



# Infomat

*A Weekly Review*

Friday, August 16, 2002

## INSIDE

### ◆ Commercial, institutional projects boost value of building permits

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### ◆ New motor vehicle sales stabilize at high level

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### ◆ Consumers flock back to department stores

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### ◆ Education and income have greater influence on health

The region in which an individual lives has only a modest influence on health. In contrast, individual factors, such as education, income and health-related risk factors, such as obesity, play a larger role, accounting for much of the variation from one health region to another.

## Unemployment rate edges up as more people search for work

**D**espite a gain of 23,000 in employment in July, the unemployment rate edged up 0.1 percentage points to 7.6% due to an increase in the number of people looking for work.

Since October 2001, the labour force participation rate has jumped a full percentage point to 66.8%, the largest 10-month increase since 1984. In contrast, the U.S. participation rate has fallen and is now lower than the Canadian rate for the first time in over ten years.

All of July's employment increase in Canada was in full-time work. Since the labour market turned around in January, employment has surged 326,000 for an average monthly gain of 47,000. This is in sharp contrast to employment in the United States, which has been flat for the last five months.

Manufacturing employment rose 14,000 in July. Since the start of the year, Manufacturing employment has increased by 128,000 (+5.8%), accounting for over a third of the total employment increase.

*(continued on page 2)*

### Labour Force Survey, July 2002

Seasonally adjusted<sup>1</sup>

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	rate (%)
<b>Canada</b>	<b>16,685.5</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>15,416.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>1,268.8</b>	<b>7.6</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	255.0	-1.7	216.7	-0.8	38.3	15.0
Prince Edward Island	75.8	0.0	66.4	-0.3	9.4	12.4
Nova Scotia	470.5	-0.5	423.6	-1.2	47.0	10.0
New Brunswick	383.5	0.6	343.4	-0.4	40.1	10.5
Quebec	3,941.3	0.1	3,599.6	-0.4	341.8	8.7
Ontario	6,511.4	0.3	6,043.2	0.1	468.2	7.2
Manitoba	598.3	0.2	568.4	0.1	30.0	5.0
Saskatchewan	506.2	-0.5	479.4	-0.5	26.8	5.3
Alberta	1,781.2	1.0	1,691.3	1.6	89.9	5.0
British Columbia	2,162.3	0.2	1,984.8	0.8	177.5	8.2

<sup>1</sup> Data are for both sexes aged 15 and over.



### Unemployment rate edges up... (continued from page 1)

Although unchanged in July, construction employment was up 33,000 (+3.9%) so far in 2002, consistent with robust demand for new housing.

Jobs in health care and social assistance continued to rise, with an increase of 35,000. This brings gains since March to 69,000 (+4.5%), mostly in hospitals. July's increase occurred mainly in Quebec, Ontario and Alberta.

Transportation and warehousing added 20,000 jobs in July, bringing gains since March to 38,000 (+5.2%). These recent increases, mainly in sightseeing and air transportation, brought employment in the industry to slightly below the level of July 2001.

Employment gains were spread among men, women and youths. A large gain in full-time employment among adult men (+33,000) was partly offset by a decline in part-time jobs (-23,000). Summer job opportunities for students in July were better than a year ago. The proportion of students with a summer job rose 1.1 percentage points to 58.4%, the highest employment rate in ten years.

On the provincial level, employment rose 26,000 in Alberta, continuing a long-term upward trend. The increase in July was spread among a number of industries, with the largest gains in health care and social assistance, finance, insurance, real estate and leasing, as well as natural resources.

Employment in British Columbia gained 16,000, with the largest increase in transportation and warehousing.

In Ontario, employment was little changed, as an increase of 28,000 full-time jobs was partly offset by a decline of 21,000 part-time jobs. However, manufacturing employment continued to increase (+19,000), bringing total gains since the start of the year to 72,000. All of the employment gains in the first seven months of the year have been in full-time jobs. July's growth was in computer and electronic products, plastics and rubber products as well as food manufacturing.

However, employment declined slightly in Quebec (-15,000), after six consecutive monthly increases totalling 128,000. Losses in July were mainly in the retail and wholesale trade industry and among youths. Employment also declined in Nova Scotia, pushing the unemployment rate up 0.6 percentage points to 10.0%. Employment changed little in the other provinces.

