



Infommat

A Weekly Review

Friday, May 16, 2003

INSIDE

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◆ Canada still predominantly Roman Catholic and Protestant

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◆ High-income families make gains, while incomes for other families stay put

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◆ Port activity up slightly

Economic activity at Canada's ports rose slightly in the first six months of 2002 from the same period a year earlier, mainly the result of strong domestic sector activity in crude oil shipments from the Newfoundland offshore oil fields.

Unemployment rate edges up

Employment edged down 19,000 in April, pushing the unemployment rate up 0.2 percentage points to 7.5%. Job gains over the first four months of 2003 total 49,000 (+0.3%), much lower than the increase of 216,000 (+1.4%) in the same period of 2002.

Nationally, part-time employment fell by 29,000 and was only partly offset by an increase of almost 11,000 in full-time. Since the start of 2003, part-time employment is down 47,000 (-1.6%), in contrast to strong growth in 2002. Full-time employment is up by 95,000 (+0.8%) so far this year, continuing the upward trend that began at the start of 2002.

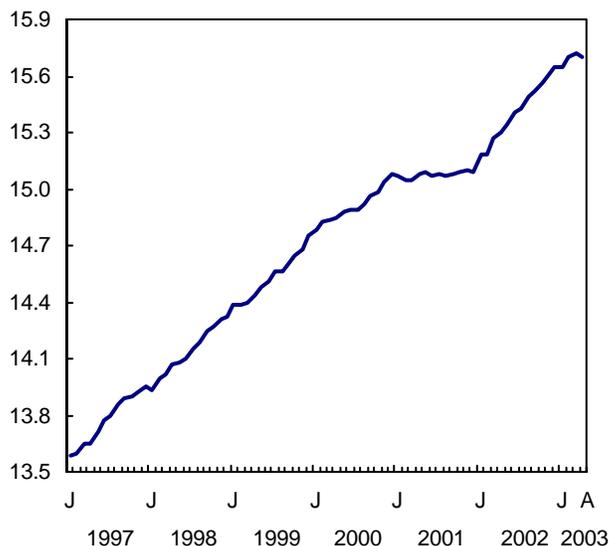
Employment fell in accommodation and food services (-18,000), partly offsetting a jump of 33,000 in March. Despite the decline, employment in the industry is up 21,000 (+2.1%) from April 2002.

Although 17,000 health care and social assistance jobs were lost in April, employment in the industry is 69,000 (+4.4%) above April 2002's level.

(continued on page 2)

Employment

Millions, seasonally adjusted



Unemployment rate... (continued from page 1)

Employment rose by 16,000 in trade, the first increase since the start of the year. There was also an increase of 16,000 in public administration employment.

Employment in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing rose by 15,000, bringing gains since the start of the year to 41,000. Employment in manufacturing continued to weaken in April and is down 38,000 (-1.6%) since the start of the year.

Youth employment fell by 20,000, mostly in part-time work. The youth unemployment rate rose 0.7 percentage points to 13.4%. Among adults, employment changed little. Although there has been little employment growth among adult women and youths so far in 2003, employment among adult men has increased by 53,000 (+0.7%) over the same period.

Among the provinces, the largest decline in April was in Ontario, where employment fell by 27,000. This pushed the provincial unemployment rate up 0.3 points to 6.8%. The largest declines hit health care and social assistance (-14,000) and accommodation and food services (-12,000). About half the drop in health care and social assistance in Ontario occurred in Toronto, as did the entire provincial decline in accommodation and food services. Employment in Toronto dipped 4,000 in April, and the unemployment rate there jumped half a point to 7.7%. It is not yet possible to measure what portion of these declines was related to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), though some people in these industries may have been without work because of hospital ward closures or slower business.

Employment fell by 5,000 in New Brunswick in April, with most of the decline in part-time work. The unemployment rate in April rose 0.5 percentage points to 10.3%.

In Quebec, employment edged up 12,000 in April, partly offsetting the decline in March. The unemployment rate rose 0.2 points to 9.1%, the result of an increase in labour force participation.

