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A Weekly Review

Friday, May 12, 2000

OVERVIEW

- **Part-time employment increases**

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- **Manufacturers offer a bright outlook**

  In the April Business Conditions Survey, more than four out of five manufacturers forecast that production will remain at the same level or be higher this quarter.

- **Climb slows for industrial product prices**

  In March, the year-over-year rate of increase in industrial product prices slowed to 5.5%—the first deceleration since October 1999. Once again, petroleum prices were the key to the gains.

- **Crude oil again lifts raw material prices**

  In March, raw material prices were up 2.0% from February. Again, higher crude oil prices were mainly responsible. However, the rate of increase in raw material prices eased slightly on a year-over-year basis.

- **Value of building permits rebounds**

  After two straight monthly declines, the value of construction intentions rebounded in March by 11.5%. The residential and the non-residential sectors both contributed. In the first quarter, the value of building permits surged from the year-earlier quarter by 14.9%.

- **Canadians at mid-life healthier than 1970s counterparts**

  Canadians aged 45 to 64 are generally in better health than those in the same age group two decades ago. However, that age group has seen increases in the prevalence of asthma and diabetes among men and migraine headaches among women.

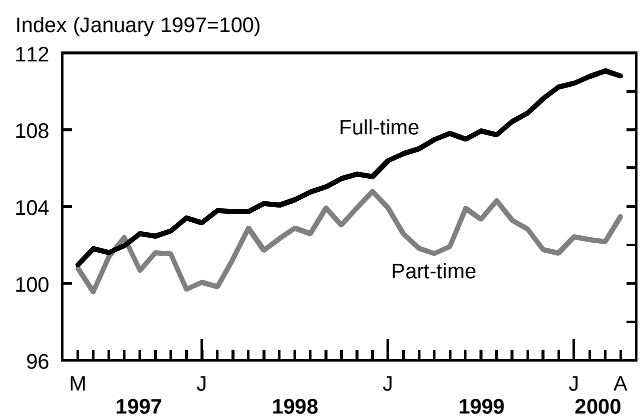
Part-time employment increases

An increase in part-time employment offset a decrease in full-time, leaving employment unchanged in April. The unemployment rate remained unchanged also, stuck at 6.8% for a fifth consecutive month. Part-time employment increased by an estimated 34,000, whereas full-time employment declined by 29,000. Nevertheless, from April 1999 to April 2000, full-time employment has shown much stronger growth than part-time employment: 3.1% (+364,000 jobs) compared with 1.9% (+50,000 jobs).

In April, the decrease in full-time jobs was all among adult men (aged 25 and over). This was partly offset by an increase in part-time jobs, leaving the net employment loss in April for adult men at 21,000 jobs. Adult men's unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.6%. Among adult women, a gain of 19,000 jobs April was attributable to 17,000 more part-time jobs. Despite that, the unemployment rate for adult women also remained unchanged at 5.6%. Youth employment, meanwhile, continued its upward trend in April (+7,000). In their case, the unemployment rate edged down to 12.9% (-0.1 percentage points).

The private sector added an estimated 102,000 employees in April, but that growth was offset by a decrease in the number of self-employed (-97,000). In the public sector, the number of employees was unchanged.

Full- and part-time employment



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... Part-time employment increases

Employment increased in health care and social assistance (+11,000), in natural resource industries (+8,000) and in the management of companies and the administrative support service industry (+11,000). Within manufacturing, employment rose only slightly in April (+13,000). Employment was little changed in April in transportation, warehousing and construction. Agricultural employment declined by 12,000, continuing a long-term downward trend. Employment also fell in educational services (-12,000).

In Manitoba, job growth in April totalled 5,000. Most were part-time jobs and in the service-producing sector. The unemployment rate in Manitoba fell 0.6 percentage points to 5.0%. In Saskatchewan, employment declined by 3,000, all full-time jobs. The industry with the largest job losses was agriculture. In British Columbia, employment fell by 10,000, mostly in the service-producing sector.

