



# Infomat

*A Weekly Review*

Friday, July 19, 2002

## INSIDE

### ◆ Canadians buy less alcohol than 25 years ago

In 2000/01, persons aged 15 and over purchased 103.8 litres of alcoholic beverages. This was far below the record high 134.0 litres per capita a quarter century ago.

### ◆ Increased common-law unions transform family life

More people are opting for common-law relationships, consequently transforming family life in Canada. Nearly 1.2 million couples were living in a common-law relationship last year, up 20% from 1995.

### ◆ Productivity falls for first time in five years

Multifactor productivity in the business sector, a key measure of living standards, fell in 2001 for the first time in five years.

### ◆ Almost one in five Canadians had difficulty accessing health care

Almost one in five Canadians had difficulty accessing health care in 2001, ranging from problems booking an appointment to long waiting times.

## 2001 Census: Median age reaches all-time high

New census data on age and sex point to a major social shift in Canada as greying baby boomers edge toward retirement and fewer young people enter the workforce to replace older people preparing to leave it.

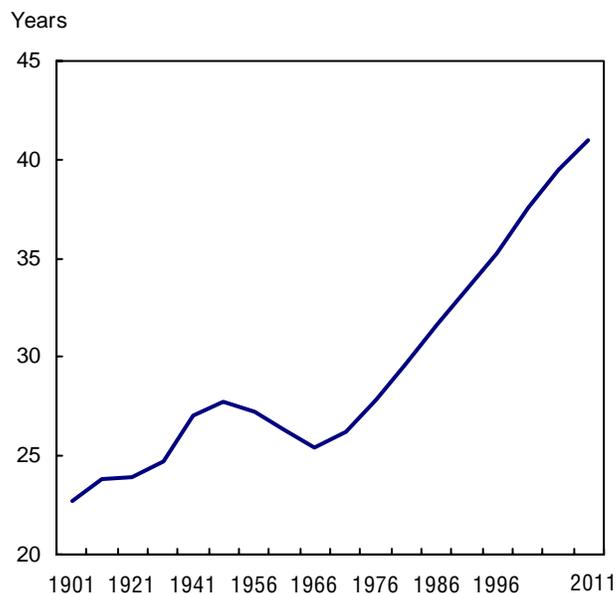
As of May 15, 2001, the median age of Canada's population reached an all-time high of 37.6 years, an increase of 2.3 years from 35.3 in 1996.

This was the biggest census-to-census increase in a century. Median age is the point where exactly one-half of the population is older, and the other half is younger.

The decline in the number of births that occurred since 1991 is a major factor behind both the record-low growth in population between 1996 and 2001, and the record increase in median age. Had the number of births remained at the 1991 level, the median age would have increased by 1.8 years between 1996 and 2001, within the range of census-to-census increases since 1976.

*(continued on page 2)*

**Median age**



### **2001 Census: Median age...** (continued from page 1)

The nation's median age has been rising steadily since the end of the baby boom in 1966, when it was only 25.4 years.

The increase in the median age is one of many indicators that the nation's population is aging, a development that has implications for the labour force, economy, social services and health-care systems.

For example, between 1991 and 2001, the population aged 45 to 64 increased 36%, due to the entry of the baby boomers into this group. As a result, Canada's working-age population has become increasingly made up of older individuals.

The census showed that seniors aged 65 or over accounted for 13% of the nation's population in 2001, up from almost 12% in 1991. Projections indicate this proportion will reach 15% by 2011. At the other end of the age spectrum, 26% of the population was aged 19 or younger, down from 28% in 1991. If fertility remains low, this could fall to less than 23% by 2011.

Nova Scotia and Quebec were the nation's oldest provinces, each with a median age of 38.8 years. Alberta was the youngest with a median age of 35.0.

#### **Population gain fastest among the oldest**

The group to increase at the fastest pace was that aged 80 and over. From 1991 to 2001, their numbers soared 41.2% to 932,000. The number of people aged 80 or over is expected to increase an additional 43% from 2001 to 2011, during which time it will surpass an estimated 1.3 million.

