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- **The labour market: Year-end review, 2001**

Four years of strong growth in employment ground to a halt in 2001 as both the economy and the labour market took a turn for the worse, according to a year-end review.

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- **Deposit-accepting intermediaries: Activities and economic performance, 2000**

Canada's deposit-accepting intermediaries — chartered banks, trust companies, *caisses populaires* and credit unions — produced services worth \$46.5 billion in 2000, up 4.5% from \$44.5 billion in 1999.

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Perspectives on labour and income

January 2002 online edition

The January 2002 issue of *Perspectives on labour and income*, available today, features our annual review of the labour market in 2001. For more information about "The labour market: Year-end review 2001," contact Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325; geoff.bowlby@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

The January 2002 online edition of *Perspectives on labour and income*, Volume 3, number 1 (75-001-X1E, \$5/\$48) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, contact Henry Pold (613 951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.



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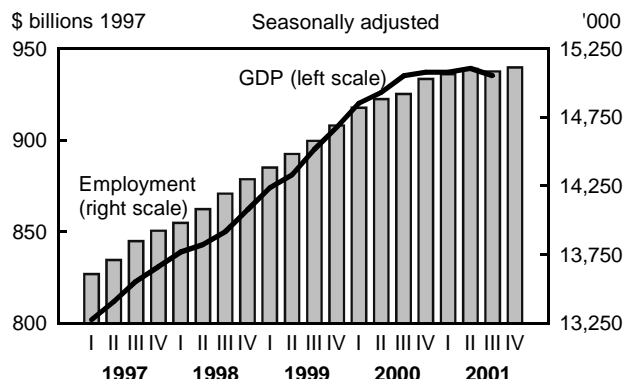
MAJOR RELEASES

The labour market: Year-end review 2001

Four years of strong growth in employment ground to a halt in 2001 as both the economy and the labour market took a turn for the worse, according to a year-end review.

Little job growth occurred throughout 2001. By the end of the year, nearly 15.1 million people were working, only 25,000 more than at the start of 2001, a 0.2% increase.

Gross domestic product, employment growth stall in 2001



In contrast, the number of working Canadians grew by more than 325,000 in 2000, a 2.2% increase from 1999. While this was lower than the increases in 1999, 1998 and 1997, it was strong growth nonetheless.

Employers cut back hiring by almost 7% in 2001, and the number of permanent layoffs increased 2.1%. The unemployment rate ended the year at 8.0%, the highest level since April 1999.

Manufacturing, which just two years earlier led employment growth, in 2001 incurred its largest year-over-year drop in employment since 1991. Most of this decline was concentrated in the high-technology sector.

While employment was flat in Canada, it was down in the United States. During 2001, US employment fell by 1.8 million, or 1.3%. This led to a sizeable increase in the US unemployment rate, from 4.0% in January to 5.8% in December.

Note to readers

This release is based on a comprehensive analytical article released today in the online edition of Perspectives on labour and income. It updates major developments in the 2001 labour market, some of which were reported in the Labour Force Survey release in The Daily of January 11.

Largest declines in manufacturing

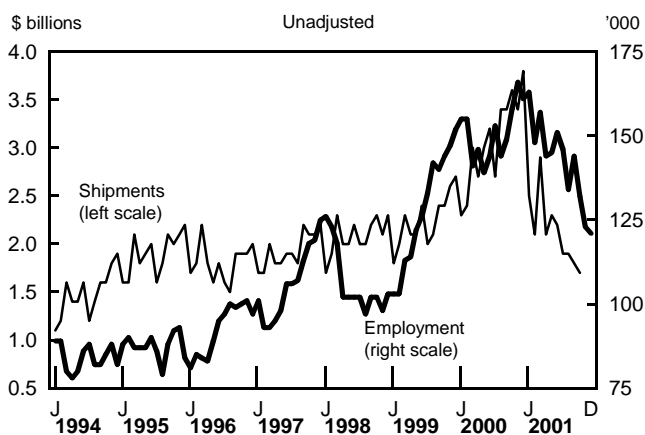
With factories running at only 83% of capacity, compared with 86% in 2000, fewer workers were needed. Manufacturing employment peaked at 2.3 million in December 2000, but by the end of 2001 had plunged by 111,000, or 4.8%.

