

Wednesday, September 19, 2001
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## MAJOR RELEASES

- Canadian international merchandise trade, July 2001

Canada's merchandise exports declined for the third straight month in July due to summer shutdowns at auto manufacturing plants and lower exports of energy products. Imports remained virtually unchanged.

- Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, July 2001

Manufacturing shipments slipped $0.2 \%$ in July to $\$ 43.0$ billion, amid continuing forecasts of economic uncertainty. Shipments have been on a downward trend since October 2000, and in July were at their lowest since February 2001.
(continued on page 2)

## Perspectives on labour and income

September 2001 online edition
The September 2001 issue of Perspectives on labour and income, available today, offers an article profiling men and women who have retired before the age of 60 by level of education, industry, province and other characteristics.

Also available in this edition is the article "Evolution of the Canadian workplace: Work from home," which profiles those who have worked from home during the past three decades in terms of their occupations, their use of computers and the advantages and disadvantages of the arrangement.

The September 2001 online edition of Perspectives on labour and income, Vol. 2, no. 9 (75-001-XIE, $\$ 5 / \$ 48$ ) is now available. For more information, contact Henry Pold, (613-951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

For more information about the article "Early retirement trends," contact Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325), geoff.bowlby@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

The Daily, September 19, 2001

## OTHER RELEASES

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## MAJOR RELEASES

## Canadian international merchandise trade

July 2001
Canada's merchandise exports declined for the third straight month in July due to summer shutdowns at auto manufacturing plants and lower exports of energy products.


Canadian companies exported just over $\$ 35.5$ billion worth of merchandise in July, a 0.4\% drop from June. Exports have generally been on the decline since January, when they reached a record $\$ 38.5$ billion. Since April, they have fallen $3.1 \%$.

Imports were virtually unchanged in July from June at about $\$ 30.2$ billion, as increases in the machinery and equipment sector offset declines in the automotive and energy sectors. Imports have remained generally flat since setting a record high in December 2000.

Canada's overall merchandise trade surplus fell marginally to $\$ 5.4$ billion in July, far short of the record surplus of more than $\$ 8.4$ billion in January. For the first seven months of 2001, Canada's cumulative merchandise trade surplus stood at $\$ 45.0$ billion, about $\$ 12.9$ billion higher than in the same period of 2000 .

## Note to readers

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

## Revisions

Merchandise trade data are usually revised continuously for each month of the current year. Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs forms, replacement of estimates with actual figures (once available), changes in classification of merchandise based on more current information, and seasonal adjustments. Consult the appropriate CANSIM tables for revised data.

Merchandise exports to the United States declined $0.9 \%$ in July to $\$ 30.4$ billion, while imports from south of the border rose $0.3 \%$ to $\$ 22.3$ billion. This resulted in a decline in the trade surplus with the United States to $\$ 8.0$ billion.

## Summer shutdowns stalled automotive product exports

Summer shutdowns and model year change-overs for auto manufacturers resulted in a $4.1 \%$ drop in exports of automotive products to $\$ 7.8$ billion in July. Passenger car exports fell $8.3 \%$ to $\$ 4.1$ billion. Motor vehicle parts exports inched up $0.1 \%$ for the fifth month in a row to just over $\$ 2.3$ billion. Truck and other motor vehicle exports rose $2.5 \%$ to $\$ 1.5$ billion.

Machinery and equipment exports fell 1.0\% to $\$ 8.2$ billion in July, mainly as a result of weakness in the aircraft and industrial machinery sectors. Aircraft exports fell $2.3 \%$ to $\$ 2.0$ billion; industrial machinery exports dropped $3.1 \%$ to $\$ 1.4$ billion.

Energy exports continued to fall in July, 1.6\% to $\$ 5.3$ billion-the sixth month that energy exports have retreated. While petroleum products and electricity exports led the decline, exports of natural gas and coal and bituminous substances saw a bit of a revival. Natural gas exports rose $1.9 \%$ to $\$ 2.9$ billion in July, as U.S. inventories bulked up for the winter months. At the same time, coal and bituminous products jumped 17.8\% to just under $\$ 108.0$ million.