Employment edged up by 10,000 in Quebec, but the province's unemployment rate still rose 0.2 percentage points in April to 8.8% because of growth in the labour force. In Nova Scotia, employment rose by 2,000 in April, pushing the unemployment rate down 0.5 percentage points to 8.4%—the lowest since April 1976. There was little change in the other provinces' labour markets in April.

Related information on employment insurance

In February (the most recent data), 479,720 persons received the regular type of employment insurance (EI) benefit, an increase from January of 1.7%. This marked the first increase since September 1999. Most provinces counted more EI beneficiaries in February, with Ontario posting the largest gain (+3.6%). The number of beneficiaries continued to trend downward in British Columbia and Alberta. Compared with February 1999, the number of beneficiaries receiving the regular benefit fell 7.3% at the national level. From January to February, the amount paid out as regular benefits grew 7.6% to $645.1 million. Meanwhile, the number of EI claims filed by the jobless climbed 10.9% to 223,320 claims. For more information, contact Robert Keay (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Division.

*The full report, **Labour force information, for the week ending April 15, 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, April 2000
Seasonally adjusted[1]

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	rate (%)
Canada	**15,941.9**	**0.0**	**14,862.6**	**0.0**	**1,079.3**	**6.8**
Newfoundland	247.6	-0.9	206.1	0.4	41.5	16.8
Prince Edward Island	74.3	0.3	65.7	0.3	8.6	11.6
Nova Scotia	462.0	0.0	423.0	0.5	39.0	8.4
New Brunswick	372.2	0.6	333.1	0.5	39.1	10.5
Quebec	3,765.1	0.5	3,435.1	0.3	330.0	8.8
Ontario	6,173.1	-0.1	5,834.6	0.0	338.4	5.5
Manitoba	585.2	0.3	555.9	1.0	29.3	5.0
Saskatchewan	512.6	-0.5	488.0	-0.7	24.6	4.8
Alberta	1,669.1	-0.2	1,583.6	-0.3	85.5	5.1
British Columbia	2,080.7	-0.6	1,937.5	-0.5	143.2	6.9

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

Manufacturers offer a bright outlook

In the April Business Conditions Survey, more than four out of five manufacturers forecast that production will remain at the same level or be higher this quarter than last. Manufacturers also indicate a greater degree of satisfaction than they reported in January with their current level of new orders, and they are not overly concerned with the amount of finished-product inventory they have on hand.

However, the proportion of manufacturers planning to boost production in the current quarter dropped from 39% in January, down to 33% in April. Manufacturers in two industries—transportation equipment and primary metals—were the major contributors to the decrease. Meanwhile, 14% of the manufacturers expect production prospects for the quarter will be lower than in the previous quarter.

Some 93% of manufacturers report that their current level of new orders is about the same or rising when compared with the previous survey. Their overall satisfaction with the level of orders received is still increasing. In fact, it has not been this high since the October 1997 survey. According to the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, $42.6 billion in new orders were received in February.

Even so, manufacturers anticipate little change in their employment levels. Some 76% expect the size of their workforces will remain virtually unchanged in the current quarter. Another 10% plan to decrease their workforce size, but 14% say they will add employees. In April, employment in manufacturing was 103,000 higher than in April 1999, an increase of 4.7%.

Note to readers

Most responses to the Business Conditions Survey, which is conducted in January, April, July and October, are recorded in the first two weeks of these months. The survey's results are based on replies from about 5,000 manufacturers. Data are weighted according to a manufacturer's shipments or employment; so larger manufacturers have a greater effect on the results than smaller manufacturers. The data are seasonally adjusted, except for those on production difficulties.

The current level of finished-product inventory is still not a major concern for manufacturers: 83% say their level is about right, 13% find inventories are too high, and 4% report they are too low. In February, manufacturers were holding $17.8 billion worth of finished-product inventory.

