



# Infommat

## A Weekly Review

CANADA

Friday, September 18, 1998

### OVERVIEW

#### ◆ Industrial capacity use declines for first time in two years

Industries used slightly less of their capacity in the second quarter, the first decline in two years.

#### ◆ Building activity: residential sector sagging while non-residential maintains its pace

Construction intentions for housing sagged in July for the third time in four months, whereas the non-residential sector maintained its upward trend.

#### ◆ Average amount spent on a new vehicle is rising much faster than disposable income

The average amount consumers spend to buy a new vehicle has been rising much faster than disposable income.

#### ◆ Canadians are listening less and less to the radio

Time spent listening to the radio has fallen for a fourth consecutive year. In the fall of 1993, Canadians spent an average 21.6 hours a week listening to the radio. That average dropped to 19.9 hours last fall.

#### ◆ Fewer magazines reporting higher revenues and profits

Canadian-published periodicals reported higher revenues and profits in 1996/97, despite a continuing decline in the number of titles.

### Industrial capacity use declines for first time in two years

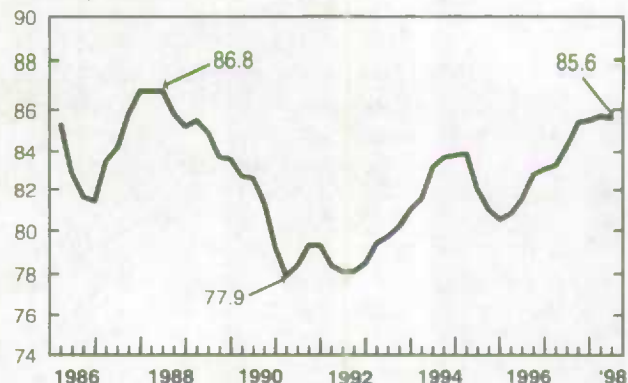
Industries operated at a lower rate of capacity (85.6%) in the second quarter, reflecting the slower economic growth in the quarter. Although slim, the 0.1 percentage-point decline from the first quarter marked the first decrease in two years. Capacity use had been on an uninterrupted nine-quarter climb since the first quarter of 1996. Slight growth in output in the second quarter was more than absorbed by new capacity, a result of strong spending on plant and equipment in recent years.

Consumer spending and business investment were both strong in the second quarter, and exports grew. Output increased only slightly, however, because industries sharply reduced inventories. Strikes, especially in the transport group, played a role in keeping the increase in manufacturing output to just 0.1% compared with the first quarter. Output in forestry, mining, construction and gas distribution also fell during the quarter.

Rates of capacity use have been high for some time — above 85% for a full year. Nevertheless, signs of inflation remain in abeyance. Industrial prices have shown little overall movement since early 1995, and unit labour costs have remained in check for a similar period. The year-over-year increase in the Consumer Price Index has ranged between 0.7% and 1.1% since late 1997.

#### Industrial capacity utilization

Quarterly % (rate of use)



Available also on the StatCan INTERNET  
and the INTERNET mirror site /  
Disponible aussi sur le site INTERNET et  
INTRANET (réplique) de StatCan

(continued on page 2)



### ... Industrial capacity use declines for first time in two years

In the second quarter, manufacturers held their rate of capacity use steady at 86.2% — the highest rate since early 1979 — as 12 of the 22 industries raised output. The electrical and electronic products industries made the most significant increase in capacity use, hitting a record 92.7%. The furniture and fixtures group of industries also hit a record high at 96.2%. In the transport group, the auto strike in the United States led to plant shutdowns in Canada and to a substantial drop in production. The consequent decrease in the rate of capacity use was 4.8 percentage points, bringing it to 83.0%.

In the machinery industries, output has been on a downward trend after peaking in the latter half of 1997. Meanwhile, capacity has been expanding over the last four years due to strong investment in plant and equipment. As a result, the capacity use rate in these industries fell 2.9 percentage points to 83.2% in the second quarter.

Similarly, capital investment in the wood industries has been on the rise since 1994, which has boosted capacity. Output, on the other hand, has been dampened by weaker demand (Asia), export constraints (the Canada-U.S. Softwood Lumber Agreement) and lower housing starts (the United States). These factors have led to generally falling rates of capacity use in the wood industries for about two years. The rate for the second quarter was 83.0%, down 2.3 percentage points from the first.

