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MAJOR RELEASES

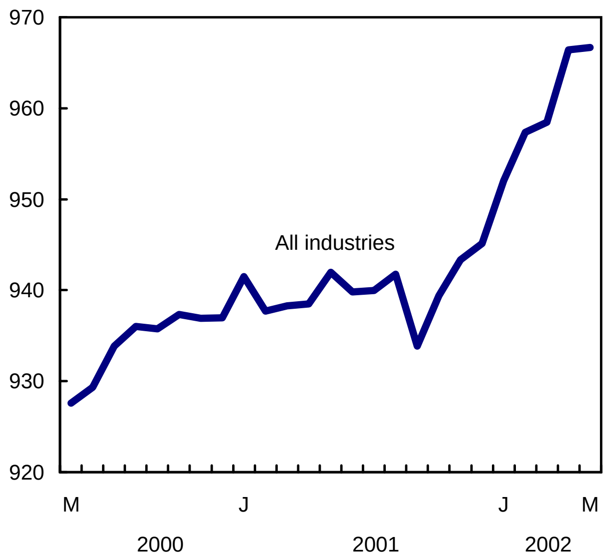
Gross domestic product by industry

May 2002

The economy took a breather in May, as gross domestic product (GDP) remained at April's level, but still 3.5% higher than the low point reported last September.

Economy takes a break

GDP $ billions 1997



Consumers pulled back on their purchases of non-house-related goods and services. This resulted in a 1.0% decline in retailing activity, including a 0.7% reduction in sales at motor vehicle dealers. However, consumers' insatiable demand for new housing continued unabated in May. Residential construction rose 1.3% and led to increased output in the construction feeder industries as well as in the retailing and wholesaling of furniture.

Lower activity was reported in many of the travel-related industries, including restaurants, hotels, air and passenger rail transportation and taxis. The gambling and spectator sports industries, however, registered large gains in May. The spectator sports industry benefited from the presence of a number of Canadian teams in the second round of the National Hockey League playoffs.

> ***Note to readers***
>
> ***Gross domestic product (GDP) of an industry*** *is the value added by labour and capital in transforming inputs purchased from other industries into outputs. The estimates presented here are seasonally adjusted at annual rates and are valued at 1997 prices.*

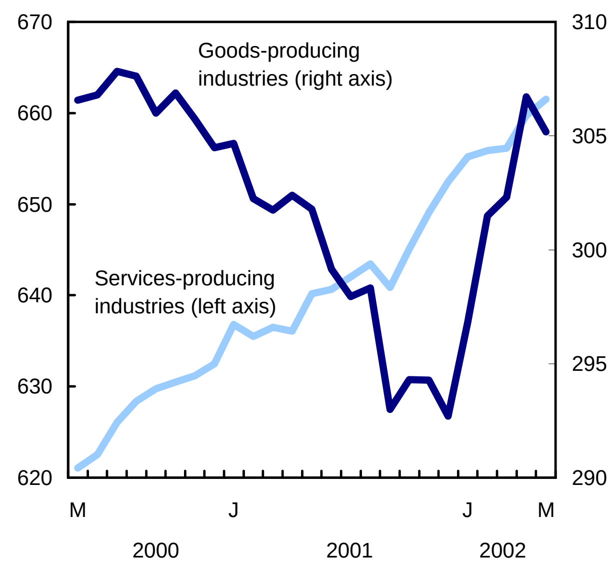
Weaker goods sector offsets growth in services sector

The services-producing industries raised output 0.3% in May; however, this was offset by a larger decline (-0.5%) in the goods-producing industries. Much of the strength in the services sector was a result of the resolution of labour strife in the provincial government sector.

Lower production in the mining and manufacturing sectors were responsible for the decline in the goods sector. This is the first decline in the goods-producing industries after a string of sizeable increases since January. Lower drilling activity because of unfavourable weather conditions in the spring and temporary reductions in synthetic oil production were behind the weaker mining numbers.

