

# OVERVIEW

The Canadian film and video industry has set another record for annual sales in the wake of much higher sales to foreign markets.

Bar chart showing monthly precipitation (mm) for the period March 1995 to February 1998. The y-axis ranges from 0 to 5 mm. The x-axis shows months from March 1995 to February 1998. Precipitation peaks around 4.5 mm in late 1995 and late 1996, and drops to near 0 mm in early 1997.

Month	Precipitation (mm)
M 1995	2.4
A 1995	2.6
M 1995	2.0
J 1995	2.6
J 1995	1.9
A 1995	3.1
M 1996	3.4
A 1996	3.4
M 1996	3.4
J 1996	3.6
J 1996	3.1
A 1996	3.8
M 1996	4.4
A 1996	3.7
M 1996	3.8
J 1996	4.3
J 1996	3.7
A 1996	2.5
M 1996	2.6
J 1996	3.0
J 1996	2.9
A 1996	2.9
M 1996	2.6
J 1996	1.9
J 1996	2.1
A 1996	2.3
M 1996	1.9
J 1996	1.3
J 1996	1.6
A 1996	0.9
M 1996	1.4
J 1996	2.0
J 1996	1.6
A 1996	1.9



### ... Exports and imports rebound

Imports were lifted by the machinery and equipment and energy sectors. Machinery and equipment climbed 1.8% in February. Strong growth in imports of navigation equipment, laptop computers and locomotives outpaced decreases in imports of generators, drilling machinery and excavation machinery. Imports of energy products soared 15.3%, with crude oil and aviation fuel recording the largest increases.

After two months of declines, automotive product imports edged up 2.1%. Following three straight monthly decreases, imports of trucks and other motor vehicles jumped 15.3% in February, with most of the gains in utility trucks and tractors. Sales of domestic passenger cars slowed, which may account for the slight dip in car imports. Imports of auto parts remained virtually unchanged.

Imports of industrial goods continued to fall in February (-1.8%). Precious metals and metal ores—two highly volatile sectors—showed the steepest decreases. The declines were balanced somewhat by sharply higher imports of herbicides and optical

#### Note to readers

*Merchandise trade is one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services.*

fibres. Agricultural and fishing product imports also declined (-0.9%), chiefly because of substantially lower imports of raw sugar from Australia.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 3618, 3619, 3651, 3685-3713, 3718-3720, 3887-3913, 8430-8435 and 8438-8447.**

*The February 1998 issue of Canadian international merchandise trade (65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188) is now available. Current account data are available quarterly in Canada's balance of international payments (67-001-XPB, \$38/\$124). For further information, contact Jocelyne Elibani (613-951-9647 or 1 800 294-5583), International Trade Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 8.)*

## Manufacturers' shipments recover

**M**anufacturers' shipments increased 2.9% in February as the motor vehicle industry recovered from plant shutdowns and manufacturers in Central Canada regained most of the ground lost to the ice storm. Although shipments have not fully returned to the unusually strong level seen in December 1997, they were up 4.5% compared with February 1997. The growth in manufacturing has been slowing gradually since October 1997, but the outlook remains positive as manufacturing employment grew strongly for the second consecutive month in March.

Shipments were up in 19 of the 22 major groups, representing 88.8% of total shipments. The motor vehicle industry (+8.6%) was the largest contributor to February's gain. Other major contributors were the electrical and electronic products (+5.2%) and the motor vehicle parts and accessories (+4.9%) industries. The only offsetting decreases were in the refined petroleum and coal (-3.5%) and primary metals (-1.5%) industries.

All provinces except New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and Alberta recorded increases in shipments. In Quebec, shipments rose 4.9%. British Columbia also registered a strong gain (+3.6%), led by the pulp industry.

Manufacturers' backlog of unfilled orders rose 0.5% to \$43.6 billion in February. The largest increases were in the electrical and electronic products (+3.5%) and motor vehicle (+3.4%) industries. The fabricated metal products industry recorded the largest offsetting decrease (-1.9%).

