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# Infomat

## A Weekly Review

Friday, August 1, 2003

## INSIDE



## Capital investment growth stronger than forecast

According to revised intentions of public and private investment, total capital spending in Canada on plant, equipment and housing should surpass the $212 billion mark in 2003, 2.2% higher than the original forecast in February.

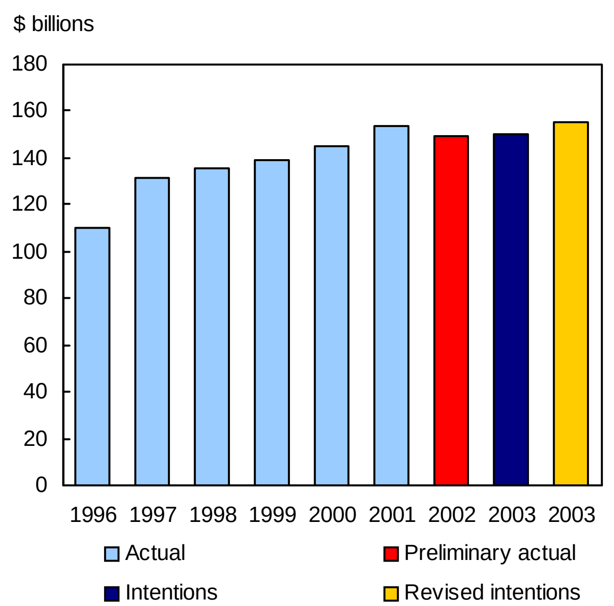
Total investment is expected to reach $212.5 billion this year. This would represent a 4.0% increase from 2002, doubling the increase anticipated in first intentions announced in February.

This new strength is coming from established sectors such as manufacturing and conventional oil and gas extraction. The public sector and housing are contributing over half of the increase. In contrast, there is still no sign of renewed spending by the information and communication technology industries.

Housing investment is expected to rise 4.2% to $57.4 billion as a result of increases in the two major components: new housing and renovations.

*(continued on page 2)*

**Plant and equipment spending**

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**Capital investment growth...** *(continued from page 1)*

Businesses, governments and institutions are expected to invest $155.1 billion on plant and equipment, a 3.9% advance from the $149.3 billion invested in 2002.

Likewise, manufacturing industries expect an advance of $2.3 billion over 2002, restoring nearly the entire decline in 2002. This growth is mostly due to motor vehicle manufacturing, paper mills, and aluminum production.

Banks and auto leasing are, in turn, mainly responsible for an anticipated 10.9% increase in the finance and insurance sector. A billion dollar rise in 2003 is expected to follow the $2 billion drop for 2002.

While spending in the oil and gas sector appears flat at just over $23 billion, the conventional oil extraction industry is expecting a $2.2 billion rise, largely from east coast off shore work. In contrast, the non-conventional industry expects a decline of $2 billion as a result of completed projects.

Capital spending by municipalities in 2003 should reach $11.1 billion, up 13.8% from 2002 investment levels. Construction spending on infrastructure is principally responsible for this increase.

Unlike most other sectors, the information and communication technology (ICT) sector is expecting investments to decline in 2003, amounting to a loss of 12.2% to $10.4 billion.

In addition, a drop of 25.7% is anticipated in the ICT manufacturing component. Goods-related services and intangible services are expected to fall 14.6% and 10.6%, respectively.

Most regions are still expecting increases, including Nunavut with +20.2% (the largest rise) and New Brunswick (+11.2%). The Northwest Territories, however, are expecting the biggest decline (-34.3%), in large part due to the completion of diamond mining projects.

*The publication **Private and public investment in Canada, revised intentions 2003** (Internet: 61-206-XIB, $33) is now available. For more information, contact Gilbert Paquette (1-800-571-0494; 613-951-9818; gilbert@statcan.ca) or John Foley (1-877-338-2368; 613-951-1387; foley@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division.*

# Composite index growing despite weak manufacturing

The composite leading index posted a moderate gain of 0.3% in June, slightly stronger than the growth over the past year. Six of the ten components advanced, one more than in May.

