



Infommat

A Weekly Review

Friday, April 30, 1999

OVERVIEW

◆ Lower exports from almost all sectors

Exports were lower from almost all sectors in February. Mainly, exports fell because of lower aircraft and automobile shipments to the United States and Europe. Imports, for their part, continued to be weak.

◆ Leading indicator continues moderate growth

The leading indicator grew in March at a pace of 0.6%. Manufacturing demand continued to lead the way, buoyed by the strength of exports.

◆ Retailers see sales decline

After going on a spending spree in January, consumers cut their retail spending in February. The largest sales declines were seen in general merchandise stores and in stores classified as "other retail".

◆ Wholesale sales are slowing

Wholesale sales remained unchanged in February despite gains in 7 of the 11 trade groups. Important sales declines were noted for food products and for motor vehicles, parts and accessories.

◆ Canadian investors return to U.S. stocks

In February, two-thirds of Canadians' foreign buying was directed to U.S. stocks, a return to the general pattern of 1998. Meanwhile, foreign investors were buyers of Canadian money market paper and sellers of Canadian bonds.

◆ Little change in the inflation picture

In March, consumers paid 1.0% more than they did a year earlier for goods and services. The year-to-year increase in the price of piped gas was particularly notable. Since November 1997, the annual inflation rate has ranged from 0.6% to 1.2%.

Lower exports from almost all sectors

After starting the year strongly, exports fell in February by 0.9%. All sectors except agriculture and industrial goods exported less. Mainly, the decline was driven by lower exports of aircraft and automobiles to the United States and to Europe. Imports were weak again in February (-0.5%), chiefly because of lower imports of auto parts, industrial goods and beverages. The trade balance remained relatively strong in February, dropping slightly from a revised \$2.7 billion in January to \$2.6 billion.

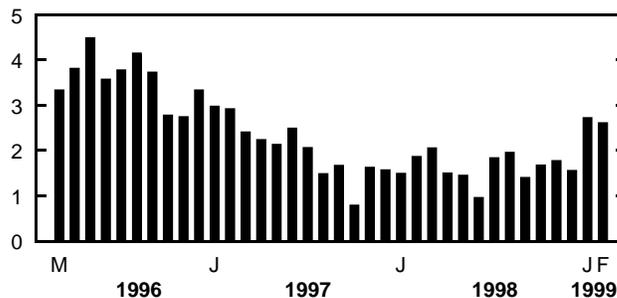
Following an increase in January, machinery and equipment exports fell in February by 2.9%. This fluctuation was due largely to shipments of new aircraft and helicopters to Europe and to the United States. Despite the monthly volatility, the overall trend continued to increase for these products. Television and telecommunications equipment exports, particularly to the United States, remained strong for a third consecutive month.

Despite a sharp drop in automotive product exports (-1.5%), the January and February levels were 30% higher than they were a year earlier. Trade exports jumped for a second straight month in February, but not enough to offset the decline in exports of cars and parts.

In February, energy product exports did not continue with January's recovery, but instead followed the downward trend that started in August 1998. The value of natural gas exports fell

Trade balance

\$ billions, seasonally adjusted



(continued on page 2)



... Lower exports from almost all sectors

sharply due to February's 8.5% price drop. Crude oil prices continued to climb for a second month, causing a slight increase in export value despite a marked decline in export volumes. Exports of industrial goods recovered in February (+1.7%) after falling since the third quarter of 1998. This sector was pushed up by strong exports of gold and inorganic chemical products to the United States and of fertiliser to China. This growth occurred despite large declines in all mineral exports except nickel.

On the import side, the largest contributor to February's decline was the auto sector. Imports of auto parts dropped sharply and were partly offset by slight gains in car imports, which had been falling since September 1998, and by a return to an upward trend in truck imports. Industrial goods imports continued along the downward trend that started in the fourth quarter of 1998. This was caused chiefly by sharp drops in imports of valves and

Exports by principal commodity group, February 1999 Seasonally adjusted

	\$ millions	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Total exports	28,707	-0.9	8.4
Agricultural and fishing products	2,177	3.9	-1.0
Energy products	1,744	-2.4	-12.4
Forestry products	3,118	-0.5	4.6
Industrial goods and materials	4,684	1.7	-2.2
Machinery and equipment	6,737	-2.9	5.4
Automotive products	8,019	-1.5	28.7
Other consumer goods	1,141	-1.1	16.9
Special transactions trade ¹	584	-1.0	61.3
Other balance of payments adjustments	502	-0.4	-9.2

¹ Mainly, these are mainly low-valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.