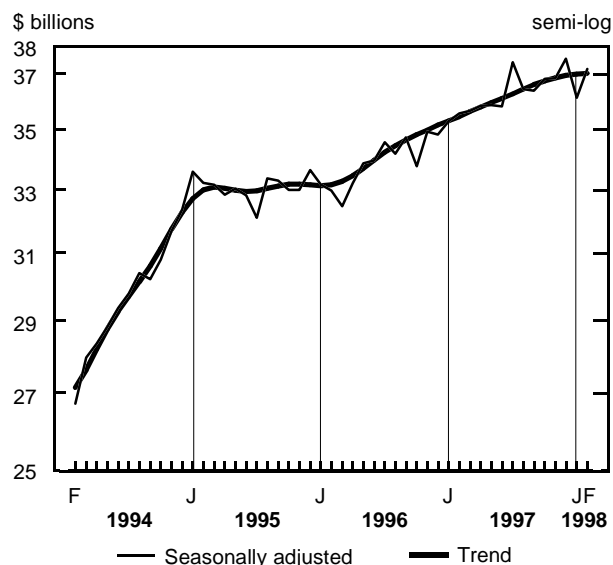
Inventories rose 0.4% to \$48.4 billion in February. The major contributors to the increase were the aircraft and parts (+3.0%) and machinery (+2.5%) industries. The largest offsetting decrease was in the electrical and electronic products industry (-1.1%). The rise in shipments registered in February outpaced the increase in inventories, resulting in a lower inventory-to-shipments ratio of 1.30, down from 1.33 in January.

#### Note to readers

*Unfilled orders are a stock of orders that will contribute to future shipments, assuming orders are not cancelled. New orders represent orders received whether shipped in the current month or not. They are measured as the sum of shipments for the current month (i.e., orders received this month and shipped within the same month) plus the change in unfilled orders. Interpreting new orders as orders that will lead to future demand is not appropriate because the new orders variable includes orders that have already been shipped.*

*Some orders will not be translated into Canadian factory shipments because portions of large contracts can be subcontracted out to other countries.*

### Shipments



(continued on page 3)

### ... Manufacturers' shipments recover

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9550-9555, 9558, 9559, 9562-9565, 9568-9579 and 9581-9595.

The February 1998 issue of *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (31-001-XPB, \$20/\$196) is now available. For further information, contact Jean-Marie Houle (613-951-7200) or Craig Kuntz (613-951-7092; kuncrai@statcan.ca), Industry Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 8.)

### Manufacturers' shipments, February 1998

Seasonally adjusted

	\$ millions	% change, previous month
<b>Canada</b>	<b>37,164</b>	<b>2.9</b>
Newfoundland	155	5.6
Prince Edward Island	76	4.1
Nova Scotia	514	0.9
New Brunswick	667	-2.8
Quebec	8,599	4.9
Ontario	20,106	2.9
Manitoba	881	3.4
Saskatchewan	516	-0.7
Alberta	2,820	-1.5
British Columbia	2,828	3.6
Yukon and Northwest Territories	3	5.2

## Sales of new vehicles move up

**S**ales of new passenger cars overtook declining sales of new trucks in February, due to strong sales of imported Japanese cars.

New motor vehicle sales rose 5.0% to 110,660 vehicles, partially rebounding from January's 27.1% decline. Compared with February 1997, sales were up 0.2%. Sales have been relatively flat since the last quarter of 1997, following a period of generally increasing sales since April 1996. Sources in the automotive industry have suggested that both new car and truck sales will show an increase for March.

New vehicle sales jumped 17.6% in February, after posting a 24.2% decline in January and an 8.0% increase in December. Passenger car sales continued along a bumpy road, mainly decreasing since March 1997 following nearly a year of generally upward movement. New truck sales fell a further 6.7% after dropping 29.5% in January. This decline has halted the overall upward trend that has been seen over the past three years.

In February, sales of new cars built overseas were up 44.8% compared with January. Dealers selling cars manufactured in North America saw sales rise 11.3%. Compared with the previous year, sales of imported cars jumped 65.4%, while sales of new North American cars fell 9.9%. In nine of the provinces, sales of new Japanese imports increased by more than 75.0%, ranging from an advance of 77.8% in Prince Edward Island to 227.9% in New Brunswick. (These percentages should be interpreted with caution because of the small numbers involved.) Dealers in British Columbia (+3.5%) did not fare as well. Compared with February 1997, the market share for new cars built overseas increased from 12.9% to 22.8% of total new passenger car sales (unadjusted). Over the same period, the Big Three automakers (General Motors, Ford and Chrysler) saw their market share fall from 60.0% to 54.9%.

Consumers spent on average \$22,495 (before tax) for a new car, 3.3% less than they spent in January 1998. The average price of Japanese-built new passenger cars dropped 8.8% from January, and fell 10.8% compared with February 1997. However, the price of new North American cars remained relatively stable over the past 12 months. From 1992 to 1996, average household income (in current dollars) increased 5.2%. During the same period, consumers paid 34.1% more for new vehicles.

