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Infomat

A Weekly Review

Friday, October 6, 2000

OVERVIEW

◆ **Economic growth remains steady**

Gross domestic product advanced 0.3% in July, about the same rate as in June. Higher output of computer and telecommunications equipment and computer consulting services accounted for about one-third of the advance.

◆ **Industrial and raw material price increases continue to decelerate**

In August, the annual growth in industrial product and raw material prices continued to decelerate, partly owing to slower increases in energy costs. Manufacturers' prices rose 4.0% on an annual basis, while manufacturers paid 18.9% more for raw materials than they did in August 1999.

◆ **Weekly earnings rise for both salaried and hourly employees**

In July, average weekly earnings for all employees were estimated at $627.49, an increase of 0.4% from June and up 2.7% from July 1999. The year-over-year increase benefited both salaried employees and hourly employees.

◆ **Number of registered apprentices still lower than in 1991**

From 1997 to 1998, the number of people registered in apprenticeship training programs for trades increased 3.1%. However, in most of the major trades, the number of registered apprentices is still lower than in 1991.

◆ **Multifactor productivity up sharply from 1998**

In 1999, the business sector recorded a gain in multifactor productivity of 1.5%, up sharply from the previous year's anemic performance (+0.1%) and more than twice the previous decade's annual average.

Economic growth remains steady

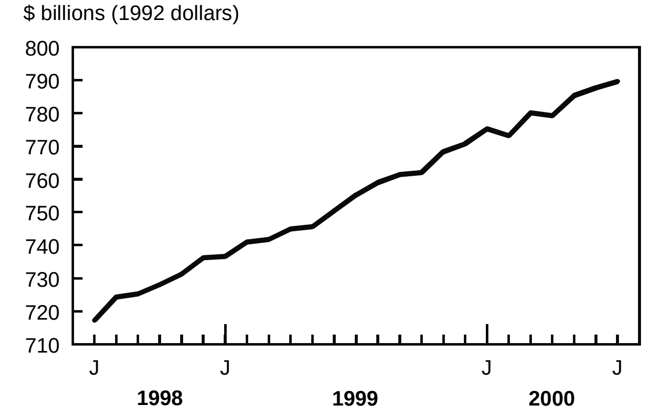
Gross domestic product (GDP) advanced 0.3% in July, about the same rate as in June. The exceptional expansion of electrical and electronic equipment manufacturing continued with an advance of 1.7%. Makers of computers and peripherals extended their heady growth, as did the communications wire and cable industry. Telecommunications equipment manufacturing rose 1.9%, partly making up for a decline in June.

Computer consulting spurred business services 1.2%—the strongest increase in two and a half years. Almost 60% of the growth originated in computer services, which had its best month since December 1998. Output in this industry surged 2.5% in July, continuing a steep ascent that has created 30,000 new jobs in the last 12 months.

Factory output rose 0.4% in July. That followed the 0.6% gain in June and extended the upward momentum observed for the past year and a half. Manufacturing output in July was 6.5% higher than in July 1999. In addition to the higher output of electrical and electronic products, July saw increased output of transportation equipment and furniture.

Transportation equipment industries moved forward 0.7%. Sustained by a record backlog of unfilled orders, the aircraft and aircraft parts industry continued to soar, rising 2.8%—the eighth

Gross domestic product at factor cost



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Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

... Economic growth remains steady

increase in as many months. Output of motor vehicles bolted ahead 1.9% to its highest level since January. However, it was still short of the peaks reached in the third quarter of 1999. Auto parts makers backtracked but remained near all-time highs. Makers of "other automobile accessories" made another significant advance. Their foreign shipments have expanded sharply in recent months owing to strong demand from the United States.

Furniture production climbed 3.8%, erasing a decline of similar size in June. Makers of office and other business furniture continued to lead, though makers of household furniture eked out a modest gain.

These increases were partly offset by declines in the wood, primary metal, and printing and publishing industries. Wood product output dropped 2.1%. Sawmills had the biggest decline, their fourth consecutive drop, owing to a strike by forestry workers in British Columbia; many mills extended their shutdowns because of a glut that has seen prices drop for almost a year. Producers of doors and windows also pared back. These declines paralleled the slowdown of housing construction in both Canada and the United States.

Primary metal production fell 1.9%—the fifth monthly decline so far this year. Steel mills were again largely responsible, though output of other steel products also fell in July. Printing and publishing was down (-1.5%) after four successive monthly increases, as publishers' output contracted sharply.

