



# Infomat

## A Weekly Review

Friday, August 4, 2000

### OVERVIEW

◆ **Energy costs continue to pressure industrial prices**

In June, energy costs again exerted upward pressure on prices that manufacturers got for their products and that they paid for their raw materials.

◆ **Composite index's growth moderates again**

The growth of the leading indicator continued to moderate in June, slowing to 0.4%. Housing posted the largest drop of the four components of the index that fell.

◆ **Canadian investors still on a buying spree as foreign investors reverse course**

Canadian investors' holdings of foreign securities jumped in May by a near record. Foreign investors, meanwhile, made their first significant divestment of Canadian securities this year.

◆ **Payroll employment remains on the rise**

In May, payroll employment rose slightly (+11,600), continuing a pattern of monthly increases that began in September 1999.

◆ **Legal aid spending increases along with the demand for services**

After several years of decline, legal aid spending and the demand for legal aid services both increased in the fiscal year 1998/99.

◆ **Nation's crime rate falls for eighth consecutive year**

The nation's crime rate fell for an eighth consecutive year in 1999. Based on data reported by police, the overall crime rate fell 5.0% to the lowest rate in 20 years.

### Energy costs continue to pressure industrial prices

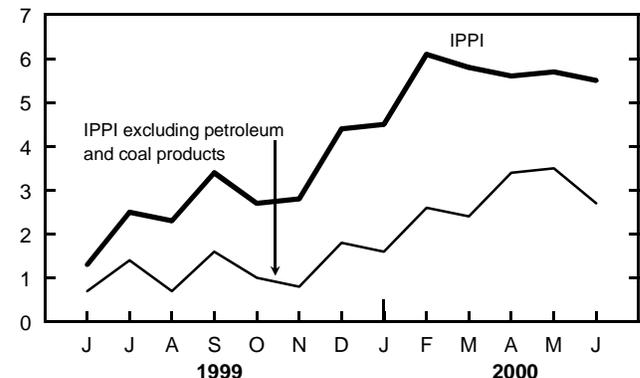
In June, energy costs continued to exert upward pressure on the prices that manufacturers got for their products and that they paid for their raw materials. Industrial product prices were up 5.5% compared with June 1999. This rate of growth was down slightly from yearly increases of 5.7% in May and 6.1% in February, the most recent peak. The price level of finished goods held virtually stable in June. Goods destined for further processing recorded a slight price decline.

Roughly half of June's yearly increase resulted from higher petroleum and coal product prices (+52.0%). Excluding those products, industrial product prices were up 2.7% compared with June 1999. On a monthly basis, industrial product prices were unchanged, as a 4.8% increase in petroleum and coal product prices was offset by declines in prices for other industrial goods.

Raw material prices were 28.3% higher in June than a year earlier, owing mostly to increased prices for mineral fuels. On a monthly basis, raw material prices rose 2.1% in June, as higher crude oil prices overshadowed lower prices for hogs and cattle, copper and nickel, grains, oilseeds and wood. Excluding mineral fuels, raw material prices rose only 6.3% from a year earlier and declined 1.8% compared with the previous month.

**Industrial Product Price Index**

12-month % change



(continued on page 2)



### ... Energy costs continue to pressure industrial prices

Rising crude oil and refined petroleum prices reflected concern over tight supplies and questions of when the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) would boost output. In the Raw Materials Price Index, the mineral fuels component, which consists mostly of crude oil, climbed 79.1% between June 1999 and June 2000, and rose 7.8% between May and June of this year.

#### Industrial product and raw materials price indexes, June 2000

	Index (1992=100)	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
<b>Industrial product price index (IPPI)</b>	<b>127.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>5.5</b>
IPPI excluding petroleum and coal products	125.0	-0.5	2.7
Intermediate goods	128.4	-0.2	6.6
Finished goods	125.5	0.1	3.7
<b>Raw materials price index (RMPI)</b>	<b>144.8</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>28.3</b>
RMPI excluding mineral fuels	122.5	-1.8	6.3
Mineral fuels	193.1	7.8	79.1
Vegetable products	112.3	-1.6	-3.3
Animals and animal products	119.7	-2.6	10.4
Wood	140.5	-0.6	1.7
Ferrous metals	120.3	-1.2	4.2
Non-ferrous metals	116.0	-1.9	14.3
Non-metallic minerals	121.0	0.0	1.6

#### Note to readers

This article combines, for the first time, two separate releases on the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) and the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI). They have been combined to provide a consolidated view of industrial prices. The IPPI reflects the prices that producers in Canada receive as goods leave the plant gate. Canadian producers export many goods, so the Canada-U.S. exchange rate affects the IPPI. The RMPI reflects the prices that Canadian manufacturers paid for key raw materials. Many of these prices are set in a world market. Unlike the IPPI, the RMPI includes goods not produced in Canada.