#### Note to readers

An industry's capacity use is the ratio of its actual output to its estimated potential output. Statistics Canada derives estimates of an industry's potential output from measures of its capital stock. Since 1987, Statistics Canada has surveyed companies for their estimates of annual capacity use, in order to produce survey-based industry measures. A company's measure of its level of operation, as a percentage of potential, takes into account changes in the obsolescence of facilities, capital-to-labour ratios and other characteristics of production techniques. The surveyed rates anchor the calculated quarterly series and ensure that the data series reflect such changes.

Rates of capacity use in the non-manufacturing sector were generally lower in the second quarter, with the major exception of electric power systems. In gas distribution systems, the rate fell 5.8 percentage points to 61.7%, as production fell early in the quarter because of unseasonably warm weather. Activity in construction fell as strikes curbed residential projects, so that capacity use fell 1.5 percentage points to 88.6%. Reduced oil and gas exploration led to a decline in the rate of capacity use in the mining and quarrying industries (-3.0 percentage points to 86.2%).

Available on CANSIM: matrix 3140.

For further information, contact Susanna Wood (613-951-0655) or Richard Landry (613-951-2579), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

### Building activity: residential sector sagging while non-residential maintains its pace

Construction intentions for housing sagged in July for a third time in four months. The value of residential permits declined 3.4% to \$1.4 billion. Intentions in the non-residential sector rose 5.6% to \$1.4 billion as increases in the commercial and industrial components more than offset a slowdown in institutional intentions. In total, municipalities issued \$2.8 billion in building permits in July, up only 1% over June.

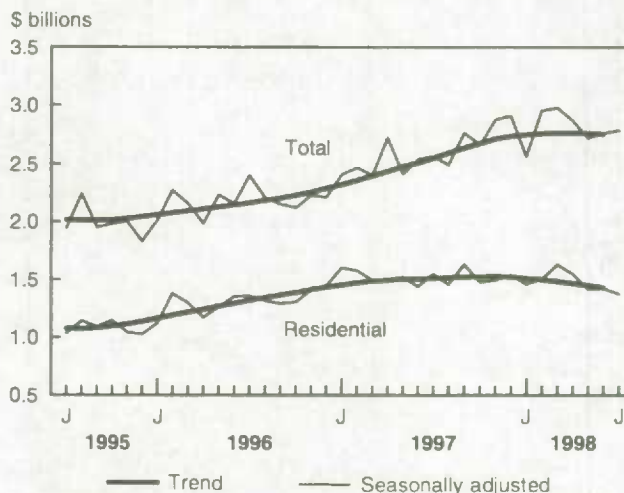
Except for a slight rebound in June, the housing sector has been in decline since April. Intentions for single-family dwellings (about 70% of the residential sector) have been particularly hard hit this year, falling six times in seven months. Both housing components contributed to the decline in July. Permits for multi-family housing fell 10.3% to \$382 million, while the decline in the single-family sector was more moderate (-0.5% to \$995 million). The value of housing permits issued between January and July was down 3.0% from the same period in 1997. Part of the explanation may lie in the rising number of unsold units of new dwellings on the market. Also, the Canadian Real Estate Association reports that sales of existing houses over the January-to-July period were at their second-highest level in 10 years.

Although most indicators remain encouraging (high consumer confidence, steady housing prices and low mortgage rates), other factors — the levelling-out of employment since April 1998, the slowdown in economic activity in the second quarter and the decrease in personal disposable income — raise concerns for the housing sector. Housing starts are down 4.3% so far this year.

#### Note to readers

The monthly Building and Demolitions Permits Survey covers 2,600 municipalities and represents 94% of the population. It is an early indicator of building activity. The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (waterworks, sewers, culverts etc.) and land. Unless otherwise stated, the data are seasonally adjusted.

#### Building permits



(continued on page 3)



### ... Building activity: residential sector sagging while non-residential maintains its pace

Nevertheless, the value of residential permits issued so far in 1998 remains 15.9% ahead of the same period in 1996 and 33.1% higher than the 1995 period.

July's overall increase in the non-residential sector brought the total value of permits for the year to \$9.3 billion, up 35.5% over the first seven months of 1997; non-residential intentions increased in 9 of the 12 provinces/territories in July. The commercial component led the way, advancing 11.9% from June, to \$740 million. This was the second highest level of the year and the third highest monthly level since March 1990. Construction plans rose significantly for warehouses, hotels and restaurants. The \$4.7 billion of permits issued so far this year for commercial projects is 35.5% above the same period in 1997.