Elsewhere in the economy, retail sales were significantly higher, while wholesaling and construction activity both advanced moderately. These increases were partly offset by a broad decline in the mining sector. An exception was iron ore production, which rebounded sharply from June's decline. Expansion of both crude oil and natural gas was down, despite higher prices; however, drilling and rigging activity was up. Output fell in the electric power and logging industries, the latter because of the striking forestry workers in British Columbia.

Note to readers

Monthly gross domestic product (GDP) by industry is valued at 1992 prices. The data are seasonally adjusted at annual rates.

The July 2000 issue of ***Gross domestic product by industry*** *(online at www.statcan.ca: 15-001-XIE, $11/$110) presents the full report. A print-on-demand version is also available at a different price. To order, or to purchase data, contact Yolande Chantigny (1 800 877-4623; imad@statcan.ca). For further analytical information, contact Richard Evans (613-951-9145; evanric@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division.* *See also "Current trends" on page 6.*

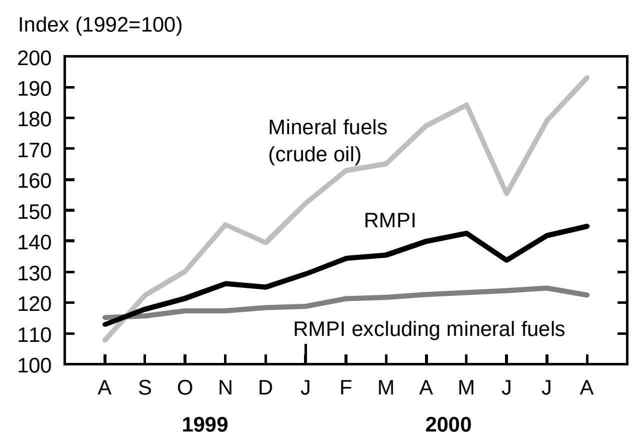
Industrial and raw material price increases continue to decelerate

In August, the annual growth in industrial product and raw material prices continued to decelerate, partly owing to slower increases in energy costs. Manufacturers' prices rose 4.0%, with half the increase due to higher prices for petroleum and coal products. Except in May, the annual increase in manufacturers' prices has been slowing since it peaked in February (+6.1%). Meanwhile, largely because of higher prices for mineral fuels, manufacturers paid 18.9% more this August for raw materials than they paid last August. This was slightly below July's increase and far below the February peak (+37.3%).

Industrial product and raw materials price indexes, August 2000

	Index (1992=100)	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Industrial product price index (IPPI)	**127.8**	**0.2**	**4.0**
IPPI excluding petroleum and coal products	125.4	0.1	2.0
Intermediate goods	129.1	0.2	4.9
Finished goods	125.7	0.0	2.6
Raw materials price index (RMPI)	**144.3**	**2.1**	**18.9**
RMPI excluding mineral fuels	122.1	0.0	4.0
Mineral fuels	192.5	5.1	47.8
Vegetable products	111.6	0.0	-0.7
Animals and animal products	116.8	-1.1	5.9
Wood	142.1	0.9	4.0
Ferrous metals	118.4	-0.2	-0.1
Non-ferrous metals	118.3	1.3	5.3
Non-metallic minerals	121.2	0.0	2.6

Raw materials price index



Industrial prices edged up from July to August (+0.2%). Nearly half that increase was owing to petroleum and coal products (+0.6%). Prices for motor vehicles, chemicals, chemical products and primary metal products also rose. A higher-valued U.S. dollar drove motor vehicle prices up (+0.4%). Prices of primary copper products were notably robust in August. A damper on prices came from ongoing weakness in lumber prices (-2.7%).

Raw material prices rose from July to August by 2.1%, primarily on the strength of crude oil prices (+5.4%). Low inventories raised concerns about meeting the demand for winter heating. Wood and non-ferrous metal prices were also up, whereas animal product prices fell for a fourth consecutive month. In contrast with lumber prices, the raw material price for logs edged up 0.7%.

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... Industrial and raw material price increases continue to decelerate

Copper concentrate prices climbed 5.8%, reflecting in part diminished warehouse stocks of the metal.

Prices for finished goods remained stable from July to August. Manufacturers received higher prices for autos, trucks and other transportation equipment. The finished-goods portion of petroleum and coal products and paper and paper products offset these increases. On an annual basis, prices for finished goods (+2.6%) continued to decelerate from July (+2.9%) and June (+3.8%). August's upward price pressure on an annual basis was concentrated in petroleum and coal products, meat, beverages, autos, trucks and other transportation equipment.