The rebound in the stock market in recent months continued, reinforced by a firming of housing and an upturn in services. The only components that fell originated in manufacturing.

All the indicators of household demand rose or were stable. Housing led the way with a 0.7% gain in June, its best since a 2.2% advance in February. Both housing starts and existing home sales increased, as employment rebounded from two consecutive losses and mortgage rates remained low.

Sales of durable goods, which have been very volatile in recent months, turned up. Services employment recovered by 0.3% with the easing of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) infections.

The US leading indicator also rose slightly after two months of following a downward trend. However, most of the upturn originated in consumer confidence as the war in Iraq came to an end. Consumer spending remained sluggish due to weak incomes.

All three manufacturing components fell. New orders turned down, while higher inventories reduced the ratio of shipments to stocks for a third straight month. Lumber and industrial goods accounted for much of this weakness, reflecting sluggish export demand and investment spending in North America.

*The July 2003 issue of **Canadian economic observer**, Vol. 16, no. 7 (Internet: 11-010-XIB, $17/$170; Paper: 11-010-XPB, $23/$227), is now available. For more information, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627; francine.roy@statcan.ca) Current Economic Analysis Group. (See also “Current trends” on page 6.)*

# Investment in non-residential building hits record high

Investment in non-residential building construction by governments and businesses reached a record $6.5 billion in the second quarter, mostly the result of an all-time high in institutional projects.

The gain of 3.0% from the first quarter was the fourth straight quarterly increase. For the first time in two years, investment in all three components — institutional, commercial and industrial — increased simultaneously.

Governments spent a record $2.3 billion into institutional construction, up 4.3%. Investment in commercial construction incurred its first increase in two years with a 1.9% gain to $3.0 billion while investment in industrial construction ended the second quarter with a 3.3% increase to $1.2 billion.

Investment in non-residential building rose in 9 of the 13 provinces and territories in the second quarter. In dollar terms, Ontario led with a 6.1% increase to $2.9 billion. British Columbia posted the largest decline (-2.9% to $588 million).

Non-residential building investment increased in 13 of the 28 census metropolitan areas. Toronto posted the strongest growth (+12.9% to $962 million), while Montréal experienced the largest drop (-2.5% to $791 million). Non-residential investment in the Toronto and Hamilton areas again contributed heavily to growth in Ontario.

Government investment in institutional projects has remained the driving force in non-residential construction since 1999. Investment in this component rose in the second quarter for the 12th straight quarter. Indications are that this high level of investment will continue over the next few months.

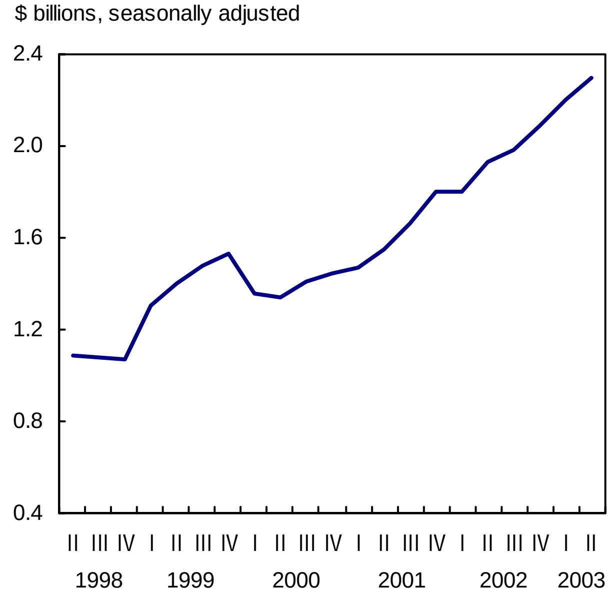
The value of building permits for institutional projects during the first five months of 2003 exceeded the level in the same period of 2002.

