building permits issued by municipalities fell 14.5%. This second consecutive monthly decline resulted from decreases in both the residential and the non-residential sectors.

### ◆ Education levels improve substantially

During the 1990s, more young people graduated from high school, and more of those graduates went on to higher education. Among OECD countries, Canada had the highest percentage of the population with postsecondary education in 1995.

### ◆ Independent film production industry continues its robust growth

In 1997/98, the independent film, television and video production industry posted a fifth straight year of robust growth, driven by production revenues that surpassed the \$1 billion mark for the first time.

### ◆ Casinos are largest generator of non-charity gambling revenue

Casinos surpassed lotteries in 1998 as the largest generator of non-charity gambling revenue. Last year, \$8.1 billion was wagered in Canada on some form of non-charity gambling activity—three times the amount wagered seven years earlier.

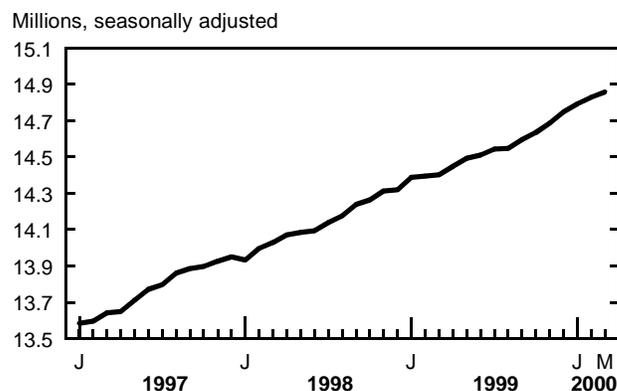
## Full-time job growth leads employment higher

**E**mployment grew in March by 30,000, similar to the average monthly rise over the last three years (+34,000). March's growth in employment was accompanied by similar growth in the size of the labour force. That left the unemployment rate unchanged for a fourth straight month at 6.8%. (All data from the Labour Force Survey have been revised back to January 1976.)

All the job growth in March was full time (+33,000). Compared with March 1999, full-time employment has risen 3.8% (+447,000), while part-time employment has increased only 0.3% (+9,000). That compares with growth in overall employment of 3.2%. The strong growth in full-time employment in March was also reflected in number of hours worked: up 0.5% over February and 4.3% higher than a year earlier.

The latest employment gains were spread among youths (+6,000), adult men (+12,000) and adult women (+13,000). Adult women (those 25 and older) contributed almost two-thirds of the increase in full-time employment in March (+21,000). Compared with the same time last year, full-time employment among adult women is up 4.3% (+182,000). In March, the youth (aged 15 to 24) employment rate was 55.8%, up 4.7 percentage points from January 1998.

### Employment



(continued on page 2)



### ... Full-time job growth leads employment higher

Unemployment rates for youths, adult men and adult women were all unchanged from February. However, unemployment has declined for all these groups over the last year. For youths, the rate has fallen 1.2 percentage points to 13.0%. The unemployment rate for both adult men and adult women was 5.6% in March, down 1.3 points for men and down 0.8 points for women compared with a year earlier.

The number of employees increased in March by 58,000. Compared with a year earlier, paid employment was 3.4% higher (+410,000). Private-sector employment grew by 36,000 in March, a higher rise than the average monthly gain of 24,000 since the start of 1997. The number of public-sector employees rose by 22,000. As for self-employment, it was up by 46,000 (+1.9%) compared with March 1999, despite a decline this March of 27,000.

March's job growth was primarily in the services-producing sector (+29,000). Employment in trade was up 15,000, while manufacturing employment rose slightly (+9,000). Compared with March 1999, it is up by 93,000 (+4.3%). In March, employment in manufacturing increased by 27,000 in Ontario but declined by 18,000 in Quebec, where the drop in manufacturing jobs was offset by a similar increase in trade (+18,000).