Much of the drop in manufacturing employment was concentrated in computers and electronic products, where the value of shipments took a drastic dive in 2001. Towards the end of the year, companies were manufacturing \$1.7 billion worth of computer and electronic products, less than half the amount produced at the peak in October 2000.

A huge drop in demand meant less need for workers. In December, about 121,000 people were employed manufacturing computer and electronic products, about three-quarters as many as in December 2000.

However, in 2001 retail and wholesale trade made large gains; employment jumped 76,000 (+3.2%), a similar gain to that seen in 2000, as consumer spending maintained its momentum in 2001.

Computer shipments, employment also plunge in 2001



Strong demand for new and resale homes helped boost construction employment, which rose 30,000, or 3.7%, in 2001.

Halt in upward trend in full-time work

The slight rise in employment in 2001 was due entirely to an increase in part-time work. This halted four years of growth in full-time employment.

From 1997 to 2000, full-time employment rose 13.4%, well ahead of the rate of growth of part-time employment (+3.5%). However, full-time employment declined 0.2% in 2001, but part-time employment rose 1.7%.

Weakness in manufacturing, computer systems design and other sectors of the economy that demand relatively long work weeks caused the number of full-time employees to level off at around 12.3 million. However, full-time employees still represented four out of every five workers.

At the end of 2000, about 1.2 million employees were working paid overtime. By December 2001, this had plummeted 12.0% (-144,000). More than 46% of the decline occurred in manufacturing, where 16.9% of employees were working paid overtime, a drop from 19.0% in 2000.

Self-employment fell for the second year in a row. Just under 2.3 million people were self-employed in December, down about 83,000 from December 2000.

Young men again hit harder than other groups

During the recessions of the early 1980s and 1990s, young men were hit harder than other groups. They also appear to have been most affected by the current economic slowdown.

At the end of 2001, 52,000 fewer men aged 15 to 24 were employed, a 4.2% decline from December 2000. Reduced labour market opportunities for young men led to a rise in youth unemployment. By the end of 2001, the youth unemployment rate was 14.0%, up from 12.5% in December 2000.

While many male youths lost work in the construction sector in the early 1990s, this was not the case in 2001. In fact, more young men were working in construction in 2001. Besides manufacturing, the other major source of job loss for young men was professional, scientific and technical services.

After rising 55,000 in 2000, the number of core-age men (25 to 54) who were employed fell by 17,000, or -0.3% by December 2001. Employment among core-age women rose 13,000, although this was nowhere near the increase of 113,000 over 2000.

Selected labour market estimates

| | Dec. 2001 | Dec. 2000 to Dec. 2001 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Seasonally adjusted | | |
| | '000 | Change ('000) |
| Employment | 15,091.4 | 24.7 |
| Men | 8,090.0 | -28.9 |
| 15-24 | 1,165.4 | -51.5 |
| 25-54 | 5,937.3 | -16.8 |
| 55+ | 987.3 | 39.4 |
| Women | 7,001.4 | 53.6 |
| 15-24 | 1,135.5 | 8.0 |
| 25-54 | 5,190.5 | 13.0 |
| 55+ | 675.4 | 32.6 |
| Unemployment | 1,318.4 | 215.1 |
| Men | 765.3 | 161.9 |
| 15-24 | 219.3 | 30.1 |
| 25-54 | 479.5 | 112.5 |
| 55+ | 66.5 | 19.3 |
| Women | 553.1 | 53.2 |
| 15-24 | 154.4 | 8.7 |
| 25-54 | 352.7 | 29.2 |
| 55+ | 46.0 | 15.3 |
| | % | % point change |
| Unemployment rate | 8.0 | 1.2 |
| Men | 8.6 | 1.7 |
| 15-24 | 15.8 | 2.3 |
| 25-54 | 7.5 | 1.7 |
| 55+ | 6.3 | 1.6 |
| Women | 7.3 | 0.6 |
| 15-24 | 12.0 | 0.6 |
| 25-54 | 6.4 | 0.5 |
| 55+ | 6.4 | 1.8 |

The proportion of people aged 55 and over who were employed continued to rise in 2001. By the end of the year, about one in four older people were employed, up substantially from 1996, when the ratio was close to one in five.