**Labour force information** is now available for the week ending July 20 (Internet: 71-001-PIB, \$8/\$78; paper: 71-001-PPB, \$11/\$103). For general information, contact Client Services (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325) or Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750), Labour Statistics Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 6.)

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## Employment dynamics

*Employment dynamics* is a compilation of statistical tables on annual employment, payroll and the number of businesses with employees, for Canada, the provinces and territories.

Primarily, the tables are used to analyse how businesses in different size categories contribute to employment change, showing the number of jobs created by new or growing businesses and the number of jobs lost due to businesses that close or reduce their overall employment levels.

The tables also provide annual estimates of business entry and exit (for employer businesses only).

The CD-ROM *Employment dynamics, 1983 to 1999* (61F0020XCB, \$500) is now available. For more information, contact Daisy Locke (613-951-0583; daisy.locke@statcan.ca), Small Business and Special Surveys Division.

## Commercial, institutional projects boost value of building permits

The value of building permits increased in June, thanks to a surge in proposed commercial and institutional projects. However, housing construction intentions fell for the second straight month.

Municipalities issued just over \$3.8 billion in building permits, up 4.6% from May. Builders took out \$1.6 billion in non-residential building permits in June, the highest level in 11 months.

In contrast, the value of residential building permits slid 3.5% to \$2.3 billion, the second consecutive monthly decline. Even so, the housing market has been so hot this year that the value of residential permits in June was 24.0% higher than the average monthly level in 2001.

On a year-to-date basis, the total value of building permits for the first six months of 2002 reached \$22.6 billion, a robust 14.2% advance from the first half of 2001. This was entirely the result of the overwhelming demand for new dwellings.

The value of multi-family permits dropped 14.2% to \$575 million in June, the second consecutive monthly decline since the record level in April. Permits for single-family dwellings increased 0.7% to \$1.7 billion.

Despite June's decline, construction intentions in the housing sector remained high. Low mortgage rates, the scarcity of vacant dwellings and strong employment numbers all contributed to a feverish pace in housing construction intentions. So far this year, 106,600 new dwellings units have been authorized, the highest level since 1989 for the period from January to June.

The 19.1% gain in non-residential permits in June was fuelled by a strong demand in the commercial and institutional components. Industrial permits also contributed to the strong showing, but to a lesser extent.

Builders took out \$800 million in permits for commercial projects, up 22.5% from May, the third monthly gain during the past four months. Hotel and recreational projects in St. Catharines-Niagara were mainly responsible for this advance.

Institutional permits have recorded two solid months of growth. In June, they moved up 23.3% to \$509 million, following a 54.1% surge in May. Most of the upswing came from educational projects.

The industrial sector improved a slight 3.2% to \$253 million, in the wake of large projects for utility buildings. Despite the rise, June's level was 15.5% lower than the average monthly level in 2001.

Low interest rates, combined with a recovery in corporate profits for the first quarter of 2002, may have a positive impact on

### Value of building permits by census metropolitan area Seasonally adjusted

	June 2002 <sup>p</sup>	May to June 2002	January to June 2002	January- June 2001 to January- June 2002
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
St. John's	23.0	-1.1	124.2	42.5
Halifax	46.9	50.4	223.0	40.3
Saint John	7.1	-4.8	43.5	13.6
Chicoutimi- Jonquière	38.6	234.8	89.0	-9.4
Québec	47.0	-37.1	328.8	-14.0
Sherbrooke	20.3	15.2	117.7	68.3
Trois-Rivières	14.2	108.7	72.9	23.7
Montréal	359.2	6.8	2,229.7	3.8
Hull	57.6	64.6	227.1	24.0
Ottawa	127.3	-32.4	812.9	-1.0
Kingston	17.8	-67.0	149.3	52.0
Oshawa	52.7	-20.6	316.5	14.6
Toronto	701.8	-7.8	4,386.7	3.5
Hamilton	63.4	-24.1	539.6	28.2
St. Catharines-Niagara	170.5	604.7	417.3	128.1
Kitchener	95.3	5.5	520.7	24.2
London	54.7	-15.6	335.3	-18.5
Windsor	83.6	58.8	386.8	61.5
Sudbury	25.5	-5.4	78.5	112.5
Thunder Bay	28.1	360.9	117.4	141.6
Winnipeg	36.7	-3.3	225.4	2.0
Regina	12.3	-6.7	71.6	-35.5
Saskatoon	27.7	51.2	160.0	25.9
Calgary	229.0	4.4	1,346.9	24.3
Edmonton	126.5	22.0	786.4	27.3
Abbotsford	11.6	2.5	78.6	-0.9
Vancouver	312.9	28.7	1,743.2	6.7
Victoria	37.2	-8.6	231.4	41.4

