



Infomat

A Weekly Review

Friday, August 10, 2001

OVERVIEW

◆ **Value of building permits remains stable**

The value of building permits issued in June was virtually unchanged from May. However, the cumulative value for the first six months of 2001 reached the highest level in 12 years.

◆ **Manufacturers concerned but less pessimistic**

Concerned about the level of orders and finished-product inventory in July, manufacturers still expected some reduced production in the coming three months.

◆ **University revenue grows for third consecutive year**

After two decades of cutbacks, governments have increased their financial support to universities. For 1999/2000, universities reported a record revenue of \$14.9 billion.

◆ **Services industries grow faster than the goods sector**

Despite the growth slowdown in the first quarter of 2001, services output was 3.7% higher, in real terms, compared with the first quarter of 2000.

◆ **The Internet still gaining in popularity**

Canadian households are using the Internet in ever-greater numbers—not only for e-mail, but also to search for medical information, conduct banking transactions and find employment.

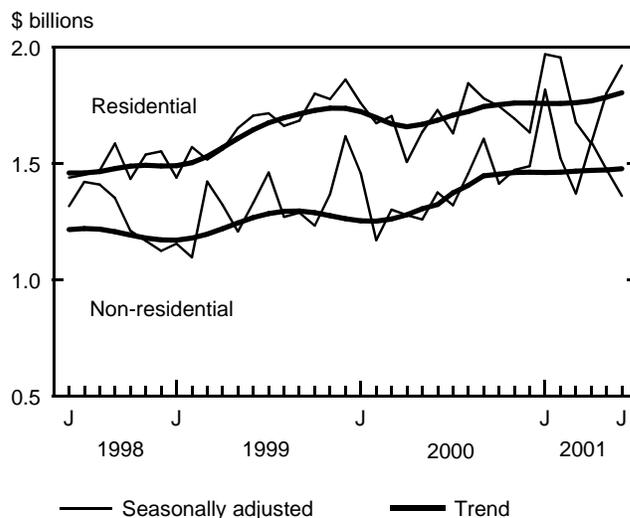
Value of building permits remains stable

The value of building permits issued by municipalities was virtually unchanged from May to June, rising 0.2% to \$3.3 billion. An increase in the residential sector was offset by a drop in the non-residential sector.

In the residential sector, construction intentions increased 6.5% in June to \$1.9 billion, fuelled by gains for both single- and multi-family dwellings. With tight vacancy rates for apartments in several major centres, the value of building permits for multi-family dwellings rose 13.9%, after climbing 36.3% in May. Permits for single-family dwellings rose 3.3%.

Several recent indicators have shown notable strength in the housing sector. Housing starts climbed 13.7% in June and, according to the Canadian Real Estate Association, sales of existing homes in Canada's 25 major markets set a record during the second quarter of 2001. As well, prices for new homes continued to rise at a sustained pace.

Value of building permits



(continued on page 2)



... Value of building permits remains stable

On the other hand, construction intentions in the non-residential sector fell 7.6% to \$1.4 billion in June, following a decline in May. Commercial projects declined 5.0%, after a sharp drop the month before. Industrial construction intentions dropped 22.2%, driven by a major reduction in building permits for plants. Institutional building intentions posted the smallest decline (-1.9%) among the three components.

From January to June, municipalities issued \$20.1 billion in building permits, up 12.4% over the same period in 2000. This was the highest level for the first half of any year since 1989. Gains were strong in both the residential and non-residential sectors.

Housing permits reached a record high of \$10.9 billion in the first six months of 2001, up 9.1% from the same period in 2000. This record total resulted mainly from a 24.0% increase in projects for multifamily dwellings. This rate of growth was more than six times the 3.8% increase in building permits for single-family housing.

In the non-residential sector, construction intentions totalled \$9.1 billion, up 16.6% from the same period in 2000. Commercial construction projects contributed the most to this increase, followed by industrial and institutional projects. Low interest rates, good corporate profits in 2000 and higher proposed construction spending by municipalities in 2001 are consistent with the strong increase in the cumulative value of non-residential permits in the first half of the year.