Petroleum and coal products, paper and paper products were the primary reasons intermediate goods prices edged up between July and August (+0.2%). Most of the downward pressure on intermediate goods prices came from the weaker lumber prices. On an annual basis, producers of intermediate goods received 4.9% more for their goods this August than they did last August. Again, prices for petroleum and coal products and paper and paper products were the driving forces, which were offset somewhat by lower lumber prices.

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

Weekly earnings rise for both salaried and hourly employees

In July, average weekly earnings for all employees were estimated at $627.49, an increase of 0.4% or $2.29 from June and up 2.7% or $16.94 from July 1999.

Average weekly earnings were up compared with July 1999 for salaried employees (+5.4%) and hourly-rated employees (+1.7%). Those in the "other employees" group lost a bit of ground (-1.2%), because of weak earnings for commissioned salespersons in the wholesale trade, business services, finance and insurance industries.

For the hourly employees, the average hourly wage in July was $15.80, up from a year earlier by 2.7%. Their average weekly hours were down by 0.1 hours to 31.2. Average overtime hours were unchanged.

Payroll employment rose slightly in July (+13,500). July marked the third straight month that payroll employment made a small advance. By industry, the largest payroll employment gain occurred in business services. At the provincial level, the advance was concentrated in Ontario and Alberta.

Average weekly earnings, all industries, July 2000
Seasonally adjusted

	$	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	**627.49**	**0.4**	**2.7**
Newfoundland	555.35	-0.2	1.7
Prince Edward Island	488.16	1.5	1.6
Nova Scotia	532.05	-0.3	0.5
New Brunswick	552.15	-0.2	3.9
Quebec	585.92	0.3	2.4
Ontario	670.95	0.6	2.9
Manitoba	562.63	-0.3	3.2
Saskatchewan	560.01	0.1	3.3
Alberta	645.13	0.3	3.9
British Columbia	634.66	0.2	1.9
Yukon	703.19	0.0	2.9
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	820.89	0.1	4.0

*The July 2000 issue of **Employment, earnings and hours** (72-002-XPB, $32/$320) presents the month's industry data and other labour market indicators in detail. Custom tabulations of the data are available on demand. For further information, contact Robert Frindt or Jean Leduc (613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Division.*

(continued on page 4)

Number of registered apprentices still lower than in 1991

In 1998, the number of people registered in apprenticeship training programs for trades totalled about 177,700, an increase from the prior year of 3.1%. However, that total number of registrants was still 7.9% lower than in 1991.

The number of apprentices registered for training has grown in recent years in all sectors; however, registrations remain below 1991 levels in many sectors. The decrease is especially evident in the major trades of building construction and electrical/electronics and related trades. The food and services trades and the miscellaneous group of other trades were the only ones to register more apprentices in 1998 than in 1991.

Registrations for apprenticeship training have been rising since 1995. They dropped off in the early 1990s, coincident with the recession. During that period, the demand for apprentices declined, perhaps a result of the weak economy and fewer opportunities for on-the-job training.

While registrations for apprenticeship training declined in most of the major trade groups from 1991 to 1998, the size of the workforce linked to those groups grew, and was larger in all sectors in 1998. The reasons why the recovery in apprenticeship registrations in recent years has been slower than the growth of the workforce are not well understood.

Registered apprentices by major trade group

	1991	1997	1998	1991 to 1998	1997 to 1998
	Number of registrations			% change	
All major trade groups	**192,946**	**172,343**	**177,741**	**-7.9**	**3.1**
Building construction trades	46,925	33,754	34,673	-26.1	2.7
Electrical, electronics and related	37,035	28,384	29,065	-21.5	2.4
Food and service trades	11,422	17,961	18,088	58.4	0.7
Industrial and mechanical trades	15,112	14,336	14,617	-3.3	2.0
Metal fabricating trades	39,534	36,026	38,262	-3.2	6.2
Motor vehicle and heavy equipment	39,316	38,002	38,658	-1.7	1.7
Other trades	3,602	3,880	4,378	21.5	12.8

For general inquiries, contact Sharon-Anne Borde (613-951-1503; fax: 613-951-9040; sharon.anne.borde@statcan.ca). For further analytical information, contact Karl Skof (613-951-1529; fax: 613-951-6765; skofkar@statcan.ca) or Bernard Bourgoin (613-951-1506; bourber@statcan.ca), Centre for Education Statistics.