Labour Force Survey, April 2003 Seasonally adjusted¹

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	rate (%)
Canada	16,978.8	0.1	15,698.2	-0.1	1,280.6	7.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	263.4	-0.1	217.8	-0.4	45.6	17.3
Prince Edward Island	77.3	0.1	67.4	0.3	9.8	12.7
Nova Scotia	480.2	-0.1	439.0	0.6	41.2	8.6
New Brunswick	385.8	-1.0	346.1	-1.5	39.8	10.3
Quebec	4,010.1	0.5	3,646.8	0.3	363.4	9.1
Ontario	6,661.3	-0.2	6,210.5	-0.4	450.8	6.8
Manitoba	596.2	0.0	570.3	0.5	25.9	4.3
Saskatchewan	515.2	-0.2	487.3	0.0	27.9	5.4
Alberta	1,799.8	0.6	1,700.7	0.2	99.0	5.5
British Columbia	2,189.5	0.1	2,012.3	-0.4	177.2	8.1

¹ Data are for both sexes aged 15 and over.

Employment rose slightly in Nova Scotia (+3,000), with gains spread across several industries. In April, the unemployment rate fell 0.7 points to 8.6%.

In Manitoba, employment also edged up 3,000, pushing the unemployment rate down 0.5 points to 4.3%. Employment in the province is up 7,000 (+1.3%) from April 2002.

There was little change in employment for the other provinces. A more detailed summary, **Labour force information** (Internet: 71-001-XIE, \$8/\$78), is now available for the week ending April 19. For more information, contact Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325) or Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750), Labour Statistics Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 6.)

NAICS Canada

The revised Canadian manual for the North American Industry Classification System, *NAICS Canada 2002*, is now available. This volume represents a revision to the North American Industry Classification System (*NAICS Canada 1997*), first published in March 1998.

This is a minor revision, as only two of the 20 industry sectors — construction (sector 23) and information and cultural industries (sector 51) — have changed. These changes are entirely within the boundaries of the sectors.

In addition to these updates, there have been other changes that do not affect the structure of the classification. These include revised example titles, clarifications in the introduction and in industry definitions, and a concordance table (NAICS 1997 to NAICS 2002).

NAICS was developed to provide a consistent framework for the collection, analysis and dissemination of industrial statistics used by government policy analysts, academics and researchers, the business community and the public.

The *NAICS Canada 2002* manual (paper: 12-501-XPE, \$75) is now available. For more information, contact Tony Malfara (613-951-3428; tony.malfara@statcan.ca), Standards Division.

Trade surplus rebounds

After falling in three of the previous four months, Canada's trade surplus with the rest of the world rebounded from \$4.8 billion in February to \$5.9 billion in March. Strong energy exports and a turnaround in industrial goods and materials contributed to the largest single-month jump in exports in eight months.

With energy prices surging to near-record levels in March, merchandise exports jumped 2.8% to \$35.9 billion. Imports fell to \$30.0 billion, as declines hit four of seven sectors.

Exports to the United States, which accounted for 84% of total exports, rose 2.6% to \$30.2 billion. Exports to other OECD countries jumped 36.2% to \$1.1 billion, whereas exports to Japan fell 9.4% to \$831 million.

Imports from the United States fell 2.5% to \$20.7 billion, accounting for most of the drop. Increases in imports from Japan and the European Union partly offset these declines.

The energy-driven trade surplus with the United States increased by \$1.3 billion to \$9.4 billion, the largest single-month increase in 11 months. Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States increased to \$3.5 billion in March from \$3.3 billion in February.