In Ontario, overall employment grew in March by 28,000, continuing an upward trend that began three years ago. In Nova Scotia, 4,000 more people were employed in March. Compared with a year earlier, employment was up 4.3% in the province. Nova Scotia's unemployment rate of 8.9% was the lowest since February 1989. On Prince Edward Island, a gain of 700 jobs in

#### Related information: Employment insurance

*In January (the most recent data), 471,690 persons received the regular type of employment insurance (EI) benefit, a decrease from December of 3.6%. This marked the fourth consecutive monthly decrease. Most provinces and territories reported one. In the last several years, the number of regular beneficiaries has shown a downward trend in most provinces. At the Canada level, the number of people receiving the regular type of benefit in January was 8.6% lower than a year earlier. The amount paid out as regular benefits decreased from December to January, falling 8.0% to \$599.6 million. The number of EI claims filed by the jobless dropped 14.1% to 200,990 claims. For more information, contact Robert Keay (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.*

March added to an upward trend that began last October. However, the size of the labour force also increased (+900), so the unemployment rate edged up on the island. In Quebec, employment was unchanged for a third straight month, after growing by 80,000 in the final four months of 1999. Employment and unemployment figures were little changed in the other provinces.

*The full report, **Labour force information, for the week ending March 18, 2000** (71-001-PPB, \$11/\$103), is now available. For further information, contact Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325) or Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750), Labour Statistics Division. See also "Current trends" on page 8.*

### Labour Force Survey, March 2000 Seasonally adjusted<sup>1</sup>

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	rate (%)
<b>Canada</b>	<b>15,944.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>14,857.8</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>1,086.3</b>	<b>6.8</b>
Newfoundland	249.8	1.1	205.3	0.8	44.4	17.8
Prince Edward Island	74.1	1.2	65.5	1.1	8.6	11.6
Nova Scotia	461.8	0.0	420.9	0.9	40.9	8.9
New Brunswick	369.8	0.8	331.4	0.0	38.4	10.4
Quebec	3,746.0	0.1	3,425.2	-0.2	320.8	8.6
Ontario	6,178.5	0.4	5,832.3	0.5	346.1	5.6
Manitoba	583.2	0.4	550.6	0.2	32.6	5.6
Saskatchewan	515.0	0.2	491.2	0.2	23.8	4.6
Alberta	1,671.9	0.3	1,588.3	0.2	83.6	5.0
British Columbia	2,094.1	-0.2	1,947.1	-0.2	147.0	7.0

<sup>1</sup> Data are for both sexes aged 15 and over.

## Annual growth in weekly earnings remains below inflation rate

In January, average weekly earnings for all employees stood at \$618.85, up \$1.60 (or +0.3%) from December and up from a year earlier by 2.0%. This annual pace of growth in average weekly earnings remains slightly below the annual inflation rate shown by the Consumer Price Index, which was 2.3% in January.

Hourly-paid and salaried employees received small increases in average weekly earnings from December to January (+0.6% and +0.3% respectively). Compared with January 1999, their average weekly earnings were up 2.3% and 3.2% respectively. For hourly-rated employees, the gain was ascribed to a 1.4% gain in average hourly earnings and to a 1.0% increase in paid hours.

The average hours paid to hourly-rated employees increased in January by 0.2 hours to 31.6 hours per week, due mostly to an increase in overtime hours. Average hourly earnings for hourly rated employees inched up 4 cents to \$15.58.

In January, the number of employees on payrolls increased for a fifth consecutive month. Employers added 27,000 employees to payrolls that month. Significant additions to payrolls were seen in the mining, manufacturing, construction and retail trade industries. The strongest payroll employment gains occurred in Quebec, Ontario and Alberta.

Average weekly earnings, all industries, January 2000  
Seasonally adjusted

	\$	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
<b>Canada</b>	<b>618.85</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Newfoundland	549.20	0.0	3.0
Prince Edward Island	485.91	1.1	0.2
Nova Scotia	518.82	0.0	2.6
New Brunswick	543.33	-0.3	3.8
Quebec	578.06	0.2	1.6
Ontario	661.08	-0.1	2.0
Manitoba	552.87	0.4	1.8
Saskatchewan	551.04	1.0	1.5
Alberta	633.76	0.3	2.4
British Columbia	634.10	0.9	2.0
Yukon	698.84	-1.7	8.2
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	808.82	1.4	14.8

The January 2000 issue of *Employment, earnings and hours* (72-002-XPB, \$32/\$320) presents the month's industry data and other labour market indicators in detail. Custom tabulations of the data are available on demand. Annual averages for 1999 are also available in different formats. For further information, contact Jean Leduc (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Division.

