



# Infomat

## A Weekly Review

Friday, January 24, 2003

### INSIDE

#### ◆ Canada's population more diverse than ever

The proportion of Canada's population that was born outside the country has reached its highest level in 70 years, according to new data from the 2001 Census.

#### ◆ Aboriginal share of population on the rise

The proportion of Aboriginal people in Canada's population is on the rise. A total of 976,300 people identified themselves as members of at least one of three Aboriginal groups in 2001: North American Indian, Métis or Inuit. They accounted for 3.3% of the nation's total population in 2001, up from 2.8% in 1996.

#### ◆ New motor vehicle sales drop

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#### ◆ Sales by wholesalers up for sixth straight month

Wholesale sales in November rose for the sixth consecutive month. They edged up 0.3% to \$35.9 billion in goods and services. Sales in eight of the 11 trade groups posted growth.

### Exports down in all major sectors

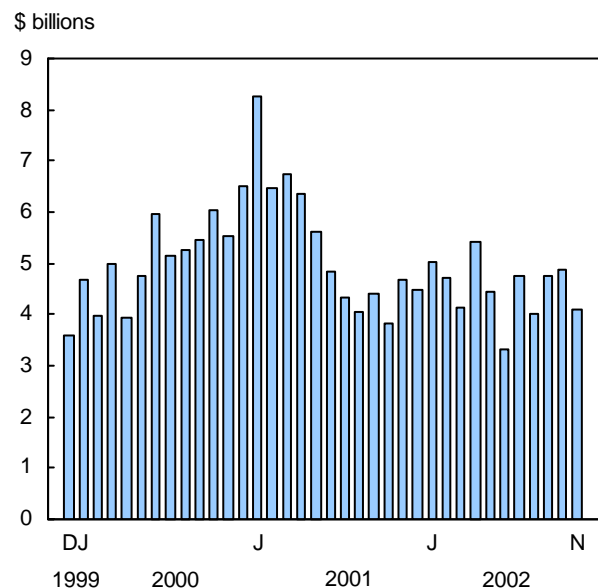
Canada's trade surplus in international merchandise plunged by three-quarters of a billion dollars in November, as exports fell in all major sectors. Exports declined 2.2% to \$34.3 billion, but imports were flat at \$30.2 billion. As a result, Canada's trade balance with the rest of the world fell to just over \$4.1 billion.

Canadian companies sent \$29.4 billion in goods to the United States in November, down 1.2% from October; imports from south of the border rose slightly to \$21.7 billion. The trade surplus with the United States fell by \$490 million to \$7.7 billion.

Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States widened from \$3.3 billion in October to \$3.6 billion in November.

*(continued on page 2)*

#### Trade balance



### Exports down... (continued from page 1)

November's across-the-board decline in exports halted four months of modest growth. Weaker exports to the United States, Japan and a number of smaller trading partners contributed to the decline.

Exports of automotive products fell 1.7% in November to \$8.0 billion, 8.3% below the high for 2002 recorded in August. Exports of trucks and other motor vehicles fell 1.5% to \$1.6 billion; exports of passenger automobiles declined for the fourth month in a row, as American demand continued to soften. In November, passenger auto exports fell 1.7% to \$4.0 billion.

Forestry product exports sagged for the second month in a row in November, falling 0.6% to \$2.9 billion. Newsprint and other paperboard exports decreased 3.1% as demand faltered among Canada's trading partners in Asia and the United States. Canada's lumber exports fell 0.9% to \$819 million in November as single-family housing starts flattened out in the United States, leading to small decreases in prices and shipments.

In the machinery and equipment sector, exports declined 2.7% to \$7.8 billion, with only telecommunication and office machines increasing in November. Aircraft and other transportation equipment exports dropped 8.5% to \$1.9 billion. Industrial and agricultural machinery exports fell 4.8% to \$1.6 billion.

Increases in imports from the United States and Japan offset declines in merchandise imports from all other trading partners.

Imports of automotive products declined 4.0% to \$6.6 billion. Imports of trucks and other motor vehicles fell 3.7% from October's record level to \$1.0 billion. Strong domestic sales of foreign cars, on the other hand, pushed imports of passenger autos up 2.2% to \$2.2 billion.