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary data.

the non-residential sector. However, increasing vacancy rates for both office and industrial buildings in several major centres could offset this impact.

Two consecutive increases in May and June were not sufficient to bring up the year-to-date value of non-residential permits to what it was a year ago: there is still a 9.4% gap with the level for the first six months of 2001.

*The June 2002 issue of **Building permits** (Internet: 64-001-XIE, \$14/\$145) is now available. For general information, contact Vere Clarke (613-951-6556; 1-800-579-8533; clarver@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; saineti@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division.*

## New motor vehicle sales stabilize at high level

The number of new motor vehicles sold in June fell 2.0% to 142,715 units following a 2.2% gain in May. Despite lower sales, new motor vehicles sales have stabilized at a very high level. At least 140,000 new vehicles have been sold each month since November 2001.

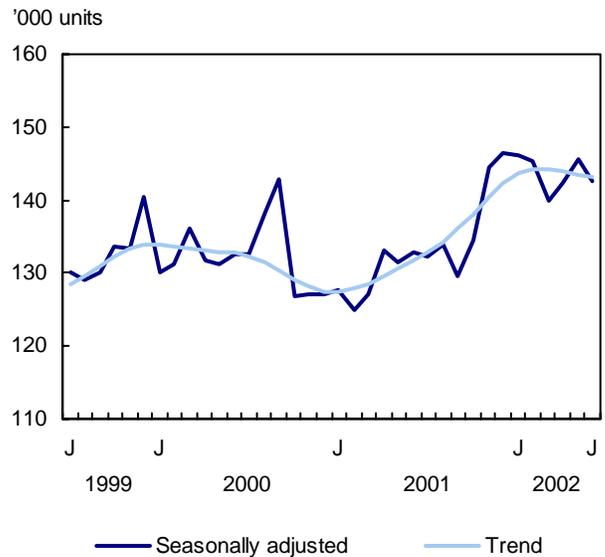
Despite incentives reintroduced in June by some major manufacturers wishing to clear out remaining inventories of 2002 model-year vehicles, sales were down for both new cars and trucks.

A total of 77,147 new passenger cars were sold, down 1.6% from May. This followed two successive sales increases. North American-built cars were entirely responsible for this decline. Their sales were down 2.6% from May, whereas sales of overseas-built cars advanced 0.7%, a third consecutive increase.

Sales of new trucks fell 2.5% to 65,569 vehicles. This decline followed two consecutive increases in May (+3.7%) and April (+2.9%) and a steep drop in March (-6.8%).

New motor vehicle sales declined in all but three provinces. Alberta (+3.1%) posted the strongest advance, whereas, Newfoundland and Labrador posted a 1.0% increase. The region formed by British Columbia and the three territories recorded sales that were unchanged from the previous month.

### New motor vehicle sales



The June 2002 issue of *New motor vehicle sales* (Internet: 63-007-XIB, \$13/\$124) is now available. For more information, contact Clérance Kimanyi (613-951-6363; [clerance.kimanyi@statcan.ca](mailto:clerance.kimanyi@statcan.ca)), Distributive Trades Division.

## Consumers flock back to department stores

Consumers flocked back to the department stores in June, following May's unenthusiastic spending. Sales jumped to \$1.78 billion, up 3.0% from May.

This increase more than offset May's decline and brought department store sales back to January's level.

Hot weather may have encouraged consumers to make seasonal purchases, some of which might have been postponed from the previous month.