As a result of new educational and health care facilities, institutional investment in Ontario rose 6.8% to a record $1.3 billion in the second quarter, the biggest increase in dollar terms among the provinces. The largest decline was in British Columbia, where institutional investment fell 9.0% to $146 million, the lowest level since 1998.

The slowdown affecting investment in commercial construction for the last seven quarters finally halted with the 1.9% gain in the second quarter. The increase was driven by investment in office buildings and research centres.

The commercial real estate sector appears to have remained an alternative to the stock market for a number of investors. The low interest rates remained a strong incentive, partly making up for the increase in vacancy rates.

**Investment in institutional building construction**




Commercial investment increased 3.5% in Ontario to $1.1 billion, the highest gain in dollar terms. However, in Quebec, commercial investment declined for the third straight quarter (-5.5% to $769 million).

Investment in the construction of industrial buildings increased by 3.3%, reaching $1.2 billion in the second quarter. Activity on manufacturing plant sites prompted the growth in the industrial sector, which accounted for the lowest proportion (18%) of total non-residential investment.

This activity in manufacturing is consistent with an anticipated increase in investment, largely attributable to investment in machinery and equipment. However, businesses appear to have done some retrofitting to accommodate their new production tools.

Investment in industrial construction increased in only three provinces: Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick. The biggest increase in dollar terms was in Ontario (+9.5% to $541 million). The biggest decline occurred in Alberta where investment in industrial buildings fell 12.9% to $97 million. On a year-over-year basis, Alberta's investment was down 46% from the second quarter of 2002.

*For more information, contact Michel Labonté (613-951-9690; labomic@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division.*

# Children most frequent targets of sexual assault

Six out of every 10 victims (61%) of sexual offences in 2002 were children and youth under 18 years old, according to new police-reported data.

Girls represented 85% of victims of sexual offences reported to police. Rates were highest among female victims aged 11 to 19, with the peak at age 13. Among male victims, rates were highest for boys aged three to 14.

Boys aged 13 and 14 were at higher risk of committing a sexual offence of level 1 or "other" category. For sexual assault levels 2 or 3, there is no discernable age-related pattern among accused.

Data for 2002 show the rate of sexual offences in Canada has remained relatively steady for the past four years. There were 27,100 sexual offences reported to police, representing a rate of 86 incidents for every 100,000 population, virtually unchanged from the 1999 rate of 89. However, the 2002 rate was 36% below the high 1993 rate of 136.

The decline in the rate of sexual offences since 1993 parallels the overall downward trend among other violent offences. Possible reasons for this decline include recent shifts in the age structure of the population, and societal efforts to reduce this crime.

Sexual offences accounted for 1% of the 2.4 million Criminal Code incidents reported by police in 2002, a proportion that has not changed for the last decade.

Police statistics, however, represent only a small portion of all sexual offences and offenders. Victimization surveys suggest that as many as 90% of all sexual offences are not reported to the police. Once reported, sexual offences are also less likely than other violent offences to result in charges.

In 2002, sexual assault level 1 offences represented 88% of all sexual assault incidents. "Other sexual offences" accounted for 10%, and sexual assault levels 2 and 3 accounted for the remaining 2%.

The distribution of police-recorded sexual offences varied widely from region to region. Provinces with the highest rates were Saskatchewan, with 160 incidents for every 100,000 population, followed by Manitoba (139). The lowest rates were in Quebec (71), and Ontario (74).

The rate of sexual offences reported to police has generally declined in each province and territory since 1993, with the exception of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Territories between 2001 and 2002.