Labour markets weaken in British Columbia and Ontario

In British Columbia, employment tailed off in the second half of 2001. By the fourth quarter, it was down 46,000 (-2.3%) from the fourth quarter of 2000. New restrictions to the American market caused many lumber producers to slow or halt operations. The value of wood shipments from British Columbia mills in October fell to about three-quarters of the peak reached in early 2000. As a result, by the end of 2001, logging and wood manufacturing employment was down sharply.

About two-thirds of the national decline in manufacturing employment was concentrated in Ontario, where motor vehicle shipments fell, as did the production of computers and electronics. By the end of 2001, there were an estimated 83,000 fewer factory

jobs in Ontario, a 7.1% decline, which erased all the gains made in 2000.

Total employment in Ontario was up only 10,000 from December 2000 to December 2001, a sharp change from 2000, when employment rose 189,000 from December 1999. This lack of job growth in 2001 pushed Ontario's unemployment rate from 6.0% in December 2000 to 6.9% at the end of 2001.

The analytical article "The labour market: Year-end review 2001" is published in the January online issue of *Perspectives on labour and income*, Vol. 3, no. 1, (75-001-XIE, \$5/\$48), and is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325; bowlgeo@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division. ■

Deposit-accepting intermediaries: Activities and economic performance 2000

Canada's deposit-accepting intermediaries — chartered banks, trust companies, *caisses populaires* and credit unions — produced services worth \$46.5 billion in 2000, up 4.5% from \$44.5 billion in 1999.

This improvement was partly propelled by strong performances in the corporate and institutional finance segment as well as the fiduciary services segment of their operations. Robust global economic conditions in 2000 provided fertile ground for growth in both segments, in contrast to the impact of the currency crisis in foreign markets in late 1998 and early 1999.

Non-interest income in 2000 was up 19.5% to \$23.8 billion, but net interest income slipped 7.7% to \$22.7 billion.

The non-interest income of these intermediaries in 2000 comprised 51.2% of the total value of services produced, up from 44.8% in 1999. The growth in non-interest income, which continued the trend seen over the last several years, indicated a shift away from income earned by deposits and loans to income earned mostly by providing fee-based services.

Several factors led the growth of non-interest income. These included: favourable market conditions that contributed to growth in business volumes, including trading revenues; a broader range of fee- or commission-based activities offered outside traditional retail banking services; and increased securitization of assets.

Net interest income fell, despite gains afforded by the larger interest spreads in 2000. The decline is the result of expenses associated with the growth in the equity derivatives portfolios that are charged against net interest income. Trading revenue from the equity derivatives is recorded as non-interest income.

Retail banking services made up the largest share of the overall value of services, followed by treasury and investment banking, as well as corporate and institutional finance. The value of fiduciary services leapt ahead in 2000, the result of higher demand for services in support of corporate and institutional finance.

Retail banking services represent lion's share of income, but lose ground

Retail banking services remained the dominant activity of deposit-accepting intermediaries in 2000,

Note to readers

The annual Survey of Deposit-accepting Intermediaries covers the portfolio of Canadian-based activities of the principal deposit-accepting intermediaries, namely chartered banks, trust companies, *caisses populaires* and credit unions.

Retail banking services (chartered banks, trust companies, *caisses populaires* and credit unions) covers all financial services to individuals and to small- and medium-sized businesses through a traditional branch network.

Corporate and institutional finance services covers financing and operating services for institutions and large corporations. These categories include trade and export financing, project financing and syndicated lending.

Electronic financial services covers services to individuals, businesses and institutions through networks of banking machines, debit and credit cards, telephone banking centres and the Internet.

