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A Weekly Review

Friday, June 5, 1998

OVERVIEW

- **Growth of GDP returns to trend**

  As the effects of January's ice storm continued to fade, the economy grew again in March. The pace of growth increased slightly in the first quarter.

- **Economic growth accelerates in provinces**

  The pace of economic expansion accelerated in most provinces in 1997. Alberta led the way, posting the highest growth.

- **Exchange rate lifts industrial prices**

  Industrial product prices rose slightly between March and April. The Canada–U.S. exchange rate had a significant effect on the monthly and year-over-year price changes.

- **Raw materials cost more**

  Manufacturers paid more for their raw materials in April than they did in March, mainly due to higher prices for crude oil, non-ferrous metals and animal products.

- **Age distribution and education ease drop in earnings**

  Shifts in the age profile of earners and a more educated work force mitigated the general drop in earnings between 1990 and 1995.

- **Weekly earnings virtually unchanged**

  Overall, average weekly earnings remained stable in March. Total paid employment was virtually unchanged.

- **Older men less likely to participate in labour force**

  The proportion of men aged 55 to 64 in the labour market declined between 1976 and 1997, but this situation may improve due to shifting demographics and changes in the coming generation of older workers.

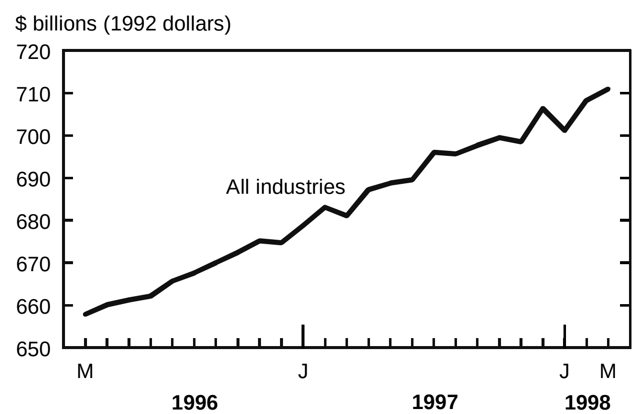
Growth of GDP returns to trend

As the unsettling effects of January's ice storm continued to fade, the economy grew again in March (+0.4%). Manufacturers accounted for almost three-fifths of the increase. In the first quarter, the pace of growth increased slightly as the second consecutive deceleration in the business sector was offset by strike-related rebounds in the non-business sector.

Manufacturing output continued to increase, rising 1.3% in March after a surge in February. Overall, increases were recorded in 15 of the 22 major industry groups, accounting for more than three-quarters of total manufacturing production. Makers of transportation equipment recorded the largest increase, followed by producers of electrical and electronic equipment, chemicals and furniture. The March increase was more pronounced on the durable goods side than it was among manufacturers of non-durable goods.

Output of automobiles surged in March as production rebounded from shutdowns in February and U.S. demand remained strong. Output of auto parts followed suit. The transportation equipment industry was also buoyed by its third consecutive monthly increase in production of small personal vehicles. Manufacturers of telecommunications equipment recorded another advance. Output

Gross domestic product at factor cost



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Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

... Growth of GDP returns to trend

of other electronic products surged with the addition of new productive capacity. Furniture makers, whose business has boomed since their successful entry into the U.S. market, produced at record levels in March.

Reduced repair expenses resulted in a return to near-normal conditions for electrical utilities in March (+3.0%). After a two-month buildup of activity, GDP in the construction industry receded 0.9%, as reduced activity on residential and non-residential building sites was partly offset by an increase in repair and engineering construction. Although storm-related repair work dropped off in March, the pace of engineering construction picked up as investment in the electrical grid gathered speed.

Wholesale activity advanced 0.4% in March and, despite a larger gain in February, remained significantly below its December peak. Distributors of computers and software recorded the weakest sales and their third consecutive decline. Retail sales were stable and held the ground gained during February's recovery. Sales by auto dealers, which have shown little upward movement since falling from December's incentive-driven peak, slid in March. And sales by general merchandise stores receded after rising in February. These declines were offset by increased sales gas station and department store sales.

Output in the mining sector changed little, as a mixed but positive performance in mineral extraction was pulled down by a drop-off in drilling for oil. Gold output fell for a fifth consecutive month, but was offset by increased production of other metals such as iron, zinc, copper and nickel. Potash declined, while coal output rose. Elsewhere, a surge in pipeline transportation of natural gas erased February's large decline. And mutual fund activities were lifted to a record high in March, due to the extended deadline for investing in registered retirement savings plans.

Note to readers

The gross domestic product (GDP) of an industry is the value added by labour and capital in transforming inputs purchased from other producers into outputs. Monthly GDP by industry is valued at 1992 prices. Estimates are seasonally adjusted at annual rates.

