



# Infommat

## A Weekly Review

Friday, January 17, 2003

### INSIDE

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#### ◆ Value of building permits hits an annual record

Municipalities issued \$4.0 billion worth of building permits in November, down 2.7% from the record reached in October. On a year-to-date basis, the total value of permits reached \$42.5 billion, up 17.0% from the same period of 2001 and already higher than any annual total on record.

#### ◆ Investment in non-residential construction reaches new heights

Investment in non-residential building construction reached a record high in the fourth quarter, fuelled by spending in the public sector. Overall, businesses and governments spent \$6.4 billion, up 1.2% from the third quarter.

#### ◆ Self-employment rising among recent immigrants

Immigrants who arrived in Canada in the 1990s were far more likely to be self-employed than immigrants who arrived in the 1980s, according to a new study. Although they earned less than similar Canadian-born self-employed workers, this gap did not increase throughout the 1980s and 1990s as it did for immigrants in paid jobs.

### Economy forges strongest job growth in 15 years

Canada recorded its strongest job gains in 15 years in 2002. Job creation soared 3.7% last year, the strongest annual growth rate since 1987. In total, the economy created 559,600 new jobs, 58,000 in December alone.

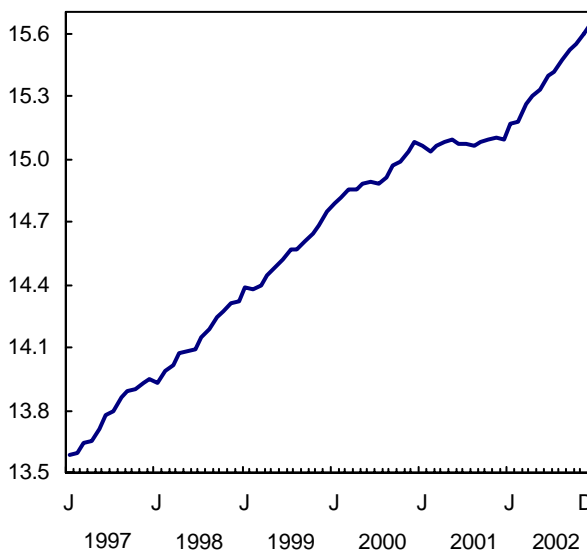
Despite December's gains, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 7.5% for the month. The unemployment rate would have fallen if 63,600 people had not entered the labour force. Most of them got jobs.

Data from the Labour Force Survey for December also showed that the proportion of the working-age population holding a job, that is, the employment rate, rose to an all-time high of 62.4% in December; and the rate of participation in the labour force, 67.5%, matched a record set in January 1990.

(continued on page 2)

#### Employment

Millions, seasonally adjusted



## Economy forges strongest... (continued from page 1)

Sustained growth of the proportion of adult women in the labour force over 2002 brought their participation rate to 60.7 % in December, the highest ever.

While the job growth in Canada soared, the American job market lost more than 100,000 jobs in December, the steepest decline in 10 months. The losses left the United States with fewer jobs at the end of 2002 than at the start. The US unemployment rate ended the year by holding steady at 6.0%.

Overall, job growth in Canada in 2002 was concentrated in manufacturing, health care and social assistance, educational services and construction. The manufacturing sector accounted for more than one out of every five new jobs last year. The sector created 125,000 new jobs, a 5.6% increase, mostly in food manufacturing, machinery and wood products.

However, the year ended on a negative note for manufacturing as employment fell 25,000 in December, almost entirely the result of layoffs in Ontario's automotive industry.

Full-time employment in 2002 jumped by 336,000, or 2.7%, in contrast to 2001 when the modest job gains were all in part-time. Full-time jobs rose by 46,000 in December. Gains in part-time jobs for the year were also strong, rising by 223,000, or 8.1%.

Young people, adult women and adult men all benefited from the strong labour market in 2002.

Employment among adult women grew a healthy 244,000, or 4.2%, with much of the increase in full-time work. In December alone, job gains among adult women amounted to 37,000. More women returned to the labour force in December and, as a result, their unemployment rate remained at 6.1%.