At the same time, Canada has undergone a substantial decline in the number of children aged four and under. In 2001, the census counted 1.7 million children in this age group, down 11.0% from 1991, the result mostly of Canada's declining fertility rate. By 2011, this group may decline to an estimated 1.6 million.

#### **Working-age population increasingly made up of older workers**

The nation's working-age population is becoming older. In other words, there are more individuals than ever before in the older age brackets of the working-age population, and fewer individuals than ever in the younger brackets.

During the past 10 years, the population aged 45 to 64 in Canada increased 35.8% to almost 7.3 million. This increase was fuelled mainly by the entry into this group of the oldest baby boomers, those individuals born between 1946 and 1965.

People aged 45 to 64 alone accounted for virtually one-quarter of Canada's total population of just over 30 million in 2001,

compared with only 20% in 1991. The population of this group is expected to jump a further 30% during the next 10 years to about 9.5 million. In 2011, these individuals are expected to represent almost one-third of the nation's total population.

In 2001, the median age within the core working group (20 to 64) was 41.3 years, up 3.2 years from 38.1 a decade earlier, the biggest increase since 1921. By 2011, this median age is projected to reach 43.7.

Data show that there are fewer young people entering the working-age population to replace individuals in the age group nearing retirement. In 1991, for every person aged 55 to 64, there were 1.6 individuals in the group aged 15 to 24. By 2001, the ratio was down to 1.4, and by 2011, if current demographic trends continue, the potential exists for a parity situation.

#### **Women slightly outnumbered men**

Overall, as a result of differences in mortality, women outnumbered men slightly in the total population in 2001.

The census counted 14.7 million men and 15.3 million women, a ratio of 96 men for every 100 women. (At birth, the ratio is 105 boys for 100 girls.) The gap between the sexes was most pronounced among seniors aged 65 and over.

#### **Centenarians: Women outnumber men four to one**

The census enumerated 3,795 people aged 100 and over in 2001 compared with 3,125 in 1996, a 21% increase.

Among these individuals, 3,055 were women and 740 were men. They were distributed among the provinces in just about the same proportions as the total population: 36% lived in Ontario, 21% in Quebec and 14% in British Columbia.

#### **Census metropolitan areas: Victoria no longer the oldest**

Victoria, British Columbia, is no longer the oldest of Canada's 27 census metropolitan areas. Trois-Rivières, Quebec, was the oldest in 2001 with a median age of 41.2 years, an increase of 3.6 from 1996, the third largest increase among metropolitan areas.

Victoria, the oldest up to 1996, became second oldest, with a median age of 41.0 years. Saskatoon kept its rank as the nation's youngest census metropolitan area with a median age of 34.4 years. It was followed by Calgary and Kitchener.

*For more information, contact Media Relations (613-951-4636), Communications Division.*

## Canadians buy less alcohol than 25 years ago

Canadians are buying more alcohol than they did five years ago but much less than 25 years ago. In 2000/01, persons aged 15 and over purchased on average 103.8 litres of alcoholic beverages. This was up from a low of only 99.5 litres in 1996/97, but far below the record high 134.0 litres per capita a quarter century ago.

In terms of total volume, liquor and beer stores and other outlets sold just under 2.6 billion litres of alcoholic beverages in 2000/01, of which 82% was beer, 12% wine and 6% spirits. These sales were worth \$13.6 billion. Beer accounted for just over one-half of the total.

Consumers bought 303.7 million litres of wine in 2000/01, up 5.6% from 1999/2000. These sales were worth slightly more than \$3.1 billion.

For the first time, red wine has become the wine of choice among consumers, making it more popular than the traditional white. Consumers purchased 131.6 million litres of red wine, or 53% of wine sales. This occurred after eight consecutive years of annual average growth above 10%.

Imported wines enjoyed growing domination in the Canadian market. Just over 63% of white and red wines purchased in Canada came from foreign countries. Imported red wines accounted for almost 73% of red wine sales, while imported white wines accounted for 52% of white wine sold.