The industrial category posted a 3.8% increase over June to \$410 million, the highest value so far this year. It was also the highest figure since November 1997, when the value of industrial

building permits surpassed half a billion dollars for the first time in almost eight years. Most of July's activity stemmed from major building projects in manufacturing. July's results brought the total value for industrial building permits to \$2.5 billion, up 32.7% over the first seven months of 1997.

The institutional component declined 6.6% from June, to \$261 million, despite a significant increase in construction plans for religious buildings and for health and care homes (e.g., nursing homes or day-care centres). Despite July's decline, institutional permits have reached \$2.1 billion so far this year, 38.8% above the same period in 1997.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 80 (levels 3-7 and 33-48), 129, 137, 443, 989-992, 994, 995 and 4073.**

The July 1998 issue of *Building permits* (64-001-X1B, \$19/\$186) will be available shortly via the Internet at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca). For further information, contact Joanne Bureau (613-951-9689; [burejoa@statcan.ca](mailto:burejoa@statcan.ca)) or Alain Paquet (613-951-2025; [paquala@statcan.ca](mailto:paquala@statcan.ca)), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

### Building permits, July 1998 Seasonally adjusted

	Total		Residential		Non-residential	
	\$ millions	% change, previous month	\$ millions	% change, previous month	\$ millions	% change, previous month
<b>Canada</b>	<b>2,788.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1,377.4</b>	<b>-3.4</b>	<b>1,410.8</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Newfoundland	21.5	60.4	13.0	66.8	8.5	51.6
Prince Edward Island	12.1	36.1	4.4	-11.0	7.7	95.3
Nova Scotia	58.9	13.6	26.6	-3.2	32.3	32.5
New Brunswick	55.2	34.3	23.0	16.5	32.2	50.8
Quebec	499.8	8.8	211.9	-5.8	287.9	22.8
Ontario	997.3	-11.1	594.0	-0.4	403.3	-23.3
Manitoba	72.3	10.2	27.5	10.1	44.8	10.2
Saskatchewan	41.9	-19.1	17.4	-33.5	24.5	-4.4
Alberta	551.7	7.6	246.2	0.2	305.4	14.5
British Columbia	455.6	9.3	197.8	-17.6	257.8	45.9
Yukon	4.7	111.3	2.2	21.6	2.5	480.0
Northwest Territories	17.2	5.9	13.4	116.0	3.9	-61.7

**Note:** Data may not add to totals due to rounding. Some percentage changes should be interpreted with caution because of the small numbers involved.

### Average amount spent on a new vehicle is rising much faster than disposable income

The average amount consumers spend to buy a new vehicle has been rising much faster than disposable income. In the second quarter of 1992 (the first period of available data), consumers spent an average \$18,243 for a new vehicle. In the second quarter of 1998, that average had increased to \$25,861 — a jump of 42%. Meanwhile, disposable income advanced by only 10%, while the personal savings rate declined.

Moreover, comparing the second quarters of 1992 and 1998, consumers spent an average 33% more to purchase a new car and 43% more to buy a new truck (excluding most heavy trucks and buses). Throughout the past decade, consumers have preferred new trucks to new cars. In 1988, consumers bought one truck for every three cars sold; by 1998, that ratio was almost one to one.

#### Note to readers

Passenger cars include those used for personal and commercial purposes (such as taxis or rental cars). Trucks include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans, coaches and buses.

The Big Three automakers are General Motors, Ford and Chrysler. The Big Three may sell new motor vehicles manufactured in North America as well as those made overseas (imports).

Data on the average amount spent on new vehicles are derived from figures not adjusted for seasonality and are before-tax prices. The average price of new vehicles is estimated from data reported by companies that primarily sell light vehicles; these data exclude figures reported by heavy truck and bus companies.

For reasons of confidentiality, data for the Yukon and Northwest Territories are included with British Columbia data.