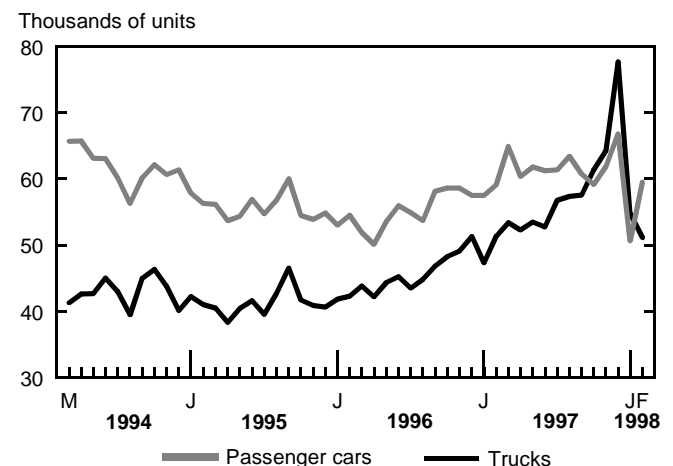
### Note to readers

*Passenger cars include those used for personal and commercial purposes (for example, taxis and rental cars). Trucks include minivans, sport utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans, coaches and buses.*

*New motor vehicles built in North America include those vehicles manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico. All other new motor vehicles are considered imports (manufactured overseas).*

*Data on the average amount spent on new vehicles are derived from unadjusted figures. The average price of new vehicles is estimated from data reported by companies that primarily sell light vehicles; these data exclude figures reported by heavy truck and bus companies. All numbers have been seasonally adjusted unless otherwise specified.*

### New motor vehicle sales



Available on CANSIM: matrix 64.

For further information, contact Serge Dumouchel (613-951-2210), Distributive Trades Division.

## Growth of Composite Index unchanged

In March, the Composite Index grew 0.5%, as it did in February. After the ice storm limited growth in January, the recent surge in financial markets was largely responsible for the pick-up in growth in February and March. However, these gains have been tempered by a slowdown in the auto sector.

Business spending remained vigorous in March, and the financial market indicators rose markedly. If these two components were excluded, the growth of the overall index for the last two months would have been unchanged at 0.2%. In March, the stock market soared to new record highs. The money supply posted its best ever two months of cumulative growth in January and February.

Housing was the only indicator of household demand to show any net improvement, as it returned to more normal levels after

being depressed by the ice storm. The housing index rose for the first time in 11 months, led by a rebound in starts of multiple units. Outlays for durable goods slowed due to a drop in auto sales.

The auto sector was behind a slowdown in manufacturing, resulting in the first drop in new orders in 15 months. Auto sales retreated both in Canada and in the United States. The ratio of shipments to inventories of finished goods levelled off, as the weakness in autos also affected feeder industries. The average workweek fell for the sixth month in a row.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 191.**

For further information, see the April 1998 issue of *Canadian economic observer* (11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227), which is now available. For further information, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Economic Analysis Group. (See also "Current trends" on page 8.)

## National net worth reflects strong economy

National net worth rose 3.6% to \$2.7 trillion in 1997, reaching \$87,100 per capita. This was the result of an increase in national wealth, less a small rise in Canada's net foreign indebtedness (what we owe non-residents less what they owe us). Net worth grew at a faster pace than it did in 1996, reflecting the strength in domestic economic activity.

National wealth rose 3.5% to \$3 trillion, in line with an increase in domestic expenditures. The change in wealth was broadly based; that is, all assets grew, although at different rates. Individuals accounted for 49% of national wealth at year-end, unchanged from 1996. National wealth grew almost 4.0% in both the personal and corporate sectors, compared with a modest 1.4% in the government sector.

Debt continued to accumulate at a moderate pace in 1997. Credit market debt of domestic sectors grew 2.8%, reflecting a pickup in the demand for funds in the private sector (both persons and corporations), offset by very weak government demand. The downward trend of interest rates altered the composition of debt, as the majority of debt issues was in the form of bonds.