Copper and nickel followed price increases in May with a price drop of 8.0% in June. Concerns over supplies eased, as a major nickel manufacturer averted a strike. The lumber market continued its downward price trend, as Canadian and U.S. housing starts declined further in June. Prices were also down for buyers of logs for sawmills.

Grain prices fell 4.3% in June, as wet weather in the U.S. Midwest eased the threat of drought damage. This in turn put downward pressure on prices for oilseeds (-4.6%), which includes soybeans, a substitute for corn. After six months of increases, hog prices declined 5.2% in June, while cattle prices dropped for a second month (-3.3%) following April's record high.

The June 2000 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011-XPB, \$22/\$217) will be available at the end of the month. For further information, contact Client Services (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539; [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)), Prices Division.

## Composite index's growth moderates again

The growth of the leading indicator continued to moderate from the peak rate of 1.1% set in February and March, slowing to a downward-revised 0.6% in May and then 0.4% in June. Housing posted the largest drop of the four components that fell in June. Five components remained positive and one was unchanged.

The housing index tumbled 1.1% in June, as the resolution of strikes in Toronto's construction industry in mid-month did not offset losses in all the other regions. Nevertheless, household demand for durable goods continued to mount, since incomes and confidence were buoyant in the second quarter.

The ratio of shipments to inventories of finished goods fell for a second time in three months. However, this largely originated in the booming investment sector, where manufacturers built up inventories to meet steadily growing demand, especially for electronic products. In the stock market, technology-related issues led an upturn in the indexes. Growing business demand also was reflected in accelerating employment in services.

Like the Canadian index, the U.S. leading indicator continued to slow down, as the U.S. economy cooled off after torrid growth at the start of the year.

The July 2000 issue of *Canadian economic observer* (11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227) is now available. For further information, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Economic Analysis Group. See also "Current trends" on page 7.

## Canadian investors still on a buying spree as foreign investors reverse course

Canadian investors' holdings of foreign securities jumped in May by a near record \$8.7 billion, owing primarily to their acquisition of stocks. May's investment brought their total accumulation for the first five months of 2000 to \$26.1 billion—surpassing the record \$22.9 billion for all of 1999.

Canadian investors' holdings of foreign stocks jumped sharply in May, up by a massive \$8.0 billion. However, that was a continuation of the trend of large investments in recent years. Four-fifths of May's increase went to shares traded overseas, while the remainder was invested in American shares. The sharp rise was led by Canadian investors who received treasury shares in a foreign company that bought a Canadian firm through an exchange of shares. As well, for a fourth consecutive month, Canadian investors added to their foreign bond holdings (+\$0.7 billion).

Meanwhile, after accumulating about \$26 billion in Canadian securities in the first four months of 2000, foreign investors did a

### Related market information

Short-term interest rates favoured investment in the United States in May by the smallest margin—only 14 basis points—since September 1999. By the end of May, long-term government bond rates favoured investment in the United States by almost 40 basis points—the largest margin since July 1999. Both the TSE 300 and the Standard & Poor's 500 declined in May, by 1.0% and 2.2% respectively. For the first five months of the year, Canadian stocks outperformed American stocks by a wide margin (+10.0% vs. -3.3%). The Canadian dollar continued to decline against the U.S. dollar, closing the month at 66.82 U.S. cents, three-quarters of a cent below April's close and two and a half cents below its 1999 close.

turnabout in May and reduced their holdings by \$6.2 billion. Their selling of Canadian securities was widespread, affecting stocks, bonds and money market instruments.