Note to readers

Merchandise trade is one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services.

organic products, mainly from the United States, as well as by imports of textiles.

Aircraft imports jumped in February, driving the entire machinery and equipment sector up 2.2%. The increase was somewhat artificial, however, since some imports planned for January did not arrive in Canada until February. Nevertheless, aircraft imports for January and February were more than 80% higher than in the same period of 1998. Meanwhile, imports of agricultural and fishing products fell sharply in February (-3.0%), as wine imports from France and coffee imports from the United States and Guatemala all dropped significantly. Finally, a 3.2% decline in the value of energy product imports was mainly caused by lower crude oil prices. However, oil import volumes rose slightly.

After declining in January, imports from the European Union regained their 1998 average levels due to imports of new and used aircraft. As imports from the United States continued to fall in February, the trade surplus with the United States reached a record \$4.4 billion.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3618, 3619, 3651, 3685-3713, 3718-3720, 3887-3913, 8430-8435 and 8438-8447.

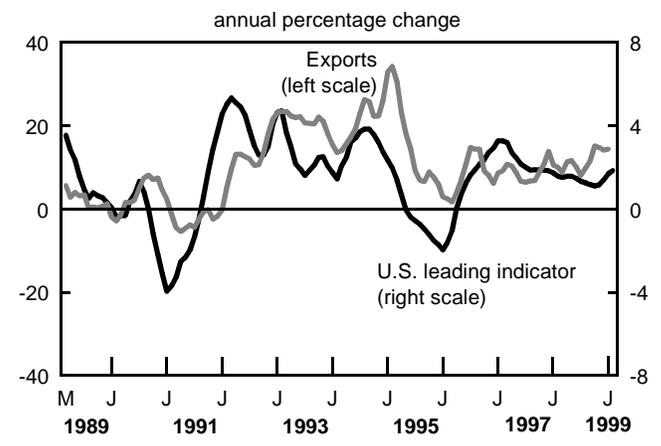
The February 1999 issue of *Canadian international merchandise trade* (paper: 65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188; Internet: 65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141) includes tables by commodity and country. Current account data are available quarterly in *Canada's balance of international payments* (67-001-XPB, \$38/\$124). For further information, contact Jocelyne Elibani (613-951-9647 or 1-800-294-5583), International Trade Division. See also "Current trends" on page 7.

Leading indicator continues moderate growth

In March, the leading indicator grew at a moderate pace of 0.6%, the same as its upward-revised gain in February. The indicator's advances remained broadly based in 9 of its 10 components. Manufacturing demand continued to lead the way, buoyed by the strength of exports. A softening in labour markets in February and March was reflected in a slowdown in the demand for services. An improvement in the Toronto stock market was led by a rally in natural resources, as prices firmed on global commodity markets.

New orders posted a sixth consecutive increase. Meanwhile, a string of three straight advances in the ratio of shipments to inventories of finished goods was the best in almost three years. Manufacturers continued to extend the workweek to meet demand. An upturn in the U.S. leading indicator provided an encouraging sign for more growth. Its recent gains have been fuelled by the tightest labour market in a generation, which has buoyed household confidence.

Canadian exports to the United States and the U.S. leading indicator



(continued on page 3)

... Leading indicator continues moderate growth

In Canada, household demand again showed the mixed performance that was evident during most of last year. A slowdown in services employment was due to slack consumer demand in the sector. Conversely, outlays for most goods improved again. The housing index posted one of its rare advances in the last two years, as housing starts followed the rally that occurred at the turn of the year in sales of existing homes. Outlays for furniture, appliances and other durable goods also rose.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 191.

The April 1999 issue of Canadian economic observer (11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227) is now available. For further information, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Economic Analysis Group. See also "Current trends" on page 7.

Retailers see sales decline

After going on a spending spree in January (+2.0%), consumers cut their retail spending in February (-0.4%). Total spending in retail stores in February amounted to \$21.0 billion, 3.8% higher than in February 1998. Overall, retail sales have picked up since the fall of 1998.

