



Infomat

A Weekly Review

Friday, October 3, 2003

INSIDE

◆ **SPOTLIGHT: The justice system**

This week's *Spotlight* is on two new reports about Canada's justice system. One shows that the proportion of homicides committed with firearms last year fell to an all-time low. According to the second, more accused people are being put behind bars to await trial, even though crime rates are declining.

◆ **Men closing gap with women in life expectancy**

Women can still expect to live longer than men, but men are closing the gap, according to new data on life expectancy, a key indicator of a population's health. A woman born in 2001 could expect to live 82.2 years and man's life expectancy at birth reaches 77.1 years.

◆ **Rising dollar boosts net foreign debt**

Canada's net external debt increased to 19% of gross domestic product in the second quarter of 2003, up from 18% in the first quarter in the wake of the stronger Canadian dollar.

Economic surge: Largest gain in GDP in 15 months

Led by the nation's manufacturers, Canada's economy roared ahead in July, halting five months of virtual stagnation. Gross domestic product jumped 0.6%, the largest monthly gain since April 2002.

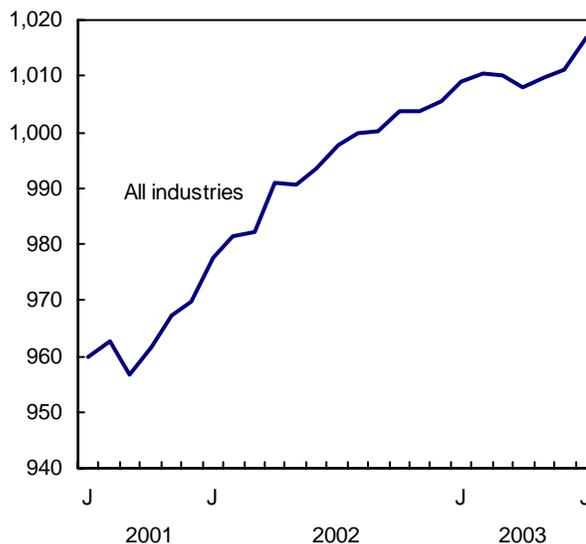
Increases in output were widespread across most sectors. Output in manufacturing went up 0.8%, its strongest increase in 12 months. Increased oil and gas production was responsible for almost one-half the 2.0% growth in mining production. Output in utilities increased 1.9% in the wake of a rebound in electric power generation from a weak June.

Total industrial output — the combination of manufacturing, mining and utilities — increased 1.2% to almost \$239.1 billion, a strong rebound after five straight monthly declines. However, production was still below its peak in January, and 1.1% below July's level last year. In contrast, industrial production in the United States rose 0.7% in July.

(continued on page 2)

Economic activity surges

GDP \$ billions of chained 1997



Economic surge: Largest... *(continued from page 1)*

The economy gained momentum from strong levels of consumer confidence, as well as other factors, such as low interest rates; continuing demand for housing, which fuelled the residential construction industry; and further strength in the travel sector.

Makers of durable goods were responsible for the bulk of the gain in manufacturing. The largest contributor was the transportation equipment sector, where production of cars and trucks rebounded from a weak June.

Output in the retail trade sector rose 0.6% following higher sales at motor vehicle dealers. However, the sector's strength was concentrated so much in new car sales that output excluding motor vehicle dealers fell 0.6%. Growth in the transportation sector was softened by a sharp decline in the aerospace industry, where production dropped to April 2000 levels.

Consumer demand for new and existing housing continued unabated in July. Sales of existing homes set a monthly record, resulting in a 5.7% gain in output among real estate agents and brokerages. Lower mortgage rates fuelled demand, but a shortage of sellers in the resale market led to a surge in prices. The average resale housing price in July was 11.9% higher than a year ago.

Residential construction was buoyed by an 8.5% increase in housing starts, reflecting an increase in both single and multiple units. The strong housing market also translated into higher sales for retailers, wholesalers and manufacturers of furniture. Manufacturers of wood, asphalt, glass products and heating and ventilation systems also benefited.