Treasury and investment banking services: Treasury banking manages consolidated operations' funds; investment banking covers services to individuals, corporations and institutions such as securities brokerage, mutual fund management, corporate financing and other investment services.

Fiduciary services refers to all services provided when acting as a trustee or agent and the performance of services such as record-keeping, custodial and performance evaluation services for personal trusts, pension funds, corporate and institutional investments and group Registered Retirement Savings Plans.

Net interest income is the difference between interest income and interest expenses. Interest income covers all interest from loans, titles and deposits of deposit-accepting intermediaries. Interest expenses are interest paid on deposits, subordinated debentures and other interest costs. **Non-interest income** covers all sources of revenue other than interest income. Examples include revenue from brokerage and other securities services, credit services, trading income, deposit and payment services charges, mutual fund management, card services, foreign exchange, insurance, securitization revenues and trans-sectoral income.

Value of services produced is the sum of net interest and non-interest income. This is not to be confused with service charges.

generating \$27.8 billion of the total value of services produced, up 0.5% from 1999.

The value of retail banking services has grown for the past several years. However, the rate of growth has remained modest relative to the growth in other emerging business lines such as fiduciary services. Consequently, retail banking services made up 59.8% of the overall value of services produced, down slightly from 62.2% in 1999.

Net interest income (\$19.4 billion) comprised more than two-thirds of the value of retail banking services in 2000, down from 77.0% in 1999, consistent with the shift from net interest to non-interest income.

Treasury and investment banking services move ahead

The value of treasury and investment banking services rose 12.5% to \$9.7 billion in 2000, the result of higher demand for retail investment products spurred on by strong performance in equity markets throughout the year. Much of the overall growth in this segment came from net interest income that surged to \$1.1 billion over all of 2000 from \$709.0 million in 1999.

Non-interest income for the treasury and investment banking segment rose 9.1% in 2000, reflecting increased mutual fund assets under management and administration.

Again, because the treasury and investment banking products and services are based primarily on fees or commissions, non-interest income made up a significant 89.0% of the total value of the segment's services produced. This was down from 91.8% in 1999.

Strong growth in corporate and institutional finance services

The total value of corporate and institutional finance services produced reached \$3.7 billion in 2000, up 22.2% from 1999.

Non-interest income rose to \$2.1 billion, a 74.3% gain from 1999. As lending volumes rose, non-interest income benefited from fees or commissions associated with merger and acquisition activity in the economy. Mitigating this surge was the drop in net interest income in 2000, due in part to lower margins despite larger interest rate spreads.

As a result, the corporate and institutional finance segment accounted for 8.0% of the total value of services produced in 2000, up from 6.8% in 1999.

The corporate and institutional finance business line generated most of its value from non-interest income — 55.9% of the value of corporate and institutional finance's services produced in 2000, up from 39.2% in 1999.

Electronic financial services decline as investment costs rise

The value of electronic financial services declined 7.4% from \$3.4 billion in 1999 to \$3.2 billion in 2000, reflecting higher investment costs.

Consumers continued to fuel demand for convenient modes of delivery of financial services. Investment activity went beyond automated teller machines, telephone and personal computer banking into areas such as wireless financial services, electronic commerce, electronic signature authentication and Internet cash transfers. Since some of the activity in this emerging segment is being outsourced to technology providers, there may be higher short-term costs before the long-term results are known.

As a result, this segment accounted for 6.8% of the overall value of services produced, down slightly from 7.7% in 1999.

Since the services and products offered through electronic financial services are mainly fee-based, 89.0% of their value of services produced came from non-interest income in 2000, up from 87.1% in 1999.

Significant unbroken growth for fiduciary services

Fiduciary services advanced strongly in 2000, continuing the significant unbroken growth of the past few years. Fiduciary services amounted to \$2.1 billion, up 20.7%. They accounted for 4.5% of the value of all services produced in 2000, up from 3.9% in 1999.

Over the last few years, deposit-accepting intermediaries have expanded their fiduciary services, particularly in estate management and financial planning. This segment has benefited from the baby boom that continues to enlarge the consumer base of the wealth management market.