***Note to readers***

*Total sexual offences include: sexual assault (level 1) which involves minor physical injuries or no injuries to the victim; sexual assault (level 2) which involves sexual assault with a weapon, threats or causing bodily harm; sexual assault (level 3) which results in wounding, maiming, disfiguring or endangering the life of the victim; and "other" sexual offences, a group of offences that primarily address sexual abuse and exploitation of children.*

**Rates of police reported sexual offences by province and territory**

| | 1992 | 1994 | 1996 | 1998 | 2000 | 2002 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Canada** | **135** | **122** | **102** | **96** | **88** | **86** |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 235 | 194 | 150 | 122 | 112 | 110 |
| Prince Edward Island | 157 | 145 | 127 | 124 | 81 | 116 |
| Nova Scotia | 158 | 147 | 131 | 109 | 87 | 100 |
| New Brunswick | 172 | 167 | 140 | 127 | 109 | 112 |
| Quebec | 74 | 65 | 59 | 58 | 61 | 71 |
| Ontario | 121 | 116 | 93 | 87 | 84 | 74 |
| Manitoba | 228 | 186 | 166 | 141 | 127 | 139 |
| Saskatchewan | 198 | 175 | 157 | 163 | 162 | 160 |
| Alberta | 168 | 143 | 120 | 110 | 90 | 90 |
| British Columbia | 183 | 160 | 132 | 123 | 100 | 91 |
| Yukon | 354 | 359 | 292 | 352 | 320 | 361 |
| Northwest Territories* | 869 | 947 | 681 | 710 | 463 | 473 |
| Nunavut * | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 811 | 1,017 |

** In 1999, Nunavut, which comprises the eastern part of the old Northwest Territories, officially became a Canadian territory. Data for 1999 onward for the Northwest Territories cannot be compared to data prior to 1999.*
*Note: Includes sexual assault levels 1, 2 and 3 and other sexual offences.*

Different public attitudes toward sexual assault as well as police practices of diverting accused persons (especially youth) to programs and counselling may, in part, be responsible for the disparity in rates of reported sexual offences among provinces.

In 80% of cases, victims of sexual offences knew the accused. About 10% were assaulted by a friend, while 41% were assaulted by an acquaintance. Just over one-quarter (28%) were assaulted by a family member. The remaining 20% were assaulted by a stranger.

***Juristat: Sexual offences in Canada, 2001**, Vol. 23, no. 6 (Internet: 85-002-XIE, $8/$70; Paper: 85-002-XPE, $10/$93) is now available. For more information, contact Information and Client Services (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.*

# Homicide, drug use on the rise

Canada's police-reported crime rate remained virtually unchanged in 2002, declining only 0.6%. The national crime rate, which has been on a downward trend for more than a decade, is now 27% below its peak in 1991.

Increases occurred in homicides, fraud/counterfeiting, drug offences and prostitution. In contrast, violent crime and youth crime rates declined, while property crime remained virtually unchanged.

In total, police reported 2.4 million Criminal Code offences, excluding traffic. Of these, 13% were violent crimes, 52% were property crimes and the remaining 35% were "other" offences such as mischief and disturbing the peace.

Police reported about 300,000 violent crimes in 2002, including everything from homicide to attempted murder, assault, sexual assault, robbery and abduction. Nearly two-thirds of these violent crimes were minor assaults.

The national rate of violent crime fell 2% in 2002, driven by a 3% decline in the rate of robberies and a 2% drop in assaults. The violent crime rate has generally been decreasing since the early 1990s.

The homicide rate (1.9 homicides per 100,000) rose 4% in 2002 after remaining stable the previous two years. The homicide rate has been following a downward trend since the mid-1970s.

There were 582 homicides in 2002, 29 more than the previous year. The increase was driven by a large growth in British Columbia, up from 84 homicides in 2001 to 126 in 2002.

This rise was partly associated with the Missing Women's Task Force investigation in Port Coquitlam, B.C. which resulted in the reporting of 15 homicides from previous years.