Travel-related industries got a shot in the arm after the World Health Organization removed Toronto from its list of SARS-affected areas in early July. Domestic tourism increased, although the number of American and overseas tourists to Canada fell again (-1.0%).

Output in the travel agent industry rose 3.1%, while the hotel and restaurant industries both posted a 0.7% increase. Occupancy rates for Toronto hotels continued to improve over the lows in April, but were still well below last year's levels.

The airline transportation industry registered its second consecutive monthly gain. A number of airlines reported increased passenger load factors, that is, the proportion of occupied to available seats.

For more information, contact Jo Ann MacMillan (613-951-7248), Industry Measures and Analysis Division.

Net worth per capita reaches record high

The net worth of the average Canadian hit a record high in the second quarter of 2003, but our debt load to foreigners also reached a peak.

National net worth stood at \$3.9 trillion by the end of the June, or \$121,900 per person. This represents the economy's worth in terms of its non-financial assets, such as houses, automobiles, land, as well as business inventories and fixed capital — less what is owed to foreigners.

A year earlier, net national worth per capita was \$116,700, and 10 years ago, it was just \$79,400.

National net worth is the difference between national wealth of just about \$4.1 trillion, less net foreign debt of \$227 billion. The stronger Canadian dollar was responsible for a 5.6% increase in net foreign debt from the first quarter of 2003.

The ratio of debt to personal disposable income rose to a new high of 100.1% in the second quarter as income growth slowed and borrowing advanced. This meant that for every \$100 in earnings, the average Canadian owed \$100.10. Ten years ago, the ratio was \$84.80 in debt for every \$100 in earnings.

For more information, contact the information officer (613-951-3640), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

SPOTLIGHT: The justice system

More people killed with knives than guns

The proportion of homicides committed with firearms fell to an all-time low last year, according to a new report on Canada's murder rate. Guns were used in just over one-quarter (26%) of homicides in 2002, the lowest proportion since statistics were first collected in 1961.

Throughout the 1960s and early 1970s, firearms generally accounted for between 40% and 50% of all homicides. This proportion has generally been decreasing since 1974.

Police reported 149 homicides committed with firearms last year, 22 fewer than in 2001. This total represented a rate of 0.47 for every 100,000 population, the lowest since 1966.

In total, Canada's police services reported 582 homicides, 29 more than in 2001. As a result, the national homicide rate climbed 4% to 1.85 homicides for every 100,000 population, compared with 1.78 the year before.

The increase followed two years of relative stability. It was driven by a large jump in British Columbia, where there were 126 homicides reported in 2002, up from 84 in 2001. A major factor in British Columbia was the report in Port Coquitlam of 15 homicides of missing women. These were reported by police in 2002, but occurred in previous years.

Overall, stabbings were the most common method of homicide, committed in 31% of cases, followed by shootings (26%), beatings (21%) and strangulation/suffocation (11%).

Of the 149 homicides involving firearms last year, handguns were used in 98, rifles or shotguns in 37 and other types of guns in the remaining 14.

Handguns accounted for two-thirds of total firearm homicides, up from about one-half during the 1990s and one-third prior to 1990. There has been a declining trend in the use of rifles and shotguns, which now account for only one-quarter of all firearm homicides. Last year's total for rifles was substantially lower than the previous 10-year average of 67.

Slight decline in crime rate

Highlights of a report on crime statistics for 2002 released July 24, 2003 in The Daily:

Canada's crime rate remained virtually unchanged in 2002, falling 0.6% from 2001. It was 27% below its peak in 1991.

Nationally, the rate of violent crime fell 2%, driven by a 3% decline in the rate of robberies and a 2% drop in assaults. Property crime was at its lowest level in almost three decades.

The rate of marijuana offences rose 2%. Cocaine offences were up 1%; heroin offences were down 18%.

After two years of slight increases, the rate of youths charged dropped 5%. Youth crime was 33% lower than in 1992.

Of all handguns used to commit homicide that were recovered by police since 1997, about three-quarters (72%) were not registered. Where ownership could be determined by police, the accused owned the handgun in one-half (49%) of these homicides, the victim in 3% and the majority of the remaining handguns were stolen or borrowed.