Multifactor productivity up sharply from 1998

In 1999, the business sector recorded a gain in multifactor productivity of 1.5%—more than twice the previous decade's (1988-98) annual average gain of 0.7%. Last year's increase fell short of the 2.8% growth rate in 1997, but it was up sharply from 1998's anemic 0.1%. Moreover, last year's growth in multifactor productivity was slightly greater than last year's 1.4% growth in labour productivity.

Productivity growth—the efficiency with which the economy transforms inputs into output—is important because it largely determines increases in real income. Labour productivity reflects changes not only in the efficiency of labour, but also in the availability of capital per hour worked. By contrast, multifactor productivity growth represents the increase in output beyond that explained by mere increases in inputs. Therefore, it more closely captures an increase in output attributable to technological and organizational advance.

Last year's gain in multifactor productivity occurred within a context of robust economic growth (+4.8%) and remarkable increase in the labour input—the most rapid increase in the 1990s. That is, workers produced more, substantially increasing economic output, and they put in 3.5% more hours.

Note to readers

The multifactor productivity estimates presented here are based on the concept of value added. They cover the business sector, which excludes all non-commercial production and the rents of owner-occupants. Corresponding exclusions are also made to the capital stock and the number of hours worked.

The goods industries in the business sector include agriculture, fishing, forestry, mining, manufacturing, construction and public utilities. The service industries are transportation and storage, communications, wholesale and retail trade, finance, insurance and real estate, business services, private education services, private health services, accommodation, food and beverage services, and other services.

Comparisons of Canadian and American productivity estimates are not currently feasible because the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics is in the process of incorporating results of historical revisions to the U.S. national accounts into its multifactor productivity estimates.

The overall productivity growth in 1999 was due mainly to the performance of the goods-producing sector, which posted a 2.7% gain, compared with a decline of 0.6% in 1998. By contrast, the services sector only mustered a modest 0.8% gain, slightly faster than the 0.6% increase in 1998.

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... Multifactor productivity up sharply from 1998

Productivity growth during 1990s was the best in 20 years. The business sector's multifactor productivity grew between 1988 and 1999 at an annual average rate of 0.7%, owing to the goods-producing sector. Even though this performance was well below the 2.3% recorded during the business cycle from 1966 to 1973, it was better than the annual average growth between 1973 and 1979 (+0.6%) and between 1979 and 1988 (+0.4%).

Manufacturing, a major component of the goods-producing sector, recorded annual average growth in multifactor productivity between 1988 and 1999 of 1.6%. This almost equalled its strong growth between 1973 and 1979.

Between 1988 and 1996, multifactor productivity of the top-performing manufacturing industries grew at an annual average rate of 3.0%, compared with 0.7% for the bottom-performing industries. Although both industry groups improved their performance compared with the 1979-to-1988 period, the bottom-performing industries gained the most (+1.2 percentage points). The group of top-performing industries is generally dominated by manufacturing industries, which are intensive users of raw materials.

For further information, contact John Baldwin (613-951-8588; baldjoh@statcan.ca) or Tarek M. Harchaoui (613-951-9856; fax: 613-951-5403; harctar@statcan.ca), Micro-economic Studies and Analysis Division.

Multifactor productivity in manufacturing industries

	1979 to 1988	1988 to 1996
	Average annual growth rate of productivity (%)	
Manufacturing sector	**1.4**	**1.4**
Refined petroleum and coal products	15.8	8.9
Rubber products	0.7	8.1
Primary metals	1.5	4.5
Electrical and electronic products	3.9	4.5
Furniture and fixtures	-1.6	3.4
Primary textiles	5.7	3.1
Chemicals and chemical products	4.4	2.5
Textile products	-0.9	2.3
Transportation equipment	2.3	2.2
Beverages	-0.4	1.9
Fabricated metal products	2.2	1.5
Clothing	0.1	1.4
Other manufacturing	-1.0	1.2
Tobacco products	1.5	1.1
Paper and allied products	0.5	1.1
Food	-0.5	1.0
Machinery (except electrical)	-0.9	0.6
Plastic products	1.8	0.5
Non-metallic mineral products	1.9	-0.4
Leather and allied products	1.3	-1.5
Wood	5.5	-2.4
Printing, publishing and allied products	-0.9	-3.6