Since the beginning of 2002, department store sales have been fluctuating from month to month around an average of \$1.76 billion. Before that, sales had been moving upward since the spring of 2000.

In June, department store sales were up 8.4% from June 2001. Sales advanced in every province. Double-digit increases were reported in Alberta and Quebec. Year-over-year advances of at least 6.0% were recorded in every other province except New Brunswick.

For more information, contact Clérance Kimanyi (613-951-6363; [clerance.kimanyi@statcan.ca](mailto:clerance.kimanyi@statcan.ca)), Distributive Trades Division.

### Department store sales

Not seasonally adjusted

	June 2002	June 2001 to June 2002	January to June 2002	January-June 2001 to January-June 2002
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>1,745.1</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>8,945.1</b>	<b>8.3</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island	39.7	8.1	201.4	14.5
Nova Scotia	50.9	9.7	262.8	14.4
New Brunswick	37.5	2.6	193.9	6.4
Quebec	328.4	10.3	1,689.9	11.2
Ontario	743.7	7.3	3,774.1	7.2
Manitoba	70.5	7.0	358.9	5.5
Saskatchewan	63.0	9.0	317.3	6.8
Alberta	215.5	12.3	1,107.8	8.9
British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut <sup>1</sup>	195.9	6.5	1,038.9	6.0

<sup>1</sup> For reasons of confidentiality, data for Newfoundland and Labrador and for Prince Edward Island are combined, as are data for British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

## Education and income have greater influence on health

The region in which an individual lives has only a modest influence on health, according to data from the 2000/01 Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS).

In contrast, individual factors, such as education, income and health-related risk factors, such as obesity, play a larger role, accounting for much of the variation from one health region to another.

This article is based on a study that examined the characteristics of people who reported their health as poor or fair in the CCHS of 2000/01. In general, individuals' reports of fair or poor health status were strongly associated with age, sex, education, household income and health risk factors.

There were notable increases in the reporting of fair or poor health among individuals over the age of 45. For example, Canadians aged 45 to 64 were twice as likely, and those aged 65 or older nearly four times as likely, to report fair or poor health as those in the age group 30 to 44.

Women reported fair or poor health more often than men. However, once other factors such as age were taken into account, women were slightly less likely than men to report fair or poor health.

Lower education levels and household income were both associated with greater odds of reporting fair or poor health.

The odds of individuals in the lowest income category of reporting fair or poor health were five times greater than those of individuals in the top income category, after taking into account other factors such as age, sex, smoking, obesity and physical activity.

Reports of fair or poor health were greater among daily smokers, obese individuals and people who exercised infrequently. Daily smokers were 1.5 times as likely as non-smokers to report fair or poor health. Individuals classified as obese were 1.7 times as likely to report fair or poor health as non-obese individuals.

After the effects of population composition, income, education, and individual health risk factors were taken into account, socio-economic context was generally not significant. Which region people live in can have a modest association with self-reported health status, but the contextual factors examined — whether the region was remote, prosperous, cosmopolitan or disadvantaged — generally made no difference.

There are several possible explanations for this relatively small contribution of health regions' social context on individual health status differences. A number of federal and provincial government programs such as universal health care, unemployment insurance and old age security are designed to address social disparities, and they may well attenuate the effects of the regional social context.

In addition, the particular geographic unit used in the study, the health region, may not be the most appropriate for representing individuals' experiences of socio-economic context.

For example, metropolitan health regions such as Toronto and Montréal have diverse social structures, so that for most people a smaller geographic unit like a "neighbourhood" would be more appropriate.

*The article "Regional socio-economic context and health," (82-003-SIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the Our products and services page, choose Free publications, then Health. For more information, contact Stéphane Tremblay (613-951-4765), Health Analysis and Measurement Group.*

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### Aircraft movement statistics

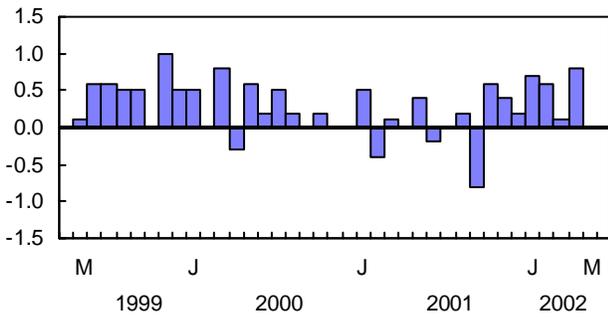
There were 436,177 take-offs and landings recorded in June at the 43 airports with Nav Canada air traffic control towers. This figure is down 6.3% from June 2001.