Other data show that for a second consecutive year, gang-related homicides fell substantially. There were 45 gang-related homicides in 2002, 16 fewer than in 2001 and 27 fewer than the peak of 72 in 2000. Most of the decline over the past two years has been a result of a large decrease in the province of Québec.

Part of the decline in the use of firearms to commit homicide was related to this drop in gang-related killings. Still, gang-related homicides are more than twice as likely to involve firearms as those not involving gangs.

You can read the report *Juristat: Homicide in Canada, 2002*, Vol. 23, no. 8 (85-002-XIE) on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca).

For more information, contact Information and Client Services (613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

More accused remanded in custody

More accused people are being put behind bars to await trial, even though crime rates are declining, a new report shows. The number of adults awaiting trial on remand almost doubled from about 68,000 in 1986/87 to more than 110,000 in 1991/92. It has remained relatively constant ever since.

In the fiscal year 2000/01, almost 60% of the people sent to jail were on remand, compared with only 38% some 15 years earlier. Jail sentences reached a peak of more than 120,000 in 1992/93. Since then, they have steadily decreased, partly the result of the introduction of conditional sentences in 1996.

The report suggested that trends in the use of remand may be driven in part by a relative increase in the overall proportion of violent crimes.

On an average day in 2000/01, about 7,400 adults were being held in custody on remand, up 11% from 1999/2000, and double the level in 1986/87. Similarly, an average of about 440 young people aged 12 to 17 were being held in custody on remand, up 25% from 1991/92.

For additional information on remands, consult the *Juristat: Custodial remand in Canada, 1986/87 to 2000/01*, (85-002-XIE2003007), available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca).

For more information, contact Client Services (613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Men closing gap with women in life expectancy

The gap in life expectancy between the sexes closed from 5.2 years in 2000 to 5.1 years in 2001, continuing a trend toward narrowing that has extended over two decades. From 1979 to 2001, life expectancy for men improved by 5.7 years, whereas life expectancy for women advanced 3.4 years.

For both sexes combined, life expectancy at birth reached 79.7 years in 2001, up 0.3 years from 2000. Life expectancy figures for both men and women were highest in British Columbia.

While life expectancy was up, so, too, was the number of deaths in Canada, which resumed a long-term upward trend. A total of 219,538 people died in 2001, up 0.7% from 218,062 in 2000. This apparent inconsistency is explained by Canada's aging population.

Life expectancy reflects mortality rates within age groups; these mortality rates are, in general, declining. The total number of deaths reflects the offsetting effects of declining age-specific mortality rates, as opposed to increasing numbers of elderly people, who experience higher mortality rates.

Only Quebec, Alberta, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories recorded increases in the number of deaths in 2001. These gains were large enough to offset the declines in the number of deaths in the remaining provinces and territories.

The crude death rate – the number of deaths for every 100,000 people – held steady at 7.1. This occurred because the size of the Canadian population grew faster than did the number of deaths.

Canada's infant death rate decreased slightly in 2001, for the first time in three years, to 5.2 infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

The maternal mortality rate increased to 7.8 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. While this rate represented only 26 deaths, the increase is of concern because it was the highest rate since 1981. A maternal death is the death of a woman while pregnant or within one year of the termination of pregnancy.

Influenza deaths plunged 83.8% in 2001 from 2000. While over 500 people died as a result of influenza in 2000, fewer than 100 did so in 2001. According to Health Canada, influenza infections, which were detected through the national respiratory virus detection system, peaked in mid-February 2002. This peak was relatively late compared with previous seasons. In addition,