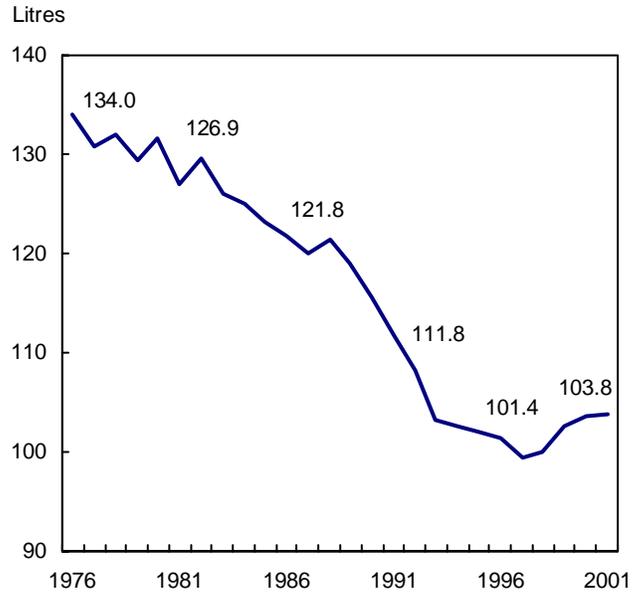
Sales of imported wine hit \$2.2 billion in 2000/01, up 8.8%, nearly three times the growth rate for Canadian wine. Per capita wine sales in Canada are similar to Norway, Russia, and the United States. However, they are five to six times less than those in France, Italy or Switzerland.

Beer was still by far the most popular alcoholic beverage for Canadian consumers. They bought more than 2.1 billion litres of beer, worth more than \$6.9 billion.

The volume of imported beer sales increased a moderate 4.9%, well below the average annual growth rate of 22.7% over the previous six years. Sales of imported beer reached \$625.9 million, up 4.7%, the seventh straight annual increase. This gave imports 9% of the Canadian beer market.

The Czech Republic, the Republic of Ireland and Germany purchase more than twice as much beer per capita as Canadians. However, Canada compares to Spain and Portugal and purchases significantly more than countries such as France and Italy.

Per capita volume of sales for spirits, wine and beer



With the highest beer sales per capita (145.1 litres), Yukon compares to Belgium, Austria and Denmark; Saskatchewan, with the lowest per capita sales (73.6 litres), compares to Sweden.

Sales of spirits continued a long-term rebound in 2000/01. Consumers purchased 162.0 million litres of spirits, up 4.2% from 1999/2000, and well above the most recent low of 127.0 million litres in 1993/94.

These sales were worth \$3.5 billion, a 4.6% increase. Sales of imported spirits rose 9.3% to \$1.2 billion, almost four times the 2.4% growth rate for Canadian spirits.

Liqueurs were the leading imported product, at 11.6 millions litres, exceeding even Scotch whisky, at 9.8 millions litres. Among Canadian products, whisky surpassed rum and vodka as the number one seller.

*The Control and sale of alcoholic beverages in Canada for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2001 (Internet: 63-202-XIB, \$29) will be available soon. For more information, contact Joanne Rice (613-951-0767). For analytical information, contact Jean-François Carbonneau (613-951-8561), Public Institutions Division.*

## Increased common-law unions transform family life

Nearly 1.2 million couples were living in a common-law relationship in 2001, up 20% from 1995. In contrast, the number of married couples increased 3% from 6.2 million to 6.4 million.

The continued increase in common-law unions is transforming family life in Canada, according to new data from the General Social Survey, which collected information on relationship ties, marital splits and new unions.

More than 40% of men and women aged 30 to 39 were expected to choose a common-law relationship as their first union in 2001. However, the vast majority of Canadians aged 50 to 69 had started their conjugal life through marriage. About nine out of 10 of them chose marriage as their first union; a high proportion married before common-law relationships became socially acceptable.

Among Quebec women in their 30s, barely 26% were expected to choose marriage as a way to start their conjugal lives, compared with 59% in other provinces. Conversely, an estimated 70% of those in Quebec were expected to start their conjugal life through a common-law relationship, compared with 34% elsewhere.

First unions of younger men and women are in general more likely to end than those of older people. An estimated 40% of men and women aged 30 to 39 saw their unions end in separation or divorce, twice the proportion of those aged 60 to 69.

More than 30% of men and women aged 40 to 59 who started their conjugal relationships through marriage were expected to separate in 2001. The proportion was more than twice as high for those who started their conjugal relationships through common-law.