Employment among adult men edged up 15,000 in December, all full-time. Despite this increase, their unemployment rate rose from 6.5% to 6.7% because of an increase in the number of adult men looking for work. For the year as a whole, employment for adult men rose by 211,000 (+3.1%) and was concentrated in full-time work.

## Labour Force Survey, December 2002

Seasonally adjusted<sup>1</sup>

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	rate (%)
<b>Canada</b>	<b>16,925.7</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>15,649.8</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1,275.9</b>	<b>7.5</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	262.0	1.9	213.5	1.9	48.5	18.5
Prince Edward Island	76.2	-0.3	67.9	0.3	8.3	10.9
Nova Scotia	476.8	0.0	432.3	0.2	44.4	9.3
New Brunswick	389.8	0.1	350.0	0.2	39.8	10.2
Quebec	3,990.5	0.6	3,654.2	0.8	336.3	8.4
Ontario	6,631.2	0.5	6,166.1	0.2	465.2	7.0
Manitoba	602.6	0.0	572.3	0.4	30.3	5.0
Saskatchewan	520.9	-0.2	491.8	0.0	29.1	5.6
Alberta	1,800.0	0.3	1,707.5	0.5	92.5	5.1
British Columbia	2,175.8	-0.3	1,994.2	-0.2	181.6	8.3

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

Although their employment level changed little in December, young people benefited from a strong labour market in 2002, with employment rising 4.5% (+104,000). Most of the increase was in part-time work. For 2002 as a whole, the youth unemployment rate fell from 14.0% to 13.3% by the end of the year.

Employment last year rose in all provinces except Newfoundland and Labrador. Ontario and Quebec accounted for nearly two-thirds of the overall increase.

In December, employment in Quebec jumped by 31,000, highest among the provinces. Almost all the new jobs were full-time.

**Labour force information** is now available for the week ending December 14 (Internet: 71-001-XIE, \$8/\$78). For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; [labour@statcan.ca](mailto: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 7.)

## CANSIM II on CD-ROM

Discover a new way to get data with CANSIM II disc-on-demand. For \$5,000, you receive the entire CANSIM II database on CD-ROM.

CANSIM II is Statistics Canada's online database for Canadian socio-economic statistics and contains over 10 million series on labour, health, income, trade, education, manufacturing, investment and more. Search for data by subject, keyword, table or series number, and then load or copy data directly into your spreadsheets or databases.

*The data will be provided in Beyond 20/20 format and shipped to you within 72 hours of receipt of your order. CANSIM II on CD-ROM can be ordered at the following address: [http://cansim2.statcan.ca/CH\\_CD/CH\\_1\\_E.htm](http://cansim2.statcan.ca/CH_CD/CH_1_E.htm).*

## Drop in Canadian spending halts tourism recovery

**T**ourism activity stumbled in the third quarter, as spending in Canada decreased 1.0% from the second quarter, largely the result of a drop in expenditures by Canadian residents. This decline followed two quarters of growth, which had signalled the beginning of a recovery in the industry after a poor showing in 2001.

At \$8.5 billion (current dollars) and constituting 66% of total tourism expenditures in Canada, spending by Canadians was responsible for the halt in the recovery in the third quarter. The 1.8% drop in domestic demand may have reflected a more general tightening of the purse strings by Canadian consumers.

The decrease in the domestic tourism market was partly offset by a rise in spending from international visitors. Following a large decline in the second quarter (-3.6%), international visitors to Canada increased their spending 0.9% in the third. This coincided with a 0.3% rise in the number of visitors to Canada.

Outlays on accommodation advanced 2.5% in the third quarter. Although the number of visitors from the United States remained relatively flat (-0.1%), visitors from all other countries increased their visits 4.2%. The World Youth Days in Toronto in July may have been a contributing factor to this increase.