## Construction intentions ease back

In February, the value of building permits issued by municipalities fell 14.5% from January to \$2.9 billion. This second consecutive monthly decline resulted from decreases in both the residential and the non-residential sectors.

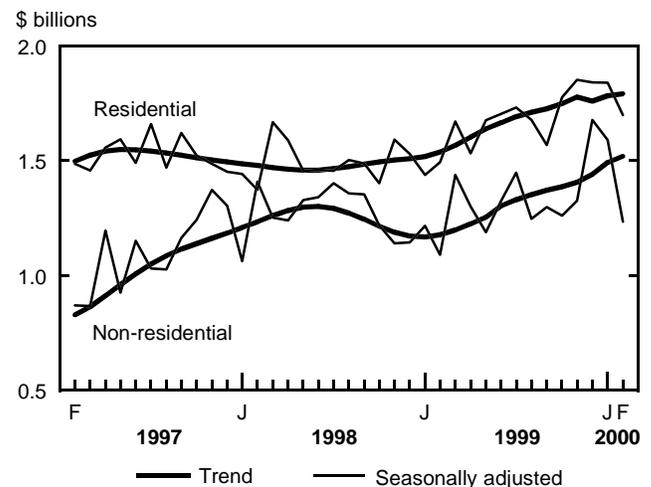
During the first two months of this year, municipalities issued \$6.4 billion in building permits, a 21.5% increase from the same period last year. Both sectors contributed to this performance—the best start of any year since 1990.

In February, the residential sector recorded its third straight monthly decrease in intentions to build housing. The value of permits dropped 7.7% to \$1.7 billion. After recording its best monthly result since 1992 in January, the single-family dwelling component declined 4.8% in February, down to \$1.3 billion. The multi-family dwelling component dropped 16.7% to \$368 million.

Even so, the outlook for 2000 remains positive for single-family dwellings. In the first two months of the year, this component gained 24.3% from the same period of 1999 to reach \$2.7 billion—its best result in 10 years. Intentions for multi-family dwellings for January and February were up 10.2%. In the first two months of 2000, all provinces except British Columbia and New Brunswick posted gains in intentions to build housing compared with the same period in 1999. The performance has been most impressive in Ontario, especially the Toronto area.

Non-residential building permits fell from January to February by 22.4% to \$1.2 billion. Institutional building intentions tumbled 48.5%. Excepting religious structures, all categories of institutional

Value of building permits



building permits declined, especially intentions to construct education buildings. The commercial component declined 24.8%, largely due to the office building category, which was tempered by gains in the laboratories, hotel and motel categories. In contrast, intentions in the industrial component increased 16.3%. All categories in this component rose except small projects. The utility and transportation category played the largest role. In the first two months of this year, the largest increase in non-residential intentions occurred in Ontario, whereas the largest decrease was in Newfoundland.

(continued on page 4)

### ... Construction intentions ease back

Despite February's decline, the outlook for non-residential intentions in 2000 remains positive. In the first two months of the year, the value of non-residential building permits reached \$2.8 billion, up 22.5% from the same period of 1999.

The February issue of **Building permits** (online at [\\$19/\\$186](http://www.statcan.ca:64-001-XIB)) presents the full report. For further information, contact Joanne Bureau (613-951-9689; [burejoa@statcan.ca](mailto:burejoa@statcan.ca)). For analytical information, contact Sébastien LaRoche-Côté (613-951-2025; [sebastien.larochelle-cote@statcan.ca](mailto:sebastien.larochelle-cote@statcan.ca)), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

## Education levels improve substantially

Education levels in Canada, already high by international standards, improved substantially during the 1990s. In 1990, 20% of people aged 25 to 29 in Canada had less than a high school education. By 1998, that percentage had dropped to 13%. Also, between 1990 and 1998, the percentage of individuals in this age group who had university degrees rose from 17% to 26%.