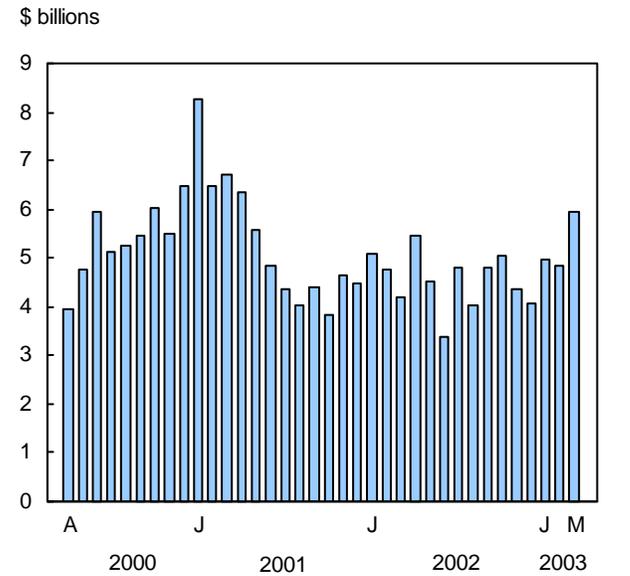
Near-record energy exports provided the bulk of the increase in total exports, as colder-than-normal weather in the first quarter put upward pressure on home heating fuel prices. Exports of energy products jumped 14.9% to \$7.2 billion, the seventh straight monthly increase.

The largest sector, machinery and equipment, rose marginally to \$7.6 billion. Exports of automotive products continued to see-saw, falling 1.2% to \$7.6 billion in March. Exports of motor vehicle parts decreased 3.6% to \$2.4 billion.

Forestry products exports fell 7.3% through the first quarter of 2003, down 2.0% in March to \$2.8 billion. Lumber and sawmill product exports fell 2.5% to \$1.3 billion, the third month in a row.

Industrial goods, autos and energy nudged imports lower. Automotive imports decreased 0.8% to \$6.8 billion in March.

Trade balance



Imports of passenger autos increased 1.5% to \$2.3 billion, but imports of trucks and other motor vehicles fell 8.1% from February's record level to \$1.1 billion.

In spite of price increases, reduced volume resulted in imports of energy products falling 2.6% to \$1.8 billion.

Machinery and equipment, the largest import sector, increased 0.9% to \$8.6 billion. Aircraft and other transportation equipment imports increased 7.3% to \$1.2 billion.

*The March 2003 issue of **Canadian international merchandise trade** (Internet: 65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141) will be available soon. For more information, contact Daryl Keen (613-951-1810), International Trade Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 6.)*

Conditional sentencing: A statistical profile

Judges are opting for conditional sentences in a growing number of cases, whereas incarceration is being used less frequently, according to a new study.

In September 1996, conditional sentencing was introduced to provide judges with the option of allowing eligible provincial/territorial adult offenders, sentenced to a term of incarceration of less than two years, to serve their sentence in the community with conditions.

In 2000/01, there were about 166,000 offenders aged 18 and over (including persons who were sentenced more than once) who were admitted to a term of sentenced custody, conditional sentence, or to a term of probation in nine reporting provincial/territorial jurisdictions. (New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut are excluded because of incomplete data.) Of these, about 9% were given a conditional sentence, a slight increase from 7% in 1997/98. In 2000/01, about two-thirds of conditional sentences were for a duration of six months or more.

*The report **Conditional sentencing in Canada: A statistical profile, 1997-2001** (85-560-XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). For more information, contact Client Services (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.*

Canada still predominantly Roman Catholic and Protestant

In 2001, 7 out of every 10 people still identified themselves as either Roman Catholic or Protestant. At the same time, the number of Canadians who reported religions such as Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism has increased substantially.

Census data showed a continuation of a long-term downward trend in the population who report Protestant denominations. The number of Roman Catholics increased slightly during the 1990s, but their share of the total population fell marginally.

Much of the shift in the nation's religious makeup during the past several decades is the result of the changing sources of immigrants, which has created a more diverse religious profile. As well, many major Protestant denominations that were dominant in the country 70 years ago, such as Anglican and United Church, are declining in numbers, in part because their members are aging and fewer young people are identifying with these denominations.

In addition, far more Canadians reported that they had no religion. This group accounted for 16% of the population in 2001, compared with 12% a decade earlier.

In 2001, Roman Catholics were still the largest religious group, drawing the faith of just under 12.8 million people, or 43% of the population, down from 45% in 1991. The proportion of Protestants, the second largest group, declined from 35% of the population to 29%, or to about 8.7 million people.