New from Statistics Canada

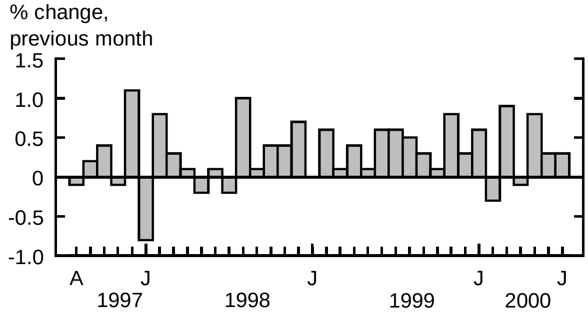
Youth custody and community services
1998/99

Juristat: Youth custody and community services in Canada provides a statistical profile of young offenders aged 12 to 17 who were admitted to custody in a correctional institution or placed on probation in fiscal year 1998/99. During this period, just over 77,900 admissions to custody or probation took place. Of these admissions, probation accounted for 48%, admissions involving a remand into custody 31%, those involving open custody 11% and those involving secure custody 10%.

Juristat, vol. 20, no. 8: Youth custody and community services in Canada, 1998/99 *(online at www.statcan.ca: 85-002-XIE, $8/$70; print: 85-002-XPE, $10/$93) and the accompanying* ***Youth custody and community services data tables, 1998/99*** *(85-226-XIE, $26) are now available. For further information, contact Client Services (1 800 387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.*

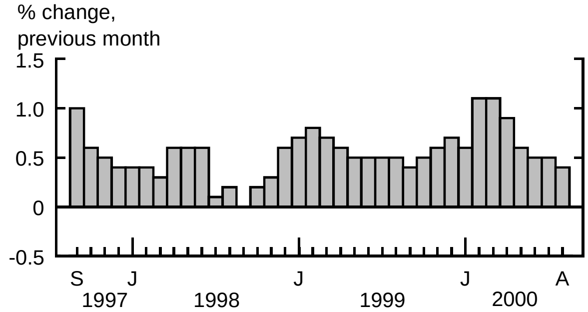
Current trends

Gross domestic product



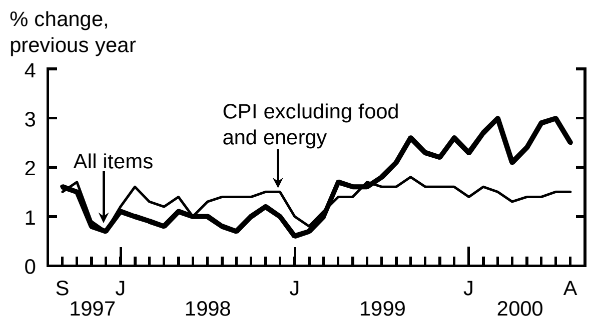
Gross domestic product rose 0.3% in July, about the same rate as in June.

Composite Index



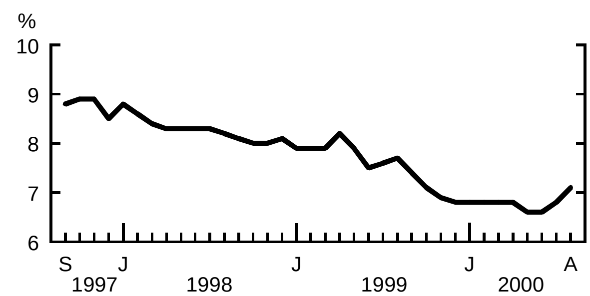
From its upward-revised gains of 0.5% in June and July, the leading indicator slowed in August to 0.4%.

Consumer Price Index



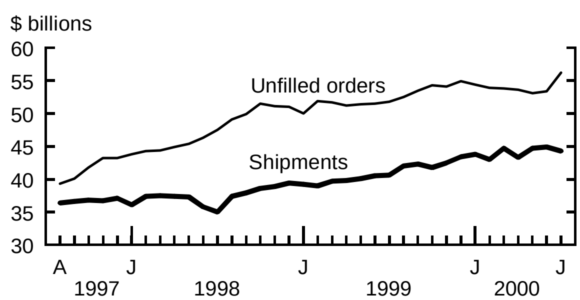
Consumer prices for goods and services were 2.5% higher in August 2000 than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 1.5%.

Unemployment rate



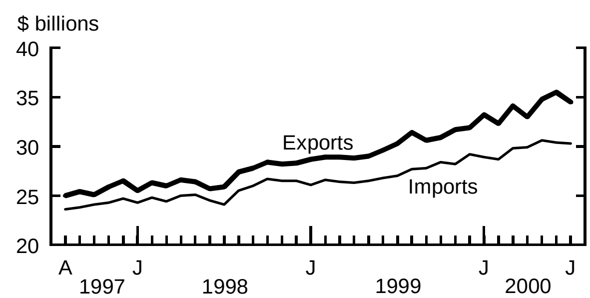
In August, a sharp increase in the number of people in the labour force pushed the unemployment rate up 0.3 percentage points to 7.1%.

