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A Weekly Review

Friday, August 8, 1997

OVERVIEW

◆ Widespread economic expansion continues

Gross domestic product at factor cost rose again in May, as a widespread expansion of economic activity continued.

◆ Non-residential intentions spark building permits increase

In the second quarter of 1997, non-residential intentions lifted the total value of building permits to their second consecutive quarterly increase.

◆ Canadian population getting older

New data from the 1996 Census confirm that the Canadian population is aging. The working-age population is greying, and there are more seniors than ever before.

◆ More receiving Employment Insurance benefits

The number of Canadians receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits increased in May, but the total amount of benefit payments declined.

◆ Median income virtually unchanged in 1995

In 1995, taxfilers reported a slightly higher total median income than they did a year earlier. However, there was virtually no change after adjusting for inflation.

◆ Homicide rate gradually decreasing

Although Canada's homicide rate increased in 1996, it was still well below the peak recorded in 1975. Since 1975, the rate has gradually decreased despite annual fluctuations.

Widespread economic expansion continues

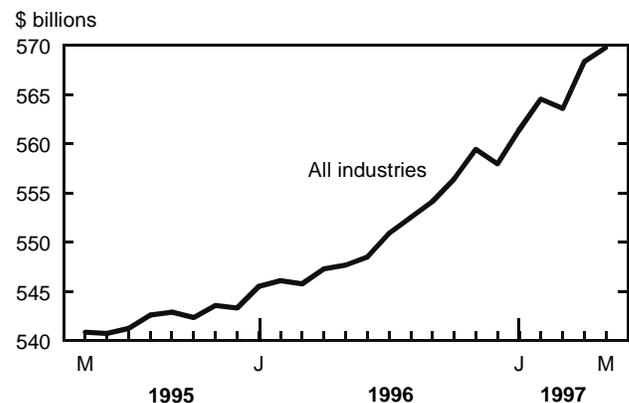
Gross domestic product (GDP) at factor cost, which has been in high gear since the beginning of the year, rose a further 0.3% in May. The services-producing industries continued to progress at a good pace, while the goods-producing sector paused after outpacing services since January.

Wholesale trade (+1.3%) and community, business and personal services (+0.6%) accounted for almost two-thirds of the overall increase. Sizable gains were also recorded in transportation and storage services (+0.8%), communications (+0.6%) and retail trade (+0.5%). Higher activity in construction and a small advance in manufacturing were mostly offset by declines in mining and forestry.

Sales of miscellaneous goods accounted for about 40% of the overall gain in wholesale receipts. Although motor vehicle and parts wholesalers enjoyed a good month, overall sales of consumer goods slowed. In the retail sector, motor vehicle dealers enjoyed another good month, and the upward trend in furniture and appliance, household furnishing and department store sales continued into May. Construction activity rose 0.8% with a rebound in residential construction and an increase in non-residential projects.

(continued on page 2)

GDP at factor cost



... Widespread economic expansion continues

Manufacturing production edged up 0.2% after surging in April; output was up 5.7% over May 1996. Increases in the production of electrical and electronic equipment and refined petroleum products, as well as higher activity in printing and publishing, were offset by lower activity in several other industry groupings. Refiners of petroleum products raised output (+4.5%) and wood production dropped. Exports of lumber improved somewhat in May but remained below their 1996 level.

Elsewhere, housing resales fell back in May, restraining growth in the financial and related services industry. Preliminary data indicate that sales of existing housing dropped again in June.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4670-4674.

Note to readers

Gross domestic product (GDP) of an industry is the value added by labour and capital in transforming inputs purchased from other industries into output.

Monthly GDP by industry is valued at 1986 prices. Estimates are seasonally adjusted at annual rates.

The May 1997 issue of **Gross domestic product by industry** (15-001-XPB, \$15/\$145) will be available shortly. For further information, contact Michel Girard (613-951-9145), Industry Measures and Analysis Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 7.)

Non-residential intentions spark building permits increase

In the second quarter of 1997, higher non-residential intentions lifted the total value of building permits to their second consecutive quarterly increase. Despite a decline in housing permits, the value of building permits reached \$7.8 billion, up 3.8% from the first quarter.