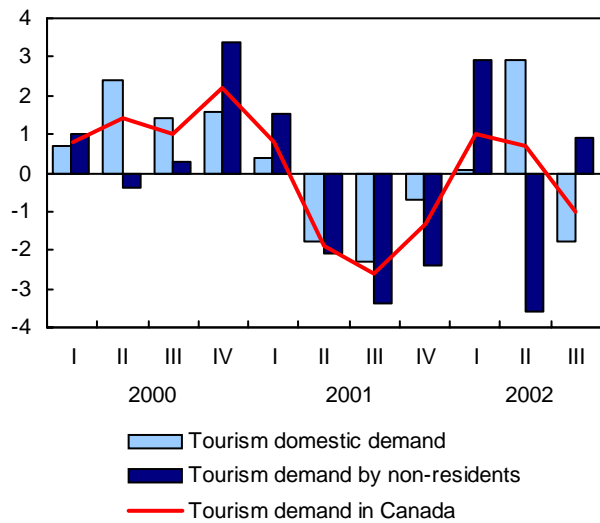
With the rise in spending from abroad, Canada's international travel deficit was reduced to \$580 million in the third quarter from \$612 million in the second.

Viewing total tourism spending by commodity, tourism expenditure on air transportation, which fell 3.1% from the second quarter, was the major factor behind the drop in third quarter spending. In fact, if air transportation were removed, tourism spending would have remained virtually flat in the quarter.

Other tourism commodities showed mixed results. Transportation commodities all showed declines in the quarter, as did spending on accommodation and on recreation and entertainment. These declines were partly offset by an advance in food and beverage services.

### Tourism demand

% change - preceding quarter  
Adjusted for seasonal variation and inflation



Employment generated by tourism reached 580,000 jobs in the third quarter, up 0.9% from the second. This followed two quarters of essentially no growth. Employment in the air transportation industry rose 3.9% in the third quarter, a second consecutive quarterly increase. Employment in accommodation remained almost stable in the quarter, but employment in the food and beverage industry continued to increase, rising 0.7%.

*The third quarter 2002 issue of the **National tourism indicators** (13-009-XIB, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). From the Our products and services page, under Browse our Internet publications, choose Free, then National accounts. For more information, contact Conrad Barber-Dueck (204-275-3626) or Jacques Delisle (613-951-3796), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.*

## Survey of Innovation: Statistical tables, manufacturing industries, Canada

A series of statistical tables based on results of the 1999 Survey of Innovation is now available. This document includes a description of survey methodology, and statistical tables for manufacturing industries at the national level for all non write-in questions from the Survey of Innovation 1999 questionnaire. Tables present survey results on competitive environment, firm success factors, percentage of innovative firms, and a number of other topics.

***Survey of Innovation, statistical tables, manufacturing industries, Canada, 1999** (88F0006XIE, no. 16, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). For more information, contact Frances Anderson (613-951-6307; [frances.anderson@statcan.ca](mailto:frances.anderson@statcan.ca)) or Guy Sabourin (613-951-4902; [guy.sabourin@statcan.ca](mailto:guy.sabourin@statcan.ca)), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division.*

## Value of building permits hits an annual record

Municipalities issued \$4.0 billion worth of building permits in November, down 2.7% from the record reached in October. Despite the decline, the level remained high, as construction intentions revolved around the \$4.0 billion mark for the fourth time in the last five months.

On a year-to-date basis, the total value of permits reached \$42.5 billion, up 17.0% from the same period of 2001 and already higher than any annual total on record. From January to November, municipalities authorized the construction of nearly 199,000 dwelling units. For the first time since 1989, the 200,000-unit mark will be surpassed for a single year.

The residential component declined 7.8% to \$2.4 billion in November in the wake of retreats in both single- and multi-family permits. However, this decline has to be put in perspective, as November's level remained 30.8% higher than the average monthly level recorded in 2001.