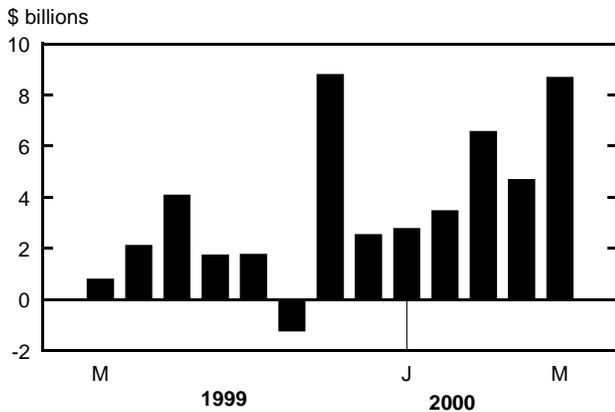
They cut their holdings of Canadian stocks by \$2.9 billion, the first reduction since March 1999. There was a major acquisition of a Canadian company, whose foreign portfolio shareholders were bought out by a foreign direct investor. Besides that, foreigners continued to invest heavily in existing Canadian shares, as has generally been the case since April 1999.

After pausing in April, foreign investors again were selling off Canadian bonds in May (\$2.2 billion). They sold nearly \$14 billion worth of bonds over five of the six months up to and including May. May was typical of this period: a small amount of new Canadian bonds were sold abroad, which was overwhelmed by a large amount of foreign-held bonds coming to maturity.

Foreign investors reduced their holdings of Canadian money market instruments in May by \$1.1 billion. That followed a \$4.1 billion accumulation in the two prior months. Mainly, it was European investors doing the selling, which was led by federal treasury bills.

*The May 2000 issue of Canada's international transactions in securities (print: 67-002-XPB, \$18/\$176; online at www.statcan.ca: 67-002-XIB, \$14/\$132) presents the full report. For further information, contact Don Granger (613-951-1864), Balance of Payments and Financial Flows Division.*

### Canadian investment in foreign securities<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Includes bonds and stocks.

## Payroll employment remains on the rise

Payroll employment rose slightly in May (+11,600), continuing a pattern of monthly employment increases that began in September 1999. The number of employees on the payroll increased in manufacturing and in business services. These gains were partially offset by a decline in payroll employment in construction.

In May, average weekly earnings were estimated at \$625.43, an increase of \$1.99 per week (+0.3%) from April and up \$16.13 (+2.6%) compared with May 1999. From April, increases in weekly earnings were seen mostly in goods-producing industries, especially logging, mining and manufacturing.

For hourly-rated employees, average weekly hours were down 0.2 hours from April to May, declining to 31.5 hours per week. Most industries recorded a small decline in average hours, led by mining and wholesale trade. Average overtime hours were unchanged in May.

Average hourly earnings for hourly rated employees were also almost unchanged in May at \$15.71, but were up 3.8% from May 1999.

The May 2000 issue of *Employment, earnings and hours* (72-002-XPB, \$32/\$320) presents the month's industry data and other labour market indicators in detail. The annual averages for

### Average weekly earnings by industry, May 2000 Seasonally adjusted

	\$	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
<b>All industries</b>	<b>625.43</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Logging and forestry	835.30	2.2	9.0
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	1,142.00	0.6	3.4
Manufacturing	783.23	0.8	3.7
Construction	722.53	-0.2	3.9
Transportation and storage	749.62	0.1	1.1
Communications and other utilities	821.84	0.0	0.6
Wholesale trade	665.45	0.4	0.2
Retail trade	373.89	0.6	1.3
Finance and insurance	824.06	-0.7	2.2
Real estate and insurance agencies	623.19	0.4	-3.8
Business services	726.33	0.7	4.4
Education-related services	671.15	-0.4	2.0
Health and social services	537.48	0.3	2.0
Accommodation, food and beverage	242.74	0.1	4.6
Public administration	760.81	0.5	2.5
Miscellaneous services	423.01	0.7	3.4

1999 are available on CANSIM and in custom tabulations. To order, or for further information, contact Jean Leduc (613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Division.

## Legal aid spending increases along with the demand for services

Legal aid spending and the demand for legal aid services both increased in the fiscal year 1998/99, halting several years of decline.

The provincial and territorial governments spent \$494.4 million on legal aid plans, up 8.7% from 1997/98. That marked the first spending increase in four years. Of that amount, 82% was direct spending for legal services, which include payments to private law firms and the costs of legal service delivery by legal aid plans.

Among the provinces, the largest increase in legal aid spending in 1998/99 occurred in Ontario (+16.2%). The increase was due in part to expanded financial eligibility criteria in the areas of criminal law, family law, and immigration and refugee matters.

Nationally, civil cases accounted for 56% of the direct legal expenditures, while criminal cases accounted for the remainder. In Quebec, 64% of legal aid spending was for civil cases.