Non-residential construction intentions, up 19.5% to \$3.2 billion in the second quarter, have not been this buoyant since the fourth quarter of 1990. Commercial intentions (+19.9% to \$1.6 billion) led the increase, propelled by small commercial and trade and services projects. Industrial and institutional intentions also rose.

In June, total building permits were up 5.2% from May to \$2.6 billion. This jump also reflected the strength of non-residential permits, which rebounded from May's drop to reach \$1.1 billion (+25.3%). The housing sector, meanwhile, dropped 6.3% to \$1.4 billion, after two consecutive monthly increases.

Quarterly figures for the housing sector also declined, as municipalities issued \$4.5 billion in permits between April and June (-5.1%). The drop was attributable to a slump in the single-family component (-8.5%), which more than offset the 5.2% increase in multi-family intentions. Despite the decline, residential permits issued during the second quarter represented the second-highest level of activity since the third quarter of 1994. Second-quarter residential permits were up 20.1% over the same period in 1996.

Other indications of housing-sector buoyancy include a brisk resale market. According to the Canadian Real Estate Association, transactions in the first half of 1997 were up 17.9% over the same period in 1996, reaching their highest level since 1988. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation reported 150,200 housing starts in the first half of the year, the highest figure in three years.

British Columbia led housing permit issuance, up 8.1% in the second quarter to \$1.0 billion. Quebec and the Yukon also had significant increases. Residential construction fell in Ontario (-6.3% to \$1.9 billion), Alberta (-11.7% to \$593 million) and Nova Scotia (-43.2% to \$96 million).

Commercial projects powered non-residential projects in Ontario (+17.4% to \$1.3 billion) and British Columbia (+25.5% to \$480

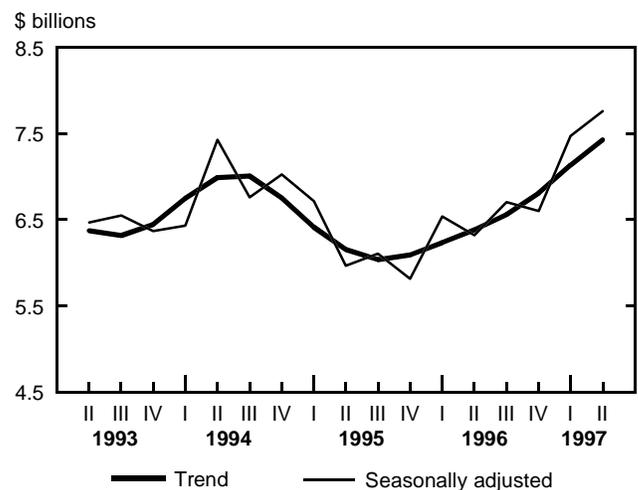
Note to readers

The monthly Building and Demolitions Permits Survey covers 2,400 municipalities representing 93% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 7% of the population are very small, and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total.

The value of planned construction activities excludes engineering projects (e.g., waterworks, sewers, culverts) and land.

The annual rate is a monthly figure that has been seasonally adjusted and multiplied by 12 to reflect annual levels. Unless otherwise stated, seasonally adjusted data are presented.

Total value of building permits



million). Every province and territory except New Brunswick reported higher non-residential permit values in the second quarter. Higher commercial intentions appear to be following the increased level of activity in retailing.

(continued on page 3)

... Non-residential intentions spark building permits increase

Available on CANSIM: matrices 80 (levels 3-7, 16-22 and 24-32), 129, 137, 443, 989-992, 994, 995 and 4073.