*The June 2002 issue of Aircraft movement statistics (51F0001PIE, TP1496, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the Our products and services page, choose Free publications, then Transport and warehousing. For more information, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141; aviationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division.*

## Current trends

### Gross domestic product

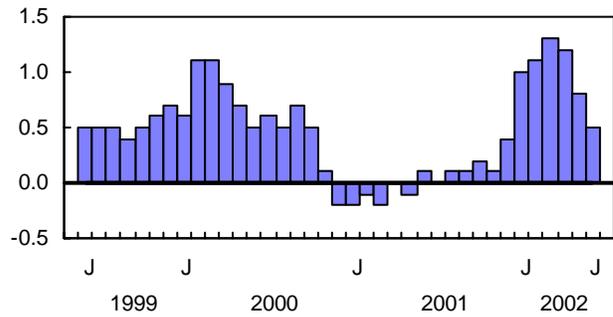
% change, previous month



Total economic activity was unchanged in May, after rising 0.8% in April.

### Composite index

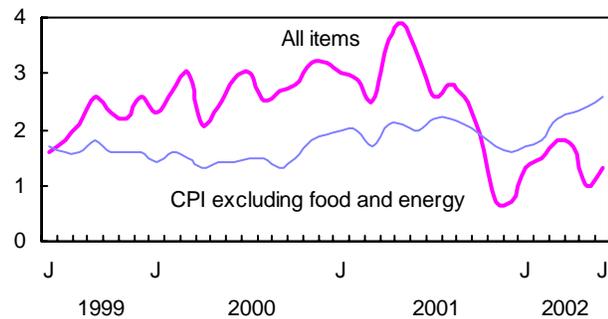
% change, previous month



The leading indicator gained 0.5% in June. The advance was broadly based, led by manufacturing.

### Consumer Price Index

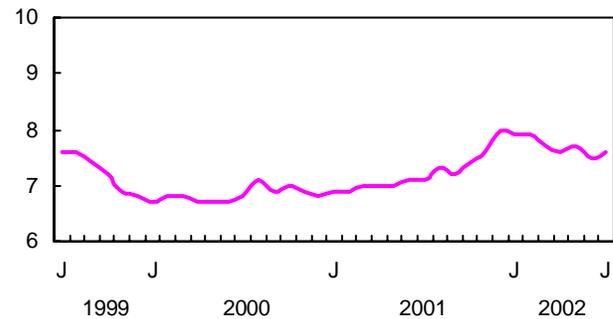
% change, previous year



Consumer prices for goods and services were 1.3% higher in June than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 2.6%.

### Unemployment rate

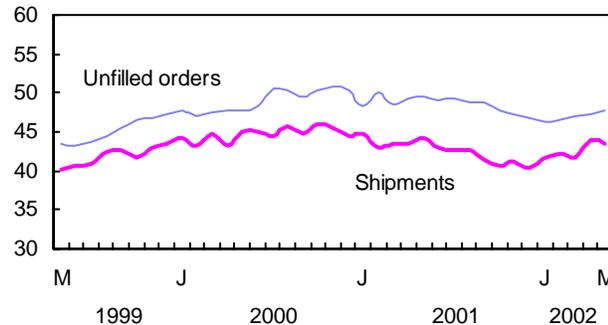
%



In July, the unemployment rate rose 0.1 percentage points to 7.6%.