Services sector versus goods sector

GDP $ billions 1997



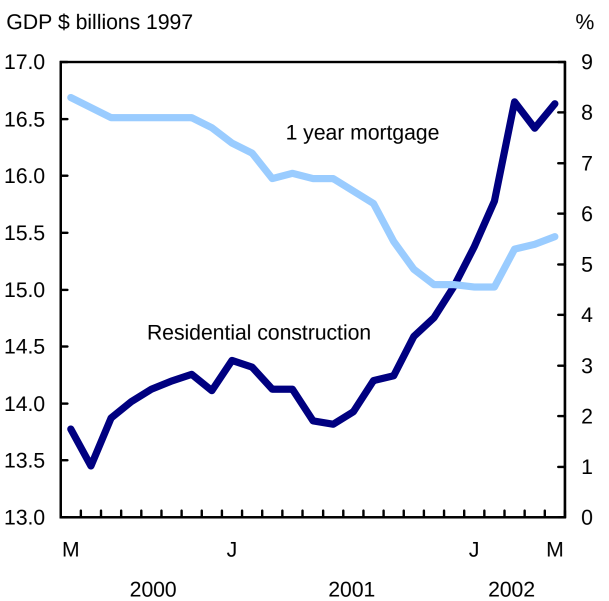
Manufacturing output declined 0.5% in May after registering a strong 2.5% gain in April. Sawmills and motor vehicle manufacturers were responsible for the weakness in the manufacturing sector. The temporary elimination of softwood lumber duties (both countervailing and anti-dumping) from April 22 to May 21 resulted in a sharp increase in output for sawmill producers in April. However, before the end of May, Canadian sawmills started to gear down production and, in some cases, completely shut down mills. Lumber producers scaled production back 8.2% in May, after a 12.4% surge in output in April.

Motor vehicle manufacturers curtailed production 10.3% in May following a 15.0% boost in production in April. The weakness in manufacturing resulted in reduced demand for energy, transportation and wholesaling services.

New housing construction remains hot

Consumer demand for new housing continued in May, as residential construction advanced 1.3%. All housing types contributed to the strength this month, including singles, semi-detached, multiples and row housing. Housing starts were above the 200,000 mark for much of 2002. This high level of residential construction has not been seen since the late 1980s housing boom. This recent boom can be attributed to historically low interest rates, a limited supply of existing housing, and high consumer confidence as employment continued to grow.

Housing boom continues



The current strength in new home construction had a positive impact on a number of other industries as well. For the past few months, there has been a significant upward trend in the construction feeder industries in the manufacturing sector, including producers of wood products, asphalt products, paint, glass and glass products, gypsum and electric lighting equipment. There has also been an upward shift in the manufacturing, retailing and wholesaling of furniture and appliances, as homeowners furnished their new living spaces.

The resale housing market dropped in May from the peak it reached in January 2002. Activity in the real estate agent and brokerage industry was down 12.6% from January, although it was still 10.3% higher than in May 2001. Increased demand for new and existing housing during this latest housing boom has led to higher activity for lawyers and the banking industry's traditional lines of business (consumer loans and mortgages). The banking industry's brokerage side of the business has suffered in recent months from a reduction in stock market activity.

Strike-affected industries rebound

Industries affected by labour disputes were one of the few areas of strength in May. The output of the public administration sector surged as Ontario provincial employees, who were on strike for the whole month of April, returned to work in early May. The resolution of labour strife in the aerospace and parts manufacturing industry led to an increase in output of 6.5% and helped offset some of the declines made in the rest of the transportation equipment sector.

Available on CANSIM: tables 379-0017 to 379-0022.

The May 2002 issue of *Gross domestic product by industry* (15-001-XIE, $11/$110) will be available in August. A print-on-demand version is available at a different price. See *How to order products*.