The largest sales declines in February were seen in general merchandise stores (-2.6%) and in stores classified as "other retail" (-1.7%). The lower spending in general merchandise stores came on the heels of strong increases in January and December. Sales were down in February in both department stores (-2.8%) and other general merchandise stores (-2.3%).

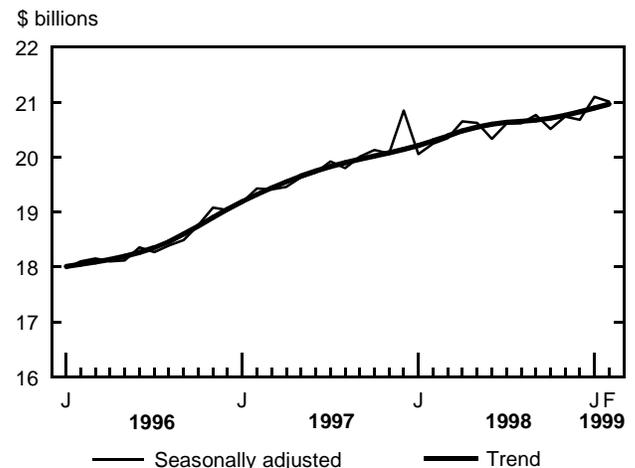
The lower sales in stores classified as "other retail" followed strong sales in January. February's decline was concentrated in stores of "other durable" goods (-3.0%) and "other semi-durable" goods (-2.9%). These two types of stores encompass a wide variety of merchants (for example, sporting goods, jewellery, music, hardware, books). The lower February sales were mostly seen in sporting goods stores, music stores and bookstores.

These declines were partly offset by sales gains in clothing stores (+0.6%) and drugstores (+0.6%). In both categories, it was the second consecutive month of growth. But despite the two months of growth, retail sales in clothing stores have remained flat since the spring of 1998, while sales in drug stores before January had been declining since the spring of 1998.

Higher sales in February by motor and recreational vehicle dealers (+1.3%) pushed up total sales in the automotive trade group (+0.2%) for a fourth consecutive month. The recent gains have been mostly due to advances by motor and recreational vehicle dealers, whose sales have risen 6.8% since October 1998. After a period of stagnation during most of 1998, the automotive group has shown sales growth in the last few months.

Food store sales declined in February by 0.3%. Sales at supermarkets and grocery stores retreated 0.4%, whereas sales at other food stores increased 1.0%. Sales at food stores have remained flat since the spring of 1998. Meanwhile, sales at furniture stores remained essentially unchanged in February

Retail sales



Wholesale sales are slowing

Despite gains in 7 of the 11 trade groups, wholesale sales remained unchanged in February at \$28.7 billion. Generally, sales have been growing since the summer of 1998. However, tepid sales in January (+0.3%) and February 1999 (0.0%) recall the slowdown reported at the beginning of 1998. Prior to 1998, wholesalers had generally enjoyed sustained sales growth.

In February, important sales declines were noted in food products (-3.4%) and in motor vehicles, parts and accessories (-2.2%). The combined sales of these two trade groups typically represent one-third of monthly wholesaling activity. Offsetting those declines were increased sales in seven other trade groups. Strong sales were reported in apparel and dry goods (+5.6%), farm machinery, equipment and supplies (+2.8%), metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies (+2.7%), and in "other products" (+2.7%), which include groups such as agricultural feeds, agricultural chemicals and other farm products.

Wholesalers in all provinces except the three Prairie provinces reported lower sales. Wholesalers were buoyed in Manitoba (+7.3%) and Saskatchewan (+7.6%) by strong sales of farm machinery, equipment and supplies; metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies; and "other products".

February was a good month for wholesalers of apparel and dry goods (+5.6%), as well as for wholesalers of household products (+1.9%). Apparel and dry goods wholesalers reported ongoing strength in their sales of spring and summer merchandise. Sales of apparel and dry goods have been volatile since January 1998. Despite February's rise, household product sales have been generally falling since early 1998.

February's decline in food product wholesaling came after six months of increases. Except for a slowdown in mid-1997, food product sales have been generally rising for the last few years. During the 1990s, food wholesalers have benefited from growing consumer demand for a wider variety of domestic and exotic food products. The recent strength of food wholesalers can be partially attributed to this wider acceptance of new products by Canadian consumers.

