



# Infommat

## A Weekly Review

Friday, June 6, 2003

### INSIDE

◆ **Largest current account surplus seen in seven quarters**

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◆ **Attendance up, but profits down for movie theatres**

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◆ **Students who work long hours outside school are more likely to drop out**

Students who worked moderate hours at a paid job during their last year of high school were least likely to drop out of school, according to a new report. However, those who worked 30 or more hours a week during their last year of high school were the most likely to end up leaving school.

### Economic activity picked up in the first quarter

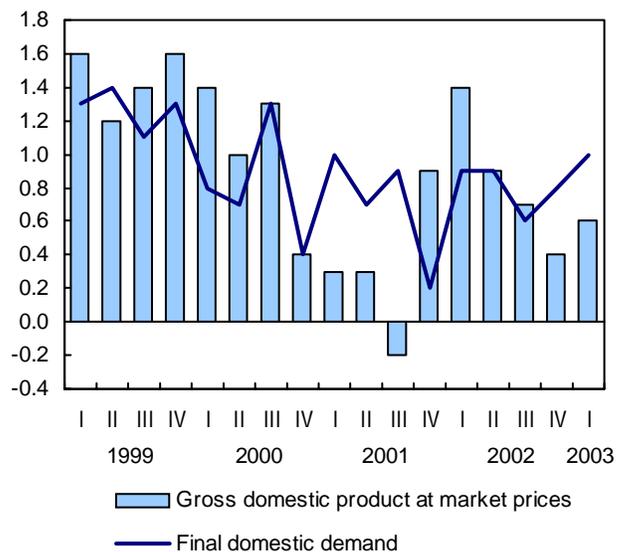
**E**conomic activity picked up in the first quarter of 2003, as expenditure-based real gross domestic product (GDP) advanced 0.6%, the result of strong inventory accumulation and sustained household demand. This was up from 0.4% in the fourth quarter and halted the deceleration of growth over the previous three quarters.

In the first quarter, the Canadian economy outperformed that of the United States, where GDP advanced 1.9% on an annualized basis, compared with a 2.4% increase in Canada.

*(continued on page 2)*

#### GDP growth

Quarterly % change, \$ chained 1997



### Economic activity picked up... (continued from page 1)

The growth in the first quarter was focussed in selected industries. Higher oil prices led to a surge in oil and gas exploration. The strength in the residential construction industry continued. Retail trade remained high, while wholesale trade recorded significant gains.

Manufacturing output grew in the first quarter, but weakness was widespread. The manufacturing of heavy trucks plummeted 25.9%; export demand has waned since the third quarter of 2002, when new US emissions standards were introduced. Weakness continued in the production of telecommunications and computer equipment. Output of the aerospace industry fell 5.3%, reflecting weak global demand. Sawmills suffered from high import duties and slowing of new housing activity in the United States. Pulp and newsprint producers continued to be plagued by low prices. The production of pharmaceutical products receded 3.5%, following two years of stellar growth. Output was also significantly lower for primary iron and steel, as well as for clothing.

On a positive note, the production of motor vehicles and parts was up in the quarter, as was the output of certain chemical products. There was continued strength in many construction feeder industries.

Domestic demand grew in the first quarter, led by personal expenditure and investment in housing. Housing investment grew at a slightly faster pace (+3.0%), as renovations and housing market resales accelerated. Growth in consumer spending eased, reflecting a decline in durable goods expenditure, in particular for motor vehicles.

A further drop in exports and an increase in imports were important factors constraining GDP growth in the first quarter.

Exports of services declined sharply, while exports of goods fell for the second consecutive quarter. Imports recovered from the fourth quarter with gains in imported goods and services, in particular travel.

Total net government current expenditure on goods and services increased 1.0%, continuing a string of increases that runs for more than four years. Modest spending increases were evident at all levels of government. Government capital spending was also up strongly at the federal and provincial levels.

