



Infommat

A Weekly Review

Friday, October 6, 1995

OVERVIEW

■ Economic activity remains in low gear

Gross domestic product at factor cost edged up 0.1% in July, but remained just short of its May level.

■ Wages and salaries edge down in July

Wages and salaries edged down slightly in July, following strong growth in June.

■ Demand for workers continues to fall

The help-wanted index fell in September; decreases occurred in all regions.

■ Building permits surge

Industrial, commercial and residential construction plans all increased in August, causing the total value of building permits to surge.

■ Seniors' investment income falls

Senior couples became more dependent on pension income in 1993 as their income from investments declined.

■ Ontario major travel destination

In 1994, Canadians spent more money on travel in Ontario than in any other province. But British Columbia was the big winner in terms of net inflow of funds.

Economic activity remains in low gear

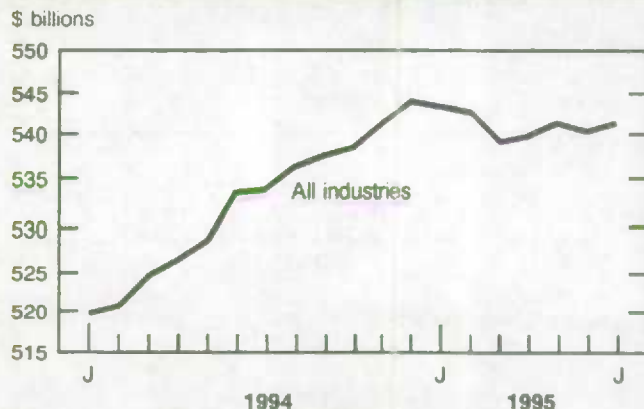
Economic activity remained in low gear in July. Gross domestic product at factor cost edged up 0.1%, but remained just short of its level in May. Higher production in manufacturing and mining contributed most to the small gain. Finance, communications, and utilities added to the advance. Community, business and personal services fell along with construction, retail and wholesale trade.

Manufacturing production increased 0.7%, but this was not enough to offset the decline in June. Shipments of electrical and electronic products, primary metals, and metal and fabricated products rose the most. Overall, inventories of finished goods grew moderately, following a drop in June and substantial expansions earlier this year. Manufacturers of motor vehicles accumulated the most stocks in July.

Output in mining, quarrying and oil wells, which has hovered around the same level since April, rose 1.0%. The gain was concentrated in an 8.7% increase in mining, where base metals, coal, and gold mines advanced the most.

(continued on page 2)

Gross domestic product



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... Economic activity remains in low gear

Output in the financial group moved up 0.3% following increases of 1.2% in May and 0.4% in June. The gain reflected another sharp jump in housing resales. Mutual fund activity, which has been growing steadily since last March, improved again in July.

Retail sales slipped 0.2% after advancing in the previous two months. Lower sales by motor vehicle dealers and by clothing retailers accounted for most of the loss. New motor vehicle sales posted solid gains in May and June, and preliminary information suggests that sales rebounded in August. Sales of furniture and appliances, which have dropped sharply since the beginning of the year, rose marginally in July.

Wholesale trade fell 0.3%, its fifth decline over the last seven months. Sales of lumber and building

Note to readers

GDP of an industry is the value added by capital and labour in transforming inputs purchased from other industries into output.

Monthly GDP by industry is valued at 1986 prices. All estimates are seasonally adjusted at annual rates.

materials, and hardware products receded the most. Lower sales of machinery and equipment added to the weakness.

For further information, order Gross domestic product by industry (catalogue 15-001) or contact Michel Girard, Industry Measures and Analysis Division at (613) 951-9145. (See also "Current trends" on page 8.)

Wages and salaries edge down in July

Wages and salaries edged down slightly in July (-0.3%), following a strong rise of 0.9% in June. Despite the generally weak growth over the first seven months of the year, wages and salaries remain 3.0% (unadjusted) higher than last year.

Following two consecutive monthly increases, total wages and salaries in manufacturing declined by 0.5%. While the weekly earnings within this industry were unchanged, employment and the average number of hours worked per week declined.

Wages and salaries paid to employees continued to fall for most levels of public administration, educational and related services, and health and welfare, as governments continued to downsize in an effort to reduce deficits. In addition, declines occurred in construction and trade, due primarily to drops in weekly earnings.