In December 1997, monthly GDP estimates by industry were released for the first time at 1992 prices, and the data were made available from January 1992. Data are now available from January 1981. Data for the period from 1961 to 1980 will be released at a later date.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4677–4681.

*The March 1998 issue of **Gross domestic product by industry** (15-001-XPB, $15/$145) will be released shortly. For analytical information, contact Richard Evans (613-951-9145; evanric@statcan.ca); for information about purchasing data, contact Kim Lauzon (613-951-9417; lauzonk@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 9.)*

Economic growth accelerates in provinces

In 1997, the pace of economic expansion accelerated in most provinces and territories. Alberta led the way with an increase of 6.5% in gross domestic product (GDP), as the oil patch kicked its economy into high gear. Related industries prospered, with considerable spin-off activity in engineering services and manufacturing. The Yukon posted the only decline (–7.9%), as economic activity there was hampered by a 42% drop in mining output brought on by a mine closure.

Saskatchewan also benefited from increased activity in oil and gas, with 5.2% growth in real GDP. It was a difficult year in agriculture, however, as falling wheat prices triggered income declines. Despite the flood, Manitoba had another good harvest, and its spin-off effects were mainly responsible for the 3.4% growth in GDP. The remaining western province, British Columbia, recorded growth of 2.2%. The advance was concentrated in services; goods production fell. It was the third year this province recorded growth below the national average.

Led by sharp increases in the automotive and high-tech sectors, growth accelerated to 4.5% in Ontario. Strength was evident throughout the economy as profits rebounded and fixed capital investment grew rapidly. Growth reached 2.7% in Quebec, an acceleration from the previous two years. The strong performance of high-tech firms and healthy advances in more traditional industries (sawmills, pulp and paper, and textile manufacturing, for example) offset weaker performances in other industries.

Note to readers

The historical revision of the national accounts is now carried over to the provincial accounts (production accounts by industry, and income and expenditure accounts) back to 1992. The production accounts present estimates of real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry, and are expressed at constant prices. The income accounts show the incomes earned in current production and are expressed at current prices. The expenditure accounts show the final sales of current production and are presented both at current and at constant prices. All references to production (output) and to expenditure are at constant prices; all references to income are at current prices.

Provincial gross domestic product at market prices
1992 prices

	1997	1996	1997
	$ millions	annual % change	
Canada	**799,142**	**1.2**	**3.8**
Newfoundland	10,147	– 1.6	1.4
Prince Edward Island	2,777	3.9	1.2
Nova Scotia	19,151	0.6	1.8
New Brunswick	15,707	1.7	1.1
Quebec	174,938	1.0	2.7
Ontario	329,851	1.1	4.5
Manitoba	27,282	2.3	3.4
Saskatchewan	25,931	3.5	5.2
Alberta	90,452	1.4	6.5
British Columbia	98,201	1.1	2.2
Yukon	1,034	10.0	– 7.9
Northwest Territories	2,721	4.8	2.5

(continued on page 3)

... Economic growth accelerates in provinces

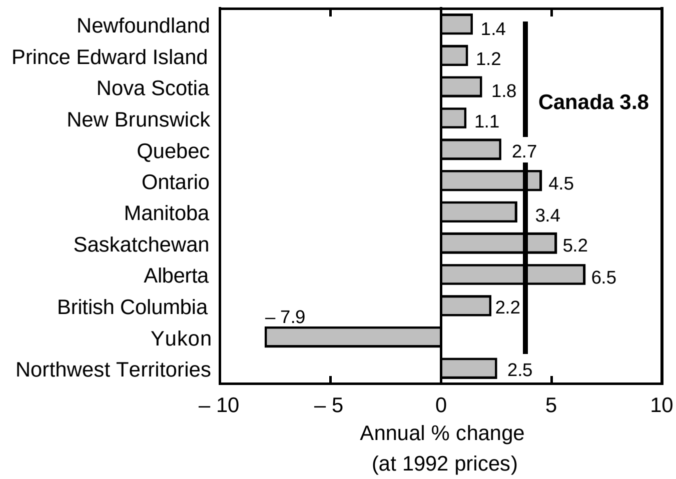
In Prince Edward Island, GDP increased 1.2% despite the substantial drop in construction activity that followed completion of the Confederation Bridge. A bumper potato crop, combined with a large increase in potato processing, accounted for most of the gain. The New Brunswick economy grew 1.1%, extending the lacklustre performance that began in 1996. Government austerity measures contributed to the slowdown, along with mine closures and declining fixed capital investment after the completion of major construction projects.

Nova Scotia recorded a much better performance (+1.8%) in 1997 than it did the previous year. The province reaped a modest benefit from construction related to the Sable Island gas project. Despite declining a year earlier, the Newfoundland economy grew 1.4%. Higher consumer spending, increased fish landings and a post-strike recovery in iron ore production more than offset the winding-down of construction on the Hibernia oil platform.