The June 1997 issue of *Building permits* (64-001-XPB, \$25/\$248) will be available shortly. For further information, contact Sylvain Cloutier (613-951-2025; Internet: clousyl@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

Building permits,¹ June 1997

Seasonally adjusted

	Total		Residential		Non-residential	
	\$ millions	% change, previous month	\$ millions	% change, previous month	\$ millions	% change, previous month
Canada	2,557	5.2	1,445	- 6.3	1,112	25.3
Newfoundland	21	6.1	10	- 3.1	11	16.6
Prince Edward Island	13	- 5.6	6	6.6	7	- 13.9
Nova Scotia	51	2.0	37	7.3	14	- 9.6
New Brunswick	29	- 1.2	19	8.5	10	- 16.1
Quebec	446	2.3	240	4.0	207	0.4
Ontario	1,009	8.4	580	- 7.1	429	39.9
Manitoba	60	0.8	25	- 3.7	34	4.3
Saskatchewan	59	33.1	16	- 17.8	44	70.5
Alberta	327	3.4	178	- 16.6	149	45.3
British Columbia	518	- 1.2	330	- 7.3	188	11.7
Yukon	5	33.7	3	10.2	2	91.8
Northwest Territories	18	1,046.5	0	- 88.2	18	2,224.8

1. Data may not add to totals due to rounding.

Canadian population getting older

The 1996 Census counted 3,527,800 people aged 65 and over, up 11.3% from 1991. The number of children under 15 years old (5,901,300) increased 3.7% from 1991. The country had a total of 14,676,700 women, with a median age of 36.1, and 14,170,000 men, with a median age of 34.5. Both medians (the age at which half the population is older and half younger) were almost two years higher than they were in 1991.

Since 1991, the number of senior men increased slightly faster than the number of senior women; however, the men remained substantially outnumbered. The census counted 2,040,000 women aged 65 and over (+10.9%), compared with 1,487,800 senior men (+11.8%). The rate of increase was much higher among individuals 80 years and over. There were 787,700 people in that age group in 1996 (+19.3%), two-thirds of whom were women.

Seniors accounted for 14.7% of the Saskatchewan population in 1996, reflecting low mortality rates and the relatively high rates of migration of working-age adults to other provinces. In Alberta, the proportion of people 65 and over remained the lowest of any

province, at 9.9%. This situation is attributable to one of the country's highest fertility rates, and to a strong economy during the late 1970s which attracted an influx of young adults from other provinces and countries. In the territories, the proportion of seniors was much lower than in any of the provinces: 4.4% in the Yukon and 3.0% in the Northwest Territories.

Between 1991 and 1996, the number of children under 15 declined in the four Atlantic provinces and Quebec. In 1996, children represented less than the national average of 20.5% in most of the Atlantic provinces and 19.2% in Quebec. Elsewhere, except in Saskatchewan, the number of children increased.

Canada's working-age population (15- to 64-year-olds) represented more than two-thirds of the total population in 1996. People aged 30 to 49 (baby boomers) accounted for nearly half the working-age population. Between 1991 and 1996, the number of people aged 45 to 64 increased 15.5%. In contrast, the percentage of people aged 20 to 44 declined from 60.8% in 1991 to 58.0% in 1996.

For further information, contact Manon Monette (613-951-0696), Demography Division.

(continued on page 4)

... Canadian population getting older

Change in the age structure, 1991–1996

	Under 15 years		15 years to 64 years		65 years and over	
	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996
	%					
Canada	20.8	20.5	67.5	67.3	11.6	12.2
Newfoundland	22.5	19.9	67.8	69.3	9.7	10.8
Prince Edward Island	22.6	21.6	64.2	65.4	13.2	13.0
Nova Scotia	20.5	19.8	66.9	67.1	12.6	13.1
New Brunswick	20.9	19.6	66.9	67.8	12.2	12.6
Quebec	20.0	19.2	68.8	68.7	11.2	12.1
Ontario	20.4	20.6	67.9	67.0	11.7	12.4
Manitoba	22.0	21.9	64.6	64.4	13.4	13.7
Saskatchewan	24.0	23.1	61.8	62.2	14.2	14.7
Alberta	23.6	22.8	67.3	67.3	9.1	9.9
British Columbia	20.2	19.7	67.0	67.5	12.9	12.8
Yukon	24.6	24.0	71.5	71.6	4.0	4.4
Northwest Territories	32.8	32.6	64.4	64.4	2.8	3.0

More receiving Employment Insurance benefits

In May, the number of Canadians receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits increased 4.2% from April, to reach approximately 593,000. Increases were observed throughout the country, except for Nova Scotia and British Columbia, where the levels remained stable. Despite the increase in May, the number of regular beneficiaries has declined by 17.4% since May 1996.