Life expectancy at birth

	Number of deaths			Life expectancy at birth ¹ , 2001		
	2000	2001	2000 to 2001	Both sexes	Men	Women
	% change					
Canada²	218,062	219,538	0.7	79.7	77.1	82.2
Newfoundland and Labrador	4,339	4,151	-4.3	78.3	75.8	80.9
Prince Edward Island	1,229	1,160	-5.6	78.9	75.3	82.6
Nova Scotia	7,879	7,879	0.0	79.0	76.3	81.5
New Brunswick	6,088	6,062	-0.4	79.0	76.1	81.9
Quebec	53,190	54,194	1.9	79.4	76.5	82.0
Ontario	81,290	81,214	-0.1	79.9	77.5	82.2
Manitoba	9,892	9,734	-1.6	78.6	75.6	81.5
Saskatchewan	8,956	8,740	-2.4	79.3	76.4	82.3
Alberta	17,273	17,579	1.8	79.7	77.0	82.4
British Columbia	27,460	28,353	3.3	80.6	78.1	83.1
Yukon ³	156	134	-14.1	77.3	75.7	80.1
Northwest Territories ³	157	163	3.8	76.8	74.4	79.6
Nunavut ³	130	123	-5.4	70.4	66.4	71.0

¹ Life expectancy is calculated from birth and death data that exclude the following: stillbirths; births and deaths of non-residents of Canada and residents of Canada whose province or territory of residence was unknown; and deaths for which the age of the decedent was unknown. The difference in life expectancy between men and women was calculated on unrounded figures.

² The total for Canada includes deaths of Canadian residents whose province or territory of residence was unknown; there were 23 such cases in 2000 and 52 in 2001.

³ Life expectancy for Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut should be interpreted with caution because of small underlying counts of births and deaths.

2001/02 was also considered to be a relatively mild influenza season.

Although the reason for the reduction in influenza mortality cannot be determined, it coincides with increasing efforts by Canadians to avoid this infection.

According to the 1996/97 National Population Health Survey and the 2000/01 Canadian Community Health Survey, the proportion of the population aged 20 and over who reported having received an influenza vaccination in the year prior to the survey nearly doubled, from about 15% in 1996/97 to almost 30% in 2000/01.

For more information contact Patricia Tully (613-951-1759) or Leslie Geran (613-951-5243), Health Statistics Division.

Employment Insurance

The estimated number of Canadians (adjusted for seasonality) receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits in July rose 2.1% from June to 581,540, marking the sixth consecutive monthly rise.

Regular beneficiaries increased 1.9% in Quebec and 1.3% in Ontario. The largest percentage increases occurred in Manitoba (+12.6%), Prince Edward Island (+11.7%) and Saskatchewan (+10.0%).

Also on a seasonally adjusted basis, regular benefit payments in July totalled \$754.2 million, while the number of people making initial and renewal claims was 269,150.

For more information contact Jamie Brunet (613-951-6684), Labour Statistics Division.

Rising dollar boosts net foreign debt

Canada's net external debt increased to 19% of gross domestic product in the second quarter of 2003, up from 18% in the first quarter in the wake of the stronger Canadian dollar.

The nation's net liability to foreign residents — the difference between external assets and foreign liabilities — reached \$227.4 billion at the end of June, the highest level since the first quarter of 2000.

Both external assets and foreign liabilities dropped dramatically for the second straight quarter, mostly because of the strengthening dollar. Between March and June, the loonie gained 8% in relation to its US counterpart.

The value of Canada's assets abroad fell to \$891.8 billion, down \$61.8 billion from the level at the end of March and well below the \$983.3 billion at the end of 2002. The gain in the dollar was responsible for \$61.0 billion in the decline in value of these assets, most of which are in US dollars.

At the same time, Canada's international liabilities fell to \$1,119.2 billion, a drop of \$49.5 billion. Outflows in the "other investment" category reduced these external liabilities by \$23.9 billion, while the strong Canadian dollar reduced them by a further \$38.5 billion.