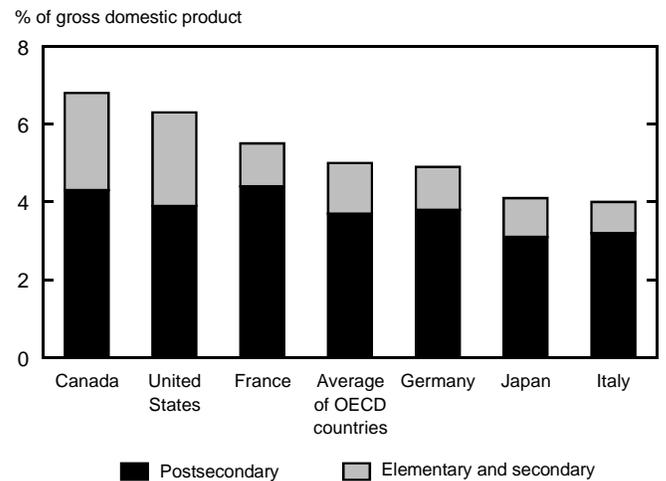
Internationally, among member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Canada had the highest percentage of the population in 1995 with a postsecondary education—48%. That compares with the OECD average of 23%.

Canada's investment in education is among the highest in the world. In 1995, spending on education in Canada, from both public and private sources, amounted to US\$6,396 per student. Among OECD countries, this was second only to the United States, where spending was US\$7,905 per student. The OECD average was US\$4,717. (The most recent year for which internationally comparable data are available is 1995.) In 1995, Canada spent 7.0% of its gross domestic product on education, the highest among the G-7 countries. The OECD average was 5.6%, while the United States recorded 6.7%, the second highest share.

When it comes to success in the labour market, it pays to stay in school. With each higher level of education attained, employment rates rise and unemployment rates fall. In particular, individuals who do not finish high school experience rates of unemployment about two times higher than those who have a high school or further education. Data on recent postsecondary graduates show that their earnings increase progressively with more advanced postsecondary qualifications. However, among graduates working full time two years after graduation, 1995 graduates at all levels had earnings about 4% to 6% lower (in constant dollars) than those of 1986 graduates.

The demand for education at all levels will be affected by a number of factors as the new decade unfolds. One of these will be the size of the population, especially for elementary and secondary programs. Population projections show that, in the next 10 to 15 years, the number of young people aged 19 and under is expected to decline in the Atlantic provinces, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Yukon. In these jurisdictions, this will

### Education spending from public and private sources, 1995



lower the demand for education services at the elementary and secondary levels. The school-age population is expected to grow in Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories. Accordingly, the demand for education in those jurisdictions will rise.

Another concern over the next 10 years will be the replacement of the teaching staff that retire. At the elementary and secondary levels, about one-third of the current teaching force are likely to retire. It appears there will be a good overall balance between future supply and demand. However, in regions experiencing population growth, recruitment of teachers will become an important issue.

As for technology, nearly 100% of intermediate and upper secondary schools were connected to the Internet in early 1999. More than three-quarters of elementary and secondary students had used the World Wide Web for educational purposes. Technology is still a new phenomenon in classrooms across the country, and there are challenges ahead regarding how it will be incorporated into the curriculum to help achieve learning goals.

**Education indicators in Canada** (print: 81-582-XPE, \$20; online at [www.statcan.ca:81-582-XIE](http://www.statcan.ca:81-582-XIE), no charge) is now available. For further information, contact Client Services (613-951-1503; [educationstats@statcan.ca](mailto:educationstats@statcan.ca)), Centre for Education Statistics.

## Independent film production industry continues its robust growth

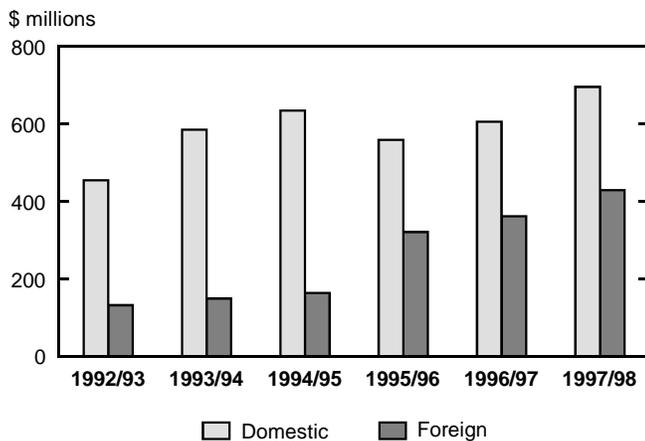
In 1997/98, the independent film, television and video production industry posted a fifth straight year of strong growth. Total revenues grew 11% on an annual basis to reach a record \$1.4 billion. This growth was almost wholly attributed to production revenue that totalled \$1.1 billion, up 16%. From 1992/93, production revenues have grown at an average annual rate of 14%. The nation's top 10 producers accounted for 98% of the growth in production revenues in 1997/98.