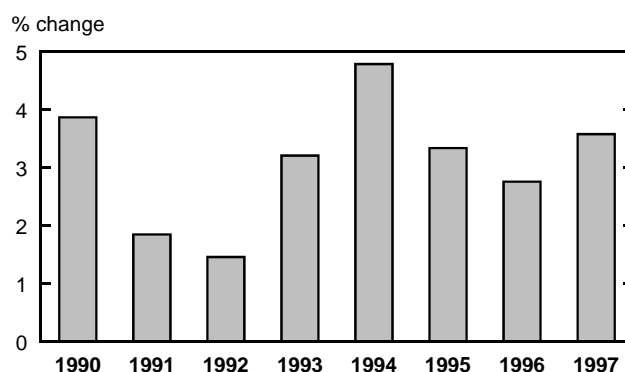
Government finances continued to improve, as federal government debt was repaid by almost \$7 billion. This turnaround resulted from the first federal surplus (national accounts basis) recorded since 1974. Debt for the other levels of government grew a modest 1.1%, compared with 3.8% in 1996. For the first time in almost 20 years, overall government debt grew at a notably slower pace than gross domestic product.

Strong corporate profits and rising stock prices for most of the year helped corporations continue restructuring their balance sheets. Equity issues accounted for the significant share of funds raised by non-financial private corporations for capital spending and other transactions. Borrowing activity, which picked up in 1997, was dominated by bond issues. Strong share issues, combined with healthy profits, resulted in a further decline in the ratio of debt to equity for these corporations.

### Note to readers

The National Balance Sheet Accounts are statements of the non-financial assets owned in the sectors of the economy and of the financial claims outstanding among transactors in the economy. They consist of the balance sheets of all of the various sectors in the economy. National wealth is the sum of non-financial, or tangible, assets—produced assets, land surrounding structures and agricultural land—in all sectors of the economy. National net worth is wealth less what is owed to non-residents (Canada's net international investment position, or net foreign debt); alternatively, it is the sum of the net worth of persons, corporations and governments.

### National net worth



Source: National balance sheet accounts.

Household net worth advanced 4.5% in 1997, despite a higher debt load. The increase in debt pushed the ratio of consumer debt and mortgages outstanding to a record high of 100.4% of after-tax income. However, this was more than offset by increases in assets. The ratio of debt to net worth was basically unchanged in 1997.

(continued on page 5)

### ... National net worth reflects strong economy

Canadian debt to non-residents grew at a faster pace than Canadian assets, despite relatively strong Canadian investment in foreign securities and direct investment abroad. The higher debt stemmed from a substantial inflow of foreign deposits at Canadian banks in 1997. Although net foreign debt resumed its upward trend, rising 2.5% to \$339 billion, it continued to decline relative to national wealth.

*Available on CANSIM: matrices 700, 727, 745-747, 751, 753-777, 779-785, 787-795 and 798.*

*For further information, contact Patrick O'Hagan (613-951-1798) or Ferhana Ansari (613-951-3815), Balance of Payments and Financial Flows Division.*

## British Columbia remains attractive destination

The most recent census shows that Canadians continued to head west between 1991 and 1996. British Columbia remained the most popular destination for movers. In 1996, it attracted a record number of people, as 150,000 more moved into the province than moved out. Only three other regions in the country gained population through interprovincial migration: Alberta, Prince Edward Island and the Yukon. The remainder lost more people than they gained.

Between 1991 and 1996, 43% of Canadians moved to a different location, down from 47% for the 1986-to-1991 period. Some moved elsewhere in their own municipality (23%), while others moved to a new location in the same province or territory (17%). The largest population loss was posted by Ontario, which lost 47,000 more residents than it gained. In Quebec, the net outflow of people grew to 37,450 between 1991 and 1996.

Among Canada's 25 census metropolitan areas (CMAs), 15 recorded net outflows during the five-year period between 1991 and 1996. Although the largest net outflow was in Toronto (87,400), this was a marked slowdown from the net outflow of 115,000 recorded between 1986 and 1991. The second largest net outflow of people was in Montreal, where 47,900 more people moved out than moved in. Edmonton followed, losing 23,600 residents.

Men and women aged 25 to 29 were the most mobile, continuing the trend that has been seen for many years. About 6.7% of this age group moved to a different province or territory between 1991 and 1996. Only 1.3% of those aged 65 and over moved to another province or territory in 1996.