The increasing numbers of break-ups and subsequent unions have led to an increase in stepfamilies. Canada had 503,100 stepfamilies in 2001, compared with 430,500 in 1995. They accounted for almost 12% of all Canadian couples with children in 2001, compared with 10% in 1995.

Generally, when a stepfamily is formed, it contains the children of one of the spouses. In 2001, five out of 10 stepfamilies contained only the female spouse's children. One out of 10 contained only the male spouse's children.

*Changing conjugal life in Canada, 2001 (Internet: 89-576-XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). From the Our products and services page, choose Free publications, then Social conditions. For more information, contact Pierre Turcotte (613 951-2554, [pierre.turcotte@statcan.ca](mailto:pierre.turcotte@statcan.ca)), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.*

## Productivity falls for first time in five years

Multifactor productivity in the business sector, a key measure of living standards, fell in 2001 for the first time in five years.

A slight downturn in the economy was responsible for the decline of 0.1% last year, compared with a growth rate of 1.7% in 2000.

However, last year's decline was the smallest in multifactor productivity during any economic downturn of the last two decades. The last time multifactor productivity fell was in 1996 when it dropped 0.7%.

The decline in 2001 reflected the fact that the growth rate of inputs of capital and labour slightly outpaced that of output. The business sector recorded a 0.9% increase in output last year, and a 1% increase in the combined inputs of capital and labour.

The opposite was true in 2000 when output grew 5.4% but combined inputs rose only 3.7%. This produced a 1.7% growth rate in multifactor productivity.

In addition, Canada's multifactor productivity improved against the United States' productivity record in the late 1990s. Over the entire period from 1981 to 2000, Canada lagged behind the United States, 0.3 % compared to 0.9 %.

However, the revival in Canada in the late 1990s was more robust, an increase of 1.3 percentage points compared with an increase of 0.9 percentage points in the United States.

This growth during the late 1990s was not confined to only one sector. There was strong growth after 1995 in many major sectors of the Canadian economy — in retail trade, communications and utilities, as well as in finance, insurance and real estate. But two important sectors, manufacturing and wholesale, experienced a slowdown in their productivity growth.

Multifactor productivity is designed to measure the joint influences on economic growth of technological change, efficiency improvements, returns to scale and other factors. Labour productivity — the more widely-used measure — measures output by each worker and the impact on the total economy.

*For more information, contact Tarek M. Harchaoui (613-951-9856; [harctar@statcan.ca](mailto:harctar@statcan.ca)), Micro-economic Analysis Division.*

## Almost one in five Canadians had difficulty accessing health care

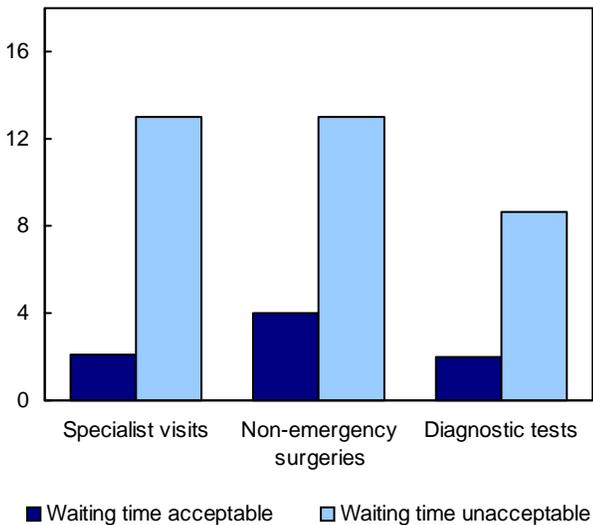
**A**lmost one in five Canadians had difficulty accessing health care in 2001, ranging from problems booking an appointment to long waiting times.

The Health Services Access Survey examined three types of first contact services: routine care, health information or advice and immediate care for a minor health problem. The survey also examined three types of specialized services: specialist visits, non-emergency surgery and diagnostic tests.

Overall, 11% (2.5 million) of those who accessed routine care reported they had difficulties, as did 13% (1.5 million) of those who accessed health information or advice, and 19% (1.6 million) of those who needed immediate care for a minor health problem.