Among census metropolitan areas, the largest growth in dollar terms for the period from January to June was in Montreal, owing largely to projects for office buildings and plants. Toronto recorded the next biggest gain, mainly on the strength of construction intentions for multi-family dwellings.

The June 2001 issue of **Building permits** (Internet: 64-001-XIE, \$14/\$145) is now available. To obtain data, contact Vere Clarke

Value of building permits by census metropolitan area Seasonally adjusted

	June 2001	May to June 2001	January to June 2001	January- June 2000 to January- June 2001
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
St. John's	17.9	-24.4	89.5	9.2
Halifax	31.6	-41.5	172.4	-41.5
Saint John	5.9	-27.4	38.1	-14.2
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	13.0	10.9	98.4	25.4
Québec	64.0	5.9	347.8	21.9
Sherbrooke	7.8	-42.3	66.9	23.9
Trois-Rivières	12.3	-36.6	60.1	28.6
Montréal	346.5	-5.6	2,297.4	50.7
Hull	24.5	-13.5	201.8	71.2
Ottawa	124.2	1.1	751.1	17.2
Oshawa	78.4	61.3	273.9	-25.2
Toronto	668.0	27.5	4,358.8	10.5
Hamilton	76.6	22.8	429.1	19.3
St. Catharines-Niagara	29.2	-4.3	185.8	6.7
Kitchener	73.8	-13.0	427.2	13.4
London	82.0	-18.5	412.4	66.0
Windsor	59.2	103.2	259.8	8.8
Sudbury	7.5	-2.3	35.7	2.1
Thunder Bay	9.4	-0.8	48.8	-10.0
Winnipeg	44.1	10.5	224.0	-16.6
Regina	16.7	19.0	122.5	37.7
Saskatoon	8.8	-72.3	135.6	-12.7
Calgary	180.2	-15.2	1,101.0	-10.3
Edmonton	90.2	-20.0	638.0	4.6
Vancouver	243.4	-13.8	1,653.5	23.0
Victoria	27.4	32.3	167.8	15.1

(613-951-6556; clarver@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Valérie Gaudreault (613-951-1165; gaudval@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

Manufacturers concerned but less pessimistic

In July, manufacturers still expected some production reduction in the coming three months, but they were less pessimistic than in the second quarter of 2001. Manufacturers were also concerned about the level of orders and finished-product inventory.

More than half of manufacturers (54%) said their production levels would remain constant during the third quarter. Eighteen percent said they would increase production during the next three months. However, with 28% of manufacturers stating they would decrease production, the balance of opinion stood at -10. (The balance of opinion of -10 was determined by subtracting the 28% of manufacturers who stated that production prospects for the coming three months would be lower from the 18% who said that prospects would be higher.) This balance is up from -13 in April and a marked improvement from -25 in January. Producers in the transportation equipment, wood and paper industries were the major contributors to the negative balance of opinion.

Note to readers

Data are seasonally adjusted, except for the data on production difficulties.

In July, 39% of manufacturers said their unfilled orders were lower than normal; only 6% said unfilled orders were higher than normal. Thus, the balance of opinion about the current level of unfilled orders was -33 in July, unchanged from the April survey. Producers in the transportation equipment, primary metals and paper industries showed the most concern about unfilled orders.

In July, 43% of manufacturers were concerned about declining orders, a 9-point rise from April. The balance of opinion on the current level of orders received dropped to -36. This was the lowest balance of opinion since April 1991 (-40). Again, manufacturers in the transportation equipment, primary metals and paper industries indicated the greatest level of concern about orders received.

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... Manufacturers concerned but less pessimistic

The balance of opinion about the current level of finished product inventory fell 12 points in July to -28. The Monthly Survey of Manufacturing results for May show finished product inventories at almost \$20.2 billion, an increase of more than \$1.5 billion from May 2000. Since early 1999, manufacturers' finished-product inventories demonstrated an upward trend.