Strong demand and resumption of full-scale production of copper and aluminum led to increases in exports of metal ores, up $35.3 \%$ to $\$ 560.5$ million, and metals and alloys, up $5.0 \%$ to $\$ 1.7$ billion. This pushed the industrial goods and materials sector up $4.3 \%$ to $\$ 5.6$ billion in July. Exports of zinc ore and alloys
were the lone weak areas in the metal ores and alloys sectors.

Chemicals, plastics and fertilizers sector exports fell $1.5 \%$ to $\$ 1.9$ billion.

Exports of forestry products rose $1.4 \%$ to $\$ 3.4$ billion in July. Crude wood products exports, mainly raw logs to the Far East, led the way with an $85.9 \%$ jump to $\$ 116.0$ million. Lumber exports, primarily softwood lumber to the United States, edged $0.9 \%$ to just over $\$ 1.0$ billion, as U.S. housing starts continued to grow. Lumber prices declined in anticipation of countervailing duties from the United States.

Agricultural exports rose $1.5 \%$ to $\$ 2.7$ billion, a new high level in July. Strong U.S. demand for beef resulted in an increase in the export of live animals of $13.6 \%$ to $\$ 219.2$ million. Poor grazing conditions because of the drought in western Canada, coupled with rising feed costs, gave ranchers added incentive to sell off their excess cattle. Meat and meat preparations exports rose $4.8 \%$ to $\$ 426.1$ million.

## Offshore equipment sustained imports

The arrival of offshore drilling water craft to the east coast pushed machinery and equipment imports up $5.3 \%$ to $\$ 10.0$ billion. However, aircraft, engines and parts imports declined $17.9 \%$ to $\$ 784.3$ million.

Imports of engines, turbines and motors, used in electricity generation plants, contracted 11.9\% to $\$ 359.2$ million after two months of solid gains.

Automotive products imports fell $4.3 \%$ to $\$ 6.3$ billion as manufacturers, retooling for the 2002 model year, sold from existing inventories.

A 3.3\% drop in imports of communication and related equipment to $\$ 1.6$ billion extended this sector's
decline to seven months. The telecom sector has fallen $37.6 \%$ from the record high levels reported in December 2000. Office machines and equipment, primarily office computer equipment, rose $2.6 \%$ to $\$ 1.5$ billion, breaking a three-month slide.

Agricultural and fishing products fell 3.6\% to $\$ 1.6$ billion in July. Meat and meat preparation imports dropped $13.2 \%$ to $\$ 128.7$ million and fish and marine animals imports declined $19.5 \%$ to $\$ 141.1$ million.

Energy imports fell $8.5 \%$ to $\$ 1.4$ billion in July, reflecting high inventories of crude oil and reduced demand for jet fuel for business travel.

## Available on CANSIM: tables 2260001, 2260002, 2270001, 2270002, 2280001-2280003 and 2280033-2280040.

This release contains a summary of the merchandise trade data to be published shortly in Canadian international merchandise trade (65-001-XIB, $\quad \$ 14 / \$ 141 ; \quad 65-001-X P B, \quad \$ 19 / \$ 188)$. The publication will include tables by commodity and country on a customs basis. Current account data, which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, service transactions, investment income and transfers are available quarterly in Canada's balance of international payments (67-001-XIB, \$29/\$93; $67-001-\mathrm{XPB}, \$ 38 / \$ 124)$. See How to order products.

Merchandise trade data are available by fax on the morning of release.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jocelyne Elibani, (613-951-9647; 1-800-294-5583), International Trade Division.