Fewer anglophones (people whose mother tongue was English) left Quebec between 1991 and 1996 than during the previous census period. At the same time, however, Quebec attracted fewer anglophones from other provinces and territories. This left the province with a net outflow of 24,100 anglophones, compared with 21,700 between 1986 to 1991. While the proportion of anglophones

### Interprovincial migration, population aged 5 and over, 1996 Census

	In-migrants	Out-migrants	Net migration	
	1991 to 1996		1991 to 1996	1986 to 1991
Newfoundland	16,225	39,465	- 23,240	- 13,960
Prince Edward Island	8,945	7,485	1,460	- 855
Nova Scotia	47,455	53,905	- 6,450	- 4,870
New Brunswick	34,060	36,025	- 1,965	- 6,070
Quebec	68,895	106,345	- 37,450	- 25,550
Ontario	194,030	241,040	- 47,010	46,955
Manitoba	43,215	62,595	- 19,380	- 35,245
Saskatchewan	47,520	67,295	- 19,775	- 60,350
Alberta	162,645	159,055	3,590	- 25,015
British Columbia	252,625	102,680	149,945	125,880
Yukon	5,955	5,285	670	780
Northwest Territories	8,715	9,110	- 395	- 1,700

in Quebec is 9%, the net outflow of anglophones represented almost two-thirds of the total net migration out of the province.

Ontario recorded a net outflow of francophones (people whose mother tongue was French), which reflected the net outflow among its general population. Between 1991 and 1996, 6,100 more francophones moved out of Ontario than moved into the province. Although francophones accounted for about 5% of Ontario's overall population, this represented 13% of the total net outflow.

British Columbia was the favourite destination for all language groups, particularly for allophones (those with a mother tongue other than English or French). This province recorded a net inflow of 27,000 allophones, up from 16,000 in the previous five-year period. Ontario attracted 1,800 allophones from other provinces and territories, down from 17,100 during the previous census period. And 13,900 allophones left Quebec, compared with 8,300 between 1986 and 1991.

*For further information, contact Louise Marmen (613-951-2954), Demography Division.*

## Film and video industry has record sales

Canada's independent film and video industry has set another record for annual sales: \$867.6 million in 1995/96, up 8.8% from a year earlier. This third consecutive annual increase was due almost entirely to foreign sales, which doubled in a single year to \$320.7 million. Without the growth in foreign sales, production revenue would have declined by \$87.4 million. In 1991/92, foreign sales were \$82.8 million.

Despite higher foreign sales, industry profits fell for the second straight year in 1995/96 (-10.6%), mainly due to a 10.2% increase in operating expenses. Profit as a percentage of total revenue reached a five-year low of 4.7%. Television production accounted for the largest component of direct foreign revenues. Combined sales for conventional, specialty and pay television reached \$189.5 million.

Total revenue for the industry reached \$1.2 billion in 1995/96, up from \$1.1 billion in the previous year. Overall, non-production revenues increased by 9.5%, slightly higher than production

*(continued on page 6)*

### ... Film and video industry has record sales

revenue (+8.8%). In Quebec, total revenues grew by 48%. Ontario producers claimed almost two-thirds of national revenues, followed by British Columbia and Alberta with 4.4% and 4.8% of national revenues, respectively.

The number of producers decreased by 16.3% over the last year. Film and video producers reported 6,894 television productions in 1995/96, up 26% from the previous year. This increase is partly attributable to the creation of a number of new specialty cable channels. Pay and specialty services reported higher program acquisition expenses (+30.3%). The number of theatrical features produced reached a four-year high. The production of educational videos was up slightly, but this was outweighed by significant declines in the number of television commercials and corporate videos.

Despite the growth in revenues in the industry, salaries and wages fell 2.2% from their historic high in 1994/95. Direct employment was up slightly. Full-time employment held relatively steady, part-time declined, and the number of freelance positions grew.

The growth pattern in the film and video post-production industry was similar to that in the production industry. The number of firms engaged primarily in post-production work was up by 72 to 226. In Quebec, the number soared from 9 to 55, and in Ontario, from 38 to 123. Salaries and wages rose 22.3% over the previous year. The fees paid to freelancers doubled and accounted for 11% of salaries and wages in the industry. Unlike the production industry where two-thirds of employment is in the form of freelance contracts, 56% of post-production staff are full time. Operating revenues grew by 21.1%. Expenses also grew strongly, and profit as a percentage of revenues was 16.7% for the industry as a whole. An increase in the production of special effects was likely a major factor driving the growth in post-production.