Employment prospects in the manufacturing industry also remained uncertain, even though the balance of opinion for employment prospects for the next quarter improved slightly, from -10 in April to -7 in July. While 83% of manufacturers said they would keep or add to their work force, 17% expected to

decrease employment in the coming quarter. The transportation equipment, primary metals and electronic products industries were the major contributors to the decreasing balance. The June Labour Force Survey reported employment in manufacturing shrank 53,000 in the first six months of 2001.

In July, 81% of manufacturers reported little in the way of production impediments, down 1 point from April. A shortage of skilled labour continued to be a concern for 7% of manufacturers and 3% reported a shortage of unskilled labour.

For more information, contact Claude Robillard (613-951-3507; robilcg@statcan.ca) or dial toll free 1-866-873-8789, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Manufacturers' expectations and business conditions

Seasonally adjusted

	July 2000	October 2000	January 2001	April 2001	July 2001
% of manufacturers who said					
Volume of production in next three months will be:					
About the same as in previous three months	62	65	43	59	54
Higher	25	19	16	14	18
Lower	13	16	41	27	28
Orders received are:					
About the same	71	70	42	50	50
Rising	17	12	13	12	7
Declining	12	18	45	34	43
Backlog of unfilled orders is:					
About normal	78	71	55	55	55
Higher than normal	10	8	10	6	6
Lower than normal	12	21	35	39	39
Finished-product inventory is:					
About right	82	80	66	74	68
Too low	2	3	3	5	2
Too high	16	17	31	21	30
Employment in next three months will:					
Change little from previous three months	74	71	65	72	73
Increase	16	17	17	9	10
Decrease	10	12	18	19	17

University revenue grows for third consecutive year

Universities reported a record revenue of \$14.9 billion in 1999/2000, up 15.7% from 1998/99. University revenue increased for the third consecutive academic year, as the three levels of government injected almost \$1.1 billion more than in 1998/99.

At the same time, students paid \$256 million more in tuition and related fees, while alumni and other donors came up with almost \$156 million more in bequests, donations and non-government grants and contracts.

Despite a 15.1% increase, grants and contracts from the federal, provincial and municipal governments accounted for 55% of total university revenue, the same proportion as in 1998/99. Student fees accounted for 19%, compared with 20% in 1998/99. These proportions were little changed because of large increases in other sources of revenue. These included the sale of services and products, which climbed 25.6%, and investment revenue, which rose 22.9%.

While direct federal funding rose for the second consecutive year—reaching just over \$1.3 billion in 1999/2000—the largest increase in public funding for universities came primarily from the provinces. Provincial governments contributed almost

(continued on page 4)

... University revenue grows for third consecutive year

\$6.8 billion in 1999/2000, up 13.5% from 1998/99. This funding was allocated to capital spending and to expanding the capacity for future growth in student enrolment and faculty.

Students continued to pay higher fees. Revenue from student fees rose 9.8% in 1999/2000, on the heels of a 7.9% increase in 1998/99. Provincially, it was in Nova Scotia and Ontario that student fees accounted for the highest proportion of university revenue (26% and 24% respectively). On the other hand, Quebec universities received the highest proportion of revenue from government grants and contracts (65%). In Quebec, student fees represented only 12% of total university revenue—the lowest among the provinces.

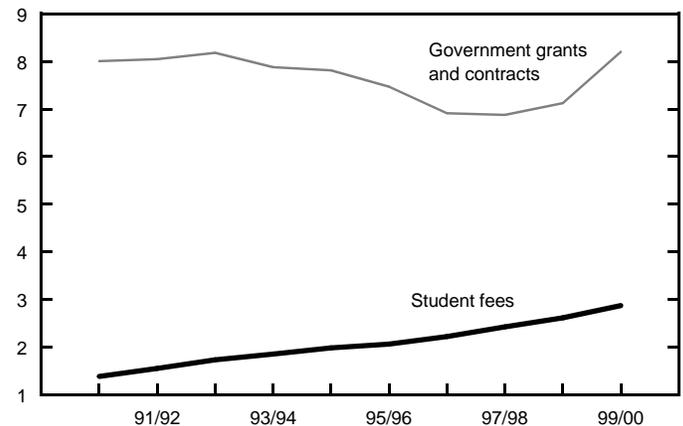
Nationally, tuition fees for credit courses represented 84% of student fees. However, revenue from ancillary charges (such as athletic and student association fees) also helped to fill university coffers. This revenue increased 18.3%, or nearly double the 9.8% increase in tuition fee revenues during 1999/2000.