Major religious denominations, Canada

	2001		1991		1991 to 2001
	Number	%	Number	%	% change
Roman Catholic	12,793,125	43.2	12,203,625	45.2	4.8
Protestant	8,654,845	29.2	9,427,675	34.9	-8.2
Christian Orthodox	479,620	1.6	387,395	1.4	23.8
Christian, not included elsewhere ¹	780,450	2.6	353,040	1.3	121.1
Muslim	579,640	2.0	253,265	0.9	128.9
Jewish	329,995	1.1	318,185	1.2	3.7
Buddhist	300,345	1.0	163,415	0.6	83.8
Hindu	297,200	1.0	157,015	0.6	89.3
Sikh	278,415	0.9	147,440	0.5	88.8
No religion	4,796,325	16.2	3,333,245	12.3	43.9

¹ Includes persons who report "Christian", as well as those who report "Apostolic", "Born-again Christian" and "Evangelical".

Combined, the two groups represented 72% of the total population in 2001, compared with 80% in 1991.

Detailed analysis of these new census data is presented in the online report **Religions in Canada**, available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). For more information, contact Media Relations (613-951-4636), Communications Division.

High-income families make gains, while incomes for other families stay put

Incomes of families in the bottom half of the income distribution showed little or no improvement through the 1990s. However, the 10% of families with the highest incomes experienced substantial gains, according to new data from the 2001 Census.

The median income before taxes of Canadian families, at \$55,000, remained essentially unchanged from 1990 to 2000, after adjusting for inflation.

In 2000, the combined income before taxes of the 10% of families with the highest incomes accounted for 28% of total family income; in 1990, they accounted for 26% of all family income. The 10% of families with the lowest incomes made up less than 2% of all family income, the same as in 1990.

Census data also showed that the proportion of total income among working-age families that came from government transfer payments declined from 6.4% in 1990 to 5.6% in 2000.

Based on before-tax income, an estimated 19% of children were living in low-income families in 2000. This proportion was virtually unchanged from a decade earlier.

Unlike the results from the 1981 and 1991 Censuses, the low-income rate was lower among seniors (people aged 65 and over) than among children in 2001. Among the population of seniors who were not institutionalized, the low-income rate based on income before tax declined from 20% in 1990 to 17% in 2000. This continued a long-term downward trend that has seen low income rates among seniors nearly cut in half over the past two decades.

Lone-parent families with children aged 17 and under made particularly big gains between 1990 and 2000, the result of greater labour market activity and increased government transfers. In 2000, the median income of these lone-parent families was \$26,000, up 19% from \$21,800 in 1990.

Detailed analysis of these census data is presented in the online report **Income of Canadian families**, available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). For more information, contact Media Relations (613-951-4636), Communications Division.

Port activity up slightly

Economic activity at Canada's ports rose slightly in the first six months of 2002 from the same period a year earlier, mainly the result of strong domestic sector activity in crude oil shipments from the Newfoundland offshore oil fields.

Canadian ports handled 181.2 million metric tonnes of cargo from January to June 2002, up slightly (+0.1%) from 181.0 million tonnes in the same period of 2001.

The Vancouver Port Authority, Canada's busiest port, handled 33.3 million tonnes and accounted for 18% of all shipping in Canada. Their total tonnage dropped 12%, the result of lower coal shipments to Japan and South Korea. Containerized tonnage, however, rose 7%.

Come-by-Chance tonnage more than doubled as a result of increased production from the Newfoundland oil fields, combined with strong gains in foreign crude oil arriving from the Middle East and transshipped to US Atlantic and Gulf ports. They handled 16.4 million tonnes and ranked second behind the Vancouver Port Authority.

The Saint John Port Authority recorded a 3.8% increase in total tonnage handled to 12.9 million tonnes. This was based on the strength of a ten-fold increase in domestic crude oil shipments and a further 29% increase in gasoline and aviation turbine fuel destined for US Atlantic and Gulf ports. Potash shipments also rebounded with a 16% increase from the same period of 2001.