Manufacturing



Manufacturers' shipments fell 1.3% in July to $44.3 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders bounded 5.2% to $56.2 billion.

Merchandise trade



In July, the value of merchandise exports declined 2.9% from June to $34.5 billion. Imports edged down 0.4% to $30.3 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 ($ billion, 1992)	July*	789.6	0.3%	4.6%
Composite Index (1992=100)	August	164.8	0.4%	8.1%
Operating profits of enterprises ($ billion)	Q2 2000	51.9	1.7%	21.6%
Capacity utilization (%)	Q2 2000	87.9	0.4†	4.1†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade ($ billion)	July	23.3	1.3%	6.7%
Department store sales ($ billions)	August*	1.51	-3.8%	-4.4%
New motor vehicle sales (thousand of units)	July	131.9	-1.5%	0.8%
Wholesale trade ($ billion)	July	32.3	0.6%	8.1%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	August	14.90	0.2%	2.4%
Unemployment rate (%)	August	7.1	0.3†	-0.6†
Participation rate (%)	August	65.9	0.3†	0.3†
Average weekly earnings ($)	July	627.49	0.4%	2.7%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	September*	174	2.4%	7.4%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports ($ billion)	July	34.5	-2.9%	13.9%
Merchandise imports ($ billion)	July	30.3	-0.4%	12.2%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in $ billion)	July	4.2	-0.9	0.9
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments ($ billion)	July	44.3	-1.3%	9.1%
New orders ($ billion)	July	47.1	4.2%	14.9%
Unfilled orders ($ billion)	July	56.2	5.2%	8.5%
Inventory/shipments ratio	July	1.34	0.04	0.04
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	August	113.9	-0.2%	2.5%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	August	127.8	0.2%	4.0%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	August	144.3	2.1%	18.9%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	July	103.2	0.2%	2.4%

Note: *All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of the price indexes.*
* *new this week*
† *percentage point*

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A weekly review

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Products released from September 28 to October 4, 2000

Subject area/Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price ($) (issue/subscription)
AGRICULTURE			
Cereals and oilseeds review	July 2000	22-007-XIB	11/112
Cereals and oilseeds review	July 2000	22-007-XPB	15/149
Stocks of frozen meat products	September 2000	23-009-XIE	no charge
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL FLOWS			
Canada’s international transactions in securities	July 2000	67-002-XIB	14/132
Canada’s international transactions in securities	July 2000	67-002-XPB	18/176
CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS			
Juristat, vol. 20, no. 8: Youth custody and community services in Canada	1998/99	85-002-XIE	8/70
Juristat, vol. 20, no. 8: Youth custody and community services in Canada	1998/99	85-002-XPE	10/93
Youth custody and community services data tables	1998/99	85-226-XIE	26
CULTURE, TOURISM AND THE CENTRE FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS			
National tourism indicators	Q2 2000	13-009-XIB	no charge
National tourism indicators	Q2 2000	13-009-XPB	no charge
DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES			
Retail trade	July 2000	63-005-XPB	21/206
HEALTH STATISTICS			
Divorces	1998	84F0213XPB	20
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS			
Estimates of labour income	July 2000	13F0016XDB	1,000
Estimates of labour income	July 2000	13F0016XPB	20/200
LABOUR STATISTICS			
Quarterly estimates of trusteed pension funds	Q1 2000	74-001-XIB	14/47
Quarterly estimates of trusteed pension funds	Q1 2000	74-001-XPB	19/62
MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY			
Asphalt roofing	August 2000	45-001-XIB	5/47
Coal and coke statistics	July 2000	45-002-XIB	9/85
Electric power statistics	July 2000	57-001-XIB	9/85
Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products	July 2000	55-001-XIB	9/86
Refined petroleum products	February 2000	45-004-XIB	16/155
Refined petroleum products	February 2000	45-004-XPB	21/206
Sawmills and planing mills	July 2000	35-003-XIB	9/86
Supply and disposition of crude oil and natural gas	June 2000	26-006-XPB	19/186
PRICES			
Industry price indexes	July 2000	62-011-XPB	22/217
TRANSPORTATION			
Aviation service bulletin, vol. 32, no. 8		51-004-XIB	8/82
Railway carloadings	July 2000	52-001-XIE	8/77

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