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MAJOR RELEASES

(continued on page 2)

Dangerous goods accident information system
2000

The *Dangerous goods accident information system* is available today. Compiled by Statistics Canada in co-operation with Transport Canada, this is a database of all reported accidents involving the transport of dangerous goods.

These reports are filed if an accident involving dangerous goods results in a release that presents a danger to health, life, property or the environment. Reports are also filed for accidents involving death or injury, or damage to containment due to impact stress or fatigue. The data are presented annually.

There is great detail available for each accident, ranging from the date, time and location to the emergency personnel who responded at the scene. Any additional written comments that were provided with the report are also included on the CD-ROM and are accessible to FoxPro users. The data in this product are current up to 2000.

To order the *Dangerous goods accident information system* database (50F0002XCB, $100), contact Carole Stuart, (613-951-5936; fax: 613-951-0632; *stuacar@statcan.ca*), Dissemination Division. For more information, contact Jonathan Rose (613-990-1142; fax: 613-993-5925; *rosej@tc.gc.ca*), Transport Canada.

OTHER RELEASES

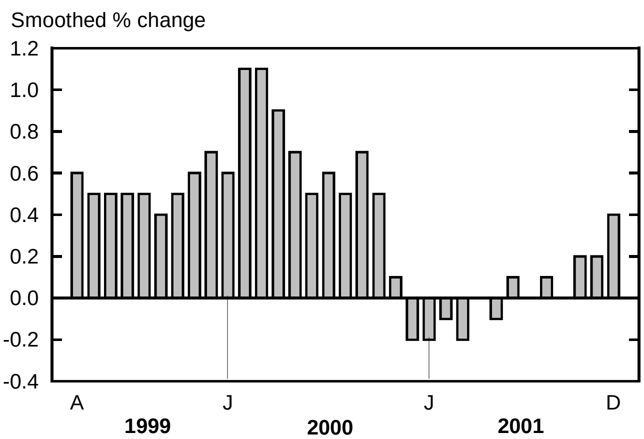
NEW PRODUCTS

MAJOR RELEASES

Composite Index
December 2001

The trend of the Composite Index turned upward late in 2001, rising 0.4% in December after October and November were revised upward to gains after preliminary estimates of no change and a decrease, respectively. However, the sources of growth were limited; only 4 of the 10 components posted gains. Housing made the largest contribution to overall growth. Two components fell, and four were unchanged.

Composite Index



Households scrambled to take advantage of low interest rates. Housing, already the strongest sector of demand, grew 3.2%, its largest gain in five years. Housing starts remained firm in Ontario and Western Canada, and strengthened in the East, notably Quebec, where vacancy rates were among the lowest in the country. The strength of demand spilled over into existing home sales, which continued to shatter records. As well, furniture and appliance sales turned upward. Personal services was also one of the few areas of employment that picked up in November and December.

The two components that fell were related to manufacturing, which continued to be the weakest sector. New orders for durable goods and the ratio of shipments to stocks continued to trend down as they have over the past year. In particular, demand for investment goods remained weak. The average workweek was flat, as manufacturers cut jobs to meet their reduced need for labour. Manufacturing suffered by far the largest loss of jobs at the end of 2001.

The US leading indicator was stable, and has generally been rising since mid-2001. As in Canada, the improvement was narrowly based. In the United States, the two financial market components have led this improvement.

Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.