Port-Cartier made gains from the depressed tonnage levels they experienced the year before. In the first six months of 2002,

Canada's top 10 ports by tonnage handled

	Jan. to June 2001	Jan. to June 2002	Jan.–June 2001 to Jan.–June 2002
	'000 tonnes		% change
Vancouver	37 825	33 297	-12.0
Come-by-Chance	7 966	16 445	106.4
Saint John	12 394	12 871	3.8
Sept-Îles/Pointe-Noire	9 479	8 602	-9.3
Montréal/Contrecoeur	9 032	8 444	-6.5
Québec/Lévis	6 738	7 403	9.9
Port Hawkesbury	11 580	6 917	-40.3
Newfoundland Offshore	3 676	6 721	82.8
Port-Cartier	3 828	6 627	73.1
Halifax	6 869	6 041	-12.1

they handled 6.6 million tonnes, 73.1% higher than in the same period of 2001. Iron ore accounted for close to 80% of the activity at Port-Cartier, as their international shipments rose to 5.3 million tonnes from 2.9 million tonnes in the same period of 2001. Markets in Europe were the recipient of 73% of these cargoes. Shipments of wheat from Canadian and US Great Lakes ports transshipped through Port-Cartier to foreign destinations also gained during the period.

For more information, contact Jean-Robert Larocque (1-866-500-8400; transportationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division.

Latest statistics

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
GENERAL				
Gross domestic product (\$ billions, 1997) ¹	February	996.7	0.2%	3.3%
Composite Index (1992=100)	March	181.2	0.2%	4.7%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billions)	Q4 2002	41.9	5.1%	32.8%
Capacity utilization rate (%) ²	Q4 2002	82.9	-0.2†	2.5†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade (\$ billions)	February	26.5	1.5%	5.2%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	March*	139.7	-4.4%	0.1%
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	February	36.8	-0.2%	8.5%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	April*	15.7	-0.1%	2.6%
Unemployment rate (%)	April*	7.5	0.2†	-0.1†
Participation rate (%)	April*	67.4	-0.1†	0.8†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	February	687.37	0.13%	1.67%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	April	110.8	-0.1%	-13.0%
Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries (in thousands)	February	531.3	0.3%	-4.2%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports (\$ billions)	March*	35.9	2.8%	9.0%
Merchandise imports (\$ billions)	March*	30.0	-0.5%	4.1%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billions)	March*	5.9	1.1	1.8
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billions)	March*	44.7	1.4%	6.9%
New orders (\$ billions)	March*	44.5	1.6%	5.7%
Unfilled orders (\$ billions)	March*	42.9	-0.4%	-8.7%
Inventory/shipments ratio	March*	1.43	-0.01	-0.05
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	March	122.8	0.4%	4.3%
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	March	108.8	-0.5%	1.3%
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	March	124.0	-4.0%	11.9%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	March*	113.9	0.1%	4.8%

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

* new this week

† percentage point

¹ 1997 replaces 1992 as the base year used in determining prices for gross domestic product by industry. Also, valuation has been changed from factor cost to basic prices.

² Calculation of the rates of capacity use is now based on the 1997 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), which has replaced the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification.

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SUBJECT AREA Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price (\$) (issue/subscription)
AGRICULTURE			
Production of eggs	March 2003	23-003-XIB	free
Stocks of Canadian grain	at March 31, 2003	22-002-XIB	11/66
Stocks of Canadian grain	at March 31, 2003	22-002-XPB	15/88
CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS			
Conditional sentencing in Canada: A statistical profile	1997-2001	85-560-XIE	free
INTERNATIONAL TRADE			
Imports by commodity	March 2003	65-007-XMB	37/361
Imports by commodity	March 2003	65-007-XPB	78/773
LABOUR STATISTICS			
Labour force information, week ending April 19, 2003		71-001-XIE	8/78
MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY			
Canada's mineral production	2002	26-202-XIB	free
Cement	March 2003	44-001-XIB	5/47
Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins	March 2003	46-002-XIE	5/47
Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing	March 2003	41-011-XIB	5/47
Steel wire and specified wire products	March 2003	41-006-XIB	5/47
STANDARDS			
North American Industry Classification System — NAICS Canada	2002	12-501-XPE	75
TRANSPORTATION			
Air charter statistics	2001	51-207-XIB	31
Canadian Vehicle Survey	Q4 2002	53F0004XIE	free

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