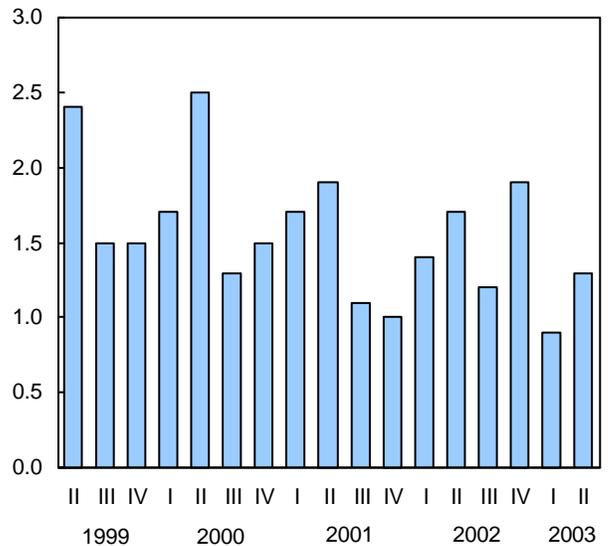
During the first six months of 2003, Canada's assets abroad fell by \$91.5 billion, or 9.3%. The stronger loonie had a large impact on the value of Canadian direct investment abroad in the second quarter. It fell by \$25.6 billion to \$380.9 billion, the lowest level since the second quarter of 2001.

In addition, the flow of Canadian direct investment abroad fell to \$2.8 billion, its lowest level since the second quarter of 1996.

Canadian direct investment in the United States fell by \$14.3 billion to \$176.3 billion, which was in the range of levels observed in 2000. Since the beginning of the year, the strengthening Canadian dollar has lowered total direct investment abroad by about \$60 billion. About half of this was in the United States.

National net worth

% change



With the increase in prices on global equity markets, Canadians investors bought foreign bonds and equities in the second quarter. However, the increase in the Canadian dollar more than offset these investments, and resulted in a \$14.6-billion decline in the value of foreign portfolio position.

About two-thirds of the decrease came from the revaluation of holdings of US stocks. At the end of June, Canadians held \$104.8 billion in US stocks.

Foreign investors added \$4.8 billion to their direct investment position in Canada. Largely denominated in Canadian dollars, foreign direct investment in Canada reached \$357.7 billion at the end of June.

For more information, contact Éric Simard (613-951-7244), Balance of Payments Division.

Canadians on the move more than ever

Canadians are on the move more than ever, according to data from income tax returns. An estimated 1.65 million individuals changed their addresses between July 1, 2001, and June 30, 2002, up 9% from the year before.

These include people who relocated within their own province, those who moved from one province to another and those who moved into or out of the country.

Of these people who moved, only 18% of the total, just over 290,000, changed provinces or territories. This was up 8% from 2000/01.

Alberta and Ontario showed the same rates of gain from migration, attracting 13 people for every 1,000 inhabitants. British Columbia placed a distant third with a gain of seven per 1,000.

The regional municipality of York, just north of Toronto, had the largest net gain from migration at 42,396, or 55 people for every 1,000. It was the sixth year in a row that York had the highest per capita increase in population resulting from migration among census divisions. The vast majority who moved there went from Toronto.

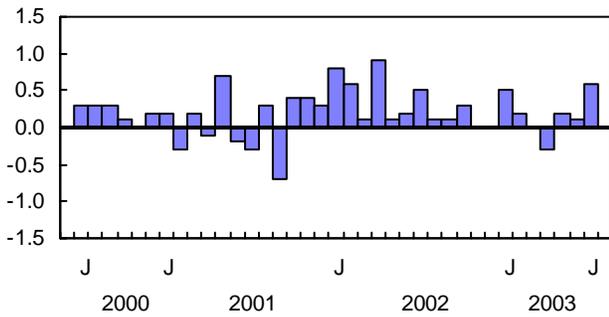
Migration data were derived by comparing addresses supplied on personal income tax returns filed in the spring of 2001 and 2002.

For more information, contact Client Services (1-866-652-8443; 613-951-9720), Small Area and Administrative Data Division.