Like electronic financial services, fiduciary services' common products and services are based on fees or commissions. Consequently, non-interest income represented 86.5% of the value of fiduciary services in 2000, up from 83.9% in 1999.

Available on CANSIM: table 182-0001.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mario Vella (613-951-1395; mario.vella@statcan.ca), Industrial Organization and Finance Division. □

Value of services produced by deposit-accepting intermediaries

| | Net interest income | | | Non-interest income | | | Value of services produced in Canada | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| | 1999 | 2000 | 1999 to 2000 | 1999 | 2000 | 1999 to 2000 | 1999 | 2000 | 1999 to 2000 |
| | \$ millions | | % change | \$ millions | | % change | \$ millions | | % change |
| Retail banking services | 21,294 | 19,353 | -9.1 | 6,372 | 8,458 | 32.7 | 27,666 | 27,811 | 0.5 |
| Corporate and institutional finance | 1,844 | 1,636 | -11.3 | 1,187 | 2,070 | 74.3 | 3,031 | 3,705 | 22.2 |
| Electronic financial services | 442 | 349 | -21.1 | 2,982 | 2,821 | -5.4 | 3,424 | 3,169 | -7.4 |
| Treasury and investment banking | 709 | 1,067 | 50.6 | 7,921 | 8,643 | 9.1 | 8,630 | 9,710 | 12.5 |
| Fiduciary services | 279 | 284 | 1.6 | 1,458 | 1,813 | 24.4 | 1,737 | 2,097 | 20.7 |
| Total | 24,568 | 22,689 | -7.7 | 19,920 | 23,804 | 19.5 | 44,488 | 46,492 | 4.5 |

Distribution of income by activity of deposit-accepting intermediaries

| | Net interest income | | | Non-interest income | | | Value of services produced in Canada | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| | 1999 | 2000 | 1999 to 2000 | 1999 | 2000 | 1999 to 2000 | 1999 | 2000 | 1999 to 2000 |
| | % | | % point change | % | | % point change | % | | % point change |
| Retail banking services | 86.7 | 85.3 | -1.4 | 31.9 | 35.5 | 3.6 | 62.2 | 59.8 | -2.4 |
| Corporate and institutional finance | 7.5 | 7.2 | -0.3 | 6.0 | 8.7 | 2.7 | 6.8 | 8.0 | 1.2 |
| Electronic financial services | 1.8 | 1.5 | -0.3 | 15.0 | 11.8 | -3.1 | 7.7 | 6.8 | -0.9 |
| Treasury and investment banking | 2.9 | 4.7 | 1.8 | 39.8 | 36.3 | -3.5 | 19.4 | 20.9 | 1.5 |
| Fiduciary services | 1.1 | 1.2 | 0.1 | 7.3 | 7.6 | 0.3 | 3.9 | 4.5 | 0.6 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 0.0 |

Type of income by type of activity

| | Value of services produced in Canada | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|
| | Net interest income | | | Non-interest income | | |
| | 1999 | 2000 | 1999 to 2000 | 1999 | 2000 | 1999 to 2000 |
| | % | | % point change | % | | % point change |
| Retail banking Services | 77.0 | 69.6 | -7.4 | 23.0 | 30.4 | 7.4 |
| Corporate and institutional finance | 60.8 | 44.1 | -16.7 | 39.2 | 55.9 | 16.7 |
| Electronic financial services | 12.9 | 11.0 | -1.9 | 87.1 | 89.0 | 1.9 |
| Treasury and investment banking | 8.2 | 11.0 | 2.8 | 91.8 | 89.0 | -2.8 |
| Fiduciary services | 16.1 | 13.5 | -2.5 | 83.9 | 86.5 | 2.5 |
| Total | 55.2 | 48.8 | -6.4 | 44.8 | 51.2 | 6.4 |

OTHER RELEASES

Employment Insurance — erratum

November 2001 (preliminary)

The January 24 issue of *The Daily* reported incorrectly that the estimated number of Canadians who received regular Employment Insurance benefits in November was 557,070, up 3.6% from November 2000. In fact, this was a 3.6% increase from the previous month, October 2001.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091), or Dominique Pérusse (613-951-4064) Labour Statistics Division. ■

Farm Product Price Index

November 2001

Prices farmers received for their agricultural commodities rose 2.7% in November compared with November 2000, according to data from the Farm Product Price Index (FPPI). This follows a year-over-year increase of 6.2% in October, and continues the monthly year-over-year increases that began in September 2000.