Universities spent \$14.2 billion in 1999/2000, up 11.7% from 1998/99. Spending on salaries and benefits rose 5.0% to \$8.3 billion. However, salaries and benefits accounted for 58% of total spending, down from about 65% in 1994-95.

During the 1990s, universities increased their spending on scholarships and bursaries. This spending reached nearly \$469 million in 1999/2000, up 23.9% from 1998-99 and almost double the spending in 1994/95. Universities in Newfoundland,

University revenues from student fees and government contributions

\$ billions (constant 1999/2000 dollars)



Ontario and Alberta allocated more than the national average share of spending (3.3%) to scholarships and bursaries.

For more information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; educationstats@statcan.ca), Centre for Education Statistics.

Services industries grow faster than the goods sector

Compared with the first quarter of 2000, services output was 3.7% higher in real terms. The rise in services output exceeded the year-over-year growth rate of 0.3% in the goods sector. Output in services has expanded more rapidly than goods output for three consecutive quarters. As a result, the services industries now generate 67.9% of Canada's gross domestic product (GDP)—the highest proportion in more than eight years.

GDP for the services industries rose 0.7% in real terms in the first quarter of 2001 compared with the fourth quarter of 2000—the lowest quarterly growth rate in nearly three years. Among the services industries, growth was strongest for telecommunication carriers and other telecommunication services providers (+3.1%), and insurance and real estate agents (+3.0%). These gains were partly offset by declines in accommodation services (-1.8%) and radio and television broadcasting (-0.9%).

Rapid growth in consumer spending contributed to the expansion in services. From the fourth quarter of 2000 to the first quarter of 2001, personal expenditures on services climbed 1.2%, even though the Consumer Price Index for services rose only 0.4%. In particular, consumer spending on transportation services and communications services rose rapidly.

Also driving the services expansion was a 1.8% increase in Canada's exports of services. This occurred partly because travel receipts from abroad climbed 4.1%, owing mainly to growth in the number of U.S. visitors. This was the second straight quarter

Key services indicators, first quarter 2001

	Growth since fourth quarter 2000	Growth since first quarter 2000
	%	
Gross domestic product (real)	0.7	3.7
Consumer spending	1.2	5.6
Prices	0.4	2.7
Exports	1.8	3.8
Imports	0.8	3.8
Employment	1.1	2.1

in which Canada's services imports grew less rapidly than its services exports. As a result, the nation's trade deficit in services narrowed further to \$1.5 billion. In comparison, during each quarter of 1997 the trade deficit in services exceeded \$2.0 billion.

As for employment, some 225,200 services jobs had been created, a 2.1% increase since the first quarter of 2000. However, employment in the goods industries was virtually unchanged. Most of the services jobs created in the past 12 months were in retail trade (+84,700), telecommunications services (+29,400) and health care and social assistance (+26,000). These gains were partly offset by losses in educational services (-31,000) and wholesale trade (-22,600). While total services employment expanded, self-employment in services shrank 6.3%. As a result, the self-employed comprise only 15% of the services work force, the lowest proportion in over four years.

(continued on page 5)

... Services industries grow faster than the goods sector

However, the services industries shed 117,800 jobs in the first quarter, a 1.1% decline from the fourth quarter of 2000, and the highest quarterly job loss rate for services in more than four years. First quarter job losses in services are the norm because of downturns owing to winter weather. However, the first quarter's 1.1% drop was nearly double the 0.6% average employment

declines in the first quarters of 1996 through 2000. Employment in the goods sector was hit harder, declining 4.3%.

For more information, consult *Services indicators* (Internet: 63-016-XIB, \$26/\$87; paper: 63-016-XPB, \$35/\$116), or contact Don Little (613-951-6739; littidon@statcan.ca), Services Industries Division.