Machinery and equipment, Canada's largest import sector, increased 4.0% to \$9.1 billion. Imports of aircraft and other transportation equipment rose 11.5% to \$1.3 billion, and imports of "other" machinery, which includes high-tech equipment, increased 2.9% to \$4.1 billion.

Imports of consumer goods continued in November at October's record level of \$4.0 billion. Increased imports of house furnishings, apparel and footwear and consumer entertainment goods offset declines in pharmaceuticals, printed matter and consumer electronics.

**Canadian international merchandise trade** (Internet: 65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141; paper: 65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188) is now available. For general information, contact Jocelyne Elibani, (613-951-9647; 1-800-294-5583). For analytical information, contact Daryl Keen (613-951-1810), International Trade Division (See also "Current trends" on page 7.)

## Telecommunications services statistics

The strong year-over-year growth in revenues and profits achieved by the wireless telecommunications services industry in the first two quarters of 2002 continued in the third, and the industry is on track to realize its most profitable year ever.

In the third quarter, operating revenues of wireless operators were up 12.5% from the third quarter of 2001 and operating profits nearly tripled to \$307.0 million. The improved financial performance of the wireless industry is largely attributable to the ever-increasing penetration of wireless technologies.

The wireline industry sustained a year-over-year decline in operating revenues (-3.3%), the third consecutive decrease. The continued strong competition in the long distance market, the loss of customer connections and lower intra-industry network access rates create a downward pressure on the industry's revenues.

The third quarter 2002 issue of **Quarterly telecommunications statistics** (Internet: 56-002-XIE, \$21/\$40) is now available. For more information, contact Cimeron McDonald (613-951-2741) or Jo Anne Lambert (613-951-6673), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division.

## Canada's population more diverse than ever

**T**he proportion of Canada's population that was born outside the country has reached its highest level in 70 years, according to new data from the 2001 Census. As of May 15, 2001, 5.4 million people, or 18.4% of the total population, were born outside the country.

This was the highest proportion since 1931, when foreign-born people made up 22.2% of the population. In 1996, the proportion was 17.4%.

Canada is second in the proportion of its population born outside the country only to Australia, where foreign-born represented 22% of the total population in 2001. Only 11% of the population of the United States was foreign-born in 2000.

For the first 60 years of the past century, European nations such as the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands, as well as the United States, were the primary sources of immigrants to Canada. Today, immigrants are most likely to be from Asian countries.

About 1.8 million people living in Canada in 2001 were immigrants who arrived during the previous 10 years, between 1991 and May 15, 2001. These individuals accounted for 6.2% of the total population in 2001.

Of those who immigrated in the 1990s, 58% were born in Asia, including the Middle East; 20% in Europe; 11% in the Caribbean, and Central and South America; 8% in Africa; and 3% in the United States.

The People's Republic of China was the leading country of birth among individuals who immigrated to Canada in the 1990s.

Nearly three-quarters (73%) of the immigrants who came in the 1990s lived in three census metropolitan areas: Toronto, Vancouver and Montréal. In contrast, just over one-third of Canada's total population lived in these three areas. In 1991, 66% of all immigrants who arrived in the 1980s lived in these three metropolitan areas.

Canada was home to almost 4 million individuals who identified themselves as members of visible minority groups in 2001, accounting for 13.4% of the total population. Visible minorities are defined by the *Employment Equity Act* as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour." This proportion has increased steadily over the past 20 years.

In 1981, 1.1 million members of visible minority groups accounted for 4.7% of the total population; by 1996, 3.2 million accounted for 11.2%.

Combined, the three largest visible minority groups in 2001 — Chinese, South Asians and Blacks — accounted for two-thirds of the visible minority population. They were followed by Filipinos, Arabs and West Asians, Latin Americans, Southeast Asians, Koreans and Japanese.

Chinese, the largest visible minority group, surpassed one million for the first time. A total of 1,029,400 individuals identified themselves as Chinese in 2001, up from 860,100 in 1996. They accounted for 3.5% of the total national population and 26% of the visible minority population.

*Detailed analysis of these new census data is presented in the online report **Canada's ethnocultural portrait: The changing mosaic**, available on Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). For more information, contact Media Relations (613-951-4636), Communications Division.*

### Travel between Canada and other countries

Travel to Canada rose for the fifth consecutive month in November. This was entirely the result of visits from overseas, which reached a 17-month high. An estimated 3.8 million foreigners visited Canada, up 0.4% from October.