Current trends

Gross domestic product

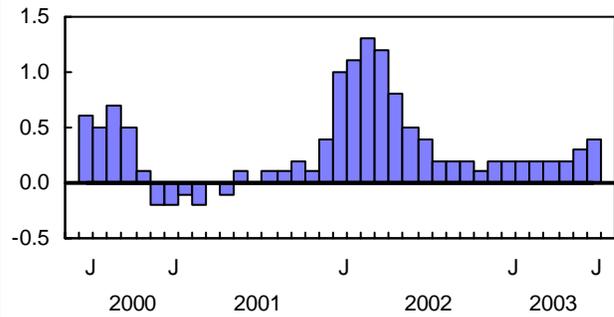
% change, previous month



Total economic activity jumped 0.6% in July, after a 0.1% gain in June.

Composite Index

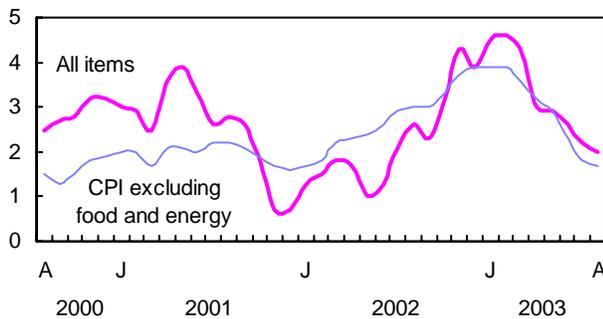
% change, previous month



The leading indicator grew 0.4% in July after rising 0.3% in June.

Consumer Price Index

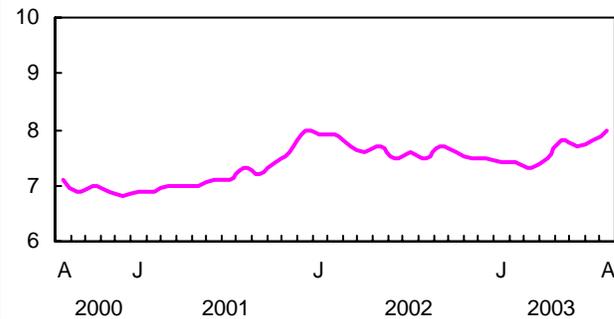
% change, previous year



Consumer prices for goods and services were 2.0% higher in August than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 1.7%.

Unemployment rate

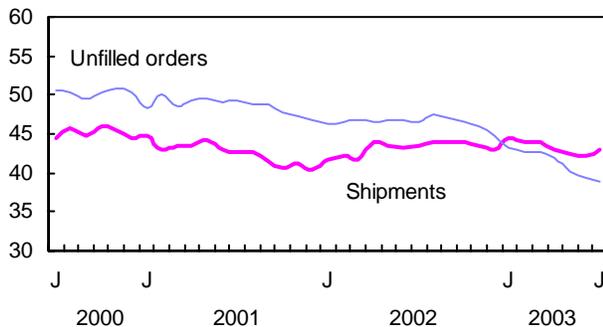
%



In August, the unemployment rate rose 0.2 percentage points to 8.0%.

Manufacturing

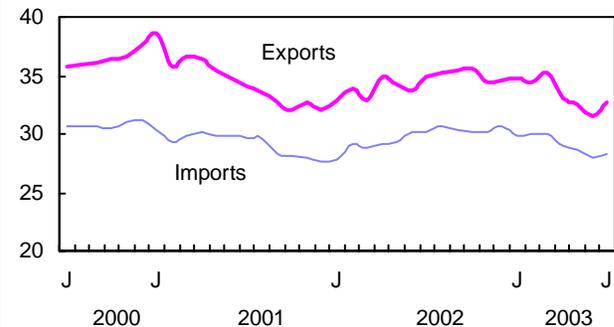
\$ billions



Manufacturers' shipments increased 1.7% in July to \$43.0 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders declined 0.4% to \$39.0 billion.

Merchandise trade

\$ billions



In July, the value of merchandise increased 1.1% to \$32.7 billion. Imports fell 0.3% to \$28.3 billion.