The Internet still gaining in popularity

Contrary to speculation that the Internet was losing its appeal, the use of this tool grew substantially in 2000. Thus, 51% of Canadian households had at least one member who was a regular Internet user from one location or another (at home, at work, at school or in a public library, for example). This was a record advance from 42% in 1999.

Among respondents to the Household Internet Use Survey, 40% stated that home was the place from which they surfed the World Wide Web most frequently, compared with 29% in 1999. Next came the workplace (28%) and school (20%). In 2000, 71% of households regularly accessing the Internet from home had at least one person who did so a minimum of seven times a week, compared with 65% in 1999. Similarly, 61% of households had a member who spent 20 hours or more a month on the Internet; in 1999, 47% of households had a member who was doing so.

The vast majority of households regularly accessing the Internet from home generally used it for e-mail and browsing the Web. About 57% of households used the Internet to find medical and health-related information, about 37% did so for electronic banking, and about 31% to find employment.

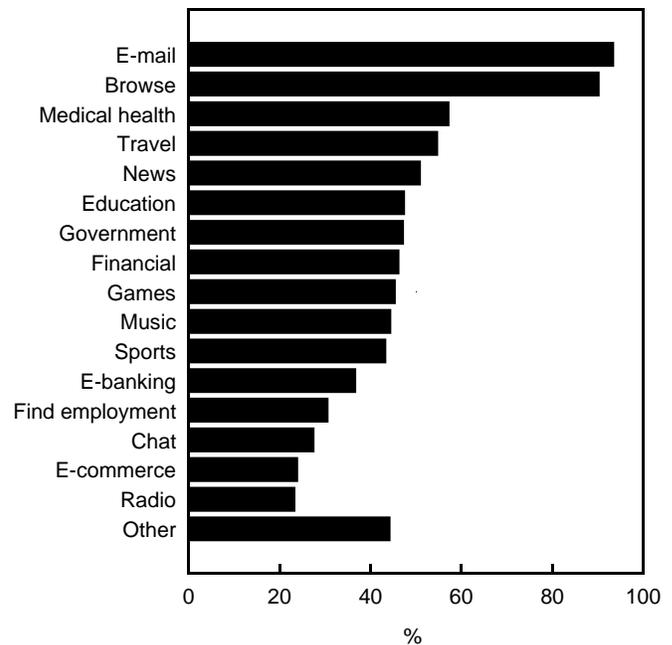
While the Internet penetration rate increased in all provinces, Alberta had the highest proportion in both 2000 and 1999. Almost 59% of households in that province accessed the Internet from any location in 2000, up from 51% in 1999. On the other hand, Quebec had the lowest proportion of users, with 44% of households accessing the Internet from any location in 2000. However, that was an improvement—compared with 33% in 1999—and it showed the biggest growth of any province.

The number of households connected by cable line to the Internet increased by 155% in 2000 compared with 1999. The number of households connected by telephone grew by 29%. Nonetheless, the majority of households (78%) were connected by telephone and the rest by cable.

Higher-income households and households whose members had higher levels of education were more likely to use the Internet. However, households with annual household incomes less than \$36,000 posted a higher growth rate (+41%) for Internet use from any location than for those with incomes greater than \$36,000 (+18%).

Internet penetration increased for all age groups and family types, although Internet use among seniors was still lower than among younger households. Access rates are particularly high among households with children because many of these children

Internet sites accessed by regular users from home, 2000



access the Internet from school. But this does not imply that children are the only cause of differences in access rates from home. Education level, income and use of the Internet for work-related activities are all factors that may help explain these differences.

Privacy remains a major concern for almost 60% of households. However, 40% of respondents reported in 2000 that they had no concerns about privacy, compared with 33% in 1999. Also, more than two-thirds of respondents reporting that they used the Internet at home stated that they were concerned about the risk that some Internet content would be viewed by household members under the age of 18. More than three-quarters of these households cited pornography as an example. Chatting with strangers and violence were also mentioned as concerns.

To learn more, visit Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the Our products and services page, choose Free publications, then Communications, then Internet use in Canada, then Table of contents, then Charts and Graphs. For more information, contact Jonathan Ellison (613-951-5882, jonathan.ellison@statscan.ca), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division.