However, revenues exceeded expenditures in the government sector, so that the surplus (annualized national accounts basis expressed in nominal dollars) for all levels of government rose to \$21.7 billion in the first quarter, up strongly from the fourth quarter. This was the largest surplus since the second quarter of 2001 and, as a result, government borrowing was subdued in the first quarter.

In March, the economy remained virtually flat, marking the eighteenth consecutive month that GDP did not decline. Lower March output was recorded in wholesale and retail trade, utilities, the financial sector and air transportation. Continued momentum in new homebuilding, a rebound in manufacturing and aggressive oil and gas exploration activity helped the economy maintain its February level.

*More detailed analysis of the economic accounts can be found in the first quarter 2003 issue of **Canadian economic accounts quarterly review** (13-010-XIE, free), available on Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). For more information, contact the information officer (613-951-3640), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 7.)*

### Strong dollar weakens manufacturers' prices

Manufacturers' prices weakened 1.4% in April, in large part because of a stronger Canadian dollar relative to the US dollar. On an annual basis, the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) declined 0.1%, after eight months of increases.

From a monthly perspective, lower prices for petroleum and coal products (-9.7%) and motor vehicles and other transport equipment (-1.6%) were the major contributors to the decline of the IPPI. In the year-over-year comparison, price increases for petroleum and coal products, chemical products, fruit, vegetable and feed products, and meat, fish and dairy products were offset by price decreases for motor vehicles and other transport equipment, lumber and other wood products, and electrical and communications products.

Raw materials prices were down 6.5% from March. Mineral fuels were the major contributors to the monthly decrease in the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI), with prices declining 12.5%. Manufacturers paid 3.4% more for their raw materials than they did in April 2002. Higher prices for animal products (+7.9%) and mineral fuels (+2.5%) were mainly responsible for this annual rise in the RMPI.

*The April 2003 issue of **Industry price indexes** (Internet: 62-011-XIE, \$17/\$163; paper: 62-011-XPE, \$22/\$217) will be available soon. For more information, contact Danielle Gouin (613-951-3375; [danielle.gouin@statcan.ca](mailto:danielle.gouin@statcan.ca)), Prices Division.*

## Largest current account surplus seen in seven quarters

Canada's current account surplus with the rest of the world grew \$3.2 billion to \$8.0 billion on a seasonally adjusted basis in the first quarter. This was the largest surplus in the last seven quarters.

In the current account, the surplus in goods trade grew \$1.9 billion to \$15.5 billion in the first quarter. Exports were up \$0.6 billion, whereas imports fell \$1.3 billion. The higher goods surplus was entirely due to the energy component, where the surplus grew \$2.8 billion.

As a result of higher energy prices, the value of energy exports rose \$3.1 billion to \$17.8 billion, the highest level in two years. The largest increase in energy prices was for natural gas (around 35%). Prices for the other components of this category increased as well, but at lower rates. Most other major categories of commodities saw their trade balances deteriorate.

The \$1.3 billion reduction in imports was mainly due to lower imports of machinery and equipment products and automotive products. However, import values for energy (again due to price) and agriculture products increased.

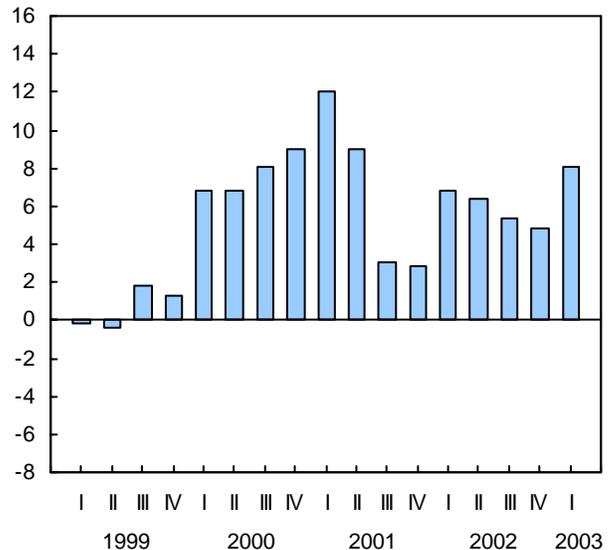
The goods surplus with United States rose in the first quarter, as imports declined significantly and exports increased slightly. Deficits with the United Kingdom, Japan and non-OECD countries improved.