*The publication **Film and video** has been discontinued. Selected details are available in table format (\$50). Custom tabulations are available on a cost-recovery basis. A summary of the data up to 1994/95 appears in **Canada's culture, heritage and identity**:*

#### Note to readers

*The data come from 1995/96 census results of 591 film, video and audio-visual production companies and 226 motion picture laboratories and post-production companies in the Canadian film and video industry. They do not include location shootings in Canada by foreign film producers, production data from the National Film Board, or in-house productions by television stations.*

*The theatrical market represents films shown to paying audiences in regular motion picture theatres and drive-ins. Television services include conventional, specialty and pay television. Post-production services include companies primarily engaged in processing and duplicating motion picture films and providing video production facilities. Foreign sales consist of revenues received from foreign clients for productions in current and previous years.*

#### Film, video and audio-visual production

	1991/92	1994/95	1995/96	1994/95 to 1995/96
	\$ millions			% change
Production revenue				
Export	82.8	163.1	320.7	96.6
Non-export	499.0	643.3	547.0	- 13.8
Sub-total	581.8	797.4	867.7	8.8
Non-production revenue	106.4	312.4	342.0	9.5
Total revenue	688.2	1,109.8	1,209.7	9.0
Total operating expenses	611.9	1,045.7	1,152.3	10.2
Profit	76.3	64.1	57.4	- 10.6
Profit as % of total revenues	11.1	5.8	4.7	- 19.0

*A statistical perspective (87-211-XPB, \$31). For further information or to order tables, contact Michael Pedersen (613-951-3305; fax: 613-951-1569; Internet: [pedemic@statcan.ca](mailto:pedemic@statcan.ca)), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.*

## New from Statistics Canada

### Work absence rates

1980 to 1997

Statistics Canada recently released *Work absence rates, 1980 to 1997*, which is about work absences for personal reasons. Absence rates vary considerably among groups of workers. Factors such as family circumstances, age, industry, occupation, work schedule and leave entitlements all play a role. This analytic report presents a series of tables on work absence rates for men and women by age, education, and presence of children; by detailed industry and occupation groups; by public versus private sector; by union coverage, workplace size, job tenure and job permanency; by province, region and census metropolitan area; and by job benefits (paid vacation, sick leave entitlements or flexitime work option).

This report focuses on work absence rates excluding maternity leave for full-time employees in 1997 using data from the redesigned Labour Force Survey. Rates for the 1980-to-1997 period, including maternity leave, are provided for comparison. Some data from the 1995 Survey of Work Arrangements are also included.

***Work absence rates, 1980 to 1997** (71-535-MPB, no. 9, \$50) is now available. For further information, contact Ernest B. Akyeampong (613-951-4624) or Jeannine Usalcas (613-951-4720), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.*

## New from Statistics Canada – concluded

### Canadian Travel Survey 1996

Throughout 1996, Statistics Canada interviewed approximately 200,000 Canadians across the country about their trips in Canada, and about themselves and their households. These interviews represent the largest sample ever in the history of the Canadian Travel Survey, which is one of the largest domestic travel survey samples in the world.

The survey identifies who is travelling, the types of trips they are taking, and how much they are spending. These findings will help decision-makers in business, government and the tourism industry develop strategies and products for marketing Canada to Canadians.

New in this publication are "Travel profiles", which highlight the following topics: "The seasonal nature of domestic travel", "Package travel—an untapped market?" and "Visiting friends or relatives—a market worth targeting?"

***The Canadian Travel Survey—Review of the 1996 Results*** (87-504-XPB, \$42 paper; 87-504-XIB, \$32 Internet version) is now available. For further information, contact Michèle Lanoue (613-951-6321; [lanomic@statcan.ca](mailto:lanomic@statcan.ca)), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.



### Trade Analyzers

Both the TIERS (Canadian Merchandise Trade Data CD-ROM) and the World Trade Database applications have been reworked and combined with a new application to create a new product called *Trade Analyzers*. It combines power and ease of use with reliable trade data.

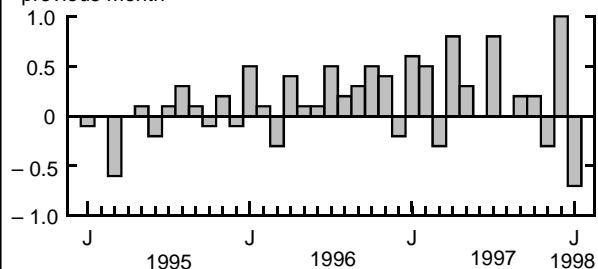
*Trade Analyzers* consists of three products (available individually or as a suite): Canadian Trade Analyzer, World Trade Analyzer, and Canada/U.S. Trade Analyzer. Canadian Trade Analyzer, which replaces TIERS, puts Canada's international trade data at your fingertips. World Trade Analyzer, which replaces the World Trade Database, uses adjusted U.N. source data to allow easy tracking of annual global trade trends for the past 17 years. The Canada/U.S. Trade Analyzer, a joint product with the U.S. Census Bureau, presents annual international trade activity for Canada, the United States, and the combined Canada/U.S. market (net of each other).