Canadian travel to the United States and overseas countries declined for the first time in six months. Canadians made 3.3 million trips abroad in November, down 2.4%. Of these trips, 2.9 million were to the United States (-2.6%) and 408,000 were to overseas countries (-0.6%).

*The November 2002 issue of **International travel, advance information** (Internet: 66-001-PIE, \$6/\$55) is now available. For more information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; [cult.tourstats@statcan.ca](mailto:cult.tourstats@statcan.ca)) or Frances Kremarik (613-951-4240; [frances.kremarik@statcan.ca](mailto:frances.kremarik@statcan.ca)), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.*

## Aboriginal share of population on the rise

The proportion of Aboriginal people in Canada's population is on the rise. A total of 976,300 people identified themselves as members of at least one of three Aboriginal groups in 2001: North American Indian, Métis or Inuit.

This was 22% higher than the 1996 figure of 799,000. In contrast, the total non-Aboriginal population grew only 3.4% between 1996 and 2001.

People who identified themselves as Aboriginal accounted for 3.3% of the nation's total population in 2001, compared with 2.8% in 1996.

About one-half of the increase in the Aboriginal population can be attributed to demographic factors, such as their high birth rate. The remaining increase is accounted for by various other factors, such as fewer incompletely enumerated reserves and an increased tendency for people to identify as Aboriginal.

Of the three Aboriginal groups, the largest gain in population between 1996 and 2001 occurred among the Métis, whose numbers increased 43%.

This five-year growth was almost three times as fast as the 15% increase in the North American Indian population, and almost four times the 12% increase among the Inuit.

The census enumerated 292,310 Métis, who represented about 30% of the total Aboriginal population. This was up from 204,115 in 1996.

The majority of Aboriginal people, 608,850 or 62%, were North American Indian, and 5% or 45,070 were Inuit. The remaining

3% were either people who identified with more than one Aboriginal group, or registered Indians or band members who did not identify as Aboriginal.

Children aged 14 and under represented one-third of the Aboriginal population in 2001, far higher than the corresponding share of 19% in the non-Aboriginal population. Although the Aboriginal population accounted for only 3.3% of Canada's total population, Aboriginal children represented 5.6% of all children in Canada.

The census showed that only 24% of North American Indians, Inuit and Métis reported that they had enough knowledge of an Aboriginal language to carry on a conversation. This was down from 29% five years ago.

Knowledge of eight of the 14 Aboriginal languages with at least 2,000 speakers increased since 1996. However, understanding of six languages declined.

Overall, the number of people who named an Aboriginal language as their mother tongue was down 3.5%.

It should be noted that undercoverage in the 2001 Census was considerably higher among Aboriginal people than among other segments of the population. This was because enumeration was not permitted or was interrupted before it could be completed on 30 Indian reserves and settlements. These are not included in tabulations.

*Detailed analysis of these new census data is presented in the online report **Aboriginal peoples of Canada: A demographic profile**, available on Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). For more information, contact Media Relations (613-951-4636), Communications Division.*

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### Annual survey of Internet service providers and related services

In 2001, operating revenues for Internet service provider firms increased 27% to \$1.27 billion. Despite this increase, the struggle to turn a profit continued in 2001. Total operating expenses climbed to \$1.55 billion, resulting in an operating loss of 22.2%. This was greater than the 13.9% loss recorded in 2000.

Internet service provider firms were asked to rate which factors provided the greatest impediments to growth in the industry. The most frequently cited factor was strong competition. Because of the highly competitive market for Internet access services, industry experts suggest that firms are willing to price selected services at levels that are insufficient to cover expenses. This is done in an effort to either gain, or at the very least, maintain their market share and is one reason that the industry continued to lose money in 2001.

*Data for 2001 from the **Annual Survey of Internet Service Providers and Related Services** are now available for Canada. Included are summary statistics for operating revenue, operating expenses, salaries and benefits, number of firms and number of employees. For more information, contact Heather Archibald (613-951-0403; [heather.archibald@statcan.ca](mailto:heather.archibald@statcan.ca)), Service Industries Division.*

## New motor vehicle sales drop

New motor vehicle sales fell 4.7% in November, a sharp drop in passenger car sales accounting for almost all of this decline. A total of 140,874 new motor vehicles were sold in November, down 6,958 units from the record set in October.