The two territories showed a marked contrast in economic performance. When the Faro lead and zinc mine closed in late 1996, this severely hampered the Yukon's economic activity in the following year. The downturn in mining was also felt in related industries. By contrast, construction at the site of Canada's first diamond mine boosted growth in the Northwest Territories to 2.5%, despite other mine shutdowns and a refinery closure. Construction at the new mine also boosted investment in non-residential structures.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 8406–8429 and 9000–9231.

Provincial gross domestic product, 1997

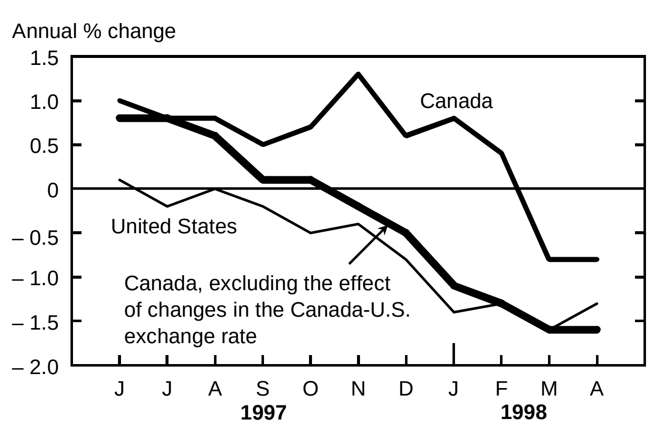


Provincial economic accounts: Annual estimates, 1997 *(13-213-PPB, $50; 13-213-XDB, $80) is now available. For further information, contact Catherine Bertrand (613-951-4115) or Pierre Généreux (613-951-3650); to purchase this product, contact the client services officer (613-951-3640; iea-crd@statcan.ca), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division. Provincial highlights of gross domestic product at factor cost by industry are available free on the Internet. To purchase additional data, contact Kim Lauzon (613-951-9417; lauzonk@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division.*

Exchange rate lifts industrial prices

Industrial product prices rose 0.7% between March and April. The most notable price changes were for exported motor vehicles, softwood lumber, non-ferrous metal products, and pulp and newsprint for export. Compared with April 1997, prices were down slightly (–0.8%). Canada–U.S. exchange rate movements had a significant effect on the monthly and year-over-year price changes. If the effects of the fluctuations in the Canadian dollar were excluded, prices would actually have increased by 0.1% in April, and they would have declined 1.6% compared with a year earlier.

Industrial product prices



Note to readers

The Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) reflects the prices that producers receive as goods leave their plants. It does not reflect what consumers pay. Unlike the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the IPPI excludes indirect taxes and all costs (including the transportation, wholesale, and retail costs) occurring between the time when a good leaves a plant and when a final user takes possession.

Canadian producers export many goods and they often quote their prices in foreign currencies, particularly for motor vehicles, pulp, paper and wood products. A rise or fall in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar therefore affects the IPPI. A 1.0% change in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar has been estimated to change the IPPI by approximately 0.25%.

Most of April's increase in motor vehicle prices was due to the exchange-rate effect. Export prices for automobiles and trucks rose 2.1% and 2.3% respectively; however, domestic prices for both edged down. Compared with April 1997, export prices were up 5.3% for cars and 6.6% for trucks; domestic prices rose only 0.4% and 1.0% respectively.

Overall softwood lumber prices were up 3.0% in April. Export prices rose 4.4% and domestic prices rose 2.2%. The steepest price increase in April was for the spruce, pine and fir category of softwood lumber in the interior of British Columbia (+5.6%). Compared with April 1997, prices were down 16.5%.

(continued on page 4)

... Exchange rate lifts industrial prices

A number of non-ferrous primary metal products recorded price increases in April, including copper and copper alloy products (+5.0%), refined zinc (+8.9%), primary forms of gold and gold alloys (+6.8%) and silver and platinum (+6.4%). Part of the price increase for copper was due to demand from the construction industry in the United States and Europe.

Pulp prices increased by 2.4% in April, while newsprint prices were up 2.9%. Although export prices of bleached sulphate pulp, which accounts for about 80% of all Canadian pulp, rose 3.5%, domestic prices declined 0.5%. Newsprint export prices rose 3.1%, while domestic prices showed no change.

In the United States, Canada's major trading partner, industrial production edged up (+0.2%) in April as manufacturing partly recovered from the declines recorded in February and March. The automobile sector led the recovery. Removing the effect of the Canada–U.S. exchange rate reveals that the year-over-year price movements in manufacturing have been quite similar in both countries since August 1997.

In Japan, Canada's second largest national export market, industrial production fell in March and the decline was expected to continue in April. Collectively the European Union (EU) is an even larger export market for Canada than Japan. The EU is dominated by the European members of the G7. For these countries, the most recent figures for the 12-month change in industrial prices are: +0.6% in Germany (March), +0.9% in Italy (March) and France (January), and +1.0% in the United Kingdom (April).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1870–1878.