In 1998/99, the number of applications submitted for legal aid assistance increased 3.9%, after five years of declines, to total 833,441 applications. Of those, 490,842 applications were approved, also up 3.9% from 1997/98. This increase halted three straight years of declines, leaving the number of approvals 35% below the peak reached in 1992/93.

### Legal aid spending and approved applications, 1998/99

	Spending	1997/98 to	Approved	1997/98 to
	\$ thousands	1998/99	applications	1998/99
		% change	Number	% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>494,357</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>490,842</b>	<b>3.9</b>
Newfoundland	5,674	2.7	..	..
Prince Edward Island	543	3.0	1,098	-13.8
Nova Scotia	10,965	8.4	14,575	-7.4
New Brunswick	4,038	13.7	3,965	0.8
Quebec	121,180	11.3	216,790	1.1
Ontario	217,208	16.2	131,512	13.7
Manitoba	15,160	-3.7	17,306	1.7
Saskatchewan	10,111	5.7	22,401	1.9
Alberta	22,903	2.5	30,294	6.9
British Columbia	80,335	-5.8	50,738	-2.2
Yukon	1,033	17.2	1,032	-1.2
Northwest Territories	5,207	-3.5	1,131	-14.4

.. Figures not available.

Of the 50,021 provincial and territorial lawyers registered as practising members of the bar, 26% provided legal aid services in 1998/99.

The annual report *Legal aid in Canada: resource and caseload statistics, 1998/99* (85F0015XIE, \$20) and the new shelf table product *Legal aid in Canada: resource and caseload data tables, 1998/99* (85F0028XIE, \$24) are both now available. For further information, contact the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (1 800 387-2231; 613-951-9023).

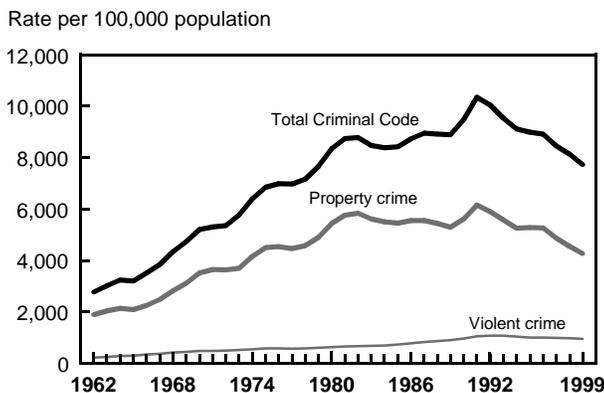
## Nation's crime rate falls for eighth consecutive year

The national crime rate, based on data reported by police, fell for an eighth consecutive year in 1999, driven by declines in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. The overall crime rate fell 5.0% at the national level, dropping to the lowest rate in 20 years. The crime rate dropped in each of the country's nine largest metropolitan areas.

However, not all regions followed the national trend. Crime rates climbed in all four Atlantic provinces and in the Yukon, while those in Manitoba and Alberta were virtually unchanged. Despite a crime rate that declined by 2.5% in 1999, Saskatchewan reported 12,155 criminal incidents for every 100,000 population; that compares with the national average of 7,733. As a result, Saskatchewan had the highest crime rate among the provinces for a second consecutive year. Newfoundland continued to have the lowest crime rate, followed closely by Quebec. All three territories reported crime rates higher than in any of the provinces.

At the national level last year, the violent crime rate fell 2.4%—the seventh consecutive decrease, a trend that follows 15 years of increases. However, the 1999 violent crime rate was still 5% higher than in 1989 and 57% higher than in 1979. Police reported just over 291,000 incidents of violent crime last year; 62% were minor assaults. As in previous years, the highest violent crime rates among the provinces were seen in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

### Crime rates in Canada



All the major categories of violent crime declined in 1999, including homicide (-4.7%), attempted murder (-8.8%), assault (-2.0%), sexual assault (-7.3%), and robbery (-1.5%). The national homicide rate has generally been declining since the mid-1970s. This trend continued in 1999, when 536 homicides were reported and the rate fell to 1.76 homicides for every 100,000 people—the lowest rate since 1967. British Columbia reported the highest provincial homicide rate (2.7 homicides per 100,000 population). The number of homicides in Saskatchewan fell from 33 in 1998 down to 13 in 1999, giving the province its lowest homicide rate in more than 30 years.