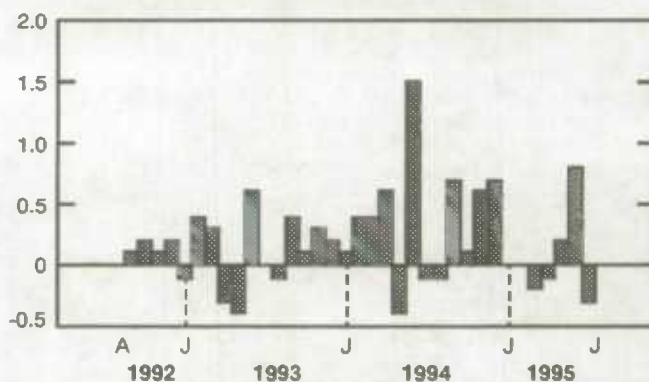
Wages and salaries, July 1995

Seasonally adjusted

Province	Wages and salaries (\$ millions)	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	30,376	-0.3	2.5
Newfoundland	392	-1.1	-0.8
Prince Edward Island	107	-3.9	12.4
Nova Scotia	728	-1.8	-0.8
New Brunswick	614	0.6	3.0
Quebec	6,798	-0.6	2.0
Ontario	12,506	0.2	2.0
Manitoba	1,014	-0.4	2.5
Saskatchewan	792	1.6	4.5
Alberta	3,013	-1.5	1.2
British Columbia	4,236	-0.2	5.8
Yukon and Northwest Territories/Abroad	183	-0.1	4.3

Total wages and salaries

% change, previous month, seasonally adjusted



Note to readers

Labour income consists of wages and salaries (87%) plus supplementary income (13%). Wages and salaries include items such as bonuses, gratuities, taxable allowances and retroactive wage payments. Supplementary income comprises employer contributions to employee welfare, pension, workers' compensation and unemployment insurance plans.

For the fourth consecutive month, wages and salaries rose in transportation, communications and other utilities, and in commercial and personal services. Increases in both employment levels and weekly earnings in these industries have contributed to their overall strength.

For further information, contact Jean Lambert, Labour Division at (613) 951-4090.

Demand for workers continues to fall

The help-wanted index continued to decline in September to stand at 93. The index dropped 9% since March. After following an upward trend, the index stalled at 102 in November 1994. It started to fall in April 1995.

According to the index, plans to hire new workers are slowing in 1995. This weakness in the labour market is the result of the economic slowdown, and is in line with other measures such as the composite index, which has been declining since April.

The index is compiled from help-wanted ads published in 22 newspapers in 20 major metropolitan areas. It reflects the changes in the demand for labour. However, since not all jobs are filled through help-wanted ads, the index represents only a portion of all hiring.

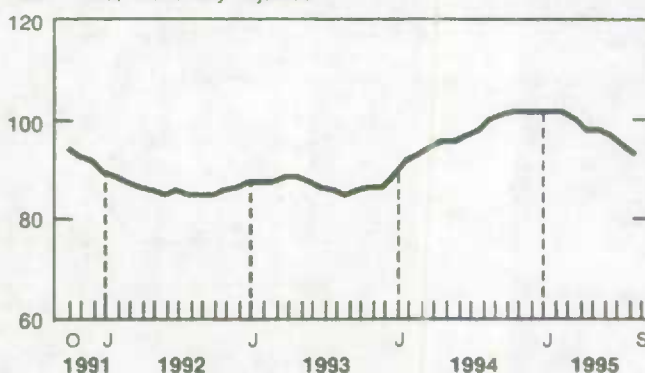
Compared with September 1994, the index dropped in all regions: 3% in the Atlantic provinces and Quebec, 1% in Ontario, 12% in the Prairie provinces and 14% in British Columbia.

Note to readers

All help-wanted indexes have been seasonally adjusted and smoothed.

Help-wanted index

1991 = 100, seasonally adjusted



Between August and September, the index recorded the following changes:

- Atlantic provinces: down 3% to 99
- Quebec: down 2% to 98
- Ontario: down 3% to 100
- Prairie provinces: down 2% to 85
- British Columbia: down 3% to 72

For further information, contact Adib Farhat, Labour Division at (613) 951-4045.

Building permits surge

Industrial and commercial construction plans surged in August, accompanied by a second straight monthly increase in residential building intentions. As a result, the total value of building permits issued by municipalities shot up 10.0% to \$2.3 billion.