Production revenues almost doubled between 1992/93 and 1997/98. Foreign sales accounted for 55% of this growth. In 1997/98, revenue from foreign sales amounted to \$428.9 million, 38% of all production revenue. That compares with only 23% five years earlier.

Sales of television productions remained the single most important source of revenue in the film, video and audio-visual industry in 1997/98. Totalling \$504.7 million, production revenues from television represented 45% of all production revenue, an increase of 14% from 1996/97.

In 1997/98, full-time employment in the industry reached 4,005 jobs, a surge from 1992/93 of 63%. Part-time and freelance employment grew 65% during this same five-year period, up to 16,808 positions. The largest employers were producers specializing in television productions.

### Domestic and foreign production revenue



### Note to readers

This article summarizes results from the 1997/98 census of 739 Canadian film, video and audio-visual production companies and 221 Canadian motion picture laboratories and post-production companies. The data do not include location shooting in Canada by foreign film producers, production data from the National Film Board, or in-house productions by television stations.

Foreign sales consist of revenues received from foreign clients for current and previous years' productions, including license fees and royalties, outright sales and rentals, contracts, sponsors' payments, and remittances from distributors after their expenses. Sales to foreign markets through Canadian distributors are not included in foreign sales.

Ontario is home of Canada's largest independent producers. They generated 63% (\$704.9 million) of the total production revenue earned in Canada in 1997/98. More than half of the production revenues in Ontario, about \$373.6 million, came from foreign markets. Moreover, the foreign sales by Ontario-based producers accounted for 87% of the country's total foreign sales. The success of Ontario-based producers in foreign markets can be ascribed to a small number of large producers who specialize in material destined for television.

Quebec is the second largest base in Canada for producers of film, video and audio-visual material. These companies accounted for 23% of total industry revenues, a share of the market that they have maintained in recent years. Although Atlantic Canada and Western Canada are popular with many foreign-based companies that shoot feature films and television programs here, the producers in these regions accounted for only 10% (\$148.5 million) of the domestic-based industry revenues in 1997/98.

The success of the production industry has been reflected in gains within the laboratory and post-production industry. Between 1992/93 and 1997/98, operating revenues in labs and post-production facilities nearly doubled to \$596.8 million. Foreign sales accounted for 45% of these operating revenues. Full-time employment in labs and post-production climbed nearly 75% over this five-year period, rising to 3,307 positions, while the number of part-time and freelance positions increased 33% to 1,544.

For further information, or to order tables, contact Michael Pedersen (613-951-3305, fax: 613-951-9040; pedemic@statcan.ca), Culture Statistics Program.

## Casinos are largest generator of non-charity gambling revenue

Casinos accounted for 38% of all gambling revenue in 1998, surpassing lotteries (35%) and video lottery terminals or VLTs (28%). This is a drastic change from 1992, when casinos accounted for only 1% of revenue from gambling, while 90% came from lotteries and about 9% from VLTs.

In 1998, the amount wagered in casinos totalled almost \$2.8 billion—about 100 times the amount wagered in 1992. At the same time, the amount wagered on VLTs increased almost nine-fold to \$2.1 billion, while the amount bet on lotteries rose only 4% to \$2.6 billion.

Total revenue and profit from lotteries, casinos and VLTs increased in all regions between 1992 and 1998, as average revenue per adult from gambling surged from \$130 to \$320. In 1998, average revenue per capita (population aged 18 and over) ranged from a high of \$445 in Manitoba to lows of \$140 in British Columbia and \$90 in the territories, which had no government casinos or VLTs. (Revenue figures include spending by visitors from other countries, provinces and territories.)