The April 1998 issue of ***Industry price indexes*** *(62-011-XPB, $22/$217) will be available at the end of June. For further information, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-2848; infounit@stat can.ca), Prices Division.*

Raw materials cost more

Manufacturers paid 1.4% more for raw materials in April than in March, mainly due to higher prices for crude oil, non-ferrous metals and animal products. Lower prices for wood somewhat offset the overall increase in April's raw materials prices. If the mineral fuels category (90% of which is crude oil) were excluded, raw material prices would actually have increased 0.6% between March and April.

April's 3.7% increase in crude oil prices was somewhat due to the increased demand for gasoline, as well as to some uncertainty in the Middle East's political environment. Non-ferrous metal prices increased 3.7% in April. Higher prices for copper concentrates (+6.4%), which rose for the second month in a row, zinc concentrates (+8.8%) and gold (+6.8%) were the major contributors. Animal and animal product prices were up 1.7% compared with March. Higher prices for cattle and calves for slaughter and for molluscs and crustaceans were partly offset by lower prices for hogs. Non-ferrous metal scrap prices edged up 1.4% in April, mostly due to copper and copper alloy scrap. Iron ore concentrates, coal, and natural rubber were among the other raw materials showing price increases in April.

In contrast, wood prices fell for a ninth consecutive month (–2.1%). Vegetable product prices edged down 0.9%, as lower prices for grains were partly offset by higher prices for unrefined sugar.

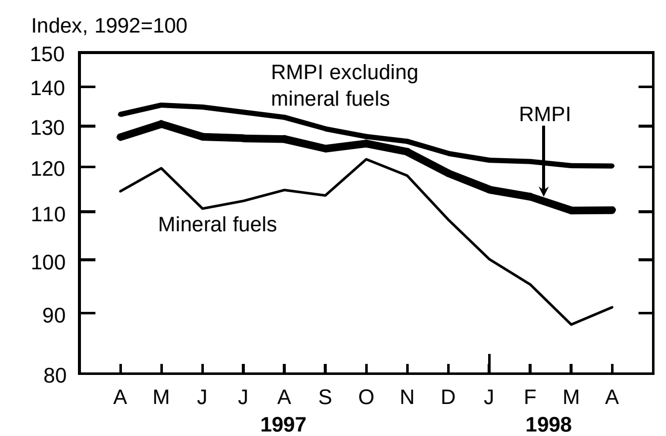
On an annual basis, manufacturers paid 12.2% less for raw materials compared with April 1997. Crude oil, wood, animal products and non-ferrous metals, which contributed most to the decline, were somewhat offset by higher prices for ferrous materials and non-metallic minerals. Excluding mineral fuels, the 12-month decline in raw material prices would have been 9.1%.

Compared with their level in April 1997, crude oil prices were down 21.7%. Non-ferrous metal prices declined 9.1% in April compared with 12 months earlier. Lower prices for copper, nickel concentrates and zinc concentrates were somewhat offset by higher prices for silver and platinum. Animal and animal product prices dropped 6.8%, as lower prices for hogs were somewhat offset by higher prices for cattle and calves for slaughter.

Note to readers

The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) reflects the prices paid by Canadian manufacturers for key raw materials. Many of these prices are set in world markets. Unlike the Industrial Product Price Index, the RMPI includes goods not produced in Canada.

Raw material prices



Other raw materials showing price declines between April 1997 and April 1998 include: wood (–15.1%), vegetable products (–10.6%) and non-ferrous metal scrap (–7.0%). Lower prices for coffee, grains and oilseeds were the major factor behind the decline in vegetable product prices, while lower prices for copper and copper alloy scrap were mostly responsible for the decline in non-ferrous metal scrap.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 1879.

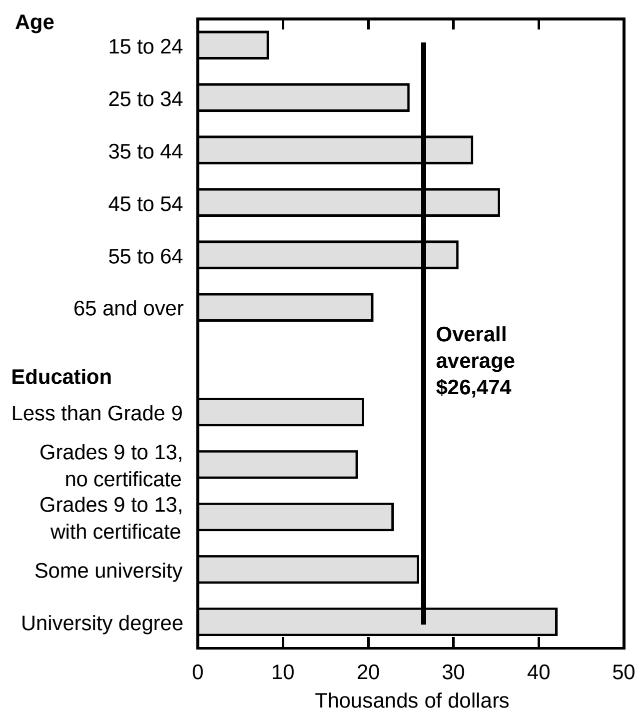
The April 1998 issue of ***Industry price indexes*** *(62-011-XPB, $22/$217) will be available at the end of June. For further information, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-2848; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division.*