## Merchandise trade

|  | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { June } \\ & 2001^{r} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { July } \\ 2001 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { June } \\ \text { to } \\ \text { July } \\ 2001 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { July } \\ 2000 \\ \text { to } \\ \text { July } \\ 2001 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { January } \\ \text { to } \\ \text { July } \\ 2000 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { January } \\ \text { to } \\ \text { July } \\ 2001 \end{array}$ | January-July 2000 to January-July 2001 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Seasonally adjusted, \$ current |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | \$ millions |  | \% change |  | \$ millions |  | \% change |
| Principal trading partners |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Exports |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| United States | 30,656 | 30,378 | -0.9 | 0.7 | 204,955 | 217,863 | 6.3 |
| Japan | 774 | 838 | 8.3 | 8.1 | 5,960 | 5,890 | -1.2 |
| European Union | 1,684 | 1,815 | 7.8 | -4.0 | 12,773 | 13,385 | 4.8 |
| Other OECD countries ${ }^{1}$ | 719 | 692 | -3.8 | -22.1 | 6,102 | 5,860 | -4.0 |
| All other countries | 1,841 | 1,812 | -1.6 | 2.7 | 12,026 | 12,297 | 2.3 |
| Total | 35,674 | 35,535 | -0.4 | 0.2 | 241,816 | 255,295 | 5.6 |
| Imports |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| United States | 22,263 | 22,335 | 0.3 | -0.1 | 155,366 | 154,146 | -0.8 |
| Japan | 820 | 951 | 16.0 | -4.7 | 6,805 | 6,170 | -9.3 |
| European Union | 2,656 | 2,611 | -1.7 | -5.8 | 18,882 | 20,081 | 6.3 |
| Other OECD countries ${ }^{1}$ | 1,840 | 1,643 | -10.7 | -3.4 | 10,780 | 11,189 | 3.8 |
| All other countries | 2,602 | 2,642 | 1.5 | -4.0 | 17,933 | 18,745 | 4.5 |
| Total | 30,181 | 30,182 | 0.0 | -1.3 | 209,767 | 210,328 | 0.3 |
| Balance |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| United States | 8,393 | 8,043 | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | 49,589 | 63,717 | $\ldots$ |
| Japan | -46 | -113 | ... | ... | -845 | -280 | ... |
| European Union | -972 | -796 | ... | ... | -6,109 | -6,696 | ... |
| Other OECD countries ${ }^{1}$ | -1,121 | -951 | ... | ... | -4,678 | -5,329 | $\ldots$ |
| All other countries | -761 | -830 | ... | ... | -5,907 | -6,448 | ... |
| Total | 5,493 | 5,353 | ... | ... | 32,049 | 44,967 | ... |
| Principal commodity groupings |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Exports |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Agricultural and fishing products | 2,611 | 2,651 | 1.5 | 11.1 | 15,844 | 17,851 | 12.7 |
| Energy products | 5,386 | 5,302 | -1.6 | 17.6 | 27,498 | 42,298 | 53.8 |
| Forestry products | 3,307 | 3,353 | 1.4 | -4.6 | 24,779 | 23,290 | -6.0 |
| Industrial goods and materials | 5,417 | 5,649 | 4.3 | -2.1 | 38,311 | 39,080 | 2.0 |
| Machinery and equipment | 8,254 | 8,168 | -1.0 | -6.8 | 60,506 | 59,971 | -0.9 |
| Automotive products | 8,162 | 7,831 | -4.1 | -2.3 | 57,856 | 54,486 | -5.8 |
| Other consumer goods | 1,274 | 1,326 | 4.1 | 6.1 | 8,441 | 9,316 | 10.4 |
| Special transactions trade ${ }^{2}$ | 702 | 687 | -2.1 | 1.9 | 4,507 | 4,971 | 10.3 |
| Other balance of payments adjustments | 561 | 568 | 1.2 | -3.7 | 4,077 | 4,035 | -1.0 |
| Imports |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Agricultural and fishing products | 1,699 | 1,638 | -3.6 | 6.6 | 10,575 | 11,639 | 10.1 |
| Energy products | 1,514 | 1,385 | -8.5 | -12.5 | 9,899 | 11,399 | 15.2 |
| Forestry products | 246 | 240 | -2.4 | -1.2 | 1,766 | 1,720 | -2.6 |
| Industrial goods and materials | 5,654 | 5,551 | -1.8 | -6.5 | 41,023 | 40,906 | -0.3 |
| Machinery and equipment | 9,531 | 10,038 | 5.3 | -3.9 | 70,210 | 68,994 | -1.7 |
| Automotive products | 6,596 | 6,311 | -4.3 | -1.9 | 45,948 | 42,356 | -7.8 |
| Other consumer goods | 3,649 | 3,587 | -1.7 | 8.5 | 22,828 | 24,867 | 8.9 |
| Special transactions trade ${ }^{2}$ | 710 | 884 | 24.5 | 56.5 | 3,723 | 4,638 | 24.6 |
| Other balance of payments adjustments | 582 | 546 | -6.2 | 1.5 | 3,797 | 3,808 | 0.3 |

[^0]‥ Figures not appropriate or not applicable.
Includes Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Poland, South Korea, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia (a new member since January 2001).
2 These are mainly low-valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.

## Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

 July 2001Manufacturing shipments slipped $0.2 \%$ in July to $\$ 43.0$ billion, amid continuing forecasts of economic uncertainty. Shipments have been on a downward trend since October 2000 and were at their lowest in July since February 2001. Year-to-date shipments remained 2.2\% lower than in the same period in 2000.

Lower July shipments in the petroleum and coal products and railroad rolling stock industries were largely offset by higher shipments in the beverage and tobacco products and the computer and electronic products industries. Thirteen of 21 industries, representing $58 \%$ of total shipments, decreased in July. Eight provinces reported lower shipment values as well.

## Shipments by province and territory

|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { June } \\ & 2001 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { July } \\ 2001 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { June } \\ \text { to } \\ \text { July } \\ 2001 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Seasonally adjusted |  |  |
|  | \$ mi |  | \% change |
| Newfoundland | 186 | 198 | 6.6 |
| Prince Edward Island | 103 | 100 | -2.3 |
| Nova Scotia | 748 | 707 | -5.4 |
| New Brunswick | 1,063 | 1,038 | -2.3 |
| Quebec | 10,179 | 10,313 | 1.3 |
| Ontario | 22,710 | 22,593 | -0.5 |
| Manitoba | 978 | -972 | -0.6 |
| Saskatchewan | 598 | 589 | -1.4 |
| Alberta | 3,610 | 3,609 | -0.0 |
| British Columbia | 2,900 | 2,880 | -0.7 |
| Yukon, Northwest |  |  |  |
| Territories and |  |  |  |
| Nunavut | 5 | 5 | 4.9 |

Inventories edged down a modest 0.1\% to $\$ 65.3$ billion in July. Decreases in raw materials and finished products were offset by higher goods-in-process inventories. Finished-product inventories have remained high in recent months, despite manufacturers' efforts to clear inventories by cutting production. As noted in the release of the July Business Conditions Survey for manufacturing, 30\% of manufacturers reported that their finished-product inventories were too high. Unfilled orders rose $1.2 \%$ in July, due to a surge of orders in the aerospace product and parts industry.

Manufacturers eased back slightly on employment in August (-0.1\%), following a gain in July, according to the Labour Force Survey. Computer and electronic product manufacturers carried most of the decline. As employment and output continue to weaken, so has the rate of capacity use among manufacturers, as seen in the latest release of industrial capacity

## Note to readers

In addition to current-month estimates, data for the previous three months are regularly revised. Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of company data, incorrect information reported earlier, replacement of estimates with actual figures (once available), and seasonal adjustments. Consult the appropriate CANSIM tables for revised data.

Unfilled orders are a stock of orders that will contribute to future shipments assuming that the 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 plus the change in unfilled orders. Some people interpret new orders as orders that will lead to future demand. This is inappropriate since the "new orders" variable includes orders that have already been shipped. The month-to-month change in new orders may be volatile, particularly if the previous month's change in unfilled orders is large in relation to the current month's change.

Not all orders will be translated into Canadian factory shipments because portions of large contracts can be subcontracted out to manufacturers in other countries.
utilization rates for the second quarter. The slumping telecommunications sector continued to pull down manufacturing industrial capacity utilization rates.

## Falling petroleum prices and extended summer shutdowns slowed manufacturing shipments

Petroleum and coal product prices fell 8.0\% in July, resulting in a $4.0 \%$ decrease in shipments for the month. Petroleum and coal product prices have dropped $9.9 \%$ since January, and shipments have fallen $11.3 \%$ over the same period. Longer summer shutdowns contributed to a $36.9 \%$ decrease in shipments in the railroad rolling stock industry, which were valued at $\$ 150$ million for July. The food industry shipments fell $1.3 \%$ in July.

Offsetting July's decreases were higher shipments in the beverage and tobacco products industry, as well as the computer and electronic products industry. Significantly higher sales by tobacco producers led to an $11.3 \%$ increase in July's shipments of beverage and tobacco products. Shipments were $\$ 1.1$ billion, and recovered much of the ground lost following three consecutive months of decline.