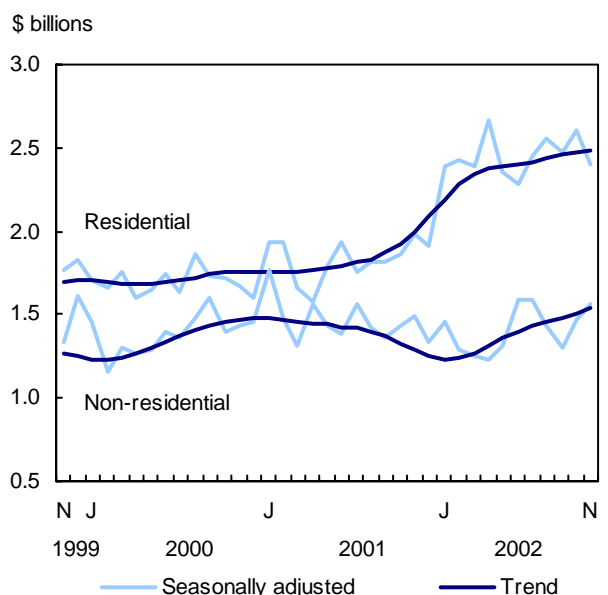
After three consecutive monthly gains that led to a record high in October, the value of single-family permits dropped 8.8% to \$1.7 billion. The construction intentions for multi-family dwellings declined 5.2% to \$674 million.

The largest decrease in residential construction intentions came from Ontario (-10.6% to \$1.0 billion). This was the province's lowest monthly level in 2002; however, this is still 15.1% higher than the average monthly level in 2001. In contrast, Nova Scotia posted the largest increase (+33.6% to \$66 million).

Healthy year-to-date results in the residential sector were recorded in all provinces, territories and metropolitan areas. Consequently, the value of residential building permits from January to November totalled \$27.0 billion, a 34.4% jump from the same period of 2001.

Planned non-residential construction increased 6.3% to \$1.6 billion in November. The institutional component led the way with a 10.8% increase from October to \$593 million, the best

Value of building permits



monthly result ever. The record came mainly from gains in construction plans in the medical and hospital category.

The commercial component also contributed to November's monthly increase, up 7.7% to \$707 million. Permits in the industrial component, however, fell 5.6% to \$263 million as a result of significant reductions in the transportation and manufacturing building categories.

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

## New Housing Price Index

New house prices continued to climb in November, as the New Housing Price Index (1992=100) rose 0.6% from October. Compared with November 2001, this index of contractors' selling prices increased 5.0%.

Monthly rises occurred in 12 of the 21 urban centres surveyed. Montréal led the way with an increase of 2.2%, followed by 1.4% in Edmonton and Regina. On an annual basis, Edmonton (+9.3%) led the way with the largest 12-month increase for new homes. Ottawa-Gatineau was next with an increase of 8.8%.

The fourth quarter 2002 issue of **Capital expenditure price statistics** (paper: 62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in March. For more information, contact Perry Kirkpatrick (613-951-3350; infounit@statcan.ca) or Sue Morris (613-951-2035; morrsus@statcan.ca), Prices Division.

## Investment in non-residential construction reaches new heights

Investment in non-residential building construction reached a record high in the fourth quarter, fuelled by spending in the public sector. Overall, businesses and governments spent \$6.4 billion, up 1.2% from the third quarter.

At the provincial level, Ontario recorded the strongest increase (+3.0% to \$2.9 billion), its fourth quarterly increase in a row. In contrast, Quebec recorded the largest decline in dollar terms, down 1.5% to \$1.5 billion.

For 2002 as a whole, investment in non-residential building construction nationally hit a record \$25.6 billion, up 1.5% from 2001. It was the seventh consecutive annual increase, and was propelled by record-high investment in the institutional component.

Institutional investment (+4.5%) rose in the fourth quarter for the third time in 2002. The quarterly record of \$1.9 billion came mainly from gains in investment in the hospital, clinics and health category. The largest increase was recorded in Ontario (+7.0%), with a sixth consecutive quarterly increase. British Columbia had the largest decline (-8.6%).

The slight decrease in commercial investment in the fourth quarter (-0.4% to \$3.3 billion) helped keep the cumulative result for 2002 below its strong showing in 2001. The main contributor to the fourth quarter loss was Quebec (-2.8%). Alberta recorded the largest increase (+5.0%).