New from Statistics Canada

A profile of criminal victimization

1999

The report *A profile of criminal victimization: results of the 1999 General Social Survey* provides an in-depth analysis of the findings of the 1999 General Social Survey on victimization. It expands on an overview released earlier in two *Juristats: Criminal Victimization in Canada, 1999*, released in November 2000, and *Public Attitudes toward the Criminal Justice System*, released in December 2000.

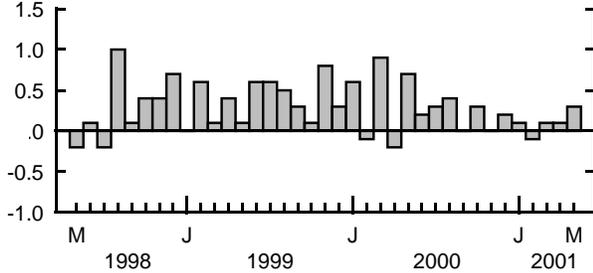
The report examines five themes: risks of violent victimization, risks of household victimization, urban and rural victimization, victims' use of justice and social services, and perceptions and fear of crime.

*The report **A profile of criminal victimization: results of the 1999 General Social Survey** (Internet: 85-553-XIE, \$26) 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

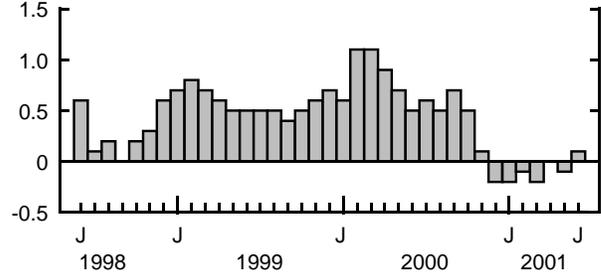
% change, previous month



Total economic activity advanced 0.3% in May, the strongest showing in seven months.

Composite Index

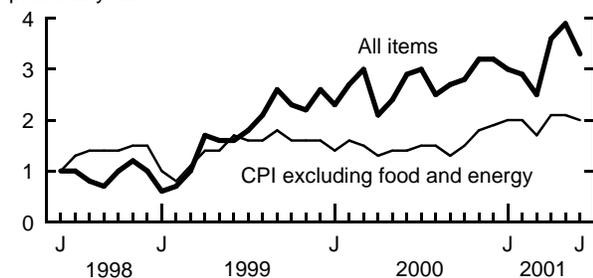
% change, previous month



In June, the leading indicator edged up 0.1% following continued strength in housing and an upturn in the U.S. leading index.

Consumer Price Index

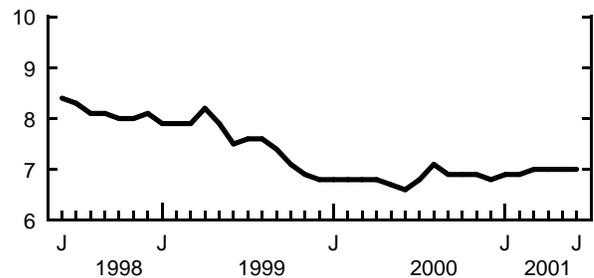
% change, previous year



Consumer prices for goods and services were 3.3% higher in June than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 2.0%.

Unemployment rate

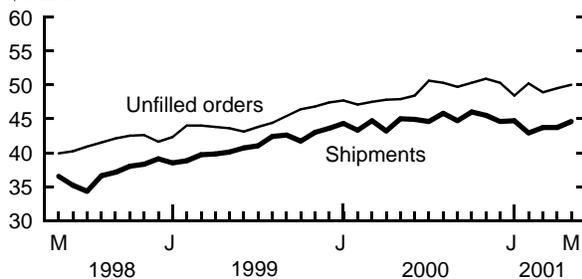
%



In June, the unemployment rate held at 7.0% for the fourth consecutive month.