Regular benefit payments declined 4.8% to \$708 million. This was the fifth decrease in as many months. With Alberta (-9.1%) and Ontario (-8.8%) in the lead, 11 provinces and territories recorded declines. Payments have been moving downward since April 1996.

The number of individuals who applied for Employment Insurance benefits declined 2.6% to 223,000. Ten provinces and territories registered decreases, ranging from 2.0% in New Brunswick to 31.0% in the Yukon. Claims were down 11.6% compared with May 1996 (unadjusted).

EI beneficiaries receiving regular benefits, May 1997

Seasonally adjusted

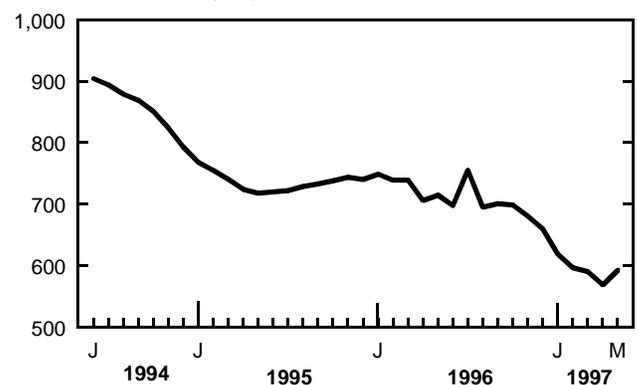
	Total (thousands)	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	593	4.2	- 17.4
Newfoundland	34	0.6	- 3.6
Prince Edward Island	9	3.3	2.5
Nova Scotia	32	0.0	- 7.4
New Brunswick	36	6.0	- 10.4
Quebec	212	5.0	- 15.9
Ontario	149	2.7	- 18.7
Manitoba	15	16.1	- 18.3
Saskatchewan	11	22.1	- 29.5
Alberta	29	5.0	- 38.0
British Columbia	67	0.0	- 17.2
Yukon	1	6.8	9.5
Northwest Territories	1	3.8	- 23.0

Note to readers

The discrepancy between the estimated number of regular beneficiaries and the regular payments series can be explained by the difference in their time frames. The number of beneficiaries represents all persons who received Employment Insurance benefits during the week containing the 15th day of the month. The regular benefit payments series represents the total of all payments received by individuals during the entire month.

Number of EI beneficiaries paid regular benefits

Thousands, seasonally adjusted



Available on CANSIM: matrices 26 (series 1.6), 5700–5717, 5735 and 5736.

For further information, contact Michael Scrim (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; Internet: labour@statcan.ca), Labour Division.

Median income virtually unchanged in 1995

In 1995, 20.4 million taxfilers reported a median total income of \$18,900, up \$400 from a year earlier. However, there was virtually no change from 1994 after adjusting for inflation. The gap between men and women narrowed slightly. The national median for men was \$25,400, down from \$25,433, while the median for women rose to \$14,600 from \$14,504.

Investment income played a larger role in 1995, accounting for 5.5% of earnings, compared with 4.7% a year earlier. For the second year in a row, residents of British Columbia and Saskatchewan derived the most from investments. British Columbians reported \$6.50 in interest or dividends for every \$100 of total income, compared with \$6.10 for residents of Saskatchewan. The lowest investment income (\$1.30) was reported in the Northwest Territories.

In 1995, taxfilers derived 72% of their income from employment, virtually unchanged from 1994. The highest proportions were in the Northwest Territories, the Yukon and Alberta. Prince Edward Island registered the lowest income from employment.