To order data, contact Ginette Pearson (1-800-887-IMAD; *imad@statcan.ca*). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jo Ann MacMillan (613-951-7248; *joann.macmillan@statcan.ca*), Industry Measures and Analysis Division. □

Monthly gross domestic product by industry at basic prices, 1997 constant dollars

	December 2001[r]	January 2002[r]	February 2002[r]	March 2002[r]	April 2002[r]	May 2002[p]	April to May 2002	May 2002	May 2001 to May 2002
	Seasonally adjusted								
	Month-to-month % change						$ change[1]	$ level[1]	% change
All Industries	**0.2**	**0.7**	**0.6**	**0.1**	**0.8**	**0.0**	**252**	**966,685**	**2.6**
Goods-producing industries	**-0.5**	**1.4**	**1.6**	**0.3**	**1.5**	**-0.5**	**-1,547**	**305,165**	**1.1**
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	-1.0	0.0	2.7	0.9	2.6	0.3	55	21,592	-0.6
Mining and oil and gas extraction	-1.2	2.2	0.0	1.6	0.3	-2.2	-810	36,141	-4.0
Utilities	-0.1	0.9	0.9	2.2	0.6	-0.6	-164	28,354	2.7
Construction	0.7	0.3	0.6	1.3	-1.0	0.3	162	52,112	4.7
Manufacturing	-0.8	1.9	2.2	-0.7	2.5	-0.5	-790	166,966	1.1
Services-producing industries	**0.5**	**0.4**	**0.1**	**0.0**	**0.5**	**0.3**	**1,799**	**661,520**	**3.3**
Wholesale trade	0.4	2.4	0.2	0.4	2.3	-0.1	-49	60,114	7.1
Retail trade	1.7	1.3	-0.7	-0.6	0.3	-1.0	-560	53,004	3.6
Transportation and warehousing	-0.4	0.1	1.3	-0.1	2.3	-0.9	-406	43,453	-0.6
Information and cultural industries	1.0	-0.3	1.1	-0.6	1.5	0.6	297	46,764	8.2
Finance, insurance and real estate	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	-0.1	-226	189,620	3.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	0.0	0.8	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.3	128	41,515	2.2
Administrative and waste management services	1.0	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.5	99	21,095	3.8
Education services	-0.1	0.0	-1.0	1.1	0.5	0.2	78	43,667	0.8
Health care and social assistance	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	179	54,879	2.7
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1.0	0.6	-5.3	6.7	0.9	8.7	804	10,036	17.5
Accommodation and food services	2.0	-1.6	-0.4	-0.4	0.4	-0.5	-103	22,131	-2.9
Other services (except public administration)	0.2	0.6	-0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	32	21,279	2.2
Public administration	0.4	-0.1	0.2	-1.4	-1.5	2.9	1,526	53,963	1.9
Other aggregations									
Industrial production	-0.8	1.8	1.7	0.0	1.9	-0.8	-1,764	231,461	0.5
Non-durable manufacturing industries	-1.4	1.5	1.4	-0.4	2.0	0.1	48	68,943	2.6
Durable manufacturing industries	-0.4	2.2	2.7	-1.0	2.9	-0.8	-838	98,023	0.1
Business sector industries	0.2	0.9	0.7	0.1	1.0	-0.2	-1,719	820,745	2.8
Non-business sector industries	0.1	0.0	-0.3	0.0	-0.3	1.4	1,971	145,940	1.8
Information and communication technology (ICT) industries	1.1	0.8	1.4	0.0	1.3	0.3	199	61,128	1.2

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*
1 *Millions of dollars at annual rate.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Department store sales and stocks

June 2002

In June, consumers flocked back to the department stores in a buying mood, following May's unenthusiastic spending. Sales totalled $1.78 billion in June (seasonally adjusted), a 3.0% rebound from May. This increase more than offset May's decline (-2.7%) and brought department store sales back to the level recorded in January.

The return of generally hot weather in June may have induced consumers to make seasonal purchases, some of which might have been postponed from May.

Since the beginning of 2002, department store sales have been fluctuating from month to month around an average of $1.76 billion. Before that, sales had been moving upward since the spring of 2000.

Department store sales in the second quarter of 2002 were up 0.3% from the first quarter. This gain followed a sharp 4.9% rise in the first quarter. On a year-over-year basis, department store sales for the second quarter were up 7.4% from the second quarter of 2001.