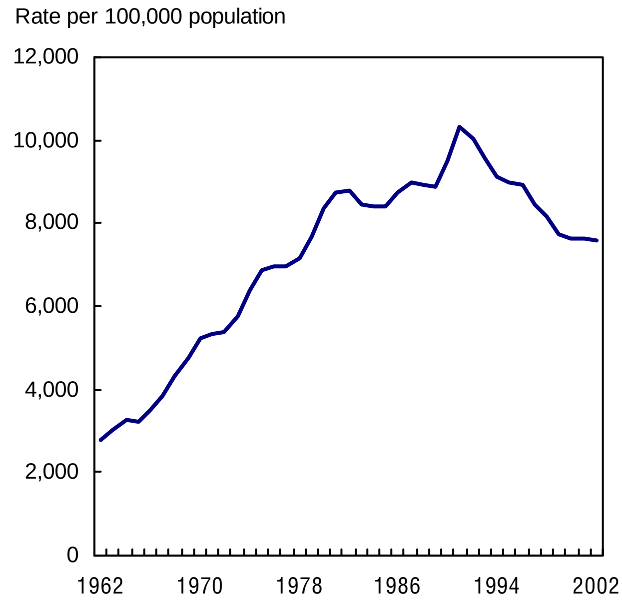
Police reported more than 1.2 million incidents of property crime in 2002. The property crime rate has been decreasing in the preceding years and is now at its lowest level in almost three decades.

The rate of total drug offences rose for the ninth straight year, driven by increases in both cannabis offences and other drug offences, which include synthetic drugs such as ecstasy and methamphetamine.

In 2002, police reported almost 93,000 drug-related incidents, a 3% increase and the highest rate in 20 years. Three in four drug incidents were cannabis offences, most of which involved simple possession.

More than 91,000 incidents of fraud were reported to police in 2002 (up 4%), the first increase in a decade. A 19% rise in debit/credit card fraud and a 29% jump in counterfeit currency were mainly responsible for the increase.

**Crime Rate,** 1962 to 2002




The rate of prostitution offences also grew throughout most of the country in 2002, rising 12%. Increases ranged from 5% in Ontario to 62% in Saskatchewan.

Police charged 99,000 youths with a Criminal Code offence in 2002, a 5% rate drop in line with the general downward trend seen over the past decade. The youth crime rate in 2002 was 33% lower than in 1992.

Historically, crime rates have been highest in western Canada and this trend continued in 2002. However, with the recent increases in the Atlantic provinces, crime rates in these provinces now exceed those in Quebec and Ontario.

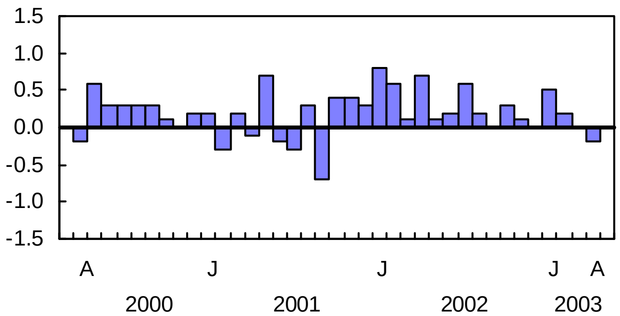
Saskatchewan again reported the highest crime rate among the provinces, followed by British Columbia and Manitoba. Saskatchewan also had the highest violent crime rate, while British Columbia reported the highest property crime rate. The lowest overall rates were in Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador and Ontario.

***Juristat: Canadian crime statistics, 2002****, Vol. 23, no. 5 (Internet: 85-002-XIE, $8/$70; Paper: 85-002-XPE, $10/$93) is now available. For more information, contact Information and Client Services (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.*

# Current trends

### Gross domestic product

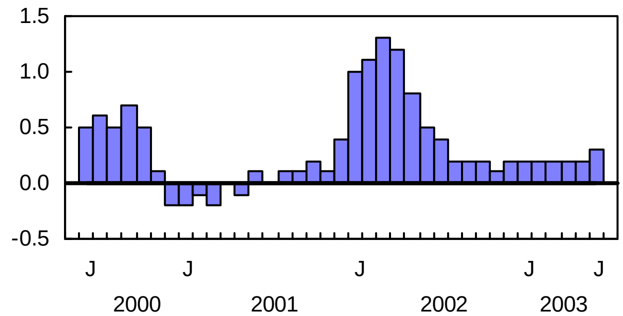
% change, previous month




Total economic activity dropped 0.2% in April, after remaining unchanged in March.