For more information on the economy, the January 2002 issue of *Canadian economic observer* (11-010-XPB, $23/$227) is already available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Economic Analysis Group. ☐

Composite Index

	July 2001	August 2001	September 2001	October 2001	November 2001	December 2001	Last month of data available
							% change
Composite leading indicator (1992=100)	**166.1**	**166.3**	**166.3**	**166.7**	**167.0**	**167.7**	**0.4**
Housing index (1992=100)[1]	107.6	109.4	109.3	111.1	111.9	115.5	3.2
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,494	2,486	2,477	2,475	2,480	2,487	0.3
TSE 300 stock price index (1975=1,000)	7,829	7,787	7,565	7,310	7,248	7,248	0.0
Money supply, M1 ($ millions, 1992)[2]	96,922	96,970	97,344	99,075	101,260	103,729	2.4
U.S. composite leading indicator (1992=100)[3]	107.2	107.4	107.6	107.7	107.7	107.7	0.0
Manufacturing							
Average workweek (hours)	39.0	39.0	39.1	39.1	39.1	39.1	0.0
New orders, durables ($ millions, 1992)[4]	22,046	21,941	21,571	21,458	21,076	20,401	-3.2
Shipments/inventories of finished goods[4]	1.74	1.72	1.70	1.69	1.67	1.65	-0.02[5]
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales ($ millions, 1992)[4]	1,617	1,619	1,627	1,628	1,627	1,637	0.6
Other durable goods sales ($ millions, 1992)[4]	7,177	7,175	7,207	7,224	7,158	7,158	0.0
Unsmoothed composite	167.1	166.8	166.0	166.6	168.7	170.3	0.9

1 *Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).*
2 *Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.*
3 *The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.*
4 *The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for two preceding months.*
5 *Difference from previous month.*

■

Survey of Suppliers of Business Financing
2000

Canadian businesses employ far more debt financing than other forms of financing such as leasing, according to first-ever data from the Survey of Suppliers of Business Financing.

Suppliers of financing reported their business clients owed them $376 billion as of December 31, 2000 in the form of loans, mortgages and lines of credit. Leases outstanding totalled $18 billion.

Domestic banks accounted for 55%, or $207 billion, of the $376 billion in total debt outstanding to businesses. As a group, these banks are the largest suppliers of debt financing across all authorization sizes, all provinces and almost all industries. They are also the leading suppliers of both fixed-term debt (loans and mortgages) and operating debt (lines of credit and credit cards).

Debt outstanding
December 31, 2000

	Amount	Share
	$ billions	%
Supplier type		
Domestic banks	207	55
Other banks	38	10
Credit unions and caisses populaires	21	6
Finance companies	32	8
Portfolio managers, venture capital companies, and financial funds	7	2
Insurance companies	70	19
Leasing companies	1	...
Total	**376**	**100**

... *Figures not appropriate or not applicable.*

Insurance companies held 19%, or $70 billion, worth of amounts outstanding. Insurers typically provide fixed-term debt and focus on clients with larger authorizations.

Other banks, with $38 billion in amounts outstanding, accounted for 10% of total debt. Finance companies reported an 8% share, or $32 billion, and credit unions and *caisses populaires* reported 6%, or $21 billion.

Credit unions and *caisses populaires* authorize smaller amounts

Credit unions and *caisses populaires* lend more to clients with small authorizations than to those with larger amounts. For authorizations of less than $50,000, credit unions and *caisses populaires* accounted for 38% of debt outstanding. Their share dropped to 26% for authorizations from $50,000 to $249,999; to 13% for authorizations from $250,000 to $999,999; and to 2% for authorizations of $1 million and more.

Note to readers

Statistics Canada conducted the Survey of Suppliers of Business Financing in partnership with Industry Canada and the Department of Finance as part of a larger program of research into financing for small- and medium-sized enterprises. During survey planning, most suppliers of financing said they did not track the size of their business clients. Consequently, survey respondents were asked to provide information on all of their business clients and to group them by authorization size, that is, by the maximum amount they were allowed to borrow. Note that authorization size is not a true measure of business size.

The survey was based on a sample of private enterprises with assets of $5 million or more in selected finance and leasing industries. Enterprises providing venture capital financing and the federal Crown financial institutions were also surveyed. Excluded from the survey were governments, other public sector organizations, not-for-profit organizations, informal suppliers such as business "angels" and family members, and foreign suppliers.