Composition of total income, 1995

	Employ- ment income	Transfer pay- ments	Invest- ment income	Other income	RRSP income
	%				
Canada	71.7	19.1	5.5	2.5	1.3
Newfoundland	65.9	26.3	2.0	4.9	0.9
Prince Edward Island	65.3	26.8	3.8	3.0	1.2
Nova Scotia	66.1	25.0	4.1	3.5	1.2
New Brunswick	68.0	24.8	3.4	2.7	1.2
Quebec	70.8	20.6	4.9	2.6	1.1
Ontario	72.3	18.5	5.7	2.2	1.3
Manitoba	70.0	20.7	5.3	2.8	1.4
Saskatchewan	69.3	20.6	6.1	2.7	1.4
Alberta	75.4	14.3	5.9	2.9	1.4
British Columbia	71.9	17.9	6.5	2.4	1.3
Yukon	82.9	11.2	2.6	2.4	0.9
Northwest Territories	85.8	10.1	1.3	2.1	0.7

Note to readers

Neighbourhood income and demographics data for 1995 were obtained from income tax returns filed in the spring of 1996.

Total income includes employment income, investment income, transfer payments, RRSP income and other income. Employment income includes wages, salaries, commissions and self-employment income. Investment income includes dividend and interest income.

Transfer payments include benefits from private pensions, Unemployment Insurance, Old Age Security and net federal supplements, Canada and Quebec pension plan benefits, Child Tax Benefit, Quebec Family Allowance, GST credit, Workers' Compensation, Social Assistance and provincial refundable tax credits (for Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories).

Other income includes net rental income, alimony, income from a limited partnership, and other taxable income not mentioned above.

Nationally, transfer payments accounted for 19% of total income. The proportion of total income reported from transfer payments fell for all provinces except Alberta, where there was virtually no change.

Median total income rose in Saskatchewan (+2%), the Yukon (+2%) and Manitoba (+1%). More than 60% of taxfilers reported total income of less than \$25,000, while less than 2% claimed total income over \$100,000.

Yukon taxfilers still reported the nation's highest median income (\$23,900), followed by the Northwest Territories (\$22,800) and Ontario (\$20,900). Newfoundland had the lowest median total income at \$14,100.

For further information, contact Client Services (613-951-9720; fax: 613-951-4745; Internet: saadinfo@statcan.ca), Small Area and Administrative Data Division.

Homicide rate gradually decreasing

Canada's homicide rate increased by 6% in 1996, following four straight annual declines. Police reported 633 homicides, 45 more than in 1995. The homicide rate (2.11 homicides per 100,000 people) for 1996 was still well below the peak of (3.02 per 100,000) recorded in 1975. Since that year, the rate has gradually decreased despite annual fluctuations.

In 1996, 53 children under the age of 12 were killed (the same as in 1995), compared with an average of 56 each year since 1985. Of these 53 children, about three-quarters were killed by family members, and 18 of the victims were under 1 year of age. Fifty-one youths were charged with homicide, down from 68 in 1995.

Over the past decade, an average of 97 persons were killed by a spouse each year. Women represented three-quarters of these victims. In 1996, 80 persons were killed by either a current or former spouse—62 women and 18 men. In addition, 19 women were killed

by a boyfriend or ex-boyfriend. In all, about 4 in 10 female victims were killed by someone with whom they had an intimate relationship at some point in time. Males have consistently comprised the majority of homicide victims, as well as those accused of committing homicide. In 1996, 69% of homicide victims were male, as were 89% of accused.

Most provinces reported an increase in the number of homicides, particularly Manitoba, Quebec and Saskatchewan. Only Alberta and New Brunswick recorded decreases. In general, homicide rates continue to be highest in the western provinces. Manitoba recorded the highest rate, followed by British Columbia and Saskatchewan. Prince Edward Island, which reported one homicide, had the lowest rate, followed by New Brunswick and Newfoundland.

Among the nine largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs), Winnipeg recorded the highest homicide rate, followed by Vancouver and Edmonton. The lowest rates were observed in

(continued on page 6)

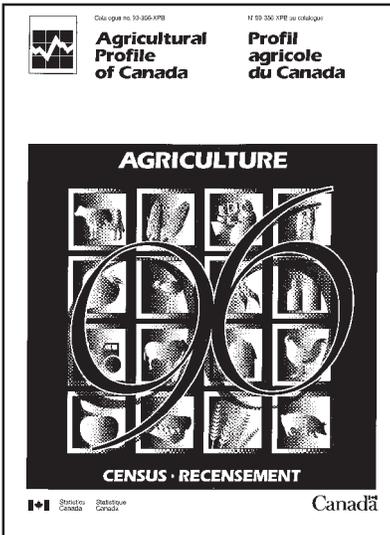
... Homicide rate gradually decreasing

Calgary and Hamilton. Montreal's rate (2.11 per 100,000) was its lowest since 1981, when data for CMAs was first collected. The homicide rate in Toronto, Canada's largest city, continued to be well below the national average.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 314-317 and 319 and tables 00160401 to 00160405.