The presence of firearms in violent crime continues to diminish. In 1999, 4.1% of violent crimes involved a firearm, compared with 5.6% in 1995. Robberies with a firearm have been dropping since 1991; in 1999 it was 50% lower than in 1991. Still, firearms continue to account for about one in three homicides.

Police reported 1.3 million property crime incidents in 1999, more than half of which were minor thefts under \$5,000. The property crime rate dropped 6.4% in 1999, continuing the general decline seen since 1991. Rates fell for all major categories of property crime, particularly break-ins, which were down 10.1%. Police reported 197,781 residential break-ins in 1999, almost 24,000 fewer than in 1998, the third consecutive decline.

The rate of motor vehicle theft declined for a third year in a row, after growing steadily over the previous 10 years. Even so, at about 442 vehicles stolen per day nationwide, the motor vehicle theft rate was still 44% higher in 1999 than in 1989.

Only two offences have shown an increase over the past few years. Drug offences have increased 32% since 1993, primarily due to increases for possession and cultivation of cannabis. Similarly, since 1995, disturbing the peace offences have increased 31%. As for the impaired driving rate, it has remained stable over the past two years following a 15-year downward trend.

The youth (aged 12 to 17) crime rate dropped 7.2% in 1999—the seventh consecutive annual decline. Moreover, the youth crime rate last year was 21% lower than it was a decade earlier. As well, the rate of youths charged with violent crime dropped 5.0%—the fourth decline in a row. This was the largest year-over-year decline since the introduction of the *Young Offenders Act* in 1984. Despite these recent drops, however, the youth violent crime rate was still 40% higher than it was in 1989.

*Juristat, vol. 20, no. 5: Canadian crime statistics, 1999* (print: 85-002-XPE, \$10/\$93; online at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca): 85-002-XIE, \$8/\$70) is now available. For further information, contact Information and Client Services (1 800 387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

## New from Statistics Canada

### Useful information for manufacturers and exporters

Second edition

The new edition of *Useful information for manufacturers and exporters* is a practical and informative guide to the many Statistics Canada products, services and contacts that are of specific interest to manufacturers and exporters. Throughout, the guide features recent (1999) data highlights and trends.

The first section contains a descriptive overview of Statistics Canada data collection and dissemination activities for the manufacturing sector. Case studies are provided to show useful ways to use the data to advantage. In subsequent sections, the International Trade, Investment and Capital Stock, and the Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Divisions are similarly profiled, showing how easy it is to access trade and capital investment information.

*The second edition of Useful information for manufacturers and exporters (online at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca): 31-532-GIE, no charge) is now available. For more information, contact David Beaulieu (613-951-9497; [manufact@statcan.ca](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.*

### User guide to 1996 Census income data

A new comprehensive guide to the income information obtained from the 1996 Census is available. The *User guide to 1996 Census income data* explains the concept of income, and provides definitions of the various sources of income and the derived income variables. The report also documents how the census itself can have an impact on census income estimates. These include, for example, the actual income questions asked in the 1996 Census, along with the instructions given to respondents.

In addition, the guide summarizes an extensive qualitative evaluation of census income estimates compared against other sources such as the National Accounts and the Survey of Consumer Finances. Also included is a detailed comparison of income-related content and coverage in the census since 1971.

*The User guide to 1996 Census income data (75F0002MIE, no charge) is now posted at Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). Look under "Products and services", "Downloadable research papers", "Income, expenditures, pensions, assets and debts", and then "Income". For more information, contact Client Services (1 888 297-7355; 613-951-7355; [income@statcan.ca](mailto:income@statcan.ca)), Income Statistics Division.*

### Sentencing of young offenders

1998/99

This issue of *Juristat* from the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics analyzes recent trends in the sentencing of young offenders (those aged 12 to 17) who have been convicted of a federal offence. The analysis is based on data released in May 2000.

It provides information on the characteristics of young offenders sentenced in court, the nature of the dispositions, trends in sentencing, and comparisons of young offenders on the basis of age, sex, nature of charge, number of charges and prior convictions. In addition, this report compares the sentencing of adult and young offenders.