Domestic banks *include the six large domestic banks and several smaller ones as defined by the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions.*

Other banks *include foreign banks, trust companies and all other deposit-accepting institutions except credit unions and* caisses populaires*.*

Finance companies *include enterprises that provide financing to businesses, often for the purchase of goods and services, but do not accept deposits. Debt financing is commonly provided; however, companies that purchase accounts receivable or provide both debt and lease financing are also included here. Examples include the acceptance companies of vehicle and equipment manufacturers, factoring companies and several federal Crown financial institutions. Enterprises providing only lease financing are usually classified as leasing companies.*

Portfolio managers, venture capital companies and financial funds *include enterprises typically engaged in managing or investing pools of assets. Examples include mutual fund companies, investment advisors, venture capital companies, labour-sponsored venture capital funds, mutual funds and segregated funds.*

Insurance companies *include life, health, and property and casualty insurers and re-insurers.*

Leasing companies *include enterprises providing lease financing, usually for vehicles or equipment.*

Debt outstanding by authorization size
December 31, 2000

	Authorization size			
	Less than $50,000	$50,000 to $249,999	$250,000 to $999,999	$1 million and more
	$ billions			
Oustanding	**7**	**31**	**43**	**295**
	Share (%)			
Supplier type				
Domestic banks	51	57	59	54
Other banks	4	4	6	12
Credit unions and caisses populaires	38	26	13	2
Finance companies	6	13	18	7
Portfolio managers, venture capital companies, and financial funds	...	...	1	2
Insurance companies	...	...	3	23
Leasing companies	1	...	...	...
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

... *Figures not appropriate or not applicable.*

In contrast, domestic banks had an even share of outstanding debt, ranging from 51% to 59% across these size groups. Insurance companies, which have more clients with large authorizations, accounted for 23% of amounts outstanding for authorizations of $1 million and more.

Fixed-term debt, mainly in the form of loans and mortgages, represented 60%, or $227 billion, of total debt outstanding, compared with 40% for operating debt instruments such as lines of credit and credit cards.

Domestic banks were the only suppliers with a larger share (64%) of their outstanding amounts in operating rather than term debt. Of the $149 billion in operating debt outstanding, domestic banks accounted for 89%, or $132 billion.

Domestic banks prevail across provinces and industries

Domestic banks were the largest suppliers of financing in all provinces; shares of total debt outstanding ranged from 39% in Saskatchewan to 61% in Alberta.

Finance companies, including the federal Crown financial institutions, held sizeable shares (21%) of amounts outstanding in Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan, provinces with large agriculture sectors. Insurance companies were predominant in Yukon (38%) and Nova Scotia (37%); credit unions and *caisses populaires* were strongest in Saskatchewan (16%) and Quebec (15%).

Domestic banks were also the principal providers of financing across all sectors of the economy except in two instances: insurance companies accounted for 55% of total debt outstanding in utilities, and 51% in the real estate, rental and leasing sector.

Finance companies accounted for large shares in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (25%) of debt outstanding. Credit unions and *caisses populaires* reported 16% of debt outstanding for the same sector.

Businesses in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting accounted for 9%, or $36 billion, of the $376 billion in total debt outstanding. This is much larger than this sector's share of gross domestic product, which is less than 3%. It suggests that considerable investment in land, machinery and equipment is needed to operate in this sector.

In contrast, the education, health and social assistance sector accounted for 10% of gross domestic product, but less than 3% of debt outstanding, reflecting the predominance of public-sector sources of financing.

Loss rates are lower on larger authorizations

Lending losses totalled $1.6 billion in 2000, a loss rate of 0.4% against the $376 billion in debt outstanding at December 31, 2000. Loss rates were higher for smaller authorizations.

The loss rate for authorizations of less than $50,000 was estimated at 1.5%. It was 0.9% for authorizations from $50,000 to $249,999; 0.5% for authorizations between $250,000 and $999,999; and 0.3% for authorizations of $1 million and more.