Canadian investors return to U.S. stocks

In February, Canadian investors continued to look to foreign markets, but with smaller amounts of money in hand. Once again, Canadians were net buyers of foreign stocks. They added a further \$1.6 billion to the \$5.9 billion acquired in the prior three months. Two-thirds of February's buying was directed to U.S. stocks. This marked a return to the general pattern of 1998 after three months when just over half their foreign buying went into overseas stocks.

Retail and wholesale trade, February 1999

Seasonally adjusted

	Retail sales		Wholesale sales	
	\$ millions	% change, previous month	\$ millions	% change, previous month
Canada	21,008	-0.4	28,686	0.0
Newfoundland	332	-0.2	200	-1.9
Prince Edward Island	87	-1.9	49	-0.4
Nova Scotia	653	-0.3	555	-0.5
New Brunswick	509	0.2	340	-0.6
Quebec	4,951	-0.2	5,898	-0.3
Ontario	7,944	0.0	14,120	-0.6
Manitoba	747	-0.5	991	7.3
Saskatchewan	621	-2.2	917	7.6
Alberta	2,359	-0.7	2,573	0.5
British Columbia	2,735	-1.5	3,018	-1.0
Yukon	28	6.4	9	-18.3
Northwest Territories	44	-3.8	17	-1.5

Wholesale sales are weakening for motor vehicles, parts and accessories. Sales began to recede during the spring of 1998, rebounded in the summer of 1998, but weakened again and declined by the end of last year. It is notable that manufacturers' shipments of motor vehicles, parts and accessories also declined in February, as did both imports and exports of automobile products.

Inventories held by wholesalers in February declined slightly to \$40.9 billion (-0.3%). Inventory accumulation, which began easing at the start of 1998, levelled off by the end of last year. The inventories-to-sales ratio stayed at January's level of 1.43. The ratio levelled off during the summer of 1998 and began to fall during the last quarter.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 59, 61 and 648-649.

The February 1999 issue of Wholesale trade (63-008-XIB, \$14/\$140) can be downloaded from the Internet at www.statcan.ca. For general enquiries, or to order data, contact Client Services (1 877 421-3067 or 613-951-3549; wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca). For further analytical information, contact Alexander Hays (613-951-3552; haysale@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

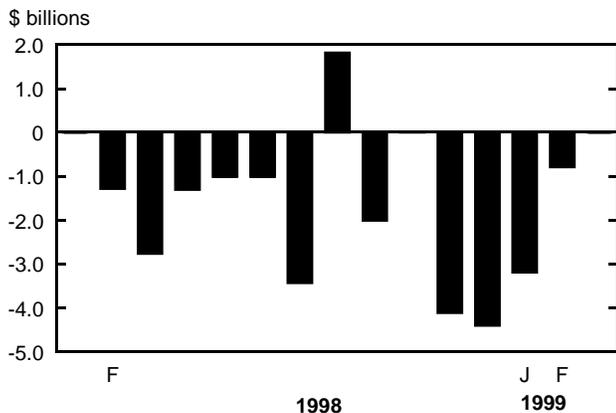
Meanwhile, foreign investors bought Canadian money market paper, but sold Canadian bonds and stock. After selling a substantial \$4.4 billion of Canadian paper in January, foreign investors returned with a modest purchase in February of \$0.8 billion. Underlying this turnabout was a large reduction in foreign holdings of Government of Canada Treasury bills in January (-\$3.3 billion) that was followed by an increase in February (+\$1.6 billion). American investors accounted for most of February's buying, while January's large sell-off was widespread geographically.

(continued on page 5)

... Canadian investors return to U.S. stocks

Foreigners reduced their Canadian bonds holdings by \$0.8 billion in February. This followed a \$1.3 billion cut in January. New Canadian bonds issued in foreign markets rebounded sharply in February to \$4.1 billion, up from January's unusual low of \$1.4 billion. There was a similarly large increase in retirements of foreign-held Canadian bonds in February (\$5.0 billion), up from \$2.5 billion in January. New corporate bond issues accounted for two-thirds of February's new issues,

Canadian investment in foreign stocks and bonds



Note: Bars below the zero line indicate investment outside Canada.