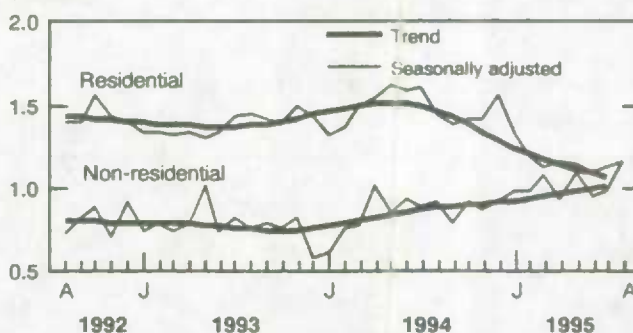
The lion's share of the increase belonged to permits for industrial and commercial construction, which helped push the entire non-residential sector to an 18.9% increase in August to \$1.1 billion, a level not seen since October 1990. Industrial construction intentions have somewhat offset the grim state of the housing sector. So far this year, permits for new industrial projects have increased a sizzling 52.5%, compared with the first eight months of 1994. Permits for housing, on the other hand, are down 22.5% from the same eight-month period last year.

Even though planned housing activity is still at recessionary levels, progress over the last two months is an encouraging sign for the new home market. Housing construction plans, which had been generally falling for most of 1995, rose a modest 2.2% in August to \$1.1 billion, following a 3.7% increase in July.

(continued on page 4)

Value of building permits issued

\$ billions



Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, all data are seasonally adjusted. The monthly Building and Demolitions Permits Survey covers 2,400 municipalities representing 93% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The value of planned construction activities excludes engineering projects and land.

... Building permits surge

Among the provinces, Prince Edward Island, Alberta and British Columbia showed the best performance in August, mainly on the strength of multi-family dwelling construction intentions. In contrast, Quebec and Ontario experienced declines.

For further information, order Building permits (catalogue 64-001) or contact Joanne Bureau, Investment and Capital Stock Division at (613) 951-9689.

PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVES

Building permits, August 1995 Seasonally adjusted

Province/Territory	Total		Residential		Non-residential	
	(\$ millions)	% change, previous month	(\$ millions)	% change, previous month	(\$ millions)	% change, previous month
Canada	2,287	10.0	1,139	2.2	1,148	18.9
Newfoundland	17	5.9	12	-1.4	5	30.6
Prince Edward Island	7	33.8	4	55.3	3	9.3
Nova Scotia	58	2.6	36	4.6	21	-0.6
New Brunswick	35	-43.8	18	-6.3	17	-60.7
Quebec	457	15.8	177	-10.5	279	42.4
Ontario	851	8.1	384	-1.0	467	17.0
Manitoba	53	-4.1	22	-11.6	31	2.3
Saskatchewan	37	-24.5	13	-14.4	24	-28.8
Alberta	240	14.1	133	4.6	106	28.9
British Columbia	521	20.7	330	16.5	191	28.7
Yukon	5	92.2	2	55.8	2	164.0
Northwest Territories	7	-26.1	5	-15.1	2	-41.9

Seniors' investment income falls

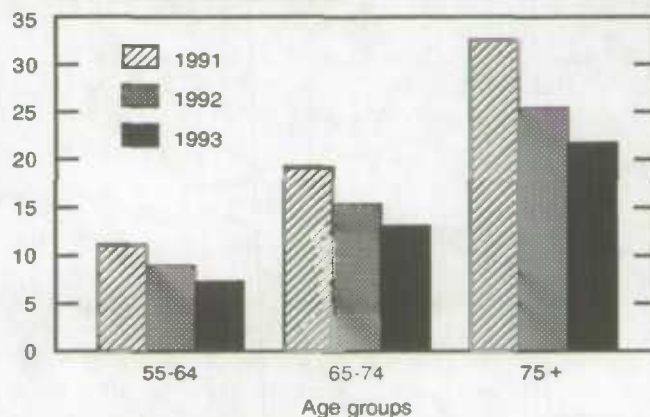
Senior couples became more dependent on pension income in 1993 as their income from investments declined. Pensions (Old-Age Security, Canada/Quebec Pension Plan and private pensions) represented 31.2% of total income for all senior