*The bulletin **Juristat: Homicide in Canada**, Vol. 17, no. 9 (85-002-XPE, \$10/\$93), is now available. For further information, contact Information and Client Services (613-951-9023 or 1 800 387-2231), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.*

New from Statistics Canada



Agricultural profiles 1996 Census of Agriculture

The first publications from the 1996 Census of Agriculture are now available. The agricultural profile series consists of eight data publications: one for Canada, one for the Atlantic provinces and one for each of the other six provinces. The profiles provide the basic counts and totals for all 1996 Census of Agriculture farm variables. Variables include the number of census farms, crops areas, livestock and poultry inventories, land management practices, gross farm receipts, expenses, machinery and equipment inventories, and capital expenditures.

The Canada publication (93-356-XPB, \$39) presents all farm variables tabulated at the national and provincial levels. Also included are selected data for the Yukon and Northwest Territories. The seven remaining publications (95-175-XPB to 95-181-XPB, \$39 each) present all farm variables at the province, census agricultural region and census division levels.

To order these publications, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre or call our national order line (1 800 267-6677). For further information on this release, please contact the User Services Unit of the Census of Agriculture (1 800 465-1991; Internet: villros@statcan.ca.).

“Are Canadians more likely to lose their jobs in the 1990s?”

1978–1993

Now available is a report entitled “Are Canadians more likely to lose their jobs in the 1990s?” This study uses specially constructed data to examine job loss between 1978 and 1993, the latest year for which these data can be produced. Trends in hiring rates and self-employment are also discussed.

To obtain a copy of this Analytical studies branch research paper (No. 96), contact H el ene Lamadeleine (613-951-5231) or the paper can be downloaded from the Internet at www.statcan.ca. For further information on this report, contact Garnett Picot (613-951-8214), Business and Labour Market Analysis Division.