The number of new vehicles sold in November was the third lowest since the start of 2002 and was below the monthly average of 143,843 units. The decrease occurred despite the incentives offered in November.

Despite November's drop, the cumulative number of new motor vehicles sold in the first 11 months of 2002 remained substantially higher (+9.0%) than in the same period of 2001, a record year. This increase is attributable to both trucks (+10.3%) and cars (+7.9%).

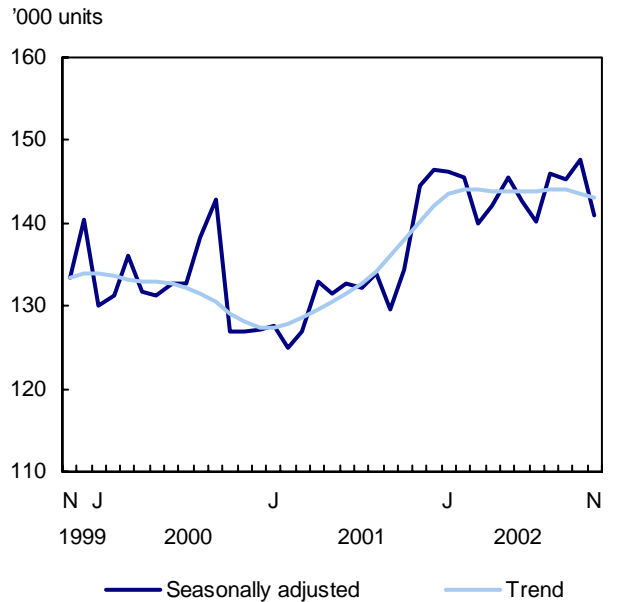
In November, 72,630 new passenger cars were purchased, down 8.0% from October. This drop, which followed almost unchanged sales in October and a 0.2% decline in September, was mainly attributable to North American-built passenger cars (-9.9%). Sales of overseas-built models have also decreased, but at a much lower rate (-3.9%).

Unlike car sales, new truck sales slipped only slightly in November. A total of 68,244 trucks were sold, down 0.9% from October. Trucks include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.

In November, sales of new motor vehicles declined in all provinces except Prince Edward Island (+2.1%), Nova Scotia (+0.5%) and Manitoba, where sales were unchanged from October.

The largest decline was recorded in New Brunswick (-10.1%), followed by Quebec (-9.3%). In other provinces, the declines were below the national average (-4.7%).

### New motor vehicle sales



Year-to-date sales at the end of November were higher in all provinces than in the same period of 2001. On average, they advanced 7.7% in the Atlantic provinces, 8.1% in the region formed by Quebec and Ontario and 11.4% in the western provinces.

*The November 2002 issue of **New motor vehicle sales** (Internet: 63-007-XIB, \$13/\$124) is now available. For general information, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Clérance Kimanyi (613-951-6363; clerance.kimanyi@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.*

## Annual Survey of Software Development and Computer Services

Revenue growth in the computer systems design and related services industry stalled after several years of stellar double-digit percentage increases. Operating revenues in 2001 were \$18.0 billion, a 1.1% increase from 2000. Despite this slowdown, the industry turned a profit, as firms scaled back on the number of employees in an effort to control expenses.

The number of paid employees dropped 3.5%. This was a reversal from the large employment growth that took place in 2000. Even though the industry turned a profit, it continued to underperform in comparison with all industries in the economy. Its operating profit margin was only 2.6%, well below the 6% for all industries combined.

Technical consulting services generated the largest share of revenues at 25.0%. Revenues in the software publishing industry increased after being flat in 2000. Operating revenues climbed to \$5.9 billion, a 9.7% increase from 2000. But losses were again recorded as firms' expenditures outpaced revenues.

*Data for 2001 from the **Annual Survey of Software Development and Computer Services** are now available. For more information, contact Jim Hines (613-951-0640; fax: 613-951-6696; jim.hines@statcan.ca), Service Industries Division.*

## Sales by wholesalers up for sixth straight month

**W**holesale sales in November rose for the sixth consecutive month. They edged up 0.3% in November to \$35.9 billion in goods and services.