Computer and electronic product manufacturers reported shipments of $\$ 2.3$ billion, up 4.8\%. July's increase is a slight recovery from June's two-year low. Year-to-date shipments currently stand at $\$ 16.4$ billion, $16.8 \%$ below levels of 2000 . The motor vehicle parts industry also recovered by $2.8 \%$ this month, following a drop in June.

## Shipments slipped in July



## Inventories contracted slightly for the second month in a row

Manufacturers' inventories declined a modest 0.1\% in July to $\$ 65.3$ billion. Lower raw material ( $-0.4 \%$ ) and finished-product ( $-0.7 \%$ ) inventories were offset by mounting goods-in-process inventories ( $+1.0 \%$ ). Although this is the second consecutive decrease, manufacturers' inventories remained near record levels, despite the general decline in shipments since late 2000.

The railroad rolling stock industry ( $-6.8 \%$ ) was the largest contributor to July's decrease in inventories. The declines in this industry were largely due to lower goods-in-process and raw material inventories. In the paper industry, lower stocks of finished products pulled down the value of inventories $1.7 \%$, while in the plastic and rubber products industry raw material levels slipped, resulting in a $2.9 \%$ drop in their inventory value.

Offsetting increases were reported by the aerospace product and parts ( $+1.4 \%$ ) and the fabricated metal products (+2.4\%) industries.


The inventory-to-shipment ratio remained unchanged at 1.52 in July, following a sharp climb in June. Although manufacturing shipments have dropped significantly since late 2000, inventory levels have persisted. The trend, which had been consistently climbing since the fourth quarter of 1999, edged up again in July. The finished-product inventory-to-shipment ratio was also unchanged in July at 0.47 . The trend of the finished-product inventory-to-shipment ratio has been rising since early 2000.


## Unfilled orders at their highest in five months

For the fourth time in 2001, manufacturers' unfilled orders increased. In July, unfilled orders rose 1.2\%, driven largely by the aerospace product and parts industry, where orders jumped 3.3\%. Fabricated metal product manufacturers also posted a higher backlog
of orders in July ( $+2.0 \%$ ). Excluding the aerospace industry, orders fell $0.3 \%$.

The key offsetting movement for the month was the machinery industry, which reported a $1.0 \%$ drop in unfilled orders. The trend for unfilled orders, which had been edging downwards since the later half of 2000, has recently shown signs of moderation.

New orders rose $1.7 \%$ in July. This was due to the accumulation of new orders reported by the aerospace product and parts industry. Excluding the impact of this industry, new orders fell $0.7 \%$.


## Available on CANSIM: tables 3040014 and 3040015.

The July 2001 issue of the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing ( $31-001-\mathrm{XIB}, \$ 15 / \$ 147$ ) will be available soon. See How to order products.

Data for shipments by province in greater detail than normally published may be available on request. To order data, or for general information, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Craig Kuntz (613-951-7092; kuncrai@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Shipments, inventories and orders in all manufacturing industries

|  | Shipme | nts | Invento | ries | Unfilled | orders | New or | ders | Inventories/shipments |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | Season | ally adjus |  |  |  |
|  | \$ millions | change | \$ millions | change | \$ millions | change | \$ millions | change |  |
| July 2000 | 44,560 | -0.7 | 63,032 | 1.5 | 50,622 | 4.7 | 46,821 | 3.2 | 1.41 |
| August 2000 | 45,812 | 2.8 | 63,647 | 1.0 | 50,295 | -0.6 | 45,485 | -2.9 | 1.39 |
| September 2000 | 44,748 | -2.3 | 64,035 | 0.6 | 49,745 | -1.1 | 44,197 | -2.8 | 1.43 |
| October 2000 | 46,042 | 2.9 | 64,724 | 1.1 | 50,342 | 1.2 | 46,638 | 5.5 | 1.41 |
| November 2000 | 45,536 | -1.1 | 65,771 | 1.6 | 50,874 | 1.1 | 46,069 | -1.2 | 1.44 |
| December 2000 | 44,592 | -2.1 | 64,675 | -1.7 | 50,302 | -1.1 | 44,019 | -4.4 | 1.45 |
| January 2001 | 44,668 | 0.2 | 64,723 | 0.1 | 48,352 | -3.9 | 42,719 | -3.0 | 1.45 |
| February 2001 | 42,868 | -4.0 | 65,287 | 0.9 | 50,186 | 3.8 | 44,701 | 4.6 | 1.52 |
| March 2001 | 43,535 | 1.6 | 65,239 | -0.1 | 48,634 | -3.1 | 41,983 | -6.1 | 1.50 |
| April 2001 | 43,397 | -0.3 | 65,071 | -0.3 | 49,277 | 1.3 | 44,040 | 4.9 | 1.50 |
| May 2001 | 44,297 | 2.1 | 65,448 | 0.6 | 49,546 | 0.5 | 44,566 | 1.2 | 1.48 |
| June 2001 | 43,079 | -2.8 | 65,344 | -0.2 | 49,369 | -0.4 | 42,901 | -3.7 | 1.52 |
| July 2001 | 43,005 | -0.2 | 65,270 | -0.1 | 49,977 | 1.2 | 43,614 | 1.7 | 1.52 |