Crop prices rose 5.3% from November 2000, more than offsetting a 0.5% drop in prices farmers received for all livestock and animal products. The crop index has seen monthly year-over-year increases since October 2000, but November was the first month since August 1999 that the livestock index was down from the same month a year earlier.

The FPPI (1997=100) stood at 97.9 in November, down 1.6% from a 99.5 in October.

The crop index fell 1.6% from October to November, as decreases in the indexes for fruits, grains and vegetables more than offset increases in the potato, oilseed and specialty crop indexes.

The fruit index was down 17.7% from October to November. The seasonal change in the mix of fruits sold by farmers affects the overall fruit index from month to month. Apples, which had lower prices than other fruits, contributed substantially more to the fruit index in November than in October.

The grain index decreased 2.7% from both October to November and on a year-over-year basis. November was the first month to see a year-over-year decrease in the grain index since September 2000.

The specialty crops index reached 130.0 in November its highest since June 1996 and up 67.1% from November 2000. On a month-to-month basis, the specialty crops index rose 9.9% from October,

influenced by higher prices for dry peas, mustard seed and sunflower seed.

The potato index was 150.3 in November, up 44.5% from November 2000. Tightened supplies have resulted in three consecutive monthly year-over-year increases.

The livestock index was down 1.3% from October; decreases in the hog and cattle and calves indexes more than offset increases in the dairy, poultry and egg indexes.

The hog index stood at 82.5 in November, down 8.4% from October to its lowest level since January. While hog prices have fallen for five consecutive months, the index remained 4.7% above its November 2000 level.

The cattle and calves index fell 0.7% in November from October to 115.7, continuing the downward trend which began in April. The index decreased 5.2% compared with November 2000, for only the second year-over-year decline since December 1996.

Farm Product Price Index

(1997=100)

| | Nov. 2000 | Oct. 2001 ^r | Nov. 2001 ^p | Nov. 2000 to Nov. 2001 | Oct. to Nov. 2001 |
|--|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | % change | | | | |
| Total crops | 85.0 | 91.0 | 89.5 | 5.3 | -1.6 |
| Grains | 82.9 | 82.9 | 80.7 | -2.7 | -2.7 |
| Oilseeds | 65.6 | 77.0 | 84.8 | 29.3 | 10.1 |
| Specialty crops | 77.8 | 118.3 | 130.0 | 67.1 | 9.9 |
| Fruit | 108.5 | 112.3 | 92.4 | -14.8 | -17.7 |
| Vegetables | 103.5 | 104.7 | 104.5 | 1.0 | -0.2 |
| Potatoes | 104.0 | 135.6 | 150.3 | 44.5 | 10.8 |
| Total livestock and animal products | 106.0 | 106.9 | 105.5 | -0.5 | -1.3 |
| Cattle and calves | 122.1 | 116.5 | 115.7 | -5.2 | -0.7 |
| Hogs | 78.8 | 90.1 | 82.5 | 4.7 | -8.4 |
| Poultry | 90.6 | 96.8 | 97.0 | 7.1 | 0.2 |
| Eggs | 98.5 | 100.6 | 101.6 | 3.1 | 1.0 |
| Dairy | 112.9 | 115.0 | 116.3 | 3.0 | 1.1 |
| Farm Product Price Index | 95.3 | 99.5 | 97.9 | 2.7 | -1.6 |

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0021 and 002-0022.

The November 2001 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 1, no. 11 (21-007-XIB, free) is available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). On the *Our products and services* page, choose *Free publications*, then *Agriculture*.