Canadian wholesale sales from January to November experienced a year-to-date increase of 5.9% compared with the same period of 2001. During this period, Canada enjoyed a robust economy. In contrast, US wholesalers posted an increase of 1.1% in November. With this gain, year-to-date sales by American wholesalers increased only 1.4% from the same period of 2001.

In November, eight of the 11 trade groups posted growth. Contributing the most to the increase in terms of value were the other products category, food products and the automotive sector. The increased sales in these sectors were offset in part by sharp decreases in lumber and building materials and industrial machinery.

Sales among food product wholesalers rose 0.6% in November. With this increase, the industry was able to wipe out October's loss (-0.4%). Other non-durable goods industries, such as beverage, drug and tobacco products (+0.4%) and apparel and dry goods (+2.2%), also exceeded the national average.

In November, wholesalers of computers, software and other electronic equipment posted a second consecutive increase in their sales (+1.1%). Despite volatile sales, the trend in sales has been generally stable since July.

Wholesalers of lumber and building materials saw their sales drop 2.7% in November. This was partly due to weaker building activity in November. Even so, their sales were 12.1% higher than in November 2001.

Wholesale sales of household goods also declined in November (-0.4%). Despite the decrease, this trade group was up 17.4% from November 2001.

The strength of durable goods, such as household goods or automobiles, parts and accessories, is largely due to the consumer

### Wholesale trade, November 2002 Seasonally adjusted

	\$ millions	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
<b>Canada</b>	<b>35,906</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>8.8</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	213	-8.3	-1.8
Prince Edward Island	56	-2.3	1.5
Nova Scotia	638	1.1	6.8
New Brunswick	458	1.4	0.1
Quebec	7,083	-0.7	4.8
Ontario	18,365	0.8	12.6
Manitoba	1,007	-4.2	-2.2
Saskatchewan	1,042	0.2	5.8
Alberta	3,568	0.2	2.2
British Columbia	3,442	1.6	12.0
Yukon	11	12.3	3.6
Northwest Territories	21	19.0	22.6
Nunavut	2	14.1	-4.1

market, which remained relatively robust throughout 2002. Conversely, industries that are heavily dependent on business investment, such as industrial machinery and computers, have experienced relatively lacklustre growth.

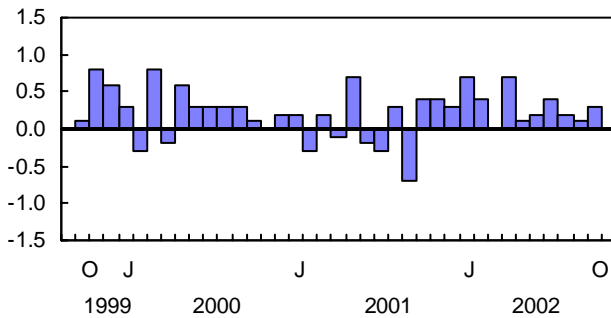
In November, six provinces contributed to the increase in wholesale sales. The largest gains were posted in British Columbia (+1.6%), New Brunswick (+1.4%) and Nova Scotia (+1.2%). Strong sales of other products were behind much of the growth in British Columbia, and healthy wholesale sales of food products, computers, and other products accounted for much of the growth in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

*The November 2002 issue of **Wholesale trade** (Internet: 63-008-XIB, \$14/\$140) is now available. For general information, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Jean Lebreux (613-951-4907; jean.lebreux@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.*