For more information on the new ***Trade Analyzers***, contact David Delorey (613-951-3283), International Trade Division.

## Current trends

### Gross domestic product

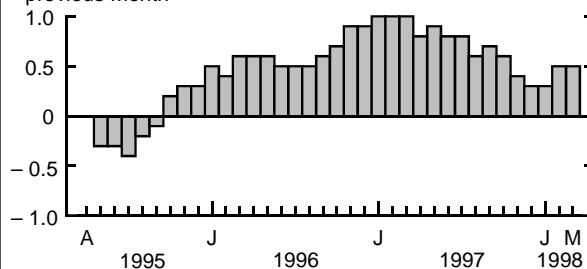
% change,  
previous month



Real gross domestic product at factor cost declined 0.7% in January.

### Composite Index

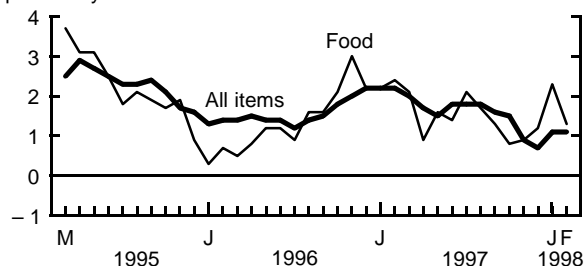
% change,  
previous month



The Composite Index grew by 0.5% in March.

### Consumer Price Index

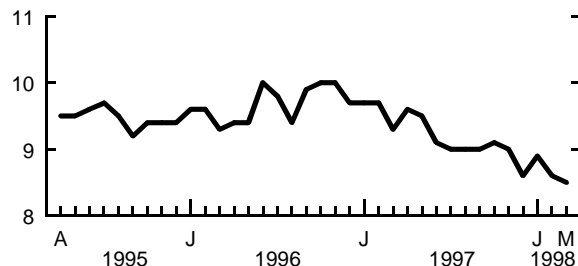
% change,  
previous year



Consumers paid 1.0% more for goods and services in February 1998 than the year before. Food prices rose by 1.3%.

### Unemployment rate

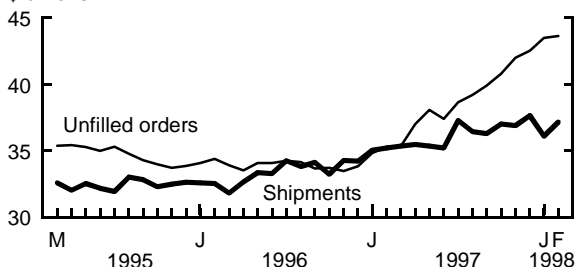
%



In March, the unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage points to 8.5%.

### Manufacturing

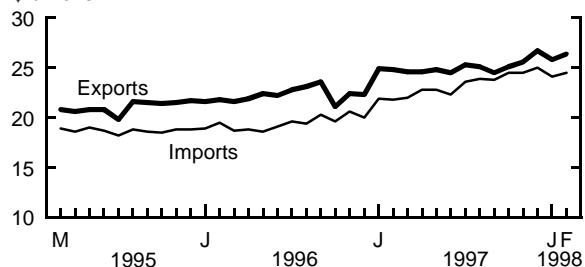
\$ billions



Manufacturers' shipments rose 2.9% in February to \$37.1 billion. The level of unfilled orders increased 0.5% to \$43.6 billion.

### Merchandise trade

\$ billions



In February, the value of merchandise exports rose 2.2% from January to \$26.4 billion. Imports increased 0.9% to \$24.5 billion.