Investment in industrial building construction showed a small increase (+0.6% to \$1.2 billion) in the fourth quarter. The strongest increase was recorded in Saskatchewan (+59.5%), thanks to several

### Investment in non-residential building construction Seasonally adjusted

	Fourth quarter 2001	Third quarter 2002	Fourth quarter 2002	Third quarter to fourth quarter 2002
	\$ millions			% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>6,377</b>	<b>6,370</b>	<b>6,446</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	149	44	39	-10.8
Prince Edward Island	44	74	68	-8.9
Nova Scotia	116	91	94	3.7
New Brunswick	112	131	116	-11.7
Quebec	1,535	1,539	1,516	-1.5
Ontario	2,526	2,845	2,929	3.0
Manitoba	162	204	220	7.9
Saskatchewan	264	162	163	0.5
Alberta	771	639	662	3.6
British Columbia	647	596	597	0.3
Yukon	9	6	4	-28.0
Northwest Territories	37	24	17	-29.6
Nunavut	6	16	22	39.6

major projects; investment fell 9.7% in Manitoba, the largest decline.

Detailed data on investment in non-residential building construction are available in free tables on Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). To order data, contact Bradley Sernoskie (613-951-4646; [bradley.sernoskie@statcan.ca](mailto:bradley.sernoskie@statcan.ca)). For more information, contact Michel Labonté (613-951-9690; [michel.labonte@statcan.ca](mailto:michel.labonte@statcan.ca)), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

## Motor vehicle theft

An average of about 470 motor vehicles were stolen each day in Canada in 2001. Police reported just over 170,000 stolen vehicles in 2001, about 10,000 more than in 2000. The national vehicle theft rate jumped 5% in 2001, halting four years of decline.

In 2001, Manitoba's rate (1,148 vehicle thefts per 100,000 population) was more than twice the national average and highest among the provinces for the fifth year in a row. Manitoba was followed by British Columbia and Saskatchewan. The lowest rates were reported in the Atlantic provinces.

Among the 25 largest metropolitan areas, the highest rates of vehicle theft were reported in Regina, Winnipeg and Vancouver. The lowest rates were reported in St. John's, Saint John and Québec.

The publication *Juristat: Motor Vehicle Theft in Canada - 2001*, Vol. 23, no. 1 (Internet: 85-002-XIE, \$8/\$70; paper: 85-002-XPE, \$10/\$93) is now available. For more information, contact Client Services (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.



## Self-employment rising among recent immigrants

Immigrants who arrived in Canada in the 1990s were far more likely to be self-employed than immigrants who arrived in the 1980s, according to a new study. This study used data obtained from the Census of Population during the 1980s and 1990s to focus on various trends in immigrant self-employment in comparison with Canadian-born workers.

The self-employment rate rose throughout the 1980s and the 1990s. This was true for both Canadian-born workers and recent immigrant workers, but it was especially true for the latter.

In 1981, about 8% of recent immigrant workers were self-employed. By 1996, this proportion had almost doubled to 14%. In contrast, the proportion of Canadian-born workers that were self-employed remained fairly steady over the same period. In 1981, about 13% were self-employed, compared with about 14% in 1996.

The characteristics of recent immigrants changed significantly over this period. However, the self-employment rate rose much faster among recent immigrant workers than among Canadian-born workers, even after accounting for differences in education, age, family composition, visible minority status, and geography.

Almost one-half of all self-employed recent immigrants in 1996 came from East Asia, up from one in four in 1986. In 1986, about 16% of recent East Asian immigrants were self-employed, compared with 27% in 1996.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, about one in three self-employed recent immigrants were in consumer services. In

contrast, only about one in four self-employed Canadian-born workers were in consumer services.

During this same period, self-employed recent immigrants became more likely to work in business and distributive services. In 1981, for example, one in five self-employed recent immigrants worked in business and distributive services, compared with one in three in 1996.

Although there was an earning gap between recent immigrant and Canadian self-employed workers, this gap did not increase between 1980 and 1995. In contrast, the earnings of recent immigrant employees in paid jobs fell further behind the earnings of Canadian-born employees.

For example, self-employed recent immigrants earned about \$18,900 on average in 1985, compared with \$25,900 for Canadian-born self-employed workers, a 27% difference. In 1995, self-employed recent immigrants earned about \$16,500 on average, compared with \$23,000 for Canadian-born self-employed workers, a 28% difference.