*Juristat vol. 20, no. 7: Sentencing of young offenders in Canada, 1998/99 (print: 85-002-XPE, \$10/\$93; online at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca): 85-002-XIE, \$8/\$70) is now available. For further information, contact Client Services (613-951-9023; 1 800 387-2231), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.*

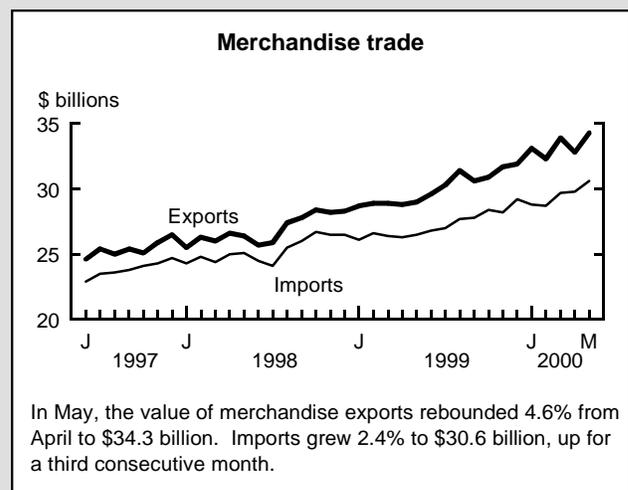
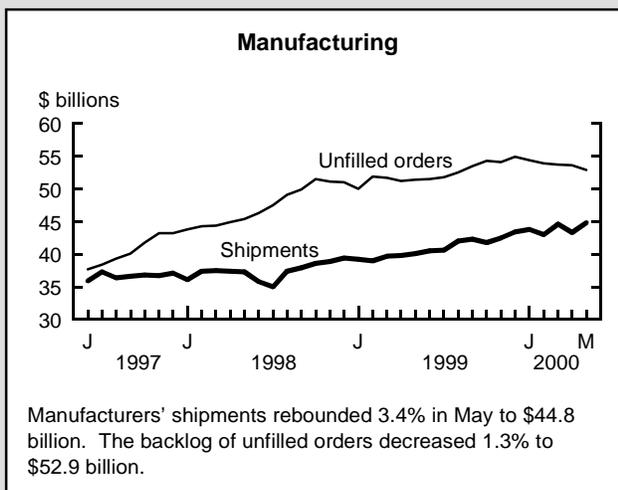
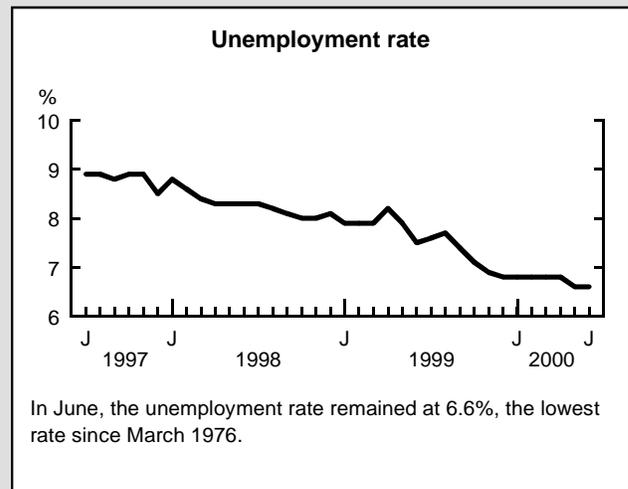
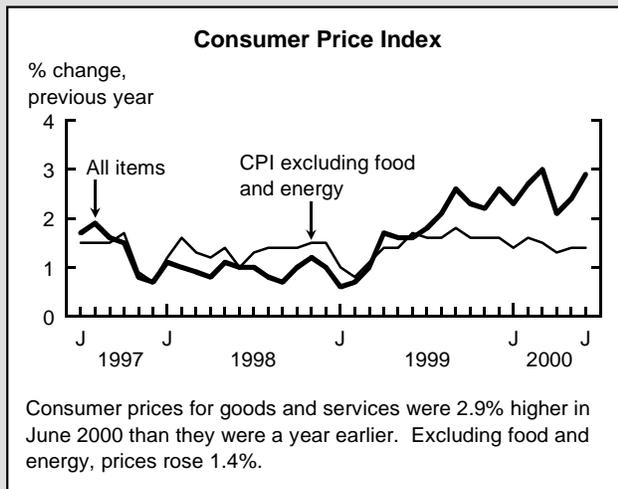
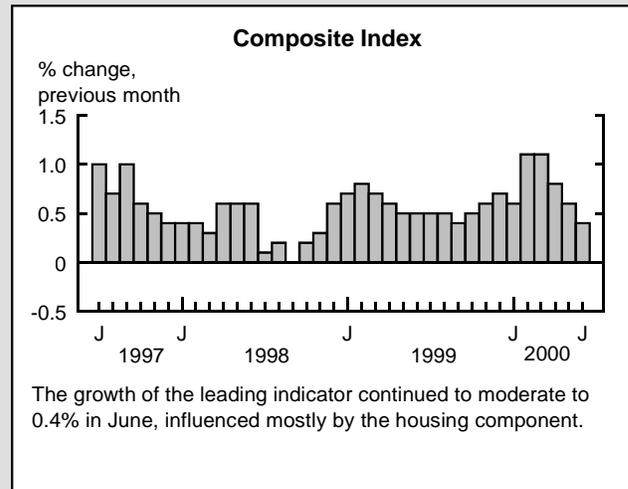
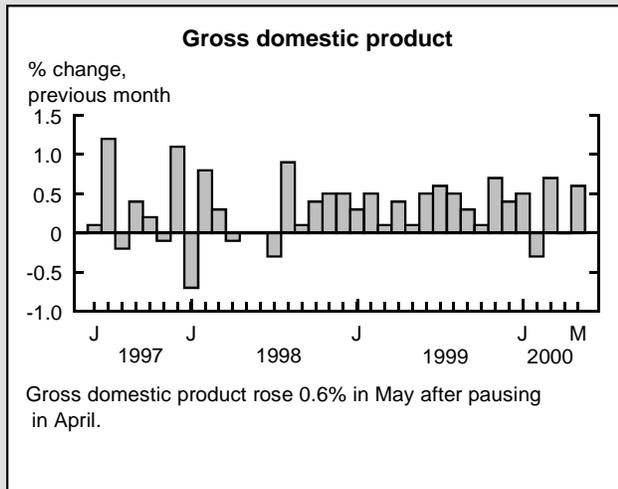
### Family violence