Seniors' income

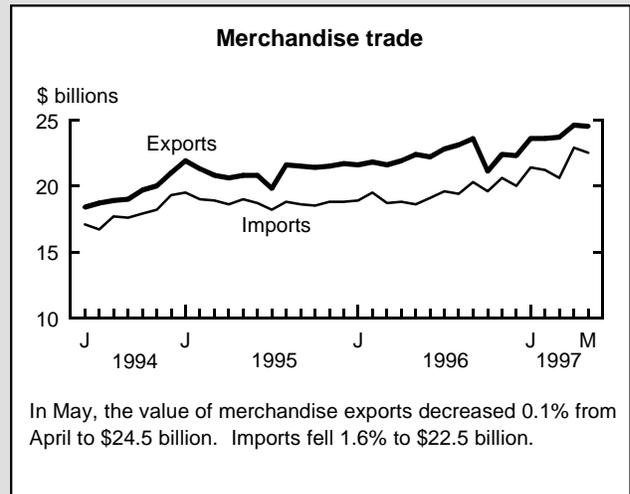
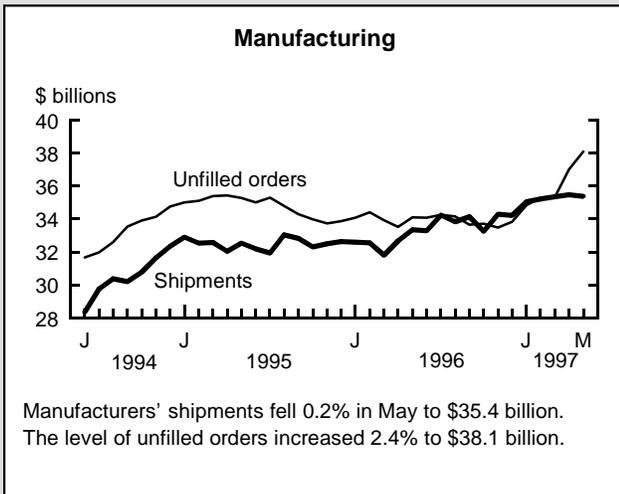
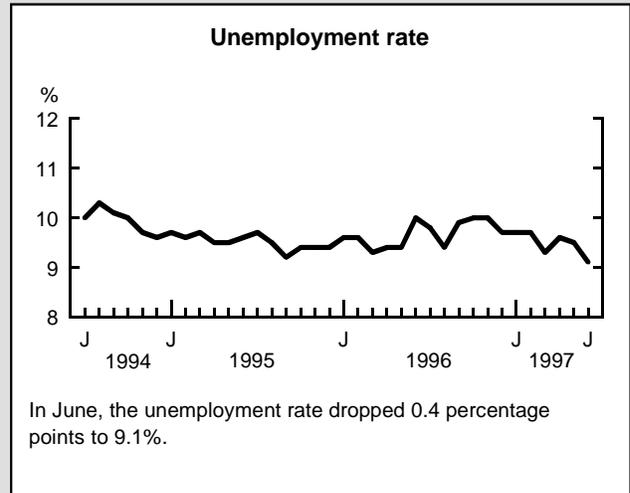
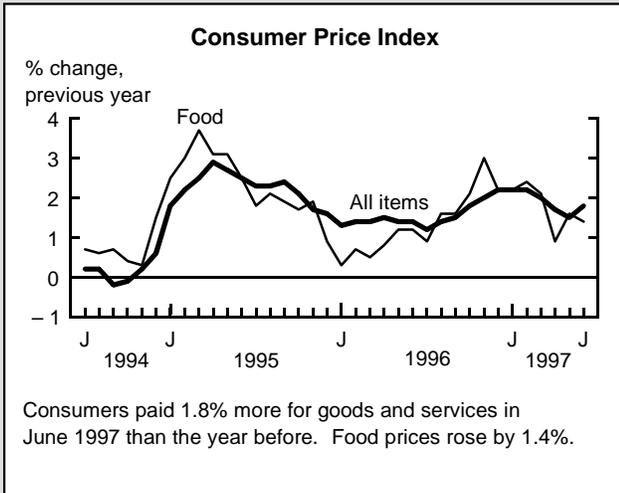
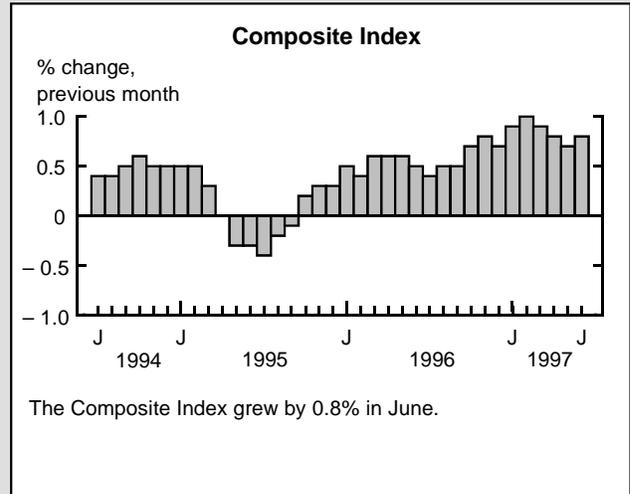
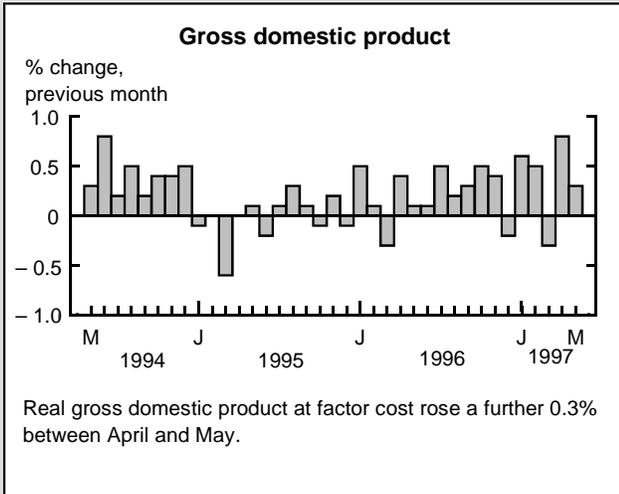
1995

Data derived from 1995 income tax returns filed in the spring of 1996 are an excellent source of income and demographic information on small areas, and are ideal for supporting market analyses and policy decisions.