(continued on page 4)

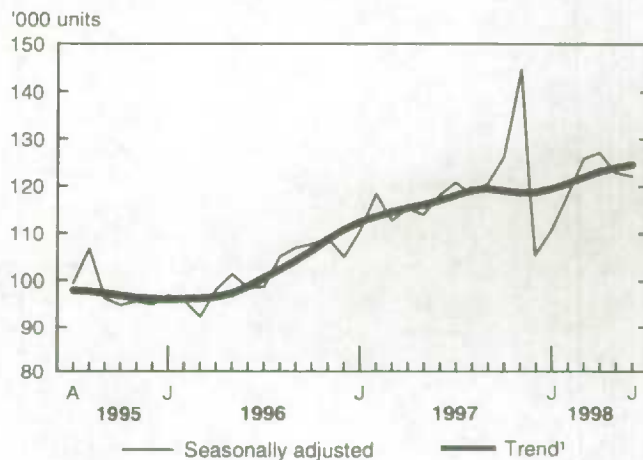
### ... Average amount spent on a new vehicle is rising much faster than disposable income

The number of car models has been shrinking over that period, whereas the number of new truck models has been growing.

Sales of new motor vehicles fell 0.5% from June to 122,187 units in July. This was the second monthly decline after four months of advances. Although 3.4% higher than in July 1997, sales have been advancing at a slower rate in 1998. (All numbers are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise specified). Up 0.9% in July, truck sales recovered only slightly from June's 5.2% drop. The year-over-year advance in truck sales slipped to 6.4% in July, after having been in the double digits in all of 1997 and most of 1998. Year-over-year sales of new vehicles were way down in the Western provinces (-20.7% in Manitoba, -25.8% in Saskatchewan and -20.3% in British Columbia), perhaps due to the slowdown in resource-related industries.

New car sales were down 1.9% in July, the third consecutive monthly decline, as dealers sold only 0.6% more new cars this July than they did in July 1997. Car sales have been flattening since April 1997. And the Big Three have been losing market share for car sales: it slipped from 55.6% in June 1998 to 52.9% in July, after having averaged around 65% from mid-1994 to the end of 1995. Following June's 4.5% decrease, sales of cars made by the Big Three dropped a further 6.7% in July. By contrast, sales of cars made by all the other automakers rose 4.0% in July.

### New motor vehicle sales



<sup>1</sup> The short-term trend represents a moving average of the data.

### Available on CANSIM: matrix 64.

The August 1998 issue of *New motor vehicle sales* (63-007-XIB, \$13/\$124) will be available shortly on the Internet at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca). For further information, contact Louise G  n  reux (613-951-3549) or Jeff Fritzsche (613-951-2812; [fritjef@statcan.ca](mailto:fritjef@statcan.ca)), Distributive Trades Division.

## Canadians are listening to the radio less and less

Time spent listening to the radio has fallen for a fourth consecutive year. In the fall of 1993, Canadians spent an average of 21.6 hours a week listening to the radio. That average dropped to 19.9 hours last fall, marking a return to pre-1990 levels of radio listening.

Some disparities are evident, however, when listening patterns are broken down by province. Compared with 1996, residents of Newfoundland and New Brunswick increased their radio listening slightly, whereas radio listening remained stable in Ontario and Quebec and decreased in the other provinces. With the highest listening rate of 20.8 hours per week, Qu  becers surpassed Ontarians (20.4 hours) and Albertans (20.3 hours) in radio listening hours. Anglophone Qu  becers exhibited the highest listening rate — 22.5 hours per week compared with 20.7 hours for Francophones in the province. Conversely, British Columbians exhibited the lowest weekly listening rate at 18.1 hours.

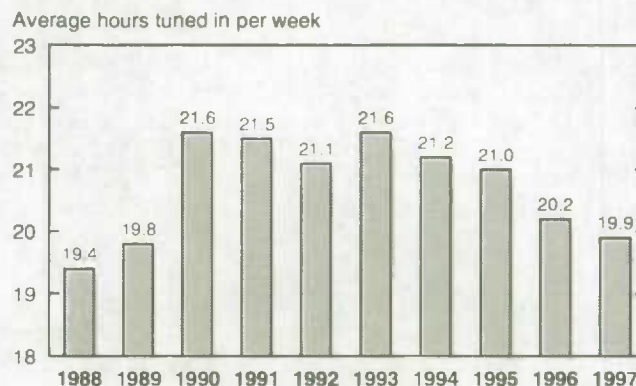
Canadians continue to devote the largest share of their radio listening to adult contemporary/gold/oldies/rock music (38.7%). Even though country music registered the steepest annual decline (-8%), it was distant second in popularity (with a 13.4% share), followed closely by talk radio (13.2%). The predominance of country music in Newfoundland (52.5%) and the strong popularity of the adult contemporary/gold/oldies/rock format in Ontario (47.3%) reflect the numerous differences in radio listening habits from province to province. Despite very low listenership in certain parts of the country, the talk radio format accounted for 18.9% of listenership in Quebec, 18.3% in Manitoba, 16.1% in