Note to readers

In February, the differential on short-term government instruments was unchanged at about 30 basis points, continuing to favour investment in Canada. On long-term government instruments, the differential shifted in February to favour the United States by a small margin. It had favoured investment in Canada since August 1998.

After five straight months of rising stock prices dating back to September 1998, both Canada and the United States recorded declines in February. A 6.2% retreat in Canadian stock prices (TSE 300 composite index) followed a 22% climb in the preceding five months. A smaller 3.2% decline in U.S. stock prices (Standard and Poor's 500 index) followed a larger 30% rise during the same five months.

The Canadian dollar continued to edge up from an historical low set against the U.S. dollar in August 1998. The Canadian dollar closed February at 66.32 U.S. cents, the highest close since June 1998.

whereas the major portion of retirements consisted of a US \$2 billion note issued for official reserves.

Foreign investment activity in Canadian stocks was muted (on a net basis) for a third consecutive month in February.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2328-2330, 2378-2380 and 4195.

The February 1999 issue of Canada's international transactions in securities (67-002-XPB, \$18/\$176) carries the detailed report. For further information, contact Don Granger (613-951-1864), Balance of Payments and Financial Flows Division.

Little change in the inflation picture

Consumers paid 1.0% more in March than they did a year earlier for the goods and services contained in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket. Since November 1997, the annual inflation rate has ranged from 0.6% to 1.2%. The notable price increases in March included piped gas, tuition fees, property taxes, new cars and new trucks. That upward price pressure was partly offset by lower average prices for computer equipment, telephone services, fuel oil and fresh vegetables.

For piped gas, the year-to-year price increase was 13.1%. Piped gas prices are influenced by changes in the raw material price of natural gas, which rose 22.9% from February 1998 to February 1999. The increase can be explained by higher demand for natural gas and by tighter supply in Canada.

From February to March, the CPI rose 0.4%. Higher prices for gasoline, air transportation, men's and women's clothing, and travel tours contributed to the increase. Lower prices for fresh fruit, fresh and frozen chicken, and fuel oil exerted downward pressure on overall consumer prices.

Gasoline prices climbed 3.5% from February to March despite a 4.9% drop in the world price of crude oil in February. In the past, it has taken about one month for a decline in crude oil prices

Consumer Price Index, March 1999

% change from previous year, not seasonally adjusted

	All-items	Food	Shelter	Transportation	Energy
Canada	1.0	1.4	1.1	0.8	0.2
Newfoundland	0.8	2.5	-1.2	-1.2	-6.8
Prince Edward Island	0.0	0.1	-1.2	-3.0	-10.7
Nova Scotia	0.1	-0.5	-0.8	-1.0	-6.4
New Brunswick	0.0	0.4	-0.4	-1.4	-5.3
Quebec	1.2	1.6	1.0	1.7	1.1
Ontario	1.1	1.6	1.4	1.0	0.8
Manitoba	1.3	1.2	2.2	0.6	-0.3
Saskatchewan	1.6	0.6	2.5	1.0	1.0
Alberta	1.9	1.9	3.9	0.6	4.2
British Columbia	0.5	1.3	-1.1	0.5	-1.5
Whitehorse	0.4	-0.4	-0.2	0.7	-4.8
Yellowknife	0.6	0.5	-0.7	1.9	-4.1

to reach consumers. However, increased North American demand and smaller supplies of gasoline more than erased the effect of February's drop in crude oil prices. In fact, the increase in the price of gasoline in March was the largest monthly gain since August 1997 (+4.7%).

Air transportation prices rose 8.0% in March due to higher rates for domestic, transborder and transatlantic flights. The average price of travel tour packages rose 6.4%, similar to the

(continued on page 6)

... Little change in the inflation picture

February-to-March increases seen in past years. The upward price movement was mainly due to increased demand for Florida destinations. Also increasing from February to March were prices for both women's (+2.6%) and men's (+1.9%) clothing, as the new season's clothing lines were introduced.