Most manufacturers (80%) indicate that their current level of unfilled orders is about normal. That is down slightly from the January result. Unfilled orders will be higher than normal this quarter for 12% of the manufacturers surveyed, whereas they will be lower than normal for 8%. Few manufacturers report any production impediments. Notably, a shortage of skilled labour continues to be a concern for 7% of manufacturers, up from 6% in January.

For further information, contact Claude Robillard (613-951-3507; robilcg@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Climb slows for industrial product prices

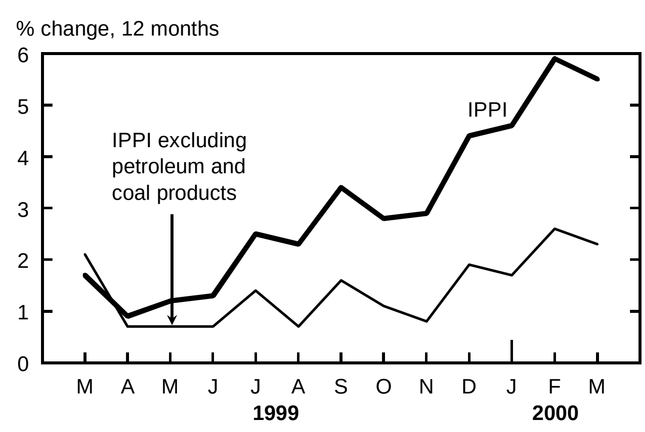
The year-over-year rate of increase in industrial product prices slowed in March for the first time since October 1999. In March, the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) rose 5.5% compared with a year earlier. That was slower than February's 5.9% yearly increase.

Once again, petroleum prices were the key to the gains. Excluding petroleum and coal products from the March data, the year-over-year increase in the IPPI was 2.3%, less than half the actual increase of 5.5%. Higher prices for products related to primary metals, paper, meat and chemicals also contributed to the IPPI's increase. Lower motor vehicle prices partly offset these increases.

On a monthly basis, prices in March rose 0.6% compared with February. The increase was led by the petroleum products industry, accompanied by stronger prices for paper and paper products, motor vehicles, meat products and primary metal products. In contrast, lumber prices weakened slightly.

In the refined petroleum products industry, prices continued to rise in March, climbing a further 3.0%. This was prompted in part by fears that supplies may tighten as demand picks up at the onset of the summer driving season. At the end of March, however, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed to raise production to ease prices and boost inventories. In March, refined petroleum product prices were 68.1% higher than a year earlier.

Industrial product price index



Rising prices for nickel products led the primary metal products category higher from February to March (+0.3%). Robust demand from stainless steel producers, coupled with potentially disappointing Australian nickel output, contributed to a monthly jump of 7.0% in nickel product prices. Nickel product prices, which have been rising steadily since last July, are close to twice what they were a year earlier. Tempering the monthly increase in nickel prices were weaker prices compared with February for

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... Climb slows for industrial product prices

aluminum products (-1.0%) and primary copper products (-2.0%). Prices for most of the primary metals have been strengthening for most of the past year, however; they were up 11.9% from March 1999.

Paper and paper product prices advanced in March a further 1.3%. This monthly increase resulted from widespread increases that also left prices 8.7% higher than in March 1999. Pulp prices edged up 0.8%, continuing the recovery that began a year earlier. However, pulp prices remained 29.7% below the peak reached in November 1995. After starting off the year on a weak note, newsprint prices rebounded in March (+0.4%), supported by stronger export prices. In contrast, newsprint prices tumbled 11.2% on a yearly basis, reflecting sluggish prices in export and domestic markets both. Strong demand helped paper product prices to a 1.5% increase—the 15th consecutive monthly increase.

The March 2000 issue of ***Industry price indexes*** *(62-011-XPB, $22/$217) will be available at the end of the month. For further information, contact Client Services (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division.*

Effect of the Canada-U.S. exchange rate

Certain commodities, specifically motor vehicles, lumber, pulp, newsprint and some metals, often have their prices quoted in U.S. dollars. Consequently, exchange-rate fluctuations affect their contribution to the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI).