In paid jobs, recent immigrants earned about 27% less than Canadian-born workers in 1985. This gap widened to 38% in 1995.

These gaps held after accounting for differences in education, age, family composition, visible minority status and geography.

*The research paper **Do the falling earnings of immigrants apply to self-employed immigrants?** (Internet: 11F0019MIE, no. 195, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). For more information, contact Marc Frenette (613-951-4228), Business and Labour Market Analysis Division.*

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## Industrial product and raw materials price indexes

After four months of increases, manufacturers' prices, as measured by the Industrial Product Price Index, fell 0.3% in November. The small drop reflects the weaker pace of growth recently in the manufacturing sector. Nevertheless, on a year-over-year basis, prices rose 2.2%.

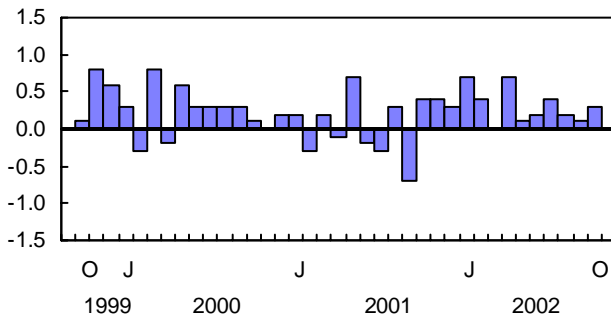
Manufacturers paid 11.3% more for their raw materials in November than they did in November 2001. Higher prices for mineral fuels and vegetable products, as well as for wood products and non-ferrous metals, were mainly responsible for this annual rise in the Raw Materials Price Index. On a monthly basis, raw materials prices were down 3.1% from October.

*The November 2002 issue of **Industry price indexes** (paper: 62-011-XPB, \$22/\$217) will be available soon. For more information, contact Client Services (613-951-9606; [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)) or Danielle Gouin (613-951-3375; [danielle.gouin@statcan.ca](mailto:danielle.gouin@statcan.ca)), Prices Division.*

## Current trends

### Gross domestic product

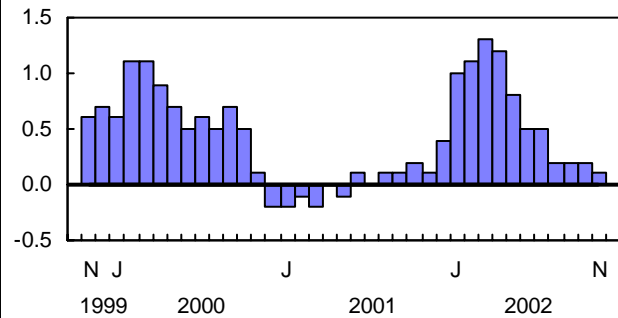
% change, previous month



Total economic activity edged up 0.3% in October, following a 0.1% increase in September.

### Composite Index

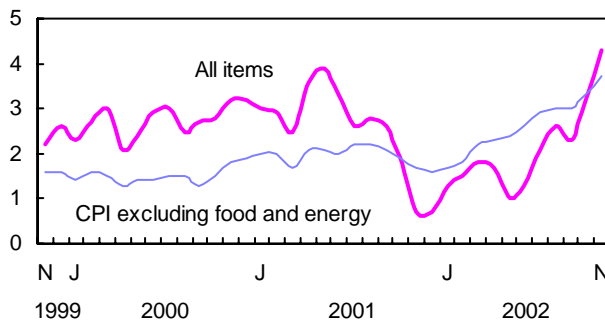
% change, previous month



The leading indicator continued to grow slowly in November, up 0.1% after three straight monthly increases of 0.2%.

### Consumer Price Index

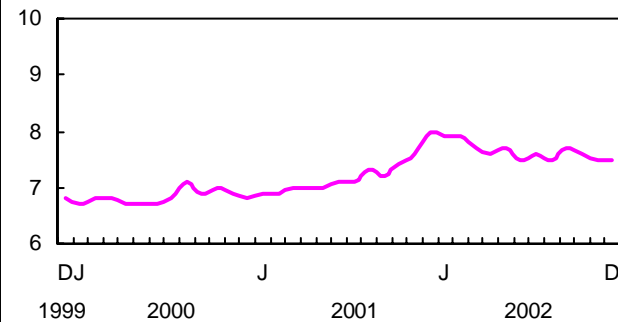
% change, previous year



Consumer prices for goods and services were 4.3% higher in November than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 3.7%.