To order data, or for general information call 1-800-465-1991. To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact

Bernie Rosien (613-951-2441; fax: 613-951-3868; bernie.rosien@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Literacy skills, occupational assignment and the returns to over- and under-education 1994 to 1998

This study, available today, uses Canadian data from the International Adult Literacy Survey to explore relationships between wages earned by workers whose education is higher, or lower, than that presumed to be required by their occupation.

Labour market theory suggests that the pay of workers is commensurate with their marginal productivity. Questions remain, however, about the ability of employers to recognize and reward workers' actual skills.

This study concludes that employers are able to detect, and reward, differences in literacy skills within levels of schooling. In other words, literacy skills play a role in the level of pay workers receive, although this role differs between men and women.

In addition, literacy skills are significantly related to the educational requirements of an individual's job, once the individual's education level is taken into account.

Studies in several countries confirm that individuals with schooling beyond that implied by their occupational classification (over-education) do in fact, earn a positive income return to their "extra" years of schooling. The earnings yielded by these extra years of schooling are, however, lower than those realized on the years of schooling required by the job.

Similarly, individuals with less schooling than that implied by their occupational classification (under-education) earn less than individuals whose educational levels match those required by the job.

This pattern of differences in earnings is usually referred to as "returns to over-education" and "returns to under-education." This study extends this analysis by incorporating measures of workers' literacy skills.

It found that the return to under-education for both women and men is in large part a return to above-average literacy skills for their level of schooling. In addition, for men the return to over-education is in large part a return to literacy skills that are above-average for their jobs.

This seems to indicate, according to the study, that employers are capable of determining the literacy skills of their employees by more accurate means than simply

depending on the level of schooling as an indicator of these skills.

The study also found that the pattern of returns to education required by an individual's job is similar to those found in other countries.

The International Adult Literacy Survey was a 22-country initiative conducted from 1994 to 1998. Nine countries were surveyed in 1994, five in 1996 and the others in 1998. In every country, nationally representative samples of adults aged 16 to 65 were interviewed and tested at home, using the same literacy test. The main purpose was to find out how well adults used printed information to function in their society.

The monograph *Literacy skills, occupational assignment and the returns to over- and under-education* (89-552-MIE, no. 9, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca), and on Human Resources Development Canada's Web site (www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/arb). A paper copy (89-552-MPE, no. 9, \$10) is also available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Yvan Clermont (613-951-3326), or Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; educationstats@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

Construction type plywood

November 2001

Canadian firms produced 163 399 cubic metres of construction-type plywood in November, up 4.2% from 156 825 cubic metres in November 2000.

Year-to-date production to the end of November totalled 1 887 294 cubic metres, an increase of 5.1% from the 1 795 424 cubic metres in the same period in 2000.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0005.

The November 2001 issue of *Construction type plywood*, Vol. 49, no. 11 (35-001-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sara Breen (613-951-3521; sara.breen@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Infomat — A weekly review, January 25, 2002
Catalogue number 11-002-XIE (\$3/\$109).

Infomat — A weekly review, January 25, 2002
Catalogue number 11-002-XPE (\$4/\$145).

Farm product price index, Vol. 1, no. 11,
November 2001
Catalogue number 21-007-XIB
(free).

Agriculture economic statistics (updates),
November 2001
Catalogue number 21-603-UPE (\$26/\$52).

Construction type plywood, Vol. 49, no. 11,
November 2001
Catalogue number 35-001-XIB (\$5/\$47).

Natural gas transportations and distribution, Vol. 43,
no. 9, September 2001
Catalogue number 55-002-XIB (\$13/\$125).

Imports by commodity, Vol. 58, no. 11,
November 2001
Catalogue number 65-007-XMB (\$37/\$361).

Imports by commodity, Vol. 58, no. 11,
November 2001
Catalogue number 65-007-XPB (\$78/\$773).

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Editor: Tom Vradenburg (613-951-1103, tom.vradenburg@statcan.ca)

Head of Official Release: Madeleine Simard (613-951-1088), madeleine.simard@statcan.ca

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