From February to March, the Canadian dollar lost ground, pushing up prices for industrial products that are quoted in U.S. dollars. If the exchange rate had not changed between the two months, the IPPI would have risen 0.5% instead of 0.6%.

The Canadian dollar in March was worth more than it was a year earlier, moderating the yearly increase in the IPPI. If the exchange rate had not changed between March 1999 and March 2000, the rise in the IPPI would have been a more pronounced 6.6%.

Crude oil again lifts raw material prices

The rate of growth in the price of raw materials eased slightly in March. Manufacturers paid 33.1% more for raw materials in March than they did in the same month last year. This was down slightly from the yearly increase of 37.3% recorded in February.

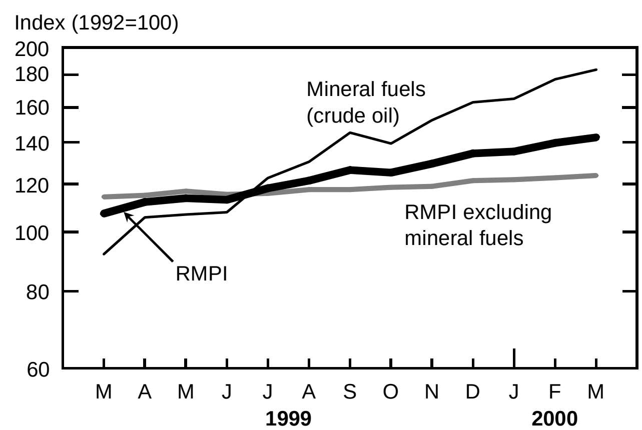
In March, the major contributor by far to the increase was crude oil, as prices more than doubled (+109.7%) compared with March 1999. Natural gas prices were up 11.8%. Excluding mineral fuels (almost all of which is crude oil), the yearly increase in the Raw Materials Price Index was 8.4%—the largest rise since August 1995.

Prices also increased on a yearly basis for hogs, copper and nickel concentrates, aluminum materials, cattle and logs. These were partly offset by lower prices for grains, canola, unrefined sugar and lead concentrates.

Raw Materials Price Index, March 2000
Not seasonally adjusted

	Index (1992=100)	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI)	**142.7**	**2.0**	**33.1**
Mineral fuels	184.1	3.7	99.9
Vegetable products	112.1	1.1	-6.0
Animals and animal products	119.3	1.3	11.4
Wood	143.0	2.0	6.6
Ferrous metals	122.6	-0.2	7.0
Non-ferrous metals	119.5	-1.2	18.6
Non-metallic minerals	119.6	0.0	1.9
RMPI excluding mineral fuels	**123.7**	**0.9**	**8.4**

Raw materials price index



On a monthly basis, raw material prices increased from February to March by 2.0%. Again, higher crude oil prices were mainly responsible. Excluding mineral fuels, raw material prices rose on a monthly basis by just 0.9%. In March, crude oil prices climbed 3.9% from February. Prices also increased in March for wood, cattle, hogs, oilseeds, grains and nickel concentrates. Offsetting lower prices were seen for some non-ferrous metals, raw tobacco, iron and steel scrap, and fish.

Although non-ferrous metal prices weakened in March, nickel prices continued to rise (+6.7%). All factors that contributed to nickel's previous price increases remain in place. Stainless steel production, which uses two-thirds of all the nickel produced, is still booming. Future nickel supplies might be affected by the mothballing of the Voisey's Bay project in Labrador and by the ongoing technical problems in Australia's nickel mines. Nickel concentrate prices in March were up 98.4% compared with March 1999. However, the historic high in the nickel price index that occurred in February 1989 was more than 50% higher still.

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... Crude oil again lifts raw material prices

Lead concentrate prices declined 26.2% in the year to March because of oversupply. Currently, recycling facilities that use scrapped lead-acid batteries supply more than half the world's production of lead. As well, recent lead production from China and the release of lead from U.S. stockpiles have added to the global surplus.