The deficit on investment income was reduced by \$1.6 billion, as the income earned on Canadian liabilities was \$2.0 billion lower in the first quarter. The earnings of foreign direct investors holding Canadian assets dropped back after an exceptionally strong fourth quarter of 2002. Interest on Canadian bonds also dropped, as the cost of interest payable in US dollars declined. At the same time, the income from Canadian direct investments abroad remained high, decreasing only slightly.

The services deficit increased slightly. With fewer foreign visitors to Canada and more Canadians travelling to countries other than the United States, the travel deficit increased slightly in the first quarter. A record number of Canadians visited countries other than the United States, while the number of Canadians spending at least one night in the United States was the second lowest in four years. The slight increase in the payments for commercial services combined with a drop in the receipts resulted in the larger services deficit.

### Current account balance

\$ billions, seasonally adjusted



In the capital and financial account (not seasonally adjusted), investors on both sides of the border focussed on the bond markets, as equity markets continued to weaken. These events occurred against a backdrop of a strengthening Canadian dollar. It closed the quarter at just over 68 US cents, almost five cents higher than its 2002 year-end close.

Canada's international reserves declined \$2.7 billion in the first quarter, mostly because of a reduction in securities denominated in US dollars. Canada has reduced its reserve assets over three consecutive quarters, totalling \$5.2 billion. Deposit assets and liabilities had large offsetting swings in the first quarter, largely between Canadian banks and their foreign affiliates. Loan liabilities were up as a result of transactions in repurchase agreements.

*The first quarter 2003 issue of **Canada's balance of international payments** (Internet: 67-001-XIB, \$29/\$93; paper: 67-001-XPB, \$38/\$124) will be available soon. For more information, contact Arthur Ridgeway (613-951-8907), Balance of Payments Division.*

## Attendance up, but profits down for movie theatres

Canadians' love affair with the silver screen has lost some of its intensity, according to new data from the Motion Picture Theatres Survey. Movie theatres, including drive-ins, sold 119.6 million tickets in the 2000/01 fiscal year, an increase of only 0.3% from the previous year. In addition, the industry suffered an operating loss of \$26.5 million.

Nevertheless, the number of tickets sold was at a 41-year high. Attendance has increased for nine straight years, but the rate of growth has fallen in recent years. After posting a growth rate of 14% in 1998, attendance rose just 6% in 1999 and only 0.3% in 2000.

Attendance at movie theatres, excluding drive-ins, reached 117.9 million in 2000. Reduced attendance at older cinemas has been offset by increases at huge new multiplex cinemas, which have contributed significantly to gains during the last decade.

The year 2000 was unprofitable for the movie theatre industry in Canada. After reporting a decline in profits in the previous two years, the industry suffered a loss of \$26.5 million in 2000/01. This compares with profits of \$41.7 million in 1999/2000.

Revenues reached just over \$1.0 billion in 2000, compared with \$946.7 million the year before. Box-office receipts rose about 8% to \$707.7 million.

The new multiplexes, with their large occupancy and significant capital start-up costs, were responsible for the overall loss, while the older cinemas posted a small profit. The new theatres reported considerable expenses for occupancy costs, employment costs, capital cost allowance and debt payments (depreciation and amortization expenses). Profits for older theatres were \$2.6 million in 2000, substantially below the 1999 level of \$48.7 million.

The industry, however, saw a considerable increase in employment. Full-time employment was up 17% to 2,209, while part-time employment rose 48% to 21,213. The new multiplexes contributed significantly to employment growth.