Median total income of senior husband-wife families, 1993

	Age groups		
	55-64	65-74	75 and over
	\$		
Canada	48,900	34,800	27,700
Newfoundland	36,200	24,800	20,500
Prince Edward Island	43,400	31,900	23,700
Nova Scotia	42,700	32,000	25,300
New Brunswick	41,800	30,900	23,900
Quebec	43,300	30,700	24,500
Ontario	54,600	38,200	30,800
Manitoba	46,200	33,900	26,200
Saskatchewan	43,200	33,300	25,200
Alberta	50,300	35,500	27,000
British Columbia	51,400	36,200	29,300
Yukon	56,700	41,800	29,100
Northwest Territories	53,100	28,300	23,900

Investment income of senior husband-wife families

% of total income from investments



families, a marginal increase from the previous year. By comparison, investment income (including interest and dividends) fell for the second straight year, from 13.1% of total income in 1992 to 11.0% in 1993.

(continued on page 5)

... Seniors' investment income falls

Average pension income for senior families who filed income tax returns for the 1993 tax year rose 4.3% to \$9,421, while average investment income fell 9.0% to \$7,799.

This drop in investment income was steepest among seniors aged 75 and older (-10.6%), who are more dependent on investment income than seniors in other age group. The average pension income of the 75-and-older group rose 5.9% in 1993 to \$8,238. Pension income represented 56.2% of their total income.

Median total income of senior husband-wife families rose 1.0% to \$38,700. However, after adjusting for inflation (1993=100), it fell 1.5% from 1992. Senior families in the 75 and over age group experienced the largest pre-inflation growth (1.1% to \$27,700). Senior husband-wife families aged 55 to 64 had the highest median total income (\$48,900).

Note to readers

A senior is a person aged 55 or over. A senior husband-wife family is a family headed by a married or common-law couple with at least one spouse aged 55 or older. Families are classified by the age of the older spouse.

Investment income is the sum of dividends received from taxable Canadian corporations, interest, and other reported investment income.

Regionally, the Yukon posted the highest median total income for senior husband-wife families (\$49,800), followed by Ontario (\$43,100). Newfoundland registered the lowest (\$28,300), followed by New Brunswick (\$33,200).

For further information, contact Small Area and Administrative Data Division at (613) 951-9720.

Ontario major travel destination

In 1994, Canadians spent \$4.7 billion while travelling in Ontario, a greater amount than in any other province. This sum represents about 30% of the \$15.9 billion in direct business generated by domestic travel. Ontario was followed by Quebec, British Columbia and Alberta.

However, Ontario also recorded the highest travel deficit (\$147.2 million); its residents spent \$956.3 million outside the province, compared with \$809.1 million spent in Ontario by residents of other provinces (mainly Quebecers). British Columbia recorded the largest surplus (\$236.2 million), more than three times that of second-place Prince Edward Island. Only these provinces, New Brunswick and Quebec recorded travel surpluses in 1994.

On average, business travellers spent \$228 per trip in 1994, compared with \$96 spent by individuals travelling for pleasure. Based on overnight trips alone, the average for business travellers almost doubles, to \$443. Although pleasure travellers spent less per trip, they outnumbered business travellers by 2.5 to 1, and spent \$5.4 billion in 1994, about one-third of the \$15.9 billion in total expenditures. This compares with the \$5.2 billion spent by business travellers.

Business travellers spent 22.8% of their total budget on accommodation and 27.5% on transportation. The Canadian averages were 16% and 16.2% respectively. About 12% of business travellers flew to their destination, compared with the Canadian average of only 3.5%. Over 75% of business travellers stayed at a hotel or motel, compared with the national average of 25.9%.

Note to readers

A domestic trip must cover 80 kilometres or more, be taken by a Canadian, and have a Canadian destination. Expenditures reported by travellers cover all travel costs. When travellers visited more than one province, the expenditures are generally allocated on the basis of the number of nights spent in each province.

For further information, order Touriscope: Domestic travel, 1994 (catalogue 81-504) or contact Sylvie Bonhomme, Education Culture and Tourism Division at (613) 951-1672.