Within animals and animal products, hog prices kept increasing due to lower hog slaughters and greater demand. Hog prices have been on an upswing since falling to Depression levels in December 1998. Since then, hog prices have more than tripled. Compared with March 1999, prices were higher for hogs (+57.5%), cattle (+9.4%) and unprocessed fluid milk (+5.1%). These were marginally offset by lower prices for sheep and lambs (-7.1%).

Turning to vegetable products, grain prices were strong across the board in March compared with February. Persistent dry weather in the U.S. Midwest and stronger-than-expected export sales of wheat helped to increase grain prices. Oilseed prices also strengthened in March, as canola prices made their first significant price increase in a year. Indications are that canola acreage (supply) will decline in 2000/01. Canola prices were still down from March 1999 (-22.8%), however.

Wood prices were up 2.0% in March. This was due to higher prices for logs and pulpwood. Compared with March 1999, log prices increased 8.7%, whereas pulpwood prices declined 0.9%. Log prices have been on an upward trend since October 1998, increasing 15.6% since that month. Pulpwood prices have been on the decline over the same period, dropping 4.9%. The five-year Canada-U.S. Softwood Lumber Agreement will expire in less than a year. Canada supplies 95% of the lumber imported into the United States—in other words, 34% of the total U.S. lumber market.

*The March 2000 issue of **Industry price indexes** (62-011-XPB, $22/$217) will be available at the end of this month. For further information, contact Client Services (613-951-3350; fax (613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division.*

Value of building permits rebounds

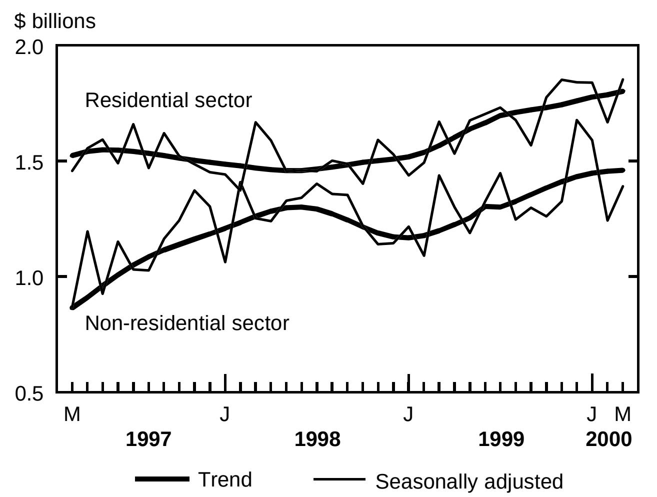
After two straight monthly declines, the value of construction intentions rebounded in March. Municipalities issued permits worth $3.2 billion, up 11.5% from February. The residential and the non-residential sectors both contributed to the rebound in March.

In March, the housing sector halted three consecutive monthly declines in building permits by climbing 11.1% to $1.9 billion—its highest monthly figure in the last 10 years. The advance was concentrated in the multi-family component, where intentions surged 44.8% to $498 million. Intentions to build single-family dwellings edged up 2.4% to $1.4 billion. Ontario's municipalities recorded the lion's share of the overall monthly increase (in dollar terms), followed by those in British Columbia. Both single- and multi-family dwellings contributed to the increases in the two provinces. In Quebec, however, both components decreased in March, and so the value of residential construction intentions was set back for a third straight month.

The non-residential sector rebounded 12.0% in March from two straight monthly declines to reach $1.4 billion in permits. After a significant decrease in February, the institutional component vaulted 83.2%, led by the education category of buildings. Commercial permits rose 7.9%. This gain after two consecutive declines was led mostly by intentions to erect trade and services projects and to construct office buildings. Industrial project permits fell 14.5%. Largely because of large commercial and industrial projects, the most significant provincial increase (in dollar terms) occurred in Saskatchewan. British Columbia and Alberta followed. The most significant decreases were seen in Quebec and Manitoba. In both cases, a decline in industrial projects was responsible.