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



## Latest monthly statistics

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
<b>GENERAL</b>				
Gross domestic product (\$ billion, 1992)	January	700.4	- 0.7%	3.3%
Composite Index (1981=100)	March*	204.6	0.5%	7.3%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billion)	Q4 1997	29.2	3.1%	16.0%
Capacity utilization (%)	Q4 1997	85.6	0.3†	2.5†
<b>DOMESTIC DEMAND</b>				
Retail trade (\$ billion)	January	19.8	- 1.9%	5.1%
New motor vehicle sales (thousand of units)	February*	110.7	5.0%	0.2%
<b>LABOUR</b>				
Employment (millions)	March	14.2	0.1%	2.9%
Unemployment rate (%)	March	8.5	-0.1†	- 0.8†
Participation rate (%)	March	64.9	-0.1†	0.3†
Labour income (\$ billion)	January	37.7	-0.0%	3.2%
Average weekly earnings (\$)	January	605.23	0.7%	1.4%
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>				
Merchandise exports (\$ billion)	February*	26.4	2.2%	6.9%
Merchandise imports (\$ billion)	February*	24.5	0.9%	12.5%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billion)	February*	1.8	0.3	- 1.0
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>				
Shipments (\$ billion)	February*	37.2	2.9%	4.5%
New orders (\$ billion)	February*	37.4	0.8%	4.0%
Unfilled orders (\$ billion)	February*	43.6	0.5%	22.2%
Inventory/shipments ratio	February*	1.30	-0.03	0.02
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	February	107.2	0.1%	1.0%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	February	119.6	- 0.1%	0.5%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	February	113.3	- 1.4%	- 13.4%
New Housing Price Index (1986=100)	February	99.8	-	1.0%

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

\* new this week

† percentage point

- Nil or zero

## Infomat

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## Publications released from April 17 to 23, 1998

Division/Title of publication	Period	Catalogue number	Price: Issue/Subscription	
			Canada (C\$)	Outside Canada (US\$)
<b>CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS</b>				
Juristat—Adult criminal court statistics:	1996–97			
Internet		85-002-XIE	7	7
Paper		85-002-XPE	8/70	8/70
<b>CULTURE, TOURISM AND THE CENTRE FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS</b>				
Touriscope: International travel, advance information	February 1998	66-001-PPB	8/73	8/73
Canadian Travel Survey—review of the results	1996	87-504-XPB	42	42
<b>CURRENT ECONOMIC ANALYSIS</b>				
Canadian economic observer	April 1998	11-010-XPB	23/227	23/227
<b>INDUSTRY MEASURES AND ANALYSIS</b>				
Gross domestic product by industry	January 1998	15-001-XPB	15/145	15/145
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>				
Canadian international merchandise trade	February 1998	65-001-XPB	19/188	19/188
<b>LABOUR</b>				
Employment, earnings and hours	January 1998	72-002-XPB	32/320	32/320
<b>LABOUR AND HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS ANALYSIS</b>				
Work absence rates, no. 9	1980 to 1997	71-535-MPB	50	50
<b>MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY</b>				
Construction type plywood	February 1998	35-001-XPB	7/62	7/62
Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	February 1998	31-001-XPB	20/196	20/196
Oils and fats	February 1998	32-006-XPB	7/62	7/62
Production and disposition of tobacco products	February 1998	32-022-XPB	7/62	7/62
Pulpwood and wood residue statistics	February 1998	25-001-XPB	8/73	8/73
Refined petroleum products	January 1998	45-004-XPB	21/206	21/206
Steel wire and specified wire products	February 1998	41-006-XPB	7/62	7/62

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Key release calendar: May 1998				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 Business Conditions Survey: Canadian manufacturing industries, April 1998
4 Building permits, March 1998	5	6 Help-wanted Index, April 1998	7	8 Labour Force Survey, April 1998
11 New Housing Price Index, March 1998  Field crop reporting series: March 31 grain stocks	12 Sources of income, family and household income, 1996 Census	13 New motor vehicle sales, March 1998	14 Consumer Price Index, April 1998  Provincial economic accounts, 1992 to 1997	15 Travel between Canada and other countries, March 1998  Composite Index, April 1998
18  <i>Victoria Day</i>	19 Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, March 1998  Technology, trade and wage differentials	20 Canadian international merchandise trade, March 1998  Wholesale trade, March 1998	21 Retail trade, March 1998  Port activity, 1997	22 Canada's international transactions in securities, March 1998  Quarterly financial statistics for enterprises, Q1 1998
25 Farm cash receipts, Q1 1998  Net farm income, 1997 (preliminary)	26 Industrial Product Price Index, April 1998  Raw Materials Price Index, April 1998  Employment Insurance, March 1998	27 Characteristics of international travellers, Q4 1997  Railway carloadings, 1997	28 Family violence in Canada—Statistical profile, 1996  Employment, earnings and hours, March 1998	29 International travel account, Q1 1998  Children's books, 1996 to 1997

**Note:** Release dates for Canadian international merchandise trade, the Consumer Price Index and the Labour Force Survey are fixed; dates for other data series may change.