Among the declines, the price of fuel oil fell from February to March by 2.6%. Contributing factors were competition and lower wholesale prices. This continued a downtrend that began in March 1997. Meanwhile, the average price for fresh fruit fell 2.8%, continuing a downward re-adjustment of prices that began in February. The index for fresh fruit took a large jump in January due to December's cold weather in California. The index for fresh and frozen chicken fell 3.4%, the result of increased marketing

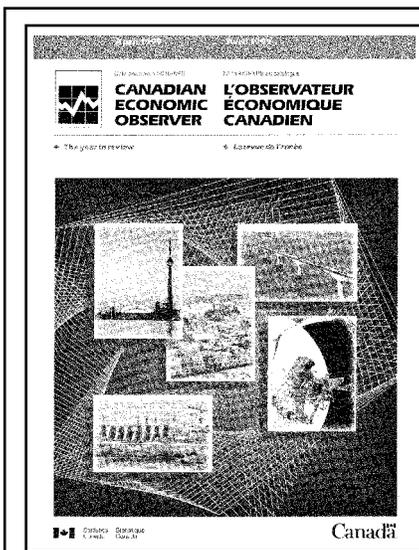
of fresh and frozen chicken to compete with falling prices for pork.

Among the provinces, the highest annual inflation rate was seen in Alberta (+1.9%), while consumers in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick saw no change in their overall price level (0.0%). From February to March, the CPI for Quebec led the increases among provinces (+0.8%), while the CPI for Manitoba slipped 0.1%.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9940-9970.

*The March 1999 issue of **The consumer price index** (62-001-XPB, \$11/\$103) is now available. For further information, contact Prices Division (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; info@statcan.ca). See also "Current trends" on page 7.*

New from Statistics Canada



Canadian economic observer April 1999

The April 1999 issue of Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, *Canadian economic observer*, analyses the current economic conditions, summarises the major economic events that occurred in March and presents a feature article on the economic developments of 1998.

A separate statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and charts on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and the major industrial nations.

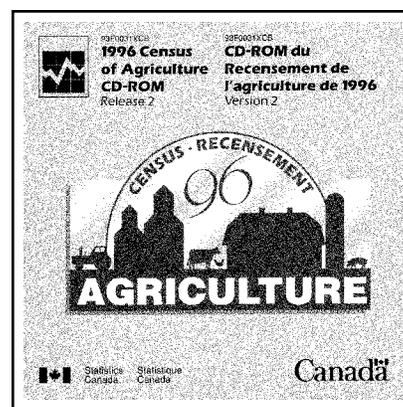
*The April 1999 issue of **Canadian economic observer** (11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227) is now available. For further information, contact Cyndi Bloskie (613-951-3634; ceo@statcan.ca), Current Economic Analysis Group.*

1996 Census of Agriculture CD-ROM Release 2

This new CD-ROM presents data on farm operators and farm families: age, marital status, mother tongue, highest level of schooling, income and other socio-economic characteristics. The disc also contains 1996 farm population counts, as well as selected historical data from previous Censuses of Agriculture at the national and provincial levels. Many other data variables are also featured from the 1996 Census of Agriculture, with data tabulated right down to the small area level.

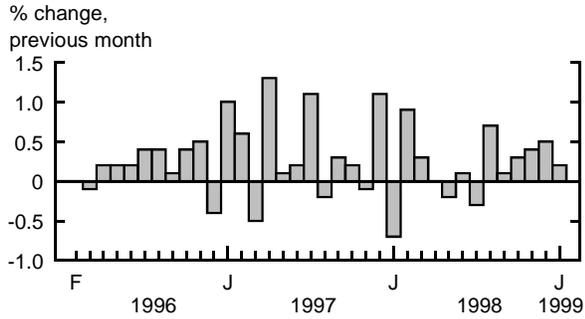
Additionally, the CD-ROM is packaged with an analytical summary of the data, reference materials, and three issues of *The Daily*, which provide analysis, charts and summaries from the three major releases of 1996 Census of Agriculture data.