Insurance companies recorded the lowest overall loss rate (0.1%), domestic banks 0.3%, finance companies 0.4%, other banks 0.8% and credit unions and *caisses populaires* 1.3%. Loss rates might prove to be volatile over time, subject to changes in the business cycle and other economic factors.

Domestic banks and finance companies supply most lease financing

Leases outstanding to business clients on assets such as cars, trucks, machinery, equipment, computers and office equipment totalled $18 billion as of December 31, 2000.

Domestic banks (35%) and finance companies (34%) each accounted for about $6 billion, and leasing companies held $4 billion (22%).

Leases outstanding
December 31, 2000

	Amount	Share
	$ billions	%
Supplier type		
Domestic banks	6.2	35
Finance companies	6.1	34
Leasing companies	3.9	22
All other suppliers	1.7	9
Total	**17.9**	**100**

Finance companies, including the acceptance arms of manufacturers, dominated the market for business leases of less than $50,000, with 52% of amounts outstanding. Domestic banks were the principal providers of leases of $1 million and more, with 48% of amounts outstanding.

Businesses in just two sectors, transportation and warehousing, and manufacturing, accounted for 50% of total leases outstanding. Finance companies had large shares of leases outstanding in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (69%) and construction sectors (62%). Domestic banks were most prominent in utilities (48%), and leasing companies dominated the professional, scientific and technical services sector (71%).

Lease losses totalled $46 million in 2000, a loss rate of 0.3% against the $18 billion in leases outstanding at December 31, 2000. Loss rates did not vary substantially across lease size categories or among major suppliers.

Leases outstanding by authorization size
December 31, 2000

	Authorization size			
	Less than $50,000	$50,000 to $249,999	$250,000 to $999,999	$1 million or more
	$ billions			
Outstanding	**4.1**	**1.7**	**2.1**	**10.0**
	Share (%)			
Supplier type				
Domestic banks	1	24	45	48
Finance companies	52	21	27	31
Leasing companies	42	46	20	9
All other suppliers	5	9	8	12
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Other forms of financing

The survey also collected limited information about factoring and certain types of equity financing, primarily venture capital. Factoring is the sale of accounts receivable at a discount for cash. This type of financing is not widespread, comprising only $119 million in amounts outstanding at December 31, 2000.

As for equity financing, respondents reported a total of $24 billion in capital under management as of December 31, 2000. The book value of investments was $15 billion, and the market value was estimated at $20 billion. Respondents also reported $4 billion in capital available for investment.

Portfolio managers and mutual funds accounted for 55% of capital under management. Venture capital companies, including labour-sponsored venture capital funds, held a 31% share.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ed Hamilton (613-951-4310; *ed.hamilton@statcan.ca*) or Sri Kanagarajah (613-951-1132; *sri.kanagarajah@statcan.ca*), Industrial Organization and Finance Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Sawmills and planing mills
November 2001

Lumber manufacturers slowed down their operations 5.7% in November from October; production reached 5 416.9 thousand cubic meters. This decrease, which followed three slight monthly increases, is mostly related to the imposition by the United States of a supplemental duty on Canadian softwood lumber exports. Anti-dumping duties of 12.6% were added to the existing countervailing duties, bringing total export duties close to 32%.

Year-to-date production at the end of November amounted to 61 626.8 thousand cubic metres, down 5.0% from 64 839.4 thousand cubic metres produced in the same period of 2000.

Inventories stayed relatively stable in November, edging up 0.3% from October to 8 681.3 thousand cubic metres. November's production was similar to that of November 2000 (+0.1%).

The production slowdown resulted in lower sawmill shipments — 5 303.5 thousand cubic meters in November, down 13.6% from October and down 10.2% from November 2000. The economic slowdown and the Canada–U.S. softwood lumber dispute were the main contributing factors.