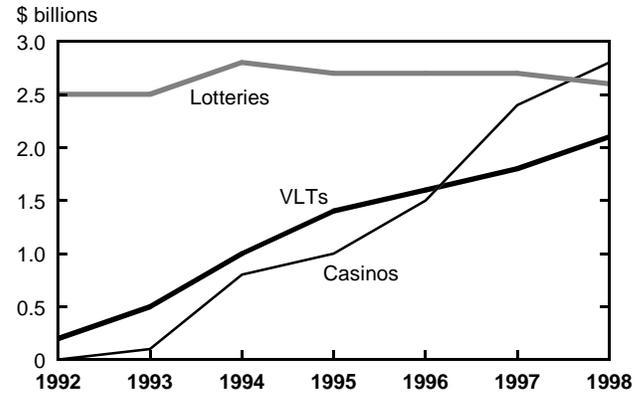
Gambling rates increase with household income. While at least one person in 84% of households with annual after-tax income of \$80,000 or more gambled, such was the case in only 63% of households with annual income of less than \$20,000.

Overall, three-quarters of households (77%) reported spending some money on at least one type of gambling activity in 1998, down from 82% of households in 1996. Among such households, average spending rose from \$425 in 1996 to \$460 in 1998.

Last year, \$8.1 billion was wagered in Canada on some form of non-charity gambling activity—three times the \$2.7 billion of seven years earlier. Moreover, in the third quarter, revenue from gambling exceeded \$2 billion for the first time in a single quarter.

The number of jobs in the gambling industry more than tripled between 1992 and 1999, climbing from 11,900 to 39,200. Although

Generators of non-charity gambling revenue

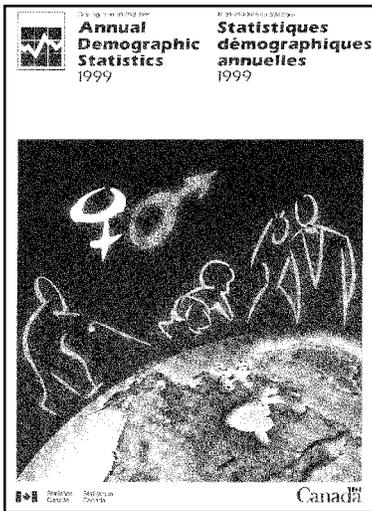


gambling-related jobs still accounted for only 0.3% of all jobs last year, the net increase of 27,300 jobs represented 2% of all new job growth since 1992. Many of the jobs and characteristics of those employed in the industry have also changed. For example, men held 44% of the jobs in gambling last year, an increase from 35% in 1992. By contrast, men held 54% of all jobs in other industries in 1999.

Full-time hourly wages in gambling have increased as well. Wages for men rose from \$13.58 per hour in 1997 to \$16.19 in 1999, while for women they went from \$13.06 to \$14.66. However, both wage levels were still below the average in non-gambling industries: \$18.58 for men and \$15.32 for women.

An more detailed article titled "**Update on gambling**" is available at no charge on Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). Look under "In depth". It also appears in the Spring 2000 issue of *Perspectives on labour and income* (75-001-XPE, \$18/58), which is now available. For further information, contact Katherine Marshall (613-951-6890; [marsskat@statcan.ca](mailto:marsskat@statcan.ca)), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

## New from Statistics Canada



### Annual demographic statistics 1999

The publication *Annual demographics statistics* provides the most recent population estimates and projections (up to 2004) by age group and sex. It also contains data on births, deaths, migrations, and other demographic components. The information is now grouped by province and territory, census metropolitan area and census division.

A CD-ROM is included with the publication. It contains even more data than last year. The historical time series on the disc include population data back to 1971 for the provinces and territories. The time series go back to 1986 for census divisions and census metropolitan areas. The CD-ROM also includes the population projections, as well as animated age pyramids that illustrate the ageing of the population.

*Annual demographic statistics, 1999* (print: 91-213-XPB, \$125, including the CD-ROM; online at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca): 91-213-XIB, \$56, CD-ROM not included) is now available. For more information, contact Lise Champagne (613-951-2320; fax: 613-951-2307; [chamlis@statcan.ca](mailto:chamlis@statcan.ca)), Demography Division.