Age distribution and education ease drop in earnings

Data from the 1996 Census show that, in general, individual earnings increase with age and work experience. In 1995, individuals aged 15 to 24 recorded the lowest average earnings ($8,199). Earnings increased to a peak of $35,317 for those aged 45 to 54, then declined to $20,446 for those aged 65 and over. This relationship between age and earnings was consistent for both men and women. Between 1990 and 1995, average earnings declined in all age groups. The largest decline (almost 20%) occurred among the youngest age group, made up of 15- to 24-year-olds. The smallest decline (–1.4%) was noted in the 45-to-54 age group.

Average earnings of young people aged 15 to 24 have been declining since 1980. Although their earnings were around one-half of the overall national average in 1980, they had declined to 31% by 1995. Several factors were behind this drop, notably: changes in overall economic activity (which affect youth more than others) and an increase in the number of young people working only part of the year or part time because they are staying in school longer.

Average earnings, by age and education, 1995



> ***Note to readers***
>
> *The income data are from the 1996 Census, which collected information on income obtained in 1995. Income from previous censuses have been adjusted for changes in the price of goods and services using the Consumer Price Index. All income data are presented in 1995 constant dollars.*
>
> *Employment income (or earnings) includes wages and salaries and net income from farm and non-farm self-employment.*

The number of earners remained virtually unchanged between 1990 and 1995. On the one hand, the general aging of the population is increasing the proportion of elderly and retired people. On the other hand, baby boomers are entering the peak earnings age groups and they are increasing the proportions of these groups among earners. The number of people in the age group with the highest earnings (45 to 54 years) increased 23%, while the number in the second highest earnings group (35 to 44 years) posted a rise of close to 8%. These shifts in the age profile of earners mitigated the general drop in earnings between 1990 and 1995.

Like age, education and experience have a noticeable effect on earnings. In 1995, individuals with a university degree reported average earnings of $42,054, compared with about $19,000 for those who had not graduated from high school. However, average earnings declined for all education categories between 1990 and 1995. People with less than a Grade 9 education recorded the largest decrease in average earnings (–8.2%).

The more mature and better educated work force helped reduce the negative impact of the recession of the early 1990s as well as the drop in earnings. The number of earners with a university degree increased 20% between 1990 and 1995, while the number with some university education rose 7%. During the same period, the number of individuals with lower levels of education, who were consequently in lower earnings groups, declined.

All other things being equal, without these changes in the age and education profiles of earners between 1990 and 1995, average earnings would have fallen by about $2,200, instead of $700.

For further information, contact Abdul Rashid (613-951-6897), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

Weekly earnings virtually unchanged

Average weekly earnings changed little between February and March, moving up slightly from $607.63 to $607.76. Compared with a year earlier, earnings rose 1.9%. Average earnings for both salaried and hourly paid employees were up, while earnings for other employees and commissioned salespersons declined. Bonus payments for commissioned salespersons in finance, insurance and real estate have been lower so far this year compared with 1997, which has led to the decline in average earnings for the other employees category.

In the past year, the goods-producing industries have generally recorded stronger earnings growth than the service-producing industries. Employees in mining, manufacturing and construction have benefited from increases of more than 3.7%. By contrast, many employees in the service industries (such as finance, insurance and real estate; education; health; accommodation and food; miscellaneous services and public administration) have seen their average earnings decline since March 1997.

(continued on page 6)

... Weekly earnings virtually unchanged

Average weekly earnings, March 1998
Seasonally adjusted

	Industrial aggregate $	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	**607.76**	**0.0**	**1.9**
Newfoundland	521.31	0.9	– 1.0
Prince Edward Island	485.13	– 0.6	1.5
Nova Scotia	507.06	1.2	1.2
New Brunswick	521.89	0.4	0.8
Quebec	575.26	0.2	2.6
Ontario	649.49	– 0.2	1.9
Manitoba	535.16	– 1.0	2.5
Saskatchewan	535.66	– 0.4	0.6
Alberta	615.21	0.0	2.1
British Columbia	618.31	0.3	1.4
Yukon	689.58	0.5	– 3.3
Northwest Territories	723.57	0.5	– 0.5

Average weekly hours for employees paid by the hour increased slightly between February and March, rising from 30.9 to 31.0. In the past year, however, paid hours for these workers declined from 31.2 to 31.0, mostly due to a drop in paid overtime and to an increase in employment. Hours worked by employees paid by the hour moved up 2.0% from March 1997, as increased hiring more than offset the decline in average hours paid.