1999

The 2000 edition of *Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile* provides estimates on the nature and extent of family violence and trends over time. This report focuses on spousal violence as reported by both women and men in the family violence module of the 1999 General Social Survey. It also provides the most recent police-reported data on spousal abuse, abuse of older adults, child abuse and family homicides.

*The 2000 edition of Family violence in Canada: a statistical profile (85-224-XIE, no charge) is now available from Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). Look under "Products and services", then choose "Downloadable publications (free)". For further information, contact Information and Client Services (1 800 387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.*

## Current trends



**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 (\$ billion, 1992)	May*	779.9	0.6%	4.8%
Composite Index (1992=100)	June	163.0	0.4%	8.1%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billion)	Q1 2000	53.3	12.3%	37.5%
Capacity utilization (%)	Q1 2000	87.6	1.1†	4.3†
<b>DOMESTIC DEMAND</b>				
Retail trade (\$ billion)	May	22.7	0.4%	6.2%
Department store sales (\$ billions)	June*	1.52	1.5%	2.4%
New motor vehicle sales (thousand of units)	May	128.9	-2.7%	4.2%
Wholesale trade (\$ billion)	May	31.9	1.3%	8.5%
<b>LABOUR</b>				
Employment (millions)	June	14.89	-0.1%	2.6%
Unemployment rate (%)	June	6.6	0.0†	-0.9†
Participation rate (%)	June	65.7	-0.1†	0.2†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	May*	625.43	0.3%	2.6%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	July*	171	1.2%	6.9%
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>				
Merchandise exports (\$ billion)	May	34.3	4.6%	18.4%
Merchandise imports (\$ billion)	May	30.6	2.4%	15.3%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billion)	May	3.7	0.8	1.3
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>				
Shipments (\$ billion)	May	44.8	3.4%	11.9%
New orders (\$ billion)	May	44.1	2.0%	9.3%
Unfilled orders (\$ billion)	May	52.9	-1.3%	2.8%
Inventory/shipments ratio	May	1.31	-0.02	0.00
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	June	113.7	0.6%	2.9%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	June*	127.3	0.0%	5.5%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	June*	144.8	2.1%	28.3%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	May	103.0	0.3%	2.4%

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

\* new this week

† percentage point

# Infomat

## A weekly review

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## Products released from July 27 to August 2, 2000

Subject area/Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price (\$) (issue/subscription)
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>			
Stocks of frozen meat	July 2000	23-009-XIE	no charge
<b>CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS</b>			
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