### Annual average per capita attendance at movie theatres and drive-ins

	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01
<b>Canada</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.9</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.7	1.5	1.4
Prince Edward Island	3.5	2.8	3.1
Nova Scotia	2.9	3.3	3.5
New Brunswick	2.6	2.7	3.1
Quebec	3.7	3.9	3.8
Ontario	3.5	3.8	3.8
Manitoba	3.4	3.8	3.6
Saskatchewan	3.4	3.8	3.5
Alberta	5.0	5.1	5.0
British Columbia	4.0	4.1	4.2
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	3.0	2.9	3.0

On a per capita basis, each Canadian went to the movies 3.9 times in 2000. Moviegoers in only two provinces exceeded the national average — Alberta (5.0) and British Columbia (4.2). Residents of these two provinces have held the top ranking for at least the past decade. Residents of Newfoundland and Labrador reported the lowest average attendance per person in each of the last seven years. In 2000, each went to the movies only 1.4 times.

Although the number of drive-in theatres operating in Canada has stabilized at around 67 over the last four years, attendance continues to fall. In 2000, attendance dropped 13% from the previous year, the sixth consecutive annual decline. The decline in attendance was due largely to the closure of seven relatively large drive-in theatres, only partly offset by the opening of five smaller ones. Drive-in theatres recorded profits of \$1.7 million in 2000, down 32% from the previous year.

*Selected data from the Motion Picture Theatres Survey are now available in table format in **Movie theatres and drive-ins** (paper: 87F0009XPB, \$50). For more information, contact Norman Verma (613-951-6863; [norman.verma@statcan.ca](mailto:norman.verma@statcan.ca)), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.*

## Canada welcomes a record number of visitors in 2002

The number of overnight trips taken in Canada by foreign residents continued to advance in 2002 (+2.0%). Despite the events of September 11, 2001, this was the tenth consecutive annual increase. This followed small increases of 0.1% in 2001 and 1.0% in 2000. A record number of close to 20 million foreign visitors crossed our borders in 2002.

Americans accounted for four out of every five travellers, or about 16.2 million, an all-time high. However, there was a 5.3% drop in overnight travel from overseas countries.

Overnight travel from the United States rose 3.8% in 2002 from 2001. This increase was entirely due to car travel, which rose 7.3%; air travel was almost flat (+0.2%). Americans stayed 64.5 million nights in Canada in 2002, up 3.2%, and spent \$8.4 billion, a 6.3% increase from 2001.

About 3.8 million tourists came from overseas countries in 2002, down 5.3% from 2001, the second annual consecutive drop. In general, these travellers made shorter trips and spent less. Overseas travellers stayed 55.8 million nights, a 10.7% decrease from 2001, and spent \$5.2 billion, down 3.8% from 2001.

This decline is mainly attributable to Europe, with 220,000 fewer overnight trips than in 2001. The United Kingdom, France and Germany, three of the top four overseas markets for Canada, recorded double-digit decreases. In contrast, Japan, which incurred a 16.9% drop in 2001 from 2000, regained some ground in 2002 with a 3.2% gain in overnight trips from 2001. China (+16.8%) and Mexico (+8.6%) continued their steady growth.

In 2002, Canadians made 13.0 million overnight trips to the United States, down 3.7% from 2001, the lowest level since 1987. The number of overnight trips to the United States by Canadians has been falling since 1991, with a 31.9% decrease over the last 11 years.

Many of the most popular states visited by Canadians suffered a decline in overnight visits in 2002. Florida was the most affected, with a loss of 15.1%. However, trips to Florida were still very long and spending was substantial. In 2002, Canadians stayed 33.3 million nights in Florida, more than for the other top 10 most popular states combined.

### Canada's top 15 major overseas tourist markets

	2001	2002	2001 to 2002
	Visits ('000)		% change
United Kingdom	826	721	-12.7
Japan	410	423	3.2
France	357	312	-12.6
Germany	330	292	-11.6
Australia	158	149	-6.1
Mexico	148	161	8.6
South Korea	139	143	2.9
Hong Kong	125	118	-6.0
Taiwan	118	104	-11.8
Netherlands	114	107	-6.0
Switzerland	97	88	-9.3
Italy	91	97	6.1
Mainland China	82	95	16.8
Israel	69	65	-5.2
India	65	68	4.9

Overall, the number of overnight trips to overseas destinations decreased 3.1% in 2002, compared to 2001. Europe and Oceania were the only two regions of the world to welcome more Canadians travellers in 2002.