Total paid employment declined slightly in March (–12,800), the second month of insignificant change. Except for British Columbia, which recorded modest drops for February and March, employment remained stable in most provinces.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4285–4466, 9438–9452, 9639–9664 and 9899–9911.

*Detailed industry data and other labour-market indicators are available in the monthly publication **Employment, earnings and hours** (72-002-XPB, $32/$320), the historical publication **Annual estimates of employment, earnings and hours, 1984–1997** (diskette: 72F0002XDE, $120; Internet: 72F0002XIE, $113) and by custom tabulations. For further information, contact Jean Leduc (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Division.*

Older men less likely to participate in labour force

Compared with 20 years ago, older workers (those aged 55 to 64) are increasingly less likely to participate in the labour force—especially men. Among men, the labour force participation rate has declined, moving down from 76.7% in 1976 to 60.6% in 1997. During the same period, the labour force participation rate for older women tended to increase, rising from 31.8% to 36.5%.

In a labour market that increasingly values post-secondary education, technological skills and flexibility, concern is growing that older men are at a greater risk of involuntary job loss than younger adults. In addition, older workers were at a slightly higher risk of permanent layoff than were core-age workers (those aged 25 to 54) in the 1990s. Once laid off, older workers were twice as likely as core-age workers to be without work a year later (63% compared with 30%). Job losses for older men were mostly in public administration, where employment for older men declined 35% between 1989 and 1997.

Although the labour market became more precarious in the 1990s for some older workers, the next generation of older workers may be encouraged to stay in the labour market longer than today's older workers. This could occur because there will be relatively fewer workers between the ages of 25 to 54 to support the needs of both the young and the old in coming years. As the population ages, the pool of older workers will grow. Between 1976 and 1997, individuals aged 55 to 64 accounted for 13% of the working age population. This share began to increase at the beginning of 1998, and it is projected to reach 20% by 2015.

Several characteristics suggest that future generations of workers may fare better in the labour market. For example, these workers have adapted more to technological change and on-the-job training. In 1994, only 39% of older male workers used computers at work compared with 46% of those aged 45 to 54, almost as high as for workers aged 35 to 44 (50%). The pattern was similar among women. Only 38% of older workers used computers, but the rate increased to 50% for those aged 45 to 54, and to 60% for younger workers.

To develop the flexibility that the current labour market seems to require, tomorrow's older workers are also much more likely to have participated in job-related training and education. About 24% of those aged 45 to 54 had participated in 1994, compared with only 10% of today's older workers. As well, the education level of tomorrow's older workers more closely resembles that of their younger colleagues. Among those aged 45 to 54, close to 20% had a university degree in 1997, about the same rate as younger workers, and close to double the proportion for those aged 55 to 64.

***Labour force update: Older workers** (71-005-XPB, $29/$96) is now available. For further information, contact Deborah Sunter (613-941-4740; fax: 613-951-2869; suntdeb@statcan.ca), Household Surveys Division.*

New from Statistics Canada

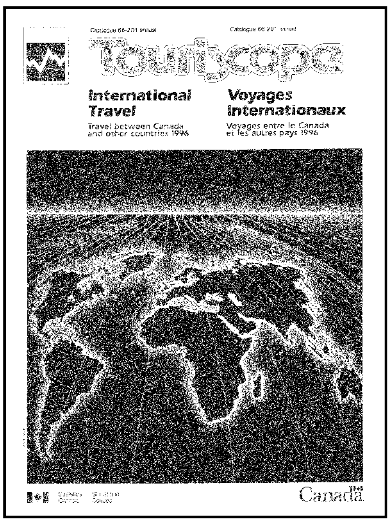
The Nation Series, Edition 3
1996 Census

The Nation Series, Edition 3 is the third of four CD-ROMs containing tables from The Nation series. This series provides 1996 census data for Canada, the provinces and territories, and for most census metropolitan areas. Many tables include comparative data from previous censuses.

The third edition incorporates all data from the first and second editions and contains complete tables for age, sex, and marital status; family structure; structural type of dwelling and household size; immigration and citizenship; languages; Aboriginal data; ethnic origin and visible minorities; labour force activities and household activities; and place of work and mode of transportation to work.

The software Beyond 20/20® is included with this package. The browser has many powerful features for quick and easy searching and sorting, and for copying tables and charts to other Windows applications.

For further information, or to order your copy of ***The Nation Series, Edition 3*** *(93F0020XCB96003, $60), contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.*



Touriscope: International travel
1996

The 1996 issue of *Touriscope: International travel* reviews and analyzes the annual data on travel to and from Canada. The publication profiles international travellers by their province, state or country of residence, area of destination, mode of transportation, purpose of trip, length of stay, expenditures, age group and sex.