### Unemployment rate

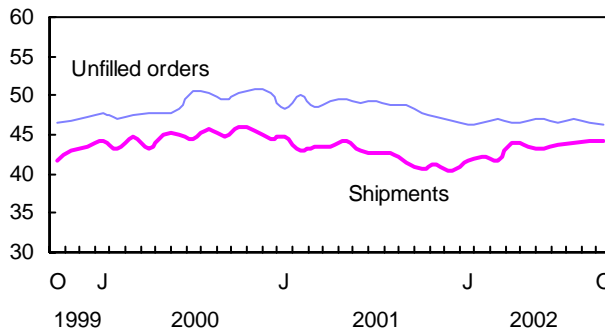
%



In December, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 7.5%.

### Manufacturing

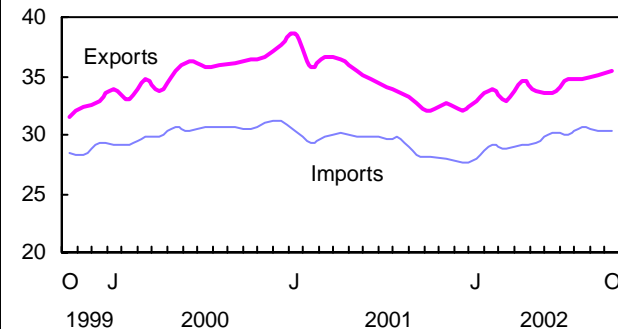
\$ billions



Manufacturers' shipments edged up 0.1% in October to \$44.2 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders declined 0.5% to \$46.3 billion.

### Merchandise trade

\$ billions



In October, the value of merchandise exports increased 0.9% to \$35.4 billion. Imports rose 0.3% to \$30.4 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>	October	984.1	0.3%	3.9%
Composite Index (1992=100)	November	179.4	0.1%	7.6%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billions)	Q3 2002	40.3	2.6%	12.9%
Capacity utilization rate (%) <sup>2</sup>	Q3 2002	83.3	0.8†	2.5†
<b>DOMESTIC DEMAND</b>				
Retail trade (\$ billions)	October	26.0	1.7%	7.4%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	November*	140.9	-4.7%	-2.6%
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	October	35.5	0.6%	8.8%
<b>LABOUR</b>				
Employment (millions)	December*	15.6	0.4%	3.7%
Unemployment rate (%)	December*	7.5	0.0†	-0.5†
Participation rate (%)	December*	67.5	0.2†	1.2†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	October	683.53	0.46%	2.10%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	December	113.5	-4.0%	-10.5%
Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries (in thousands)	October	556.6	0.6%	1.8%
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>				
Merchandise exports (\$ billions)	October	35.4	0.9%	10.7%
Merchandise imports (\$ billions)	October	30.4	0.3%	7.7%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billions)	October	5.1	0.2	1.2
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>				
Shipments (\$ billions)	October	44.2	0.1%	9.0%
New orders (\$ billions)	October	44.0	0.8%	10.7%
Unfilled orders (\$ billions)	October	46.3	-0.5%	-3.2%
Inventory/shipments ratio	October	1.42	0.01	-0.14
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	November	120.8	0.2%	4.3%
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	November	108.6	-0.3%	2.2%
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	November	113.3	-3.1%	11.3%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	November*	112.5	0.6%	5.0%

**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 Industry Classification System (NAICS), which has replaced the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification.

## Infomat

### A weekly review

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## Products released from January 9 to 15, 2002

SUBJECT AREA Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price (\$) (issue/subscription)
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>			
Farm product price index	October 2002	21-007-XIB	free
Livestock Feed Requirements Study	1999-2001	23-501-XIE	free
Production of eggs	November 2002	23-003-XIB	free
<b>CENSUS OPERATIONS</b>			
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