Department store sales including concessions

	June 2001	June 2002	June 2001 to June 2002	Jan. to June 2002	Jan.–June 2001 to Jan.–June 2002
	Unadjusted				
	$ millions		% change	$ millions	% change
Canada	**1,610.4**	**1,745.1**	**8.4**	**8,945.1**	**8.3**
Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island[1]	36.8	39.7	8.1	201.4	14.5
Nova Scotia	46.4	50.9	9.7	262.8	14.4
New Brunswick	36.6	37.5	2.6	193.9	6.4
Quebec	297.8	328.4	10.3	1,689.9	11.2
Ontario	693.3	743.7	7.3	3,774.1	7.2
Manitoba	65.9	70.5	7.0	358.9	5.5
Saskatchewan	57.7	63.0	9.0	317.3	6.8
Alberta	191.9	215.5	12.3	1,107.8	8.9
British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut[1]	183.9	195.9	6.5	1,038.9	6.0

1 *For reasons of confidentiality, data for Newfoundland and Labrador and for Prince Edward Island are combined, as are data for British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.*

Department store sales in June (unadjusted for seasonality) were up 8.4% from June 2001. At the provincial level, sales advanced in every province. Double-digit increases were reported in Alberta (+12.3%) and Quebec (+10.3%). Year-over-year advances of at least 6.0% were recorded in every other province except New Brunswick (+2.6%).

Available on CANSIM: tables 076-0001 to 076-0003.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; *retailinfo@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Clérance Kimanyi (613-951-6363; *clerance.kimanyi@statcan.ca*), Distributive Trades Division. ■

Postal code conversion file

May 2002

The May 2002 *Postal code conversion file* (PCCF) is now available. This digital file links the six-character postal code with the standard 1996 Census geographic areas (such as enumeration areas, census tracts, and census subdivisions). It also locates each postal code by longitude and latitude to support mapping applications.

The May 2002 version of the *Postal codes by federal riding file* (1996 representation order) is also available. This product, a subset of the PCCF, provides a link between the six-character postal code and Canada's federal electoral districts (commonly known as federal ridings). By using the postal code as a link, data from administrative files may be organized and/or tabulated by federal riding.

PCCF+, a tool to assist health professionals in geocoding, is also available to purchasers of the PCCF.

The Postal code conversion file (92F0027XDB, $9,000) and the *Postal codes by federal riding file* (92F0028XDB, $2,900) are available in ASCII format on diskette or CD-ROM.

For more information, or to order these files, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre. ■

Waste management industry survey: Business and government sectors

2000

Data from the 2000 *Waste management industry survey: Business and government sectors* are now available on request.

For more information, contact Annabella Elliot (613-951-0297; *annabella.elliot@statcan.ca*), Environment Accounts and Statistics Division. ■

Annual retail store and annual retail chain surveys
2000

Selected operating data at the industrial trade group level from the 2000 Annual Retail Store Survey and the 2000 Annual Retail Chain Survey are now available for Canada and for the provinces and territories. The estimates are based on the 1997 North American Standard Industry Classification System.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-877-421 3067; 613-951-3549; *retailinfo@statcan.ca*), Distributive Trades Division. ■

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Health reports, Vol. 13, no. 4
Catalogue number 82-003-XPE ($20/$58).

Postal code conversion file, May 2002
Catalogue number 92F0027XDB ($9,000).

Postal codes by federal ridings file, May 2002
Catalogue number 92F0028XDB ($2,900).

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

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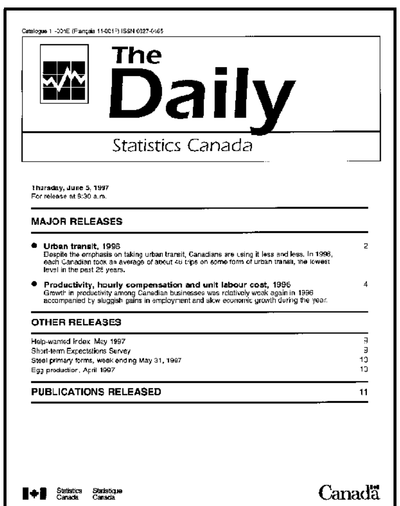
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Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 45 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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