### Manufacturing

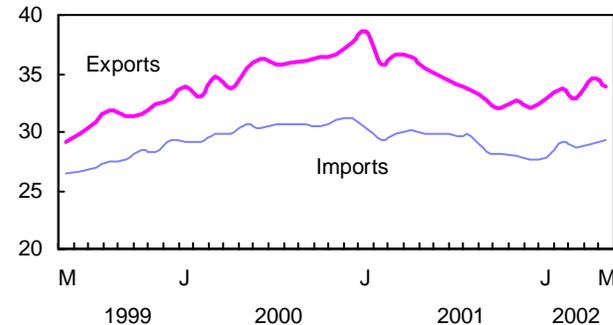
\$ billions



Manufacturers' shipments fell back 1.4% in May to \$43.4 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders rose 0.8% to \$47.7 billion.

### Merchandise trade

\$ billions



In May, the value of merchandise exports declined 1.9% to \$33.9 billion. Imports rose 1.2% to \$29.4 billion.

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

## Latest statistics

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
<b>GENERAL</b>				
Gross domestic product (\$ billions, 1997) <sup>1</sup>	May	966.7	0.0%	2.6%
Composite Index (1992=100)	June	177.3	0.5%	6.7%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billions)	Q1 2002	34.7	9.0%	-16.3%
Capacity utilization rate (%) <sup>2</sup>	Q1 2002	81.7	1.3†	-2.3†
<b>DOMESTIC DEMAND</b>				
Retail trade (\$ billions)	May	25.1	-1.3%	3.8%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	June*	142.7	-2.0%	7.6%
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	May	34.5	-1.2%	4.2%
<b>LABOUR</b>				
Employment (millions)	July*	15.4	0.1%	2.3%
Unemployment rate (%)	July*	7.6	0.1†	0.5†
Participation rate (%)	July*	66.8	0.0†	0.9†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	May	677.03	0.3%	2.38%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	July	128.3	0.5%	-13.9%
Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries (in thousands)	May	554.2	4.2%	9.9%
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>				
Merchandise exports (\$ billions)	May	33.9	-1.9%	-4.2%
Merchandise imports (\$ billions)	May	29.4	1.2%	-1.5%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billions)	May	4.5	-1.0	-1.1
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>				
Shipments (\$ billions)	May	43.4	-1.4%	-2.0%
New orders (\$ billions)	May	43.8	-1.1%	-1.7%
Unfilled orders (\$ billions)	May	47.7	0.8%	-3.8%
Inventory/shipments ratio	May	1.43	0.02	-0.05
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	June	119.0	0.3%	1.3%
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	June	106.7	-0.2%	-1.2%
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	June	111.6	-1.8%	-4.0%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	June*	110.3	0.2%	4.1%

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

\* new this week

† percentage point

<sup>1</sup> 1997 replaces 1992 as the base year used in determining prices for gross domestic product by industry. Also, valuation has been changed from factor cost to basic prices.

<sup>2</sup> Calculation of the rates of capacity use is now based on the 1997 North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS), which has replaced the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification.

# Infomat

## A weekly review

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## Products released from August 8 to 14, 2002

SUBJECT AREA Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price (\$) (issue/subscription)
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>			
Production of eggs	June 2002	23-003-XIB	free
<b>ANALYTICAL STUDIES</b>			
Management experience and diversity in an aging organization: A microsimulation analysis, no. 188		11F0019MIE2002188	free
<b>HEALTH STATISTICS</b>			
Postal code conversion file plus	1996	82F0086XDB	free
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>			
Exports by commodity	May 2002	65-004-XMB	37/361
Exports by commodity	May 2002	65-004-XPB	78/773
<b>INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK</b>			
Building permits	June 2002	64-001-XIE	14/145
<b>LABOUR STATISTICS</b>			
Labour force information, week ending July 20, 2002		71-001-PIB	8/78
Labour force information, week ending July 20, 2002		71-001-PPB	11/103
<b>MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY</b>			
Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins	June 2002	46-002-XIB	5/47
Natural gas transportation and distribution	January 2002	55-002-XIB	13/125
Oil and gas extraction	2000	26-213-XIB	22
Primary iron and steel	June 2002	41-001-XIB	5/47
Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing	June 2002	41-011-XIB	5/47
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
Aircraft movement statistics	June 2002	51F0001PIE	free

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions (B signifies bilingual, E signifies English); those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; and -XPB or -XPE denote the paper version. XDB means the electronic version on diskette, while -XCB denotes a compact disc.

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