## Current trends

### Gross domestic product

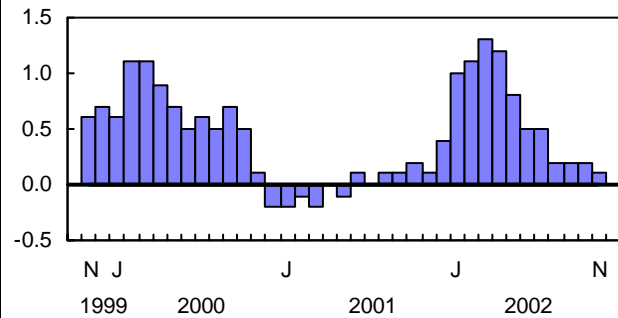
% change, previous month



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

### Composite Index

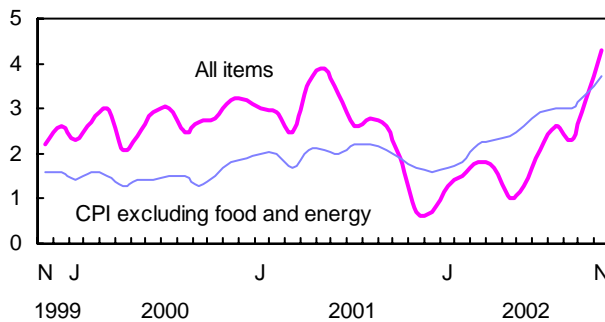
% change, previous month



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

### Consumer Price Index

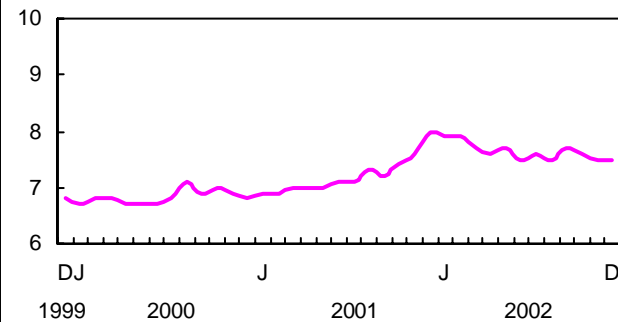
% change, previous year



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

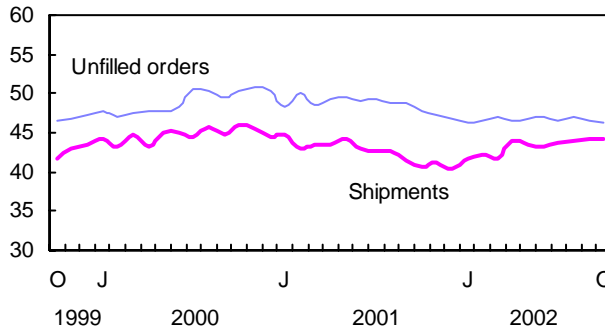
%



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

### Manufacturing

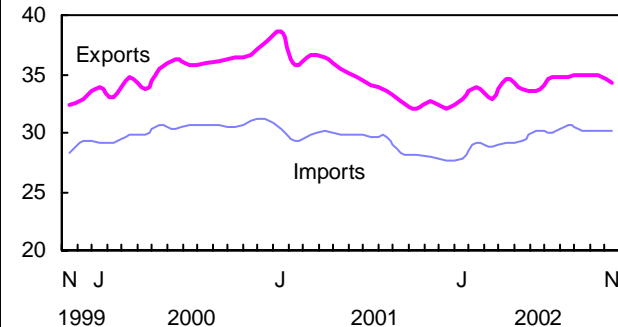
\$ billions



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 November, the value of merchandise exports declined 2.2% to \$34.3 billion. Imports edged down 0.1% to \$30.2 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)	November*	25.8	-0.6%	5.1%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	November	140.9	-4.7%	-2.6%
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	November*	35.9	0.3%	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)	November*	34.3	-2.2%	5.0%
Merchandise imports (\$ billions)	November*	30.2	-0.1%	7.8%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billions)	November*	4.1	-0.8	-0.6
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>				
Shipments (\$ billions)	November*	43.6	-1.3%	5.8%
New orders (\$ billions)	November*	43.5	-0.9%	6.8%
Unfilled orders (\$ billions)	November*	46.9	-0.2%	-1.1%
Inventory/shipments ratio	November*	1.46	0.04	-0.07
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	December*	120.4	-0.3%	3.9%
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

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

Price per issue: paper, \$4; online at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca), \$3. Annual subscription: paper, \$145; online, \$109. All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude applicable sales taxes. Shipping charges will be added for delivery outside Canada.