### Composite Index

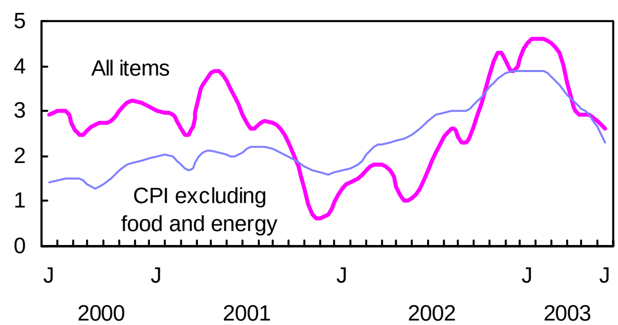
% change, previous month




The leading indicator grew 0.3% in June after rising 0.2% in May.

### Consumer Price Index

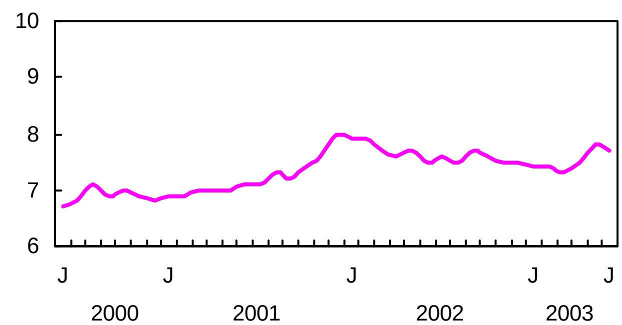
% change, previous year




Consumer prices for goods and services were 2.6% higher in June than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices also rose 2.3%.

### Unemployment rate

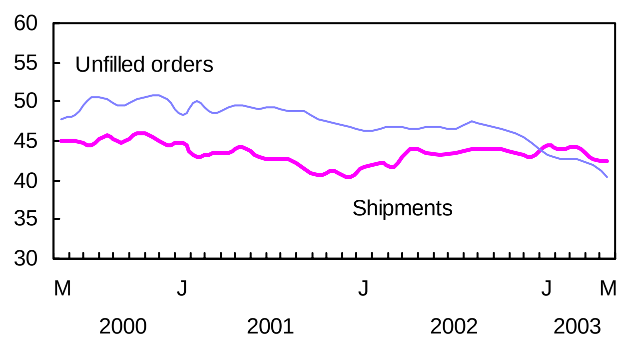
%




In June, the unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage points to 7.7%.

### Manufacturing

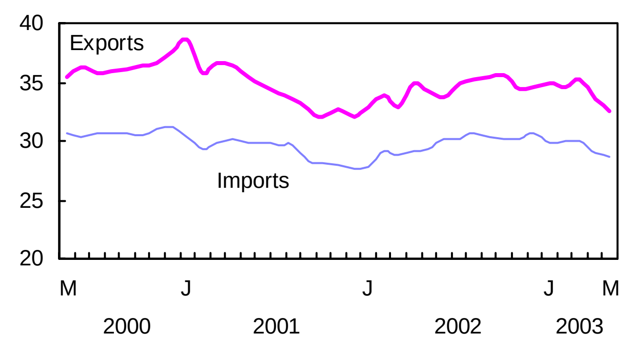
$ billions




Manufacturers' shipments fell 0.8% in May to $42.4 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders declined 3.4% to $40.5 billion.

### Merchandise trade

$ billions




In May, the value of merchandise exports dropped 2.8% to $32.6 billion. Imports fell 1.1% to $28.6 billion.