In the first quarter, the value of all building permits totalled $9.6 billion, up from the first quarter of 1999 by 14.9%. The residential sector recorded its best first-quarter result since 1990: permits surged 16.5% over the year-earlier quarter to $5.4 billion. This gain was solely attributable to the single-family dwelling component (+23.2%). Multi-family dwelling intentions decreased slightly (-0.6%). Compared with the year-earlier quarter, advances were seen in all provinces except New Brunswick and British Columbia. The bulk of the overall increase (in dollar terms) occurred in Ontario.

Value of building permits



Non-residential permits in the first quarter totalled $4.2 billion, up from the year-earlier quarter by 12.8%. This was the best first-quarter performance since 1989. A rise in the value of commercial permits was the main factor. The largest increases (in dollar terms) occurred in Alberta and British Columbia, thanks to higher values in all three components. Quebec showed the largest loss, a consequence of fewer industrial projects.

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... Value of building permits rebounds

The March 2000 issue of ***Building permits*** *(online at www.statcan.ca: 64-001-XIB, $19/$186) presents the full report.*

For general information, contact Joanne Bureau (613-951-9689; burejoa@statcan.ca). For further analytical information, contact Sébastien LaRochelle-Côté (613-951-2025; sebastien.larochelle-cote@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

Building permits, First quarter 2000
Seasonally adjusted[1]

	Total		Residential		Non-residential	
	$ millions	% change, previous quarter	$ millions	% change, previous quarter	$ millions	% change, previous quarter
Canada	**9,584.4**	**-1.5**	**5,360.8**	**-1.9**	**4,223.6**	**-0.9**
Newfoundland	88.6	22.7	75.7	124.8	12.9	-66.5
Prince Edward Island	30.2	-31.7	19.7	-0.5	10.5	-57.0
Nova Scotia	209.9	-16.3	137.2	9.3	72.8	-42.0
New Brunswick	103.3	-24.9	65.0	-9.3	38.4	-41.8
Quebec	1,661.0	2.5	853.7	-3.6	807.3	9.8
Ontario	4,411.0	-5.7	2,682.0	-1.3	1,729.0	-11.8
Manitoba	268.2	16.6	118.3	19.1	149.9	14.7
Saskatchewan	222.3	15.9	72.5	-7.9	149.9	32.4
Alberta	1,508.0	19.2	775.2	10.1	732.8	30.6
British Colubia	1,061.9	-12.8	546.4	-24.5	515.5	4.5
Yukon	5.4	-52.7	3.8	-24.2	1.6	-74.8
Northwest Territories	2.0	-66.1	0.8	-43.0	1.2	-73.1
Nunavut	12.5	109.3	10.7	680.9	1.8	-60.4

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

Canadians at mid-life healthier than 1970s counterparts

Note to readers

This article is based on a report published in a recent special edition of Health reports*, a quarterly journal produced by Statistics Canada's Health Statistics Division. The data are from the 1998-99 National Population Health Survey and the 1978-79 Canada Health Survey.*

Canadians aged 45 to 64—many of whom are baby boomers—generally enjoy better health than their counterparts of two decades ago. However, this age group has seen increases in the prevalence of asthma and diabetes among men and migraine headaches among women.

During the past 20 years, the prevalence of arthritis or rheumatism, high blood pressure, heart disease, and bronchitis or emphysema has decreased in the 45 to 64 age group. The prevalence of activity limitation has also decreased among men in this age group. These trends, which are consistent with those seen in the United States, suggest that efforts toward disease prevention and health promotion, along with improvements in treatment of disease, have all contributed to improved health in this age group.

However, the prevalence of diabetes has increased among men in this age group. This is a cause for concern because diabetes is a risk factor for heart disease, stroke, blindness, kidney diseases, disability and mortality. Also a cause for concern is that migraine headaches have become more prevalent among women. Stress has been identified as a risk factor for migraine headaches, and more Canadian women report work-related stress than men. Perhaps this is because they bear a disproportionate share of unpaid housework compared with men. In addition, women who report migraine headaches have increased odds of experiencing a major depressive episode.