Manufacturing industries except motor vehicles, parts and accessories

|  | Shipments |  | Inventories |  | Unfilled orders |  | New orders |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Seasonally adjusted |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | \$ millions | \% change | \$ millions | \% change | \$ millions | \% change | \$ millions | \% change |
| July 2000 | 36,070 | -0.2 | 59,498 | 1.6 | 48,454 | 4.6 | 38,201 | 3.8 |
| August 2000 | 36,886 | 2.3 | 59,876 | 0.6 | 48,305 | -0.3 | 36,737 | -3.8 |
| September 2000 | 36,221 | -1.8 | 60,362 | 0.8 | 47,775 | -1.1 | 35,691 | -2.8 |
| October 2000 | 37,190 | 2.7 | 61,023 | 1.1 | 48,481 | 1.5 | 37,896 | 6.2 |
| November 2000 | 37,109 | -0.2 | 62,104 | 1.8 | 48,989 | 1.0 | 37,617 | -0.7 |
| December 2000 | 36,557 | -1.5 | 60,998 | -1.8 | 48,501 | -1.0 | 36,069 | -4.1 |
| January 2001 | 37,082 | 1.4 | 61,238 | 0.4 | 46,614 | -3.9 | 35,195 | -2.4 |
| February 2001 | 35,606 | -4.0 | 61,808 | 0.9 | 48,426 | 3.9 | 37,418 | 6.3 |
| March 2001 | 35,882 | 0.8 | 61,782 | -0.0 | 46,949 | -3.1 | 34,405 | -8.1 |
| April 2001 | 35,520 | -1.0 | 61,652 | -0.2 | 47,610 | 1.4 | 36,182 | 5.2 |
| May 2001 | 35,946 | 1.2 | 62,020 | 0.6 | 47,931 | 0.7 | 36,266 | 0.2 |
| June 2001 | 35,164 | -2.2 | 61,955 | -0.1 | 47,795 | -0.3 | 35,029 | -3.4 |
| July 2001 | 35,060 | -0.3 | 61,848 | -0.2 | 48,411 | 1.3 | 35,676 | 1.8 |

## OTHER RELEASES

## Trends in early retirement <br> 1997 to 2000

Rates of early retirement have tapered off after peaking in 1997, according to a report that paints a statistical portrait of workers who retire before the age of 60 .

During the early 1990s, the overall rate of early retirement increased steadily until 1997, when $46 \%$ of all workers who retired did so before they were 60, according to "Early retirement trends," published today in the online edition of Perspectives on labour and income.

Using Labour Force Survey data, the article shows that since 1997, however, the overall rate has declined, reaching about $40 \%$ in 2000. Still, this was well above the $30 \%$ at the outset of the 1990s.

One reason behind the surge in early retirement during the early 1990s may have been downsizing in some public-sector industries. Many older public servants were encouraged to take early retirement packages-in 1997, $65 \%$ of those who retired were under 60 .

This rate declined slightly to $63 \%$ between 1997 and 2000, but it was still nearly twice the rate in the private sector.

The propensity to retire early was driven not only by trends in public sector employment. It also appears to have been linked to financial factors, specifically the existence of a pension plan or other means of supplementary retirement income.

Retired workers who had accumulated savings or pension benefits were more likely to retire before 60 because they didn't need to rely on benefits from the Canada or Quebec pension plans.