*The **1996 Census of Agriculture CD-ROM, Release 2** (93F0031XCB, \$2,500) is now available. Those who already purchased Release 1 will be receiving Release 2 at no additional charge. For new orders, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre. For further information, contact the Census of Agriculture User Services Unit (1 800 465-1991; 613-951-2889; agriculture@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.*



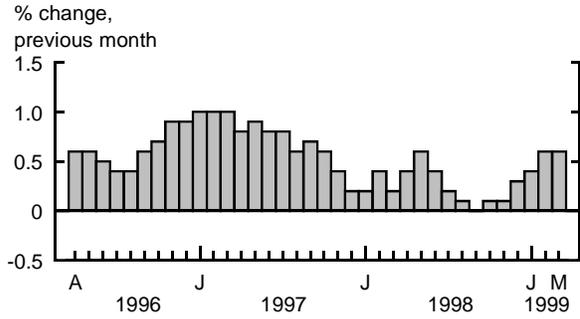
Current trends

Gross domestic product



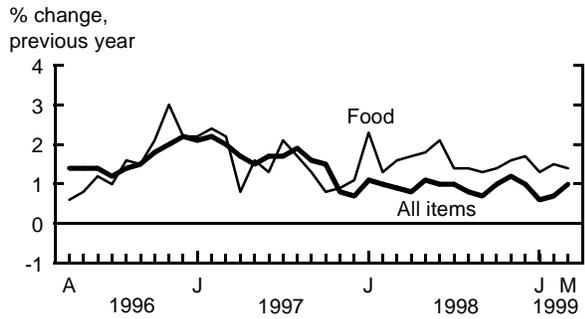
Economic activity advanced 0.2% in January, the sixth consecutive month of growth.

Composite Index



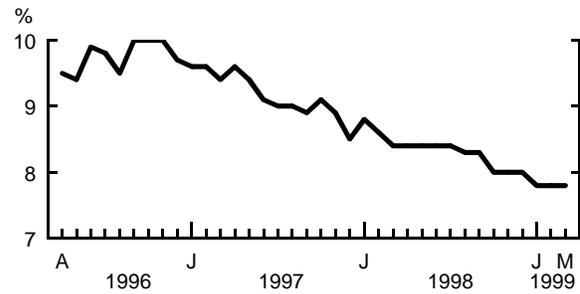
The leading indicator continued its steady advance in March, rising 0.6%, the same as its upward-revised gain in February.

Consumer Price Index



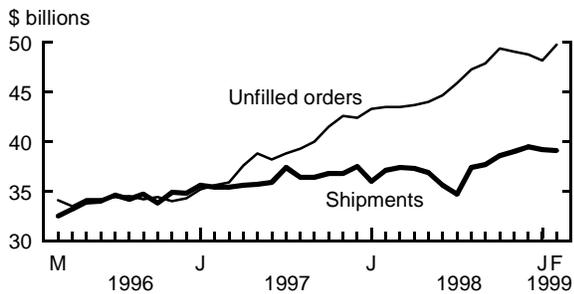
Consumers paid 1.0% more for goods and services in March 1999 than they did a year earlier. Food prices rose 1.4%.

Unemployment rate



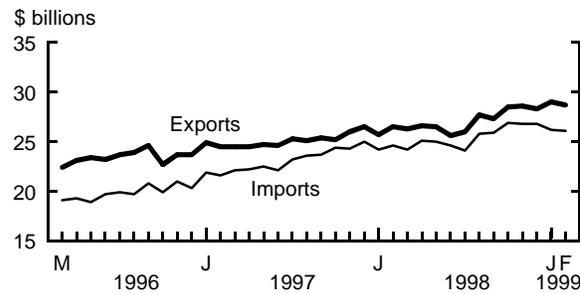
In March, the unemployment rate stayed at 7.8% – its lowest point since June 1990.

Manufacturing



Manufacturers' shipments slipped 0.4% in February to \$39.1 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders climbed 3.2% to \$49.8 billion.

Merchandise trade



In February, the value of merchandise exports fell 0.9% from January to \$28.7 billion. Imports declined a slight 0.5% to \$26.1 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 (\$ billion, 1992)	January	730.1	0.2%	3.1%
Composite Index (1981=100)	March	212.1	0.6%	4.1%
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)	February*	21.0	- 0.4%	3.8%
New motor vehicle sales (thousand of units)	February	117.1	- 4.1%	6.4%
Wholesale trade (\$ billion)	February*	28.7	0.0%	3.3%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	March	14.64	- 0.2%	2.9%
Unemployment rate (%)	March	7.8	0.0†	- 0.6†
Participation rate (%)	March	65.6	- 0.2†	0.7†
Labour income (\$ billion)	January	39.3	- 0.2%	2.6%
Average weekly earnings (\$)	January	605.24	- 0.6%	- 0.2%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	March	148	0.0%	7.2%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports (\$ billion)	February	28.7	- 0.9%	8.4%
Merchandise imports (\$ billion)	February	26.1	- 0.5%	6.0%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billion)	February	2.6	- 0.1	0.8
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	February	39.1	- 0.4%	5.3%
New orders (\$ billion)	February	40.6	5.0%	9.0%
Unfilled orders (\$ billion)	February	49.8	3.2%	14.5%
Inventory/shipments ratio	February	1.27	0.01	- 0.03
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	March	110.7	0.4%	1.0%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	March*	119.7	0.8%	1.4%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	March*	107.0	5.5%	- 2.9%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	February	100.3	0.0%	0.5%