### Juristat: Adult criminal court statistics 1998/99

The 1998/99 edition of *Juristat: Adult criminal court statistics* presents information on the characteristics of cases and accused persons, the number of appearances, conviction rates, sentencing trends and related issues. For the first time, statistics are presented for a five-year period, 1994/95 through 1998/99.

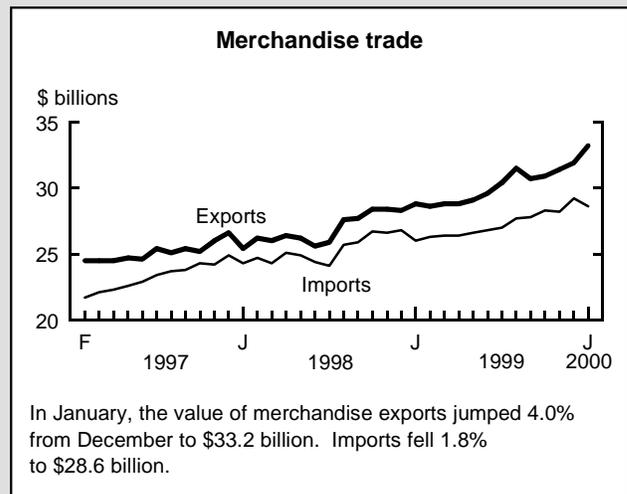
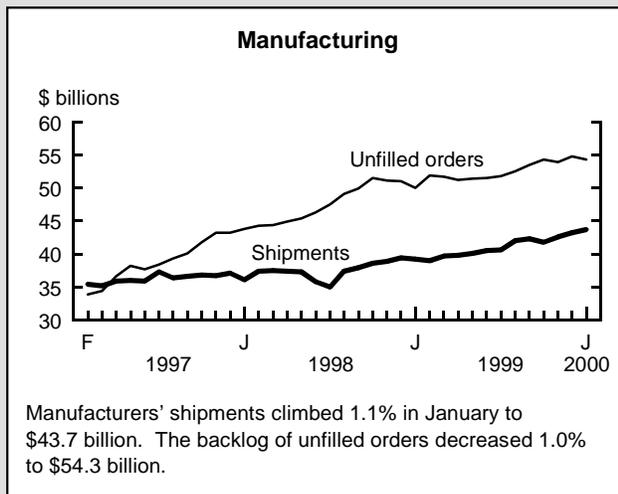
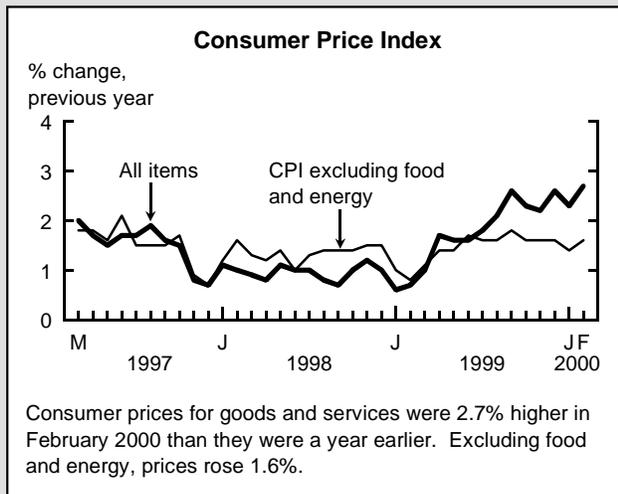
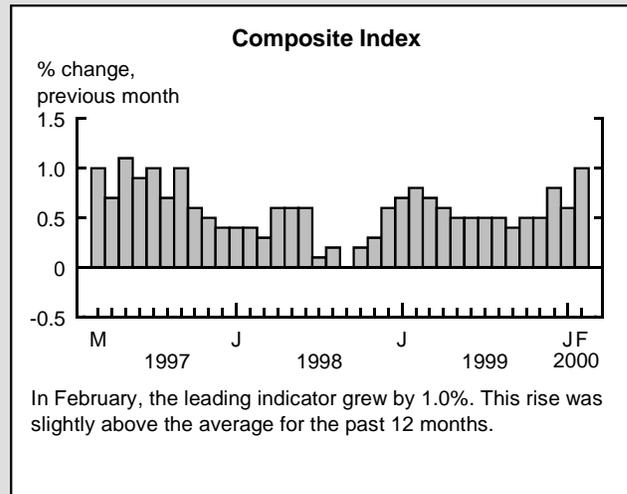
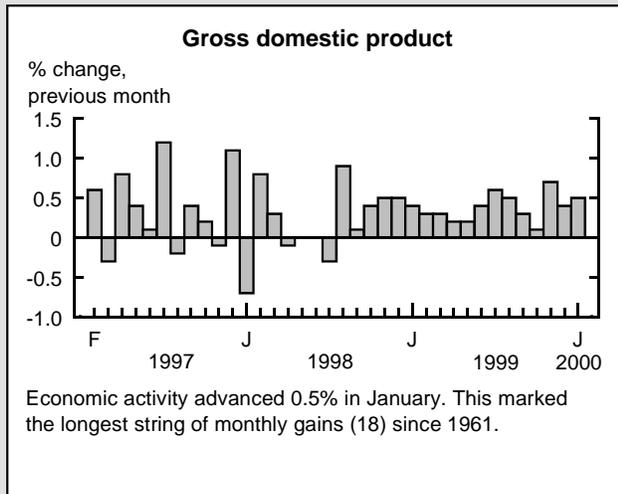
Most notably, this report shows that adult criminal courts have been hearing fewer cases each year since the mid-1990s. However, according to new data from courts in seven provinces and the two territories, the complexity of the cases being heard is increasing, and so too is the demand on the judicial system's resources.