The 1996 issue of ***Touriscope: International travel*** *(66-201-XPB, $42; 66-201-XIB, $32) is now available. For further information, contact Carol Moskaluk (613-951-9169; fax: (613-951-2909; moskcar@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.*

Inter-corporate Ownership
1998

The *Inter-corporate Ownership Directory* provides the most authoritative and comprehensive source of information available on Canadian corporate ownership. It tracks the ownership of the largest Canadian corporations and provides timely data reflecting recent corporate takeovers and other substantial changes. Ultimate corporate control is determined through a careful study of holdings by corporations, the effects of options, insider holdings, convertible shares and interlocking directorships. The information that is presented is based on non-confidential returns filed by Canadian corporations under the Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act.

The *Inter-corporate Ownership Directory* is a unique directory of "who owns what" in Canada and currently lists over 90,000 corporations. The data are presented in an easy-to-read tiered format, illustrating at a glance the hierarchy of subsidiaries within each corporate structure. The entries for each corporation provide both the country of control and the country of residence. As well, the inclusion of the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code permits study by industrial sector.

The 1998 ***Inter-corporate Ownership Directory****, which is published biennially, is now available on paper (61-517-XPB, $350) and a "Windows"-based version has recently been developed on CD-ROM. This electronic product will be updated and released quarterly. It is priced at $350 for a single CD or $995 for an annual subscription consisting of four quarterly CDs. For more information, contact Gail Sharland (613-951-9843) or Mike Nagrodski (613-951-0393), Industrial Organization and Finance Division.*

New from Statistics Canada – concluded

Work arrangements in the 1990s

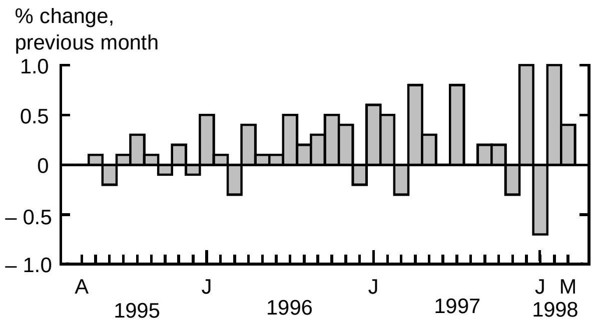
Work arrangements in the 1990s uses data from the 1991 and 1995 Survey of Work Arrangements to provide in-depth statistical information and analysis on the hours people work, the prevalence of alternative work patterns such as flexitime and home-based work, and the work schedules of families and students. In addition, it looks at wage and non-wage benefits, unionization, job permanence and employer size. Also briefly examined are work hour and income preferences, self-employment, and provincial and sub-provincial data.

Employers, unions, labour market analysts, policy makers and organizations interested in work arrangements will find this comprehensive source of information helpful.

Work arrangements in the 1990s *(71-535-MPB, no. 8, $53) is now available. For more information, contact Ernest B. Akyeampong (613-951-4624) or Marie-Paule Robert (613-951-4628), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.*

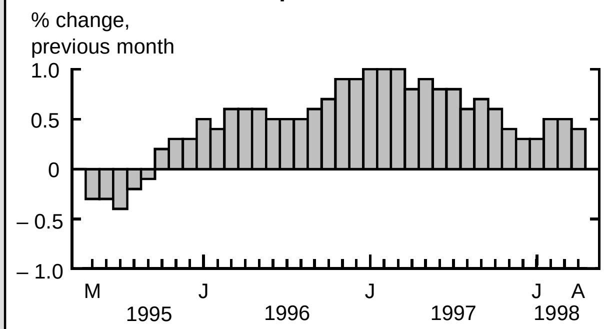
Current trends

Gross domestic product



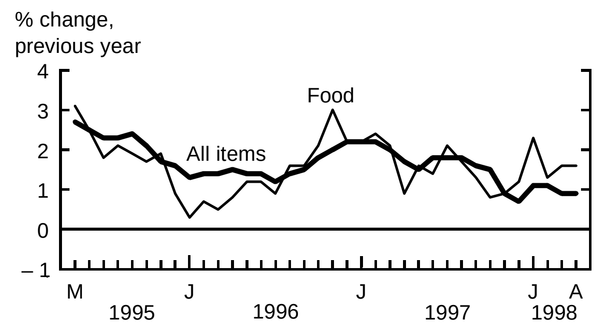
Real gross domestic product at factor cost grew 0.4% in March.

Composite Index



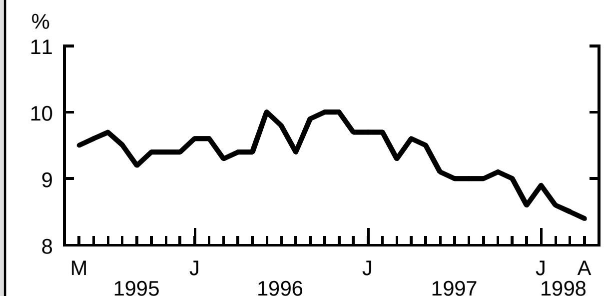
The Composite Index grew by 0.4% in April.