(continued on page 6)

... Ontario major travel destination

Domestic travel account balance, 1994

	Reallocated expenditures				Travel account balance
	Total spending in this province	Spending by			
		Residents in that province	residents in another province	Non- residents in that province	
\$ millions					
Canada	15,910.9	12,297.1	3,613.8	3,613.8 ¹	...
Newfoundland	382.5	318.0	87.2	64.5	-22.6
Prince Edward Island	149.5	33.4	41.1	116.1	75.0
Nova Scotia	596.3	402.4	241.3	193.9	-47.4
New Brunswick	434.3	257.7	155.9	176.7	20.8
Quebec	3,072.7	2,581.0	491.3	491.7	0.4
Ontario	4,713.7	3,904.6	956.3	809.1	-147.2
Manitoba	673.4	483.6	234.2	189.8	-44.4
Saskatchewan	744.5	545.2	261.2	199.3	-61.9
Alberta	2,353.0	1,728.8	658.9	624.2	-34.6
British Columbia	2,765.1	2,042.4	486.6	722.8	236.2

¹ The Canada total exceeds the sum of the provinces because it includes the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable

NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA

Community profiles 1993

Community profiles, which are based on 1993 tax records filed in the spring of 1994, are now available. Since these data provide a comprehensive picture of more than 5,000 communities across Canada, they are ideal for supporting policy analysis.

The profile for each community consists of five tables: taxfilers and dependants, family characteristics, sources of income, labour force participation, and economic dependency. Data on each community can be compared with similar provincial data to show how communities fit into the broader picture. These data can also be used to assess trends over the last four years.

High standards of confidentiality ensure that no individual can be identified from these profiles.

For further information on Community profiles, or to order, contact Client Services, Small Area and Administrative Data Division at (613) 951-9720; fax: (613) 951-4745.

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM SEPT. 29 TO OCT. 5, 1995

Division/title of publication	Period	Catalogue number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
			Canada (Cdn.\$)	United States	Other countries
			US\$		
AGRICULTURE					
Livestock statistics updates	September 1995	23-6030UPE	144	173	202
INDUSTRY					
Clothing industries	1993	34-252	38	46	54
Department store sales and stocks	July 1995	63-002	16/160	20/192	23/224
Electric lamps	August 1995	43-009	6/60	8/72	9/84
Electric power statistics	July 1995	57-001	11/110	14/132	16/154
Gas utilities	June 1995	55-002	16/160	20/200	23/230
Gypsum products	August 1995	44-003	6/60	8/72	9/84
Leather and allied products industries	1993	33-251	38	46	54
Production and inventories of process cheese and instant skim milk powder	August 1995	32-024	6/60	8/72	9/84
Retail trade	July 1995	63-005	20/200	24/240	28/280
Rigid insulating board	August 1995	36-002	6/60	8/72	9/84
Road motor vehicles (fuel sales)	1994	53-218	27	33	38
Wholesale trade	July 1995	63-008	18/180	22/216	26/252
INTERNATIONAL TRADE					
Imports by commodity microfiche version	July 1995	65-0070XMB	35/350	42/420	49/490
paper version	July 1995	65-0070XPB	75/750	90/900	105/1,050
PRICES					
Construction price statistics	2 nd quarter 1995	62-007	23/76	28/92	33/107
SERVICES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY					
Services indicators	2 nd quarter 1995	63-016	34/112	41/135	48/157
Telephone statistics	July 1995	56-002	9/90	11/108	13/126
TRANSPORTATION					
Air carrier traffic at Canadian airports	July-Sept. 1994	51-005	39/130	47/156	55/182
Aviation service bulletin	Vol. 27, no. 9	51-004	11/105	13/126	15/147
Railway carloadings	July 1995	52-001	10/100	12/120	14/140
Railway operating statistics	February 1995	52-003	12/120	15/144	17/168
Surface and marine transport service bulletin	Vol. 11, no. 6	50-002	11/80	14/96	16/112

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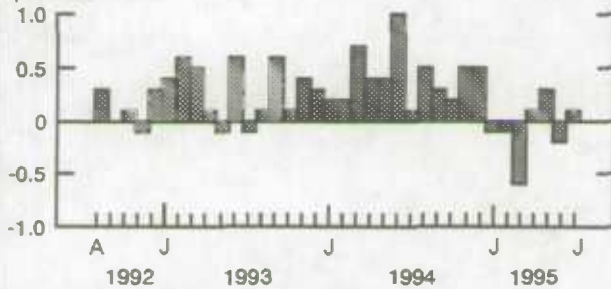
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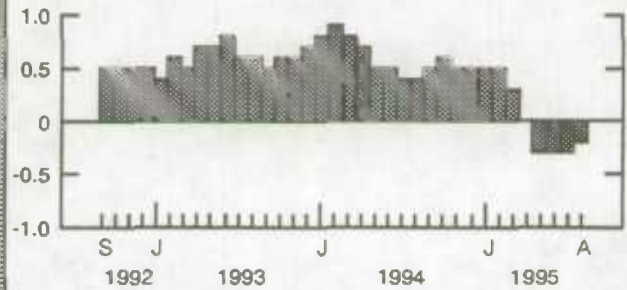
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CURRENT TRENDS