The United Kingdom, which lost its title as the most popular destination for Canadians travelling overseas in 2001, regained its top spot at the expense of Mexico, which suffered a loss of 12.2%.

Notwithstanding the events of September 11, 2001, overnight travel to Canada reached a record level in 2002. However, the growth came from low-yield markets, particularly car travel from the United States. High-yield markets, such as the overseas travel market and the air travel market from the United States, are more or less stagnant. September 11 had a definite impact on travel habits; it remains to be seen if these changes will be short-term adjustments or if they will affect the industry for a longer period.

*For general information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; [cult.tourstats@statcan.ca](mailto:cult.tourstats@statcan.ca)). For analytical information, contact Danielle Shaienks (613-951-5095; [danielle.shaienks@statcan.ca](mailto:danielle.shaienks@statcan.ca)), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.*

## Students who work long hours outside school are more likely to drop out

Students who worked moderate hours at a paid job during their last year of high school were least likely to drop out of school, according to a new report. However, those who worked 30 or more hours a week during their last year of high school were the most likely to end up leaving school.

This report uses data from the 18- to 20-year-old cohort of the Youth in Transition Survey, a new longitudinal survey undertaken jointly by Statistics Canada and Human Resources Development Canada. The survey is designed to examine key transitions in the lives of young people as they move from high school to postsecondary education, and from schooling to the labour market.

The report confirmed previous research showing that there is a strong relationship between the number of hours students worked and dropping out of high school. It points to the fact that working and finishing high school can mix, if working is done in moderation.

Although a link clearly exists between the number of hours worked and dropping out, this study does not conclude that this is a simple cause-and-effect relationship. Previous research suggests dropping out of high school is more a process based on a number of factors than a decision one makes all at once.

For example, some students may have been far enough along in the dropping out process to prefer working to schooling. Or some may have needed money. In fact, 44% of students who worked 30 or more hours a week reported dropping out because of “wanting to work” or “having to work/money problems.”

The report also considered other factors known to be related to whether a student drops out, such as enjoyment of school, demographic profile, participation in extracurricular activities, and parents’ education and occupation.

However, even after taking other factors into account, students who worked 30 or more hours a week were 2.4 times more likely to drop out than students with moderate work schedules (between 1 and 20 hours). Notably, students who did not work at all were 1.5 times more likely to drop out than moderate workers.

More than half of the students in the survey worked between 1 and 30 hours a week during their last year of high school. Slightly more than one-third did not work at all, and fewer than 10% worked more than 30 hours a week.

Young men tended to work more hours than young women. About 28% of male students worked more than 20 hours a week, compared with 21% of female students.

*The report **Learning, earning and leaving: The relationship between working while in high school and dropping out** (81-595-MIE, no. 4, free) is now available on Statistics Canada’s website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). For more information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; [educationstats@statcan.ca](mailto:educationstats@statcan.ca)), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.*

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### Number of marriages was up in 2000

The number of couples who got married in Canada hit the highest level in five years in 2000. Nationally, a total of 157,395 couples tied the knot in 2000, up 1.1% from 155,742 in 1999. Still, this was well below the most recent high of 160,251 in 1995.

In Quebec, where the trend to common-law unions has traditionally been strongest, the number of marriages increased for the first time in 12 years. A total of 24,912 couples went to the altar in Quebec in 2000, up 8.7% from 1999, the strongest gain among the provinces.

The number of marriages increased in the Atlantic provinces and British Columbia, with a particularly large gain of 7.2% in New Brunswick. Fewer couples got married in Ontario and in the Prairie provinces.

Nationwide, the marriage rate remained stable for the fourth straight year in 2000, at 5.1 marriages for every 1,000 population. The lowest rate was in Nunavut (3.2).