*Juristat: Adult criminal court statistics, 1998/99* (print: 85-002-XPE, \$10/\$93; online at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca): 85-002-XIE, \$8/\$70) is now available. A package of data tables called *Adult criminal court data tables, 1998/99* (online at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca): 85F0032XIE, \$30) is also on sale. To order standard tables, or for more information, contact Information and Client Services (613-951-9023; 1 800 387-2231), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

### Editorial note

Please note that, starting with this issue, the individual matrix numbers of the CANSIM database will no longer be listed at the end of each *Infomat* article. The vast CANSIM database is accessible at any time via the Statistics Canada Web site at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca). Look under the menu item "Products and services" and follow the link. From there, you can locate the detailed data that interest you by searching with key words.

## Current trends



**Note:** All series are seasonally adjusted except the Consumer Price Index.

## Latest statistics

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
<b>GENERAL</b>				
Gross domestic product (\$ billion, 1992)	January	770.1	0.5%	4.7%
Composite Index (1992=100)	February	158.2	1.0%	7.4%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billion)	Q4 1999	43.9	7.8%	27.1%
Capacity utilization (%)	Q4 1999	86.8	1.3†	4.0†
<b>DOMESTIC DEMAND</b>				
Retail trade (\$ billion)	January	22.5	0.0%	6.7%
Department store sales (\$ billions)	February	1.49	-2.5%	1.5%
New motor vehicle sales (thousand of units)	January	133.6	-7.2%	8.2%
Wholesale trade (\$ billion)	January	31.2	0.2%	9.5%
<b>LABOUR</b>				
Employment (millions)	March*	14.86	0.2%	3.2%
Unemployment rate (%)	March*	6.8	0.0†	-1.1†
Participation rate (%)	March*	65.9	0.1†	0.4†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	January	618.85	0.3%	2.0%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	March*	171	0.6%	11.8%
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>				
Merchandise exports (\$ billion)	January	33.2	4.0%	15.1%
Merchandise imports (\$ billion)	January	28.6	-1.8%	9.9%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billion)	January	4.5	1.8	1.8
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>				
Shipments (\$ billion)	January	43.7	1.1%	11.6%
New orders (\$ billion)	January	43.2	-2.1%	13.0%
Unfilled orders (\$ billion)	January	54.3	-1.0%	8.4%
Inventory/shipments ratio	January	1.28	0.00	-0.02
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	February	112.0	0.5%	2.7%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	February	125.8	0.9%	5.9%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	February	139.7	3.2%	37.1%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	February*	102.4	0.4%	2.1%

*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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