There are regional differences in the direction of these trends. In 1998-99, the prevalence of arthritis or rheumatism, high blood pressure, bronchitis or emphysema, and long-term activity limitation was highest in the Atlantic region. The prevalence of heart disease was higher in Ontario than in Canada as a whole. The lowest prevalence of heart disease was in British Columbia. For arthritis or rheumatism and long-term activity limitation, the lowest prevalence was in Quebec. The lowest prevalence of asthma was in the Prairies.

Finally, it is noteworthy that lower levels of education and income were both associated with a decline in health and with chronic illness. Such socio-economic disparities have also been observed in other measures of health. For example, life expectancy is higher in regions with lower levels of unemployment and higher levels of education.

A detailed summary of this topic and other studies from Health reports are available free on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). Look under "In depth". The special winter 1999 issue of ***Health reports*** *(print: 82-003-XPB, $35/$116; online at www.statcan.ca: 82-003-XIE, $26/$87) is now available. For more information, contact Larry Swain (613-951-8569; swailar@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division, Statistics Canada or Karen McCarthy (613-241-7860), Canadian Institute for Health Information.*

New from Statistics Canada

Telecommunications statistics
Third quarter 1999

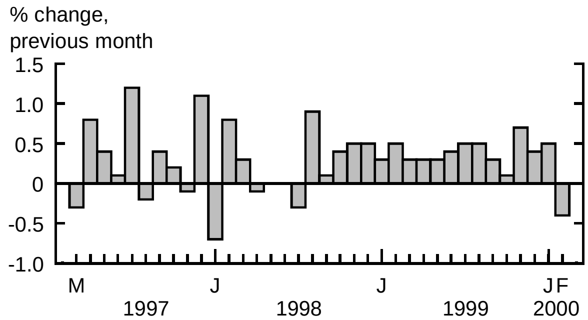
The third quarter report from the Quarterly Survey on the Telecommunications Industry in Canada is now available. This relatively new survey covers the major alternative wireline carriers and the wireless industry. It also provides estimates for those businesses not covered by the survey (resellers, satellite and small wireline and wireless service providers).

Some of the data contained in this report are: operating revenues, expenses and margins; capital spending; employment levels; number of access paths to the public switched network; number of public access lines; and, number of mobile telephone subscribers and growth rates.

The third quarter 1999 issue of ***Quarterly telecommunications statistics*** *(online at www.statcan.ca: 56-002-XIB, $21/$40) is now available. For more information, contact JoAnne Lambert (613-951-6673) or Heidi Ertl (613-951-1891), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division.*

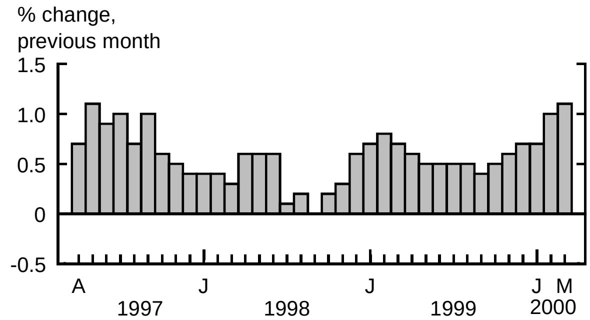
Current trends

Gross domestic product



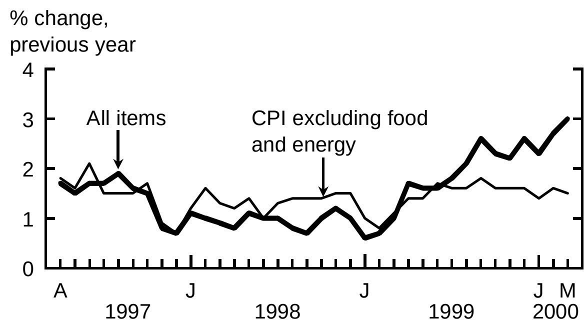
Economic activity receded for the first time in 19 months in February, declining 0.4%. The decline followed three months of strong growth.