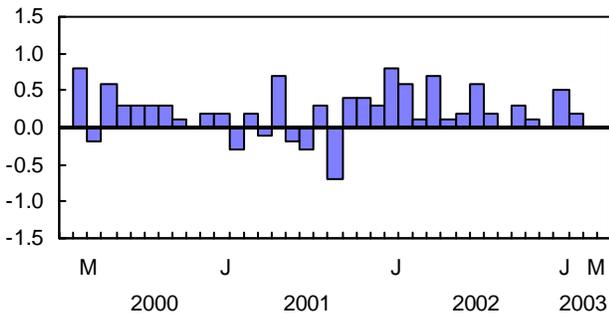
On average, brides were 31.7 years old in 2000, up 2.7 years from 1990 and 5.8 years from 1980. The average age of grooms was 34.3 in 2000, also an increase of 2.7 years from 1990 and 5.8 years from 1980.

*The publication **Marriages, 2000** (paper: 84F0212XPB, \$20) is now available. For more information, contact Client Services (613-951-1746; [hd-ds@statcan.ca](mailto:hd-ds@statcan.ca)), Health Statistics Division.*

## Current trends

### Gross domestic product

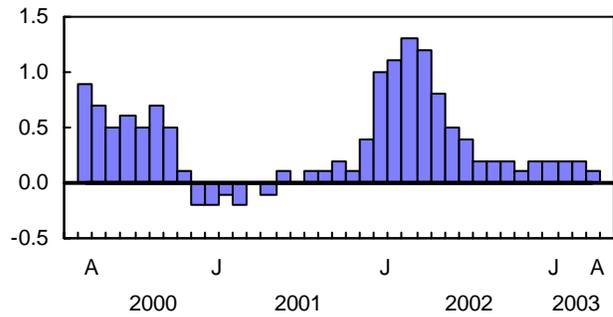
% change, previous month



Total economic activity was changed in March, after a gain of 0.2% in February.

### Composite Index

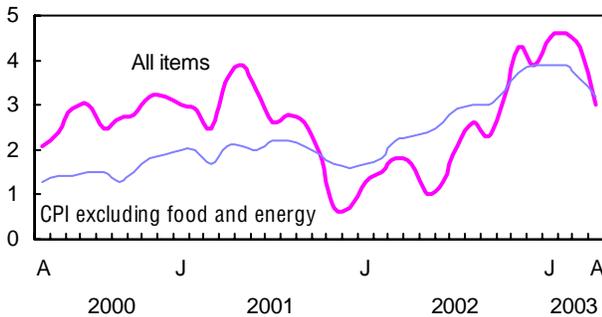
% change, previous month



The leading indicator grew 0.1% in April after rising 0.2% in March.

### Consumer Price Index

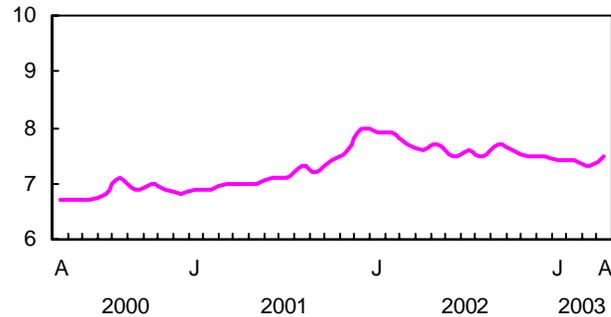
% change, previous year



Consumer prices for goods and services were 3.0% higher in April than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 3.2%.

### Unemployment rate

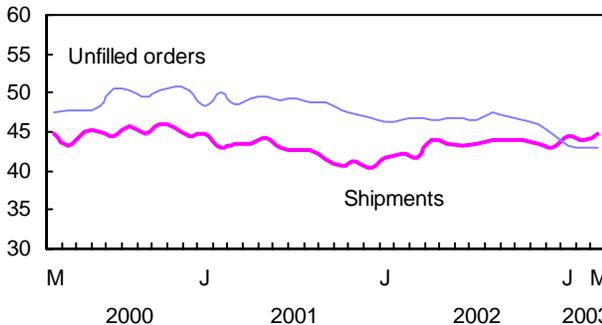
%



In April, the unemployment rate rose 0.2 percentage points to 7.5%.