### Median waiting times for specialized services

Weeks, 2001



During regular office hours, 42% of individuals who reported difficulties accessing routine care did so because of problems getting an appointment, while during evenings and weekends, a time when most accessed walk-in clinics, 47% cited lengthy in-office waiting times.

Over the 12 months prior to the survey, almost one-quarter of Canadians sought specialist care. An estimated 5.1 million individuals aged 15 or over visited a specialist for a new illness or condition. About 1.2 million had non-emergency surgery and almost 1.7 million had certain non-emergency diagnostic tests over a 12-month period.

About 22% of those who visited a specialist reported difficulties obtaining the service, as did 21% of those who had a non-emergency surgery and 18% of those who had a diagnostic test.

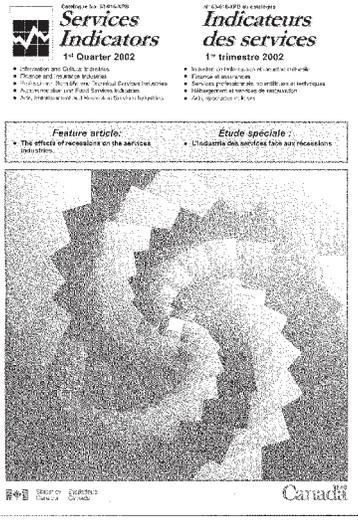
The majority of those who had problems accessing specialized services said it was because of long waits. This was the primary reason given by 55% of those who had difficulties accessing non-emergency surgery, 66% of those who had difficulties seeing a specialist, and 72% of those who had difficulties accessing diagnostic tests.

More than half of individuals who had a diagnostic test received it within a month. About 45% of individuals who had a specialist visit and about 40% of people who had a non-emergency surgery waited less than a month.

Of the estimated 5 million people who visited a specialist, roughly 18%, or 900,000 people, reported that waiting for care affected their lives. The majority of these people (59%) reported worry, anxiety or stress. About 37% said they experienced pain.

Over 20% of those who waited for specialized services felt the amount of time was unacceptable. These results may appear surprising, given that most individuals received care within a month. However, the survey data show that people who reported unacceptable waiting times had waited up to six times longer than those who considered their wait acceptable.

*Access to health care services in Canada, 2001 (Internet: 82-575-XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). From the Our products and services page, choose Free publications, then Health. For more information, contact Jean-Marie Berthelot (613-951-3760; [berthel@statcan.ca](mailto:berthel@statcan.ca)), Health Analysis and Measurement Group.*



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• The effects of recessions on the services industries

**Étude spéciale:**  
• L'impact des récessions sur les industries des services

Canada

## Services indicators

Each issue of *Services indicators* carries updated tables and charts based on output, finances, employment and remuneration data for various services industries over the most recent eight quarters. This issue includes the feature article “The effects of recessions on the services industries,” which examines the effects of the 1981/82 and the 1990/92 recessions on the services industries.

*The first quarter 2002 issue of **Services indicators** (Internet : 63-016-XIB, \$26/\$87; paper: 63-016-XPB, \$35/\$116) is now available. For more information, contact Don Little (613-951-6739; littndon@statcan.ca), Service Industries Division.*

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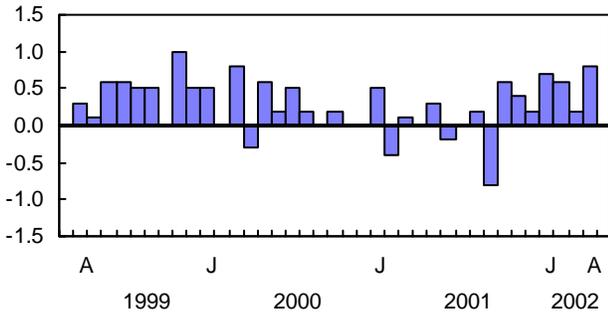
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## Current trends

### Gross domestic product

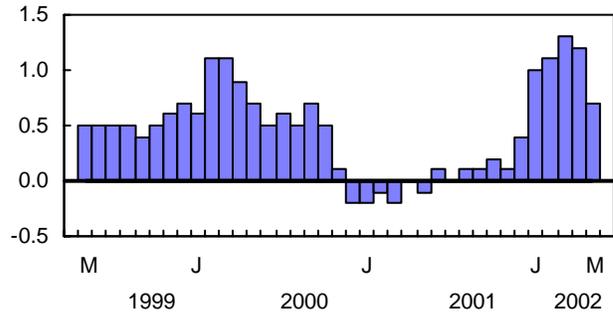
% change, previous month



Total economic activity advanced 0.8% in April, after rising 0.2% in March.