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## Products released from January 16 to 22, 2003

SUBJECT AREA Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price (\$) (issue/subscription)
<b>AGRICULTURE</b> Canadian potato production – Updates	January 2003	22-008-UIB	free
<b>CENSUS OPERATIONS</b> 2001 Census results teacher's kit		92F0192XIE	free
<b>CULTURE, TOURISM AND THE CENTRE FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS</b> International travel, advance information	November 2002	66-001-PIE	6/55
<b>DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES</b> New motor vehicle sales Wholesale trade	November 2002 November 2002	63-007-XIB 63-008-XIB	13/124 14/140
<b>INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE</b> Quarterly financial statistics for enterprises	Q3 2002	61-008-XIE	26/86
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b> Canadian international merchandise trade Canadian international merchandise trade Imports by commodity Imports by commodity	November 2002 November 2002 November 2002 November 2002	65-001-XIB 65-001-XPB 65-007-XMB 65-007-XPB	14/141 19/188 37/361 78/773
<b>MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY</b> Construction type plywood Primary iron and steel	November 2002 November 2002	35-001-XIB 41-001-XIB	5/47 5/47
<b>PRICES</b> Industry price indexes The Consumer Price Index The Consumer Price Index	October 2002 December 2002 December 2002	62-011-XPB 62-001-XIB 62-001-XPB	22/217 8/77 11/103
<b>SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND ELECTRONIC INFORMATION</b> Broadcasting and telecommunications Quarterly telecommunications statistics	October 2002 Q3 2002	56-001-XIE 56-002-XIE	10/32 21/40
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b> Aircraft movements statistics	November 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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# Subject index: July 5 to December 20, 2002

## AGRICULTURE

Title and reference period:	Issue date:
Census of Agriculture: Canada's greying farm operators, 2001	November 29
Extreme weather hits farm cash receipts, first semester of 2002	August 30
Large increase in production and exports of maple syrup, 2001-02	November 22
Lean crop year even worse than expected, September 2002	October 11
Worst crop year in three decades, 2002	August 30

## BALANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PAYMENTS (CURRENT ACCOUNT)

Reference period:	Issue date:
Q2 2002	September 6
Q3 2002	December 6

## BUILDING PERMITS

Reference period:	Issue date:
May 2002	July 12
June 2002	August 16
July 2002	September 13
August 2002	October 11
September 2002	November 15
October 2002	December 13

## BUSINESS CONDITIONS SURVEY: MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

Reference period:	Issue date:
Q3 2002	August 9
Q4 2002	November 8

## CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONS IN SECURITIES

Reference period:	Issue date:
April 2002	July 5
May 2002	August 2
June 2002	August 30
July 2002	September 27
August 2002	November 1
September 2002	November 29

## CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE

Reference period:	Issue date:
May 2002	July 26
June 2002	August 23
July 2002	September 27
August 2002	October 25
September 2002	November 22

## COMPOSITE INDEX

Reference period:	Issue date:
June 2002	July 26
July 2002	August 23
August 2002	September 27
September 2002	November 1
October 2002	November 22

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Reference period:	Issue date:
June 2002	July 26
July 2002	August 23
August 2002	September 27
September 2002	November 1
October 2002	November 29

## CONSUMER SPENDING

Title and reference period:	Issue date:
Consumers flock back to department stores, June 2002	August 16
Department store sales up for two straight months, July 2002	September 13
Household spending edges up, 2001	December 20
Spending on home repairs and renovations up sharply, 2001	December 6

## CRIME AND JUSTICE

Title and reference period:	Issue date:
Crime rate up for first time in 10 years, 2001	August 2
Dramatic jump in homicides by spouses, 2001	October 4
Incarceration rate drops, but community supervision rises, 2000-01	November 15

## DEMOGRAPHY

Title and reference period:	Issue date:
Canada's fertility rate at record low, 2000	October 4
Canada's fertility rate falls to all-time low, 1999	July 12
Increased common-law unions transform family life, 2001	July 19
Life expectancy gap narrows between rich and poor, 1996	October 4
2001 Census: Median age reaches all-time high, 2001	July 19

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Title and reference period:	Issue date:
Student computer access in Canada among best in world, 2000	November 8
Student fees up, government revenue down, 2000-01	September 20
Undergraduate university tuition fees rise more slowly, 2002-03	September 13
Urban students outperform rural students in reading, 2000	November 29

## FINANCIAL STATISTICS FOR ENTERPRISES (BUSINESS PROFITS)

Reference period:	Issue date:
Q2 2002	September 6
Q3 2002	December 6

## GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT BY INDUSTRY

Reference period:	Issue date:
April 2002	July 5
May 2002	August 9
June 2002	September 6
July 2002	October 4
August 2002	November 8