### Manufacturing

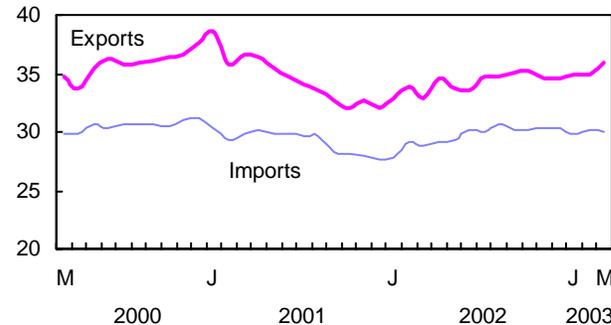
\$ billions



Manufacturers' shipments rose 1.4% in March to \$44.7 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders declined 0.4% to \$42.9 billion.

### Merchandise trade

\$ billions



In March, the value of merchandise exports rose 2.8% to \$35.9 billion. Imports fell 0.5% to \$30.0 billion.

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

## Latest statistics

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
<b>GENERAL</b>				
Gross domestic product (\$ billions, 1997) <sup>1</sup>	March*	995.7	0.1%	3.2%
Composite Index (1992=100)	April	181.1	0.1%	3.4%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billions)	Q4 2002	41.9	5.1%	32.8%
Capacity utilization rate (%) <sup>2</sup>	Q4 2002	82.9	-0.2†	2.5†
<b>DOMESTIC DEMAND</b>				
Retail trade (\$ billions)	March	26.4	-0.7%	4.7%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	March	139.7	-4.4%	0.1%
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	March	36.6	-0.5%	8.0%
<b>LABOUR</b>				
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 (\$)	March	685.78	-0.03%	1.32%
Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries (in thousands)	March	535.2	0.7%	-2.8%
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>				
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
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>				
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
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	April	121.9	-0.7%	3.0%
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	April	107.6	-1.4%	-0.1%
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	April	116.2	-6.5%	3.4%
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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

# Infomat

## A weekly review

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## Products released from May 29 to June 4, 2003

SUBJECT AREA Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price (\$) (issue/subscription)
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>			
Agricultural ecumene census division boundary file for the 2001 Census of Agriculture—Reference guide		92F0175GIE	free
Census agricultural regions boundary file for the 2001 Census of Agriculture—Reference guide		92F0174GIE	free
Farm product price index	March 2003	21-007-XIB	free
Stocks of frozen and chilled meats	May 2003	23-009-XIE	free
<b>ANALYTICAL STUDIES</b>			
Access to college and university: does distance matter?		11F0019MIE2003201	free
Impact of advanced technology use on firm performance in the Canadian food processing sector		11F0027MIE2003012	free
<b>CENSUS OPERATIONS</b>			
2001 Census Results Teacher's Kit, lesson 11		92F0192XIE	free
<b>CULTURE, TOURISM AND THE CENTRE FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS</b>			
Linking provincial student assessments with national and international assessments		81-595-MIE2003005	free
Movie theatres and drive-ins	2000/01	87F0009XPB	50
<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS</b>			
Canadian economic accounts quarterly review	Q1 2003	13-010-XIE	free
Estimates of labour income, monthly estimates	March 2003	13F0016XDB	25/100
Estimates of labour income, monthly estimates	March 2003	13F0016XPB	20/65
Financial flow accounts, quarterly estimates	Q1 2003	13-014-XDB	60/240
Financial flow accounts, quarterly estimates	Q1 2003	13-014-PPB	50/180
Gross domestic product by industry	March 2003	15-001-XIE	11/110
National income and expenditure accounts, quarterly estimates	Q1 2003	13-001-XDB	25/100
National income and expenditure accounts, quarterly estimates	Q1 2003	13-001-PPB	50/180
<b>INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE</b>			
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