Gross domestic product

% change,
previous month

Composite index

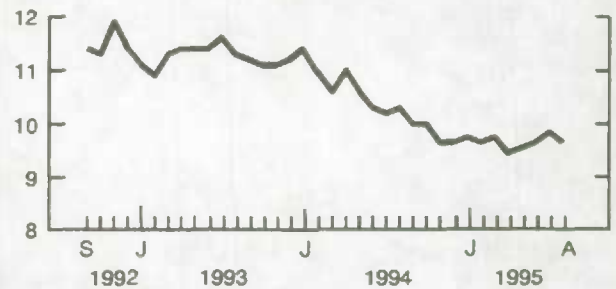
% change,
previous month

Consumer price index

% change,
previous year

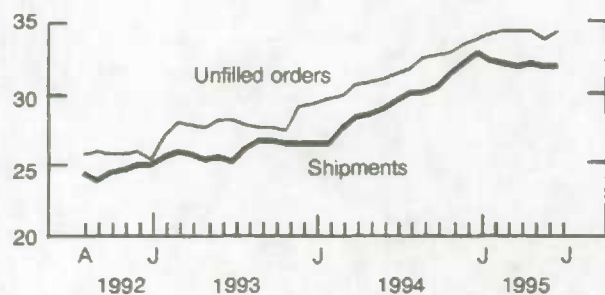
Unemployment rate

%



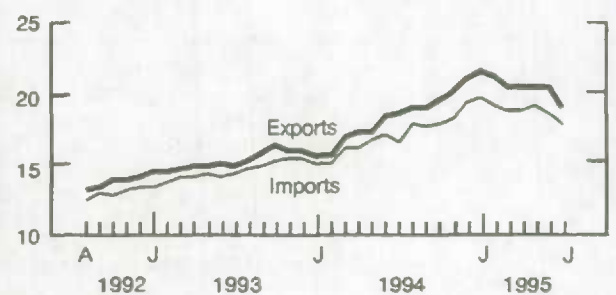
Manufacturing

\$ billions



Merchandise trade

\$ billions



Note: All series are seasonally adjusted except the consumer price index.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
GENERAL				
Gross domestic product (\$ billion, 1986)	July	541.2	0.1%	1.4%
Composite index (1981 = 100)	August	171.8	-0.2%	2.4%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billion)	2nd quarter	23.5	-0.7%	25.1%
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade (\$ billion)	July	17.7	-0.3%	2.9%
New motor vehicle sales ('000 units)	July	91.8	-5.7%	-8.5%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	August	13.5	0.2%	1.2%
Unemployment rate (%)	August	9.6	-0.2 [†]	-0.7 [†]
Participation rate (%)	August	64.8	-0.1 [†]	-0.6 [†]
Labour income (\$ billion)	July*	34.9	-0.3%	2.7%
Average weekly earnings (\$)	July	570.88	-0.1%	0.3%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports (\$ billion)	July	19.0	-7.1%	1.6%
Merchandise imports (\$ billion)	July	17.7	-4.4%	7.5%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billion)	July	1.2	-0.6	-0.9
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	July	31.9	-0.1%	8.3%
New orders (\$ billion)	July	32.4	3.1%	8.5%
Unfilled orders (\$ billion)	July	34.4	1.4%	9.5%
Inventory/ shipments ratio	July	1.40	0.02	0.11
Capacity utilization (%)	2nd quarter	83.3	-1.5 [†]	-0.2 [†]
PRICES				
Consumer price index (1986 = 100)	August	133.8	-0.1%	2.3%
Industrial product price index (1986 = 100)	August	129.2	0.0%	7.1%
Raw materials price index (1986 = 100)	August	130.3	-0.3%	4.3%
New housing price index (1986 = 100)	July	134.4	-0.1%	-1.2%

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

* new this week

† percentage point

I·N·F·O·M·A·T

A weekly review

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