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

# Latest statistics

| | Period | Level | Change, previous period | Change, previous year |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **GENERAL** | | | | |
| Gross domestic product ($ billions, 1997)[1] | May* | 992.5 | 0.1% | 1.8% |
| Composite Index (1992=100) | June | 181.5 | 0.3% | 2.3% |
| Operating profits of enterprises ($ billions) | Q1 2003 | 42.9 | 10.6% | 26.6% |
| Capacity utilization rate (%)[2] | Q1 2003 | 82.8 | 0.3† | 1.2† |
| **DOMESTIC DEMAND** | | | | |
| Retail trade ($ billions) | May | 26.2 | 0.3% | 4.0% |
| New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units) | May | 144.3 | 8.4% | -0.9% |
| Wholesale trade ($ billions) | May | 35.9 | 0.2% | 3.7% |
| **LABOUR** | | | | |
| Employment (millions) | June | 15.7 | 0.3% | 2.2% |
| Unemployment rate (%) | June | 7.7 | -0.1† | 0.2† |
| Participation rate (%) | June | 67.5 | 0.0† | 0.7† |
| Average weekly earnings ($) | May* | 691.38 | 0.7% | 1.8% |
| Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries (in thousands) | May* | 561.4 | 2.7% | 0.3% |
| **INTERNATIONAL TRADE** | | | | |
| Merchandise exports ($ billions) | May | 32.6 | -2.8% | -4.5% |
| Merchandise imports ($ billions) | May | 28.6 | -1.1% | -2.3% |
| Merchandise trade balance (all figures in $ billions) | May | 4.0 | -0.6 | -0.9 |
| **MANUFACTURING** | | | | |
| Shipments ($ billions) | May | 42.4 | -0.8% | -2.2% |
| New orders ($ billions) | May | 41.0 | -2.5% | -5.7% |
| Unfilled orders ($ billions) | May | 40.5 | -3.4% | -13.3% |
| Inventory/shipments ratio | May | 1.49 | 0.00 | 0.07 |
| **PRICES** | | | | |
| Consumer Price Index (1992=100) | June | 122.1 | 0.1% | 2.6% |
| Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100) | June* | 103.9 | -1.0% | -2.7% |
| Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100) | June* | 114.3 | 1.2% | 3.2% |
| New Housing Price Index (1992=100) | May | 116.0 | 0.6% | 4.4% |

***Note:*** *All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of the price indexes.*
* *new this week*
† *percentage point*
[1] *1997 replaces 1992 as the base year used in determining prices for gross domestic product by industry. Also, valuation has been changed from factor cost to basic prices.*
[2] *Calculation of the rates of capacity use is now based on the 1997 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), which has replaced the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification.*

# Infomat

## A weekly review

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# Products released from July 24 to 30, 2003