## HEALTH

Title and reference period:	Issue date:
Almost one in five Canadians had difficulty accessing health care, 2001	July 19
City dwellers live longer than rural Canadians, 2000-01	July 12
Education and income have greater influence on health, 2000-01	August 16
Health inequality persists for off-reserve Aboriginals, 2000-01	August 30
Immigrants healthier before entering Canada, 2000-01	September 27
Risk of heart disease reduced for women who drink moderately, 1994-95/1998-99	October 11

## INCOME

Title and reference period:	Issue date:
Families in low income at lowest level in 10 years, 2000	November 8
Gain in income largest for female lone parents, 2000	November 8

## INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY UTILIZATION RATES

Reference period:	Issue date:
Q2 2002	September 20
Q3 2002	December 20

## Subject index: July 5 to December 20, 2002 – concluded

### INTERNET USE

Title and reference period:	Issue date:
Consumers shopping more online, 2001	October 18
High-speed Internet by cable gaining popularity, 2001	September 6
Use of Internet at home still growing, 2001	August 2

### LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, JOB GROWTH)

Reference period:	Issue date:
June 2002	July 12
July 2002	August 16
August 2002	September 13
September 2002	October 18
October 2002	November 15
November 2002	December 13

### LABOUR MARKETS

Title and reference period:	Issue date:
Alberta replaces B.C. as destination for job-seekers, 1996-2001	December 13
Entrepreneurs rely on savings to start new businesses, 2000	October 11
Job stability on the rise throughout 1990s, 2001	October 25
Shift work may be unhealthy in long run, 2000-01	August 9

### MONTHLY SURVEY OF MANUFACTURING

Reference period:	Issue date:
May 2002	July 26
June 2002	August 23
July 2002	September 20
August 2002	October 25
September 2002	November 22
October 2002	December 20

### NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS (QUARTERLY GDP)

Reference period:	Issue date:
Q2 2002	September 6
Q3 2002	December 6

### NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES

Reference period:	Issue date:
June 2002	August 16
July 2002	September 20
August 2002	October 18
September 2002	November 22
October 2002	December 20

### PRODUCTIVITY

Title and reference period:	Issue date:
Productivity falls for first time in five years, 2001	July 19
Productivity gain in U.S. twice that of Canada, Q3 2002	December 20
Productivity up when greenhouse gas emissions taken into account, 1981-96	November 15
Strongest gain in labour productivity in three years, Q2 2002	September 20

### RETAIL TRADE

Reference period:	Issue date:
May 2002	July 26
June 2002	August 30
July 2002	September 27
August 2002	November 1
September 2002	November 29

### SOCIETY

Title and reference period:	Issue date:
Activity limitation survey: 1 in 8 Canadians disabled, 2001	December 6
Canadians buy less alcohol than 25 years ago, 2000-01	July 19
Canadians eating more fruit, vegetables than a decade ago, 2001	October 25
Canadians weren't in moving mode last year, 2001	October 4
Consequences of spousal violence more severe for women, 1994-99	July 5
Immigrants transforming language landscape, 2001	December 13
Radio listening steady for the fourth consecutive year, 2001	November 1

### TOURISM

Title and reference period:	Issue date:
Slump in domestic travel sector, 2001	July 12
Travel from the United States bouncing back, Q1 2002	September 6

### OTHER ARTICLES

Title and reference period:	Issue date:
Attendance up at heritage institutions, 1999	December 13
Both RRSP contributions and number of contributors decline, 2001	November 22
Earnings growth slightly stronger in services-producing industries, April 2002	July 5
Film, video, audio-visual producers earn more than ever before, 1999-2000	August 9
Gambling revenues skyrocket, 2001	August 2
Industrial prices rise as dollar weakens, August 2002	October 4
Little sign of resurgence in business investment, 2001-02	August 2
Local wireline services still the most concentrated telecom market, 1997-2001	October 11
Non-residential construction reaches record high, Q3 2002	October 18
R&D investment expected to fall sharply, 2002	July 26

### OTHER INDICATORS

### WHOLESALE TRADE

Reference period:	Issue date:
June 2002	August 23
August 2002	October 25