Composite Index



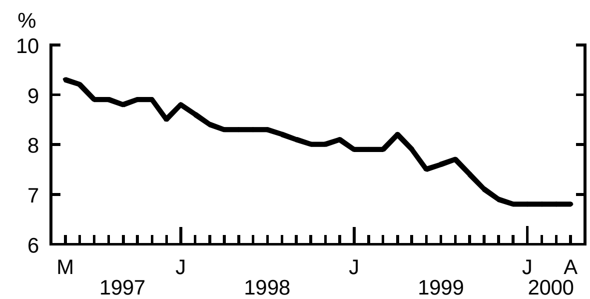
In March, the leading indicator grew by 1.1%. The advances in February and March reflected strength in houshold demand.

Consumer Price Index



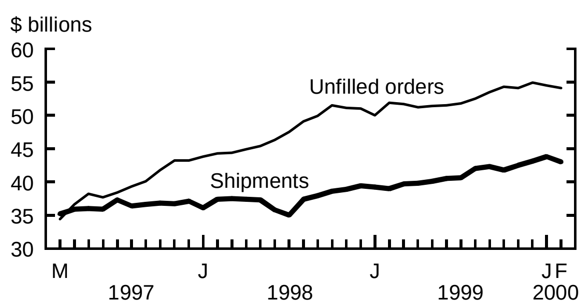
Consumer prices for goods and services were 3.0% higher in March 2000 than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 1.5%.

Unemployment rate



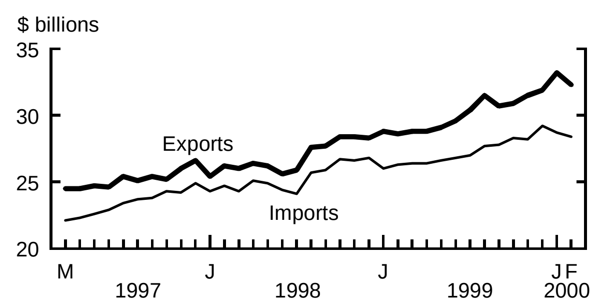
In April, the unemployment rate remained at 6.8% for a fifth consecutive month.

Manufacturing



Manufacturers' shipments declined 1.8% in February to $43.0 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders decreased 0.7% to $54.1 billion.

Merchandise trade



In February, the value of merchandise exports declined 2.6% from January to $32.3 billion. Imports slipped 1.2% to $28.4 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)	February	766.8	-0.4%	3.8%
Composite Index (1992=100)	March	160.1	1.1%	7.9%
Operating profits of enterprises ($ billion)	Q4 1999	43.9	7.8%	27.1%
Capacity utilization (%)	Q4 1999	86.8	1.3†	4.0†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade ($ billion)	February	22.3	-1.1%	4.9%
Department store sales ($ billions)	March*	1.48	-0.4%	1.8%
New motor vehicle sales (thousand of units)	February	126.6	-4.4%	6.5%
Wholesale trade ($ billion)	February	30.9	-1.1%	7.4%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	April*	14.86	0.0%	2.9%
Unemployment rate (%)	April*	6.8	0.0†	-1.4†
Participation rate (%)	April*	65.8	-0.1†	0.0†
Average weekly earnings ($)	February	622.42	0.4%	2.8%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	April*	167	-2.3%	7.1%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports ($ billion)	February	32.3	-2.6%	12.9%
Merchandise imports ($ billion)	February	28.4	-1.2%	7.7%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in $ billion)	February	4.0	-0.5	1.7
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments ($ billion)	February	43.0	-1.8%	10.3%
New orders ($ billion)	February	42.6	-1.7%	4.2%
Unfilled orders ($ billion)	February	54.1	-0.7%	4.2%
Inventory/shipments ratio	February	1.31	0.04	0.00
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	March	112.8	0.7%	3.0%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	March	126.6	0.6%	5.5%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	March	142.7	2.0%	33.1%
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
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