| SUBJECT AREA<br>Title of product | Period | Catalogue number | Price ($) (issue/subscription) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **AGRICULTURE** | | | |
| Cereals and oilseeds review | May 2003 | 22-007-XIB | 11/112 |
| Cereals and oilseeds review | May 2003 | 22-007-XPB | 15/149 |
| Extraction system of agricultural statistics (ESAS) CD-ROM | 2003 | 21F0001XCB | 250 |
| Farm product price index | May 2003 | 21-007-XIB | free |
| **ANALYTICAL STUDIES** | | | |
| Analytical Studies Branch research paper series: Learning from failure: organizational mortality and the resource-based view, no. 202 | | 11F0019MIE2003202 | free |
| **BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL FLOWS** | | | |
| Canada's international transactions in securities | May 2003 | 67-002-XIE | 14/132 |
| **CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS** | | | |
| Juristat: Crime statistics in Canada, 2002 | 2002 | 85-002-XIE2003005 | 8/70 |
| Juristat: Crime statistics in Canada, 2002 | 2002 | 85-002-XPE2003005 | 10/93 |
| Juristat: Sexual offences in Canada | 2001 | 85-002-XIE2003006 | 8/70 |
| Juristat: Sexual offences in Canada | 2001 | 85-002-XPE2003006 | 10/93 |
| **CURRENT ECONOMIC ANALYSIS** | | | |
| Canadian economic observer | July 2003 | 11-010-XIB | 17/170 |
| Canadian economic observer | July 2003 | 11-010-XPB | 23/227 |
| Canadian economic observer — Historical statistical supplement | 2002 | 11-210-XIB | 21 |
| Canadian economic observer — Historical statistical supplement | 2002 | 11-210-XPB | 28 |
| **HOUSING, FAMILY AND SOCIAL STATISTICS** | | | |
| Children with disabilities and their families | 2001 | 89-585-XIE | free |
| Children with disabilities and their families — Tables | 2001 | 89-586-XIE | free |
| **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS** | | | |
| Latest developments in the Canadian economic accounts | | 13-605-XIE | free |
| **INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE** | | | |
| Quarterly financial statistics for enterprises | Q1 2003 | 61-008-XIE | 26/86 |
| **INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK** | | | |
| Private and public investment in Canada — revised intentions | 2003 | 61-206-XIB | 33 |
| **MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY** | | | |
| Asphalt roofing | June 2003 | 45-001-XIB | 5/47 |
| Construction type plywood | May 2003 | 35-001-XIB | 5/47 |
| Production and disposition of tobacco products | June 2003 | 32-022-XIB | 5/47 |
| Supply and disposition of crude oil and natural gas | November 2002 | 26-006-XPB | 19/186 |
| Supply and disposition of crude oil and natural gas | December 2002 | 26-006-XPB | 19/186 |
| **SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND ELECTRONIC INFORMATION** | | | |
| Science statistics, Vol. 27, no. 5 | | 88-001-XIB | 6/59 |
| **TRANSPORTATION** | | | |
| Aircraft movements statistics | June 2003 | 51F0001PIE | free |
| Aviation: service bulletin, Vol. 35, no. 4 | | 51-004-XIB | 8 |
| Monthly railway carloadings | May 2003 | 52-001-XIE | 8/77 |

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# Calendar of key releases: August 2003

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1<br>**Business Conditions Survey: Canadian manufacturing industries**, July 2003<br>**Government expenditure on culture**, July 2003 |
| 4 | 5<br>**Building permits**, June 2003 | 6 | 7 | 8<br>**Labour Force Survey**, July 2003 |
| 11 | 12<br>**New Housing Price Index**, June 2003<br>**University tuition fees**, 2003/2004 | 13<br>**New motor vehicle sales**, June 2003 | 14<br>**Canadian international merchandise trade**, June 2003<br>**Monthly Survey of Manufacturing**, June 2003 | 15<br>**Leading Indicators**, July 2003 |
| 18<br>**Canada's international transactions in securities**, June 2003 | 19<br>**Consumer Price Index**, July 2003<br>**Livestock Statistics,** July 2003 | 20<br>**Wholesale trade**, June 2003<br>**Travel between Canada and other countries**, June 2003 | 21<br>**Retail trade**, June 2003 | 22<br>**Field crop reporting series: July 31 estimates of production of principal field crops**, 2003 |
| 25 | 26<br>**Employment Insurance**, June 2003<br>**Farm cash receipts**, Q2 2003<br>**Household Internet Use Survey**, 2002 | 27<br>**Quarterly financial statistics for enterprises**, Q2 2003<br>**International travel account**, Q2 2003<br>**Characteristics of inter-national travellers**, Q1 2003 | 28<br>**Balance of international payments**, Q2 2003<br>**Industrial Product Price and Raw Materials Price Indexes**, July 2003<br>**Employment, earnings and hours**, June 2003 | 29<br>**Gross domestic product by industry**, June 2003<br>**National economic and financial accounts**, Q2 2003 |