Consumer Price Index



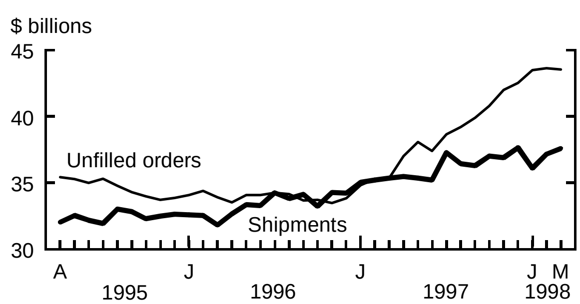
Consumers paid 0.8% more for goods and services in April 1998 than the year before. Food prices rose by 1.7%.

Unemployment rate



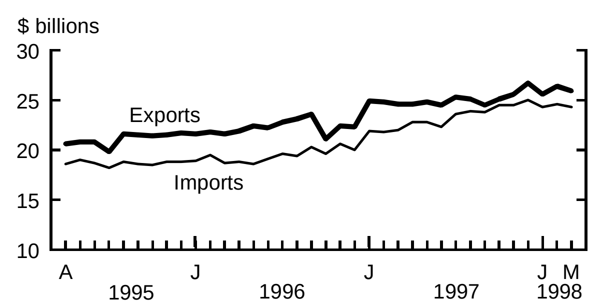
In April, the unemployment rate edged down 0.1 percentage points to 8.4%.

Manufacturing



Manufacturers' shipments rose 0.9% in March to $37.6 billion. The level of unfilled orders increased 0.2% to $43.5 billion.

Merchandise trade



In March, the value of merchandise exports dropped 2.1% from February to $25.9 billion. Imports decreased 1.2% to $24.3 billion.

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

Latest monthly statistics

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
GENERAL				
Gross domestic product ($ billion, 1992)	March*	711.0	0.4%	4.4%
Composite Index (1981=100)	April	205.2	0.4%	6.8%
Operating profits of enterprises ($ billion)	Q1 1998	27.3	– 6.0%	2.6%
Capacity utilization (%)	Q4 1997	85.6	0.3†	2.5†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade ($ billion)	March	20.1	0.2%	6.0%
New motor vehicle sales (thousand of units)	March	116.2	5.0%	– 1.8
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	April	14.3	0.5%	3.2%
Unemployment rate (%)	April	8.4	– 0.1†	– 1.1†
Participation rate (%)	April	65.1	0.2†	0.3†
Labour income ($ billion)	March*	38.2	0.0%	3.9%
Average weekly earnings ($)	March*	607.76	0.0%	1.9%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports ($ billion)	February	26.4	2.2%	6.9%
Merchandise imports ($ billion)	February	24.5	0.9%	12.5%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in $ billion)	February	1.8	0.3	– 1.0
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments ($ billion)	March	37.6	0.9%	5.4%
New orders ($ billion)	March	37.7	0.6%	4.9%
Unfilled orders ($ billion)	March	43.5	0.2%	21.2%
Inventory/shipments ratio	March	1.28	– 0.02	– 0.01
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	April	108.3	– 0.1%	0.8%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	April*	119.0	0.7%	– 0.8%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	April*	111.6	1.4%	– 12.4%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	March	99.9	0.1	1.0%

Note: *All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of the price indexes.*
** new this week*
† percentage point

Infomat

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Grain trade of Canada	1996–97	22-201-XPB	44	44
CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS				
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Touriscope—International travel	1996			
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DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES				
New motor vehicle sales	February 1998	63-007-XIB	13/124	13/124
Retail trade	January 1998	63-005-XPB	21/206	21/206
INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE				
Inter-corporate ownership	1998	61-517-XPB	350	350
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Imports by commodity	March 1998			
Microfiche		65-007-XMB	37/361	37/361
Paper		65-007-XPB	78/773	78/773
Imports by country	Q1 1998			
Microfiche		65-006-XMB	62/206	62/206
Paper		65-006-XPB	124/412	124/412
LABOUR AND HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS ANALYSIS				
Work arrangements in the 1990s	May 1998	71-535-MPB	53	53
MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY				
Coal and coke statistics	March 1998	45-002-XPB	12/114	12/114
Crude petroleum and natural gas production	February 1998	26-006-XPB	19/186	19/186
Electric power statistics	March 1998	57-001-XPB	12/114	12/114
Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing	March 1998	41-011-XPB	7/62	7/62
The sugar situation	Q1 1998	32-013QXPB	13/41	13/41
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY REDESIGN PROJECT				
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TRANSPORTATION				
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