### Composite index

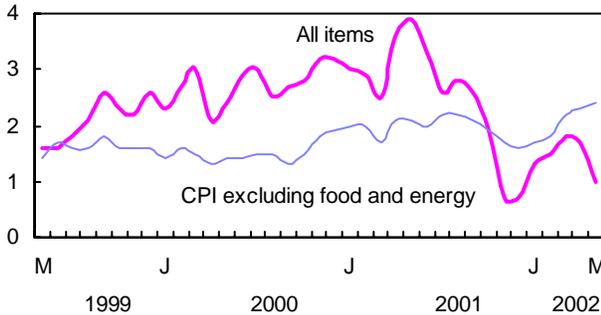
% change, previous month



The leading indicator gained 0.7% in May. New orders accelerated in response to household and export demand.

### Consumer Price Index

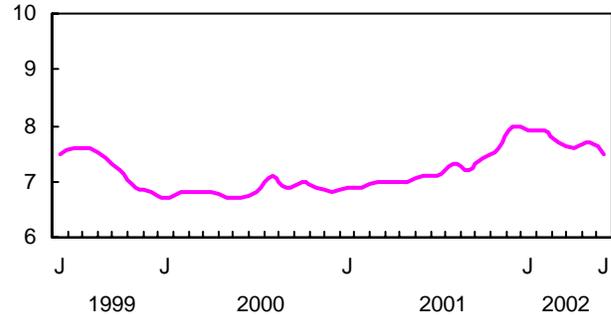
% change, previous year



Consumer prices for goods and services were 1.0% higher in May than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 2.4%.

### Unemployment rate

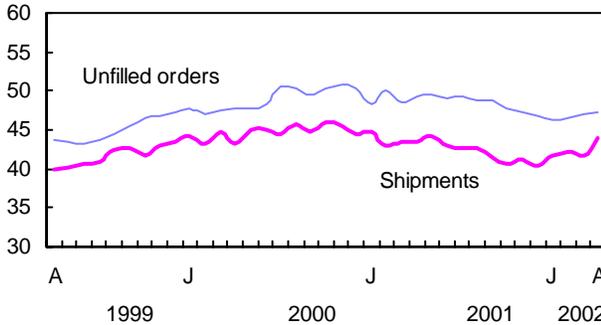
%



In June, the unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage points to 7.5%.

### Manufacturing

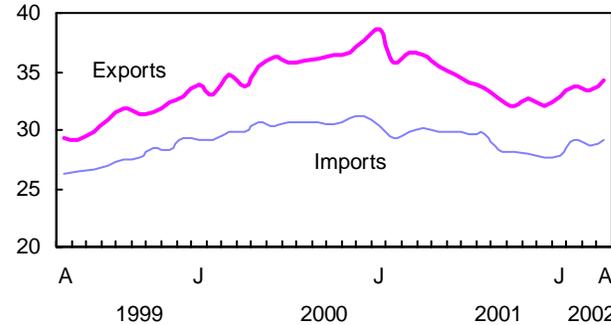
\$ billions



Manufacturers' shipments jumped 5.0% in April to \$43.9 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders rose 0.6% to \$47.3 billion.