After a monthly gain of 26.2% in October, lumber exports plunged 25.4% in November to 3 661.4 thousand cubic meters, the lowest level since December 2000. On an annual basis, lumber exports were down 14.4% lower from November 2000. The strong fluctuations in lumber exports, mainly destined to the United States, are closely related to the softwood lumber dispute with the United States.

Lumber prices stayed relatively stable in November, slipping 0.6% from October, the third consecutive monthly decline. However, on an annual basis, lumber prices were up 6.7% from November 2000.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0009.

The November 2001 issue of *Sawmills and planing mills,* Vol. 55, no. 11 (35-003-XIB, $9/$86) is now available. See *How to order products*.

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 Daniel Dufour (613-951-5370; *daniel.dufour@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Survey of Self-employment
2000

Nearly one worker out of six was self-employed in 2000, and most of these individuals became and remained self-employed by choice, according to the first results from the Survey of Self-employment.

The survey was conducted in April 2000 by Statistics Canada on behalf of Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC). It collected data on the socio-demographic characteristics of the self-employed, as well as the hours they work, previous work experience, participation in dental, health and disability plans, income security, and their attitudes towards self-employment.

According to the Labour Force Survey, nearly 2.3 million individuals were self-employed in December 2001.

For almost 80% of individuals, the transition to self-employment was made voluntarily, according to the survey. The remainder, slightly more than 20%, reported that they became self-employed because of a lack of suitable paid employment opportunities. Overall, a majority said they would not leave self-employment for paid employment.

Those who said they were remaining self-employed by choice were more likely to have a university degree, to be employers and to have been in business longer.

The self-employed, both men and women, regarded "entrepreneurial values" as the aspect they liked most about self-employment. However, a close second for women was the flexible hours or the ability to work from home that self-employment allowed.

What self-employed people disliked most were: uncertainty and insecurity (reported by 22% of respondents); long hours and no time off work (15%); income and cash flow fluctuations (12%); and lack of benefits (7%).

About 40% of the self-employed had supplementary health insurance, one-third had dental insurance, and 40% were covered by disability insurance. The rates of health and dental insurance coverage were lower for self-employed individuals than for employees, a majority of whom have these benefits.

During the year prior to the survey, nearly 80% of the self-employed undertook some form of work-related, informal learning activities, such as discussions with colleagues, observing colleagues demonstrate their skills, and studying manuals or books. More than one-quarter of the self-employed undertook formal training.

Results from the Survey of Self-employment in Canada is available today on HRDC's Web site at: (*http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/arb/publications/list.shtml*). For more information on the report, contact HRDC Media Relations (819-994-5559).

The *Results from the Survey of Self-employment in Canada* public-use microdata file (71M0017XCB, $1,000) is also available today. See *How to order products.* For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this survey, contact Client Services (1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; *ssd@statcan.ca*), Special Surveys Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Sawmills and planing mills, Vol. 55, no. 11, November 2001
Catalogue number 35-003-XIB ($9/$86).

Dangerous goods accident information system, 2000
Catalogue number 50F0002XCB ($100).

Results from the Survey of Self-employment in Canada, 2000
Catalogue number 71M0017XCB ($1,000).

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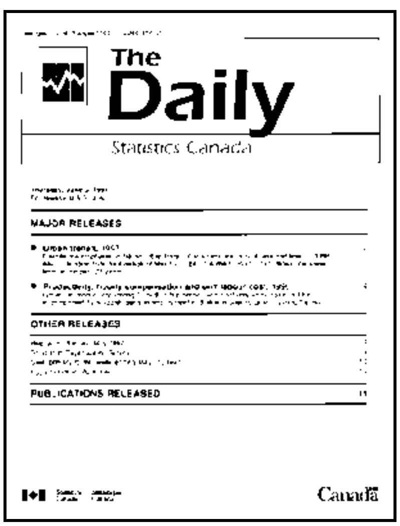
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