From 1997 to 2000, early retirement was also more common among highly educated workers, such as those with a bachelor's degree, as well as among workers who had a full-time job. Workers in both cases have higher earnings and are probably able to save more for retirement.

In addition, the Atlantic provinces had much higher rates of early retirement than the rest of the country. Labour Force Survey data show a strong relationship between unemployment and early retirement, suggesting that some workers in the Atlantic region may have been forced to leave the work force before turning 60 .

While unemployment and early retirement rates were higher in the east, western Canada had the lowest unemployment in the nation between 1997 and 2000, and the lowest rates of early retirement.

The article "Early retirement trends" is now available in the September 2001 issue of Perspectives on labour and income. For more information on this article, contact Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325), geoff.bowlby@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

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For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Henry Pold, (613-951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

## Construction Union Wage Rate Index

August 2001
The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in August from July's 118.2 (1992=100). The composite index was up $0.6 \%$ compared with August 2000.

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes (1992=100) are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

## Available on CANSIM: tables 3270003 and 3270004.

The third quarter 2001 issue of Construction price statistics (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in December. See How to order products.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release,
contact Susie Boyd (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division.

## Export and import price indexes

July 2001
Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1997=100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to July 2001 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted U.S. price indexes (1997=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to July 2001. Included with the U.S. commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and U.S.-only Standard International Trade Classification section indexes.

Indexes for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups are also now available on a customs basis.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228001, 2280003 and 2280033-2280040.

The July 2001 issue of Canadian international merchandise trade (65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141;65-001-XPB, $\$ 19 / \$ 188$ ) will be available soon. See How to order products.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jocelyne Elibani (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9647), International Trade Division.

## Annual Survey of Manufacturers 1999

The Annual Survey of Manufacturers provides information on more than 250 different industries. Data for the industries listed in the following tables are now available for Canada.

## Value of shipments

|  | North <br> American Industry Classification System | 1998 | 1999 | $\begin{array}{r} 1998 \\ \text { to } \\ 1999 \end{array}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | \$ mill |  | \% change |
| Industry |  |  |  |  |
| Dog and cat food manufacturing | 311111 | 510.2 | 520.6 | 2.0 |
| Fat and oil refining and blending | 311225 | 841.7 | 800.4 | -4.9 |
| Breakfast cereal manufacturing | 311230 | 953.7 | 877.9 | -7.9 |
| Sugar manufacturing | 311310 | 705.4 | 793.3 | 12.5 |
| Chocolate and confectionery manufacturing from cacao beans | 311320 | 675.8 | 785.3 | 16.2 |
| Non-chocolate confectionery manufacturing | 311340 | 759.9 | 860.6 | 13.3 |
| Fruit and vegetable canning, pickling and drying | 311420 | 2,718.4 | 2,978.2 | 9.6 |
| Fluid milk manufacturing | 311511 | 3,875.7 | 3,697.4 | -4.6 |
| Flour mixes and dough Manufacturing from purchased flour | 311822 | 518.2 | 503.8 | -2.8 |
| Dry pasta manufacturing | 311823 | 218.6 | 207.5 | -5.1 |
| Other snack food manufacturing | 311919 | 936.2 | 904.1 | -3.4 |
| Wineries | 312130 | 409.2 | 493.3 | 20.6 |
| Tobacco product manufacturing | 312220 | 2,820.2 | 2,583.1 | -8.4 |
| Newsprint mills | 322122 | 9,236.4 | 9,778.4 | 5.9 |
| Commercial and service industry machinery manufacturing | 333310 | 1,734.5 | 2,150.5 | 24.0 |
| Railroad rolling stock manufacturing | 336510 | 2,897.1 | 3,487.8 | 20.4 |

## Available on CANSIM: table 3010003.

Data for the industries listed in the table will appear in Manufacturing industries of Canada: National and provincial areas (31-203-XPB, \$68). Research papers on manufacturing are available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the Our products and services page, choose Research papers (free), then Manufacturing.

To order data, for general information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

## NEW PRODUCTS

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Catalogue number 63-007-XIB (\$13/\$124).
Perspectives on labour and income, September 2001, Vol. 2, no. 9
Catalogue number 75-001-XIE (\$5/\$48).

## All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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[^0]:    $\begin{array}{ll}r & \text { Revised figures. } \\ \ldots & \text { Figures not appropriate or not applicable. }\end{array}$