The data are available by province and territory, city, town, census metropolitan area and census division, as well as by forward sortation area (first three characters of the postal code) and letter carrier walk (grouping of postal codes). Data are available for more than 26,000 postal areas.

For further information, contact Client Services (613-951-9720; fax: 613-951-4745; Internet: saadinfo@statcan.ca), Small Area and Administrative Data Division.

Current trends



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

Latest monthly statistics

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
GENERAL				
Gross domestic product (\$ billion, 1986)	May*	569.8	0.3%	4.0%
Composite Index (1981=100)	June	195.1	0.8%	9.6%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billion)	Q1 1997	25.5	3.3%	10.5%
Capacity utilization (%)	Q1 1997	85.0	0.6†	2.9†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade (\$ billion)	May	19.3	0.5%	7.6%
New motor vehicle sales (thousand of units)	May	114.9	1.8%	16.8%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	June	13.9	0.4%	2.4%
Unemployment rate (%)	June	9.1	-0.4†	-0.9†
Participation rate (%)	June	64.8	-0.1†	0.0†
Labour income (\$ billion)	May*	37.34	0.6%	4.7%
Average weekly earnings (\$)	May	604.56	0.8%	3.0%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports (\$ billion)	May	24.5	-0.1%	4.5%
Merchandise imports (\$ billion)	May	22.5	-1.6%	17.0%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billion)	May	2.0	0.3	-2.2
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	May	35.4	-0.2%	6.0%
New orders (\$ billion)	May	36.2	-2.4%	6.8%
Unfilled orders (\$ billion)	May	38.1	2.4%	11.7%
Inventory/shipments ratio	May	1.30	0.01	-0.05
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1986=100)	June	138.0	0.2%	1.8%
Industrial Product Price Index (1986=100)	June	130.4	-0.2%	1.0%
Raw Materials Price Index (1986=100)	June	134.2	-2.3%	-1.0%
New Housing Price Index (1986=100)	May	132.8	0.1%	1.0%

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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Publications released from August 1 to 7, 1997

Division/Title of publication	Period	Catalogue number	Price: Issue/Subscription	
			Canada (C\$)	Outside Canada (US\$)
AGRICULTURE				
Agricultural profile of Alberta	1996	95-180-XPB	39	39
Agricultural profile of British Columbia	1996	95-181-XPB	39	39
Agricultural profile of Canada	1996	93-356-XPB	39	39
Agricultural profile of Manitoba	1996	95-178-XPB	39	39
Agricultural profile of Ontario	1996	95-177-XPB	39	39
Agricultural profile of Quebec	1996	95-176-XPB	39	39
Agricultural profile of Saskatchewan	1996	95-179-XPB	39	39
Agricultural profile of the Atlantic provinces	1996	95-175-XPB	39	39
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS				
Canada's international transactions in securities	May 1997	67-002-XPB	18/176	18/176
Canada's balance of international payments	1926 to 1996 and Q1 1997	67-001-XPB	38/124	38/124
DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES				
Retail trade	May 1997	63-005-XPB	21/206	21/206
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Exports by commodity				
Microfiche version	May 1997	65-004-XMB	37/361	37/361
Paper version	May 1997	65-004-XPB	78/773	78/773
MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY				
Asphalt roofing	June 1997	45-001-XPB	7/62	7/62
Cement	June 1997	44-001-XPB	7/62	7/62
Coal and coke statistics	May 1997	45-002-XPB	12/114	12/114
Electric lamps (light bulbs and tubes)	June 1997	43-009-XPB	7/62	7/62
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