Note: All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of the price indexes.

* new this week

† percentage point

Infomat

A weekly review

Published by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10th floor, R.H. Coats Bldg., Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6.

Editor: Tim Prichard (613) 951-1197; prictim@statcan.ca
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Price per issue: paper version, \$4; Internet version, \$3. Annual subscription: paper version, \$145; Internet version, \$109. Prices outside Canada are the same, but are in U.S. dollars. All prices exclude sales tax.

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Publications released from April 22 to 28, 1999

Division/Title of publication	Period	Catalogue number	Price: Issue/Subscription	
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AGRICULTURE				
Field crop reporting series, no. 2	1999	22-002-XPB	15/88	15/88
Greenhouse, sod and nursery industries	1998	22-202-XIB	26	
Rural and small town Canada analysis bulletin: Factors associated with local economic growth	1981-1991	21-006-XIE	no charge	no charge
Stocks of frozen meat products	April 1999	23-009-XIE	no charge	no charge
CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS				
Alternative measures in Canada	1998	85-545-XIE	30	
Juristat vol. 19, no. 5: Female inmates, Aboriginal inmates and inmates serving life sentences—a one day snapshot				
Internet		85-002-XIE	8/70	
Paper		85-002-XPE	10/93	10/93
CULTURE, TOURISM AND THE CENTRE FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS				
Touriscope vol. 15, no. 2: International travel, advance information		66-001-PPB	8/73	8/73
CURRENT ECONOMIC ANALYSIS				
Canadian economic observer	April 1999	11-010-XPB	23/227	23/227
DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES				
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Wholesale trade	February 1999	63-008-XIB	14/140	
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Canadian international merchandise trade	February 1999			
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Paper		65-001-XPB	19/188	19/188
LABOUR STATISTICS				
Employment, earnings and hours	January 1999	72-002-XPB	32/320	32/320
MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY				
Construction-type plywood	February 1999	35-001-XIB	5/47	
Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation	March 1999	44-004-XIB	5/47	
Monthly survey of manufacturing	February 1999	31-001-XPB	20/196	20/196
Pulpwood and wood residue statistics	February 1999	25-001-XIB	6/55	
Sawmills and planing mills	February 1999	35-003-XIB	9/86	
SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND ELECTRONIC INFORMATION				
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Calendar of key releases: May 1999				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4 Business conditions survey, April 1999 Building permits, March 1999	5 Help-wanted index, April 1999	6 Grain stocks, March 31, 1999	7 Labour force survey, April 1999
10	11	12 New housing price index, March 1999	13 Retirement savings through RPPs and RRSPs, 1991-97*	14 New motor vehicle sales, March 1999 Composite index, April 1999 Travel between Canada and other countries, March 1999
17	18 Monthly survey of manufacturing, March 1999	19 Wholesale trade, March 1999	20 Canadian international merchandise trade, March 1999	21 Consumer price index, April 1999 Retail trade, March 1999
24	25	26 Financial statistics for enterprises, Q1 1999 Employment insurance, March 1999	27 International transactions in securities, March 1999 Employment, earnings and hours, March 1999 Farm cash receipts, Q1 1999 Net farm income, 1999	28 Industrial product price index, April 1999 Raw materials price index, April 1999
31 International travel account, Q1 1999 Characteristics of interna- tional travellers, Q4 1998 Real GDP at factor cost by industry, March 1999				

Note: Except for the releases marked with an asterisk, all the release dates in this calendar are fixed. A more detailed calendar of fixed release dates for the entire year is available from Statistics Canada's web site at www.statcan.ca.