### Merchandise trade

\$ billions



In April, the value of merchandise exports increased 2.9% to \$34.3 billion. Imports rose 1.6% to \$29.1 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>	April	966.3	0.8%	3.0%
Composite Index (1992=100)	May	176.4	0.7%	6.3%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billions)	Q1 2002	34.7	9.0%	-16.3%
Capacity utilization rate (%) <sup>2</sup>	Q1 2002	81.7	1.3†	-2.3†
<b>DOMESTIC DEMAND</b>				
Retail trade (\$ billions)	April	25.5	1.0%	5.5%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	May*	145.8	2.2%	10.8%
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	April	34.8	2.4%	7.3%
<b>LABOUR</b>				
Employment (millions)	June	15.4	0.4%	2.1%
Unemployment rate (%)	June	7.5	-0.2†	0.4†
Participation rate (%)	June	66.8	0.1†	0.9†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	April	673.85	0.05%	2.09%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	June	127.6	0.6%	-16.8%
Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries (in thousands)	April	531.8	-3.1%	6.8%
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>				
Merchandise exports (\$ billions)	April	34.3	2.9%	-5.9%
Merchandise imports (\$ billions)	April	29.1	1.6%	-3.4%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billions)	April	5.2	0.5	-1.1
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>				
Shipments (\$ billions)	May*	43.4	-1.4%	-2.0%
New orders (\$ billions)	May*	43.8	-1.1%	-1.7%
Unfilled orders (\$ billions)	May*	47.7	0.8%	-3.8%
Inventory/shipments ratio	May*	1.43	0.02	-0.05
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	May	118.6	0.2%	1.0%
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	May	106.6	-0.7%	-2.6%
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	May	112.6	0.6%	-5.4%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	May	110.1	0.6%	4.2%

*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 Industrial Classification System (NAICS), which has replaced the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification.

# Infomat

## A weekly review

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## Products released from July 11 to 17, 2002

SUBJECT AREA Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price (\$) (issue/subscription)
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>			
Production of eggs	May 2002	23-003-XIB	free
<b>CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS</b>			
Juristat: Crime statistics in Canada	2001	85-002-XIE	8/70
Juristat: Crime statistics in Canada	2001	85-002-XPE	10/93
<b>CENSUS OPERATIONS</b>			
Age and sex for population, for Canada, provinces, territories and federal electoral districts (1996 representation order), 2001 Census		95F0300XCB2001003	various prices
Age and sex for population, for Canada, provinces, territories and forward sortation areas, 2001 Census		95F0300XCB2001005	various prices
Age and sex for population, for Canada, provinces, territories, Census divisions and Census subdivisions, 2001 Census		95F0300XCB2001006	various prices
Age and sex for population, for Canada, provinces, territories, Census divisions, Census subdivisions and dissemination areas, 2001 Census		95F0300XCB2001001	various prices
Age and sex for population, for Canada, provinces, territories, Census metropolitan areas and Census agglomerations, 2001 Census		95F0300XCB2001004	various prices
Age and sex for population, for Canada, provinces, territories, Census metropolitan areas and Census agglomerations, 2001 Census		95F0300XIE2001004	free
Age and sex for population, for Canada, provinces, territories, Census metropolitan areas and Census agglomerations, 1996 and 2001 censuses		97F0003XCB2001001	various prices
Age and sex for population, for Canada, provinces, territories, Census metropolitan areas and Census agglomerations, 1996 and 2001 censuses		97F0003XIE2001001	free
Age and sex for population, for Census metropolitan areas, tracted Census agglomerations and Census tracts, 2001 Census		95F0300XCB2001002	various prices
Age and sex: Highlight tables, 2001 Census		97F0024XIE2001001	free
Age groups and sex for population, for Canada, provinces and territories, 1921 to 2001 censuses		97F0003XCB2001002	various prices
Age groups and sex for population, for Canada, provinces and territories, 1921 to 2001 censuses		97F0003XIE2001002	free
Community profiles, 2001 Census		93F0053XIE	free
Profile of age and sex, for Canada, provinces, territories, Census divisions and Census subdivisions, 2001 Census		95F0486XCB2001001	various prices
Profile of the Canadian population by age and sex: Canada ages, 2001 Census		96F0030XIE2001002	free
Topic bundle: Age and sex, 2001 Census		97F0003XCB2001000	70
<b>DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES</b>			
New motor vehicle sales	May 2002	63-007-XIB	13/124
<b>GEOGRAPHY</b>			
Population and dwelling counts, for forward sortation areas as reported by the respondents, 2001 Census		93F0050XCB2001013	60
<b>HEALTH STATISTICS</b>			
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