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

Latest statistics

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
GENERAL				
Gross domestic product (\$ billions, 1997) ¹	July*	1,017.0	0.6%	1.9%
Composite Index (1992=100)	July	182.5	0.4%	2.4%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billions)	Q2 2003	40.4	-1.3%	11.7%
Capacity utilization rate (%) ²	Q1 2003	82.8	0.3†	1.2†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade (\$ billions)	July	26.6	0.8%	3.8%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	July	143.5	12.6%	3.7%
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	July	36.2	1.1%	3.7%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	August	15.7	-0.1%	1.4%
Unemployment rate (%)	August	8.0	0.2†	0.5†
Participation rate (%)	August	67.5	0.0†	0.5†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	July*	687.74	-0.3%	1.0%
Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries (in thousands)	July*	581.54	2.1%	0.5%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports (\$ billions)	July	32.7	0.5%	-6.7%
Merchandise imports (\$ billions)	July	28.3	1.2%	-5.9%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billions)	July	4.4	-0.2	-0.6
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billions)	July	43.0	1.7%	0.8%
New orders (\$ billions)	July	42.5	2.1%	-0.8%
Unfilled orders (\$ billions)	July	39.1	-1.5%	-16.6%
Inventory/shipments ratio	July	1.46	-0.03	1.42
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	August	122.5	0.2%	2.0%
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	August*	105.6	0.3%	-2.0%
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	August*	111.0	1.1%	-3.0%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	July	116.7	0.3%	4.7%

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

* new this week

† percentage point

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

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

Infomat

A weekly review

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Products released from September 25 to October 1, 2003

SUBJECT AREA Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price (\$) (issue/subscription)
AGRICULTURE			
Cereals and oilseeds review	July 2003	22-007-XIB	11/112
Cereals and oilseeds review	July 2003	22-007-XPB	15/149
Farm Product Price Index	July 2003	21-007-XIB	Free
Stocks of frozen and chilled meats	September 2003	23-009-XIE	Free
ANALYTICAL STUDIES			
Analytical Studies Branch research paper series:			
Cohort effects in annual earnings by field of study among British Columbia University graduates	No. 200	11F0019MIE2003200	Free
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL FLOWS			
Canada's international transactions in securities	July 2003	67-002-XIE	14/132
CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS			
Juristat: Custodial remand in Canada	1986/87 to 2000/01	85-002-XIE2003007	8/70
Juristat: Custodial remand in Canada	1986/87 to 2000/01	85-002-XPE2003007	10/93
Juristat: Homicide in Canada	2002	85-002-XIE2003008	8/70
Juristat: Homicide in Canada	2002	85-002-XPE2003008	10/93
DISSEMINATION			
E-STAT	2003	10F0174XIB	Free
HEALTH STATISTICS			
Deaths	2000	84F0211XIE	Free
Deaths	2001	84F0211XIE	Free
HOUSING, FAMILY AND SOCIAL STATISTICS			
Ethnic Diversity Survey: Portrait of a multicultural society	2002	89-593-XIE	Free
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS			
National balance sheet accounts, quarterly estimates	Q2 2003	13-214-XIE	21/45
National balance sheet accounts, quarterly estimates	Q2 2003	13-214-DEB	300/1,200
National balance sheet accounts, quarterly estimates	Q2 2003	13-214-XDB	60/240
National tourism indicators, quarterly estimates	Q2 2003	13-009-XIB	Free
National tourism indicators, quarterly estimates	Q2 2003	13-009-XPB	Free
INCOME STATISTICS			
Food Expenditure Survey public use microdata file	2001	62M0002XCB	2,000
INDUSTRY MEASURES AND ANALYSIS			
Provincial gross domestic product by industry	1997-2002	15-203-XIE	50
MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY			
Construction type plywood	July 2003	35-001-XIB	5/47
Metal ore mining	2001	26-223-XIB	Free
Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation	August 2003	44-004-XIB	5/47
Primary iron and steel	July 2003	41-001-XIB	5/47
PRICES			
Canadian Foreign Post Indexes	October 2003	62-013-XIE	Free
TRANSPORTATION			
Service bulletin: Surface and marine transport	Vol. 19, no. 1	50-002-XIB	10

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Note: All products are priced in Canadian dollars and exclude applicable sales taxes. Shipping charges will be added for delivery outside Canada.

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