Manufacturing

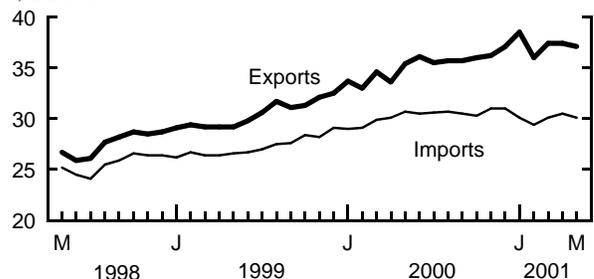
\$ billions



Manufacturers' shipments increased 2.1% in May to \$44.6 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders posted a 1.0% increase to \$50.0 billion.

Merchandise trade

\$ billions



In May, the value of merchandise exports declined 0.9% to \$37.1 billion. Imports decreased 1.4% to \$30.1 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, 1992)	May	798.8	0.3%	1.7%
Composite Index (1992=100)	June	166.3	0.1%	1.8%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billions)	Q1 2001	44.9	-6.9%	-9.7%
Capacity utilization rate (%)	Q1 2001	84.1	-1.0†	1.5†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade (\$ billions)	May	24.3	0.2%	6.2%
Department store sales (\$ billions)	June	1.65	0.6%	7.6%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	May	131.5	-2.1%	0.3%
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	May	32.7	1.8%	2.4%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	June	15.10	-0.1%	1.4%
Unemployment rate (%)	June	7.0	0.0†	0.4†
Participation rate (%)	June	66.0	-0.1†	0.3†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	May	662.05	0.4%	1.4%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	July*	155	-3.7%	-10.9%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports (\$ billions)	May	37.1	-0.9%	4.9%
Merchandise imports (\$ billions)	May	30.1	-1.4%	-1.8%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billions)	May	7.0	0.1	2.3
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billions)	May	44.6	2.1%	-0.9%
New orders (\$ billions)	May	45.1	1.8%	0.1%
Unfilled orders (\$ billions)	May	50.0	1.0%	4.6%
Inventory/shipments ratio	May	1.47	-0.02	0.10
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	June	117.5	0.1%	3.3%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	June	129.8	-0.9%	1.7%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	June	142.4	-1.6%	-1.9%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	May	105.7	0.2%	2.6%

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

* new this week

† percentage point

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Published by the Official Release Unit, Communications Division,
Statistics Canada, 10th floor, R.H. Coats Bldg., Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6.

Price per issue: paper, \$4; online at www.statcan.ca, \$3. Annual subscription:
paper, \$145; online, \$109. All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude
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Products released from August 2 to 8, 2001

SUBJECT AREA Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price (\$) (issue/subscription)
AGRICULTURE			
Cereals and oilseeds review	May 2001	22-007-XIB	11/112
Cereals and oilseeds review	May 2001	22-007-XPB	15/149
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL FLOWS			
Canada's international transactions in securities	May 2001	67-002-XPB	18/176
CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS			
A profile of criminal victimization: Results of the 1999 General Social Survey	1999	85-553-XIE	26
HOUSING, FAMILY AND SOCIAL STATISTICS			
General Social Survey cycle 13 overview: personal safety and perceptions of policing	1999	85-554-XIE	no charge
INDUSTRY MEASURES AND ANALYSIS			
Gross domestic product by industry	May 2001	15-001-XIE	11/110
INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK			
Building permits	June 2001	64-001-XIE	14/145
LABOUR STATISTICS			
Employment, earnings and hours	May 2001	72-002-XIB	24/240
MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY			
Coal and coke statistics	May 2001	45-002-XIB	9/85
Electric power statistics	May 2001	57-001-XIB	9/85
Energy statistics handbook	June 2001	57-601-XCB	284
Energy statistics handbook	June 2001	57-601-UPB	387
Natural gas transportation and distribution	April 2001	55-002-XIB	13/125
Production and disposition of tobacco products	June 2001	32-022-XIB	5/47
Refined petroleum products	March 2001	45-004-XIB	16/155
Refined petroleum products	March 2001	45-004-XPB	21/206
SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND ELECTRONIC INFORMATION			
Broadcasting and telecommunications service bulletin	August 2001	56-001-XIE	10/32

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