### Note to readers

The results presented in this release are based on a survey of 74,761 Canadians aged 12 years and over. They were asked to fill out a diary-type questionnaire for seven consecutive days within an eight-week period (September 1-14 and October 6 to November 16, 1997).

Although the response rate, at 49.6%, is modest by the standards of Statistics Canada, it is in line with Canadian and international broadcasting industry practice for audience measurement. Appropriate care in interpretation is recommended.

### Radio listening in Canada



(continued on page 5)



### ... Canadians are listening to the radio less and less

British Columbia and 13.5% in Ontario. These numbers were sufficient to make talk the third most popular radio format in Canada last fall. The listening audience for talk radio is comprised primarily of persons aged 60 and over.

FM stations are continuing to surpass AM stations. FM captured two-thirds of all radio listeners in the fall of 1997, compared with an equal share of listeners with AM in 1991. The popularity of FM stations is evident in all age/sex groups, but especially among teens, who devote nearly 90% of their listening time to FM radio.

Teens listen to the radio approximately half as much (10.7 hours per week) as adults (19.9 hours). During weekdays, 78% of adults' listening takes place before 3:00 p.m., compared with 46%

for teens. On Saturdays and Sundays, adults have almost the same listening pattern as during the week, but teens reverse their habit, with 64% tuning in before 3:00 p.m.

Even though the adult contemporary/gold/oldies/rock format is still king for both adults and teens, their tastes go in different directions from there. Teens are fond of contemporary music, dance music and American stations, whereas adults are drawn to talk radio, country music stations and to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC).

For further information, contact Lotfi Chahdi (613-951-3136; fax: 613-951-9040; [chahlot@statcan.ca](mailto:chahlot@statcan.ca)), Culture Statistics Program.

**Average hours per week of radio listening, autumn 1997**

	Total	Men 18 to 24	Women 18 to 24	Men 60 and over	Women 60 and over	Teens 12 to 17
<b>Canada</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>10.7</b>
Newfoundland	18.6	14.0	19.5	18.1	20.2	9.7
Prince Edward Island	19.5	10.7	14.0	28.7	29.2	10.6
Nova Scotia	18.9	15.3	15.3	19.6	24.8	10.3
New Brunswick	18.3	14.5	15.6	20.5	22.0	9.5
Quebec - English	22.5	18.4	18.6	18.0	23.3	12.0
Quebec - French	20.7	16.9	17.1	21.7	22.1	9.2
Quebec - Total	20.8	16.7	17.2	20.9	21.5	9.6
Ontario	20.4	18.3	17.3	21.8	20.8	11.4
Manitoba	18.7	19.0	18.3	18.3	20.7	11.3
Saskatchewan	19.0	15.5	17.9	20.2	21.9	9.4
Alberta	20.3	18.4	21.8	20.5	19.9	11.6
British Columbia	18.1	15.2	15.5	18.0	17.7	10.8

**Note:** For Quebec, the language classification is based on the language spoken at home. The total column also includes respondents who did not reply to this question or who indicated a language other than English or French.

## Fewer magazines reporting higher revenues and profits

Canadian-published periodicals reported higher revenues and profits in 1996/97, despite a continuing decline in the number of titles. In that fiscal year, 1,166 publishers issued 1,552 periodicals and sold 539 million copies. They took in slightly more than \$1 billion in revenues and operating profits rose to 7.0% of revenues. Of every dollar earned, 62 cents came from advertising. Revenues from single-copy sales were up slightly, whereas subscription revenues were down.

Magazine publishing activity has declined steadily since 1991/92, when 1,292 publishers produced 1,733 titles with annual circulation of 575 million copies. Profits that year amounted to only 1.6% of revenues. The industry's revenues last passed the \$1 billion mark in 1992/93 and fell to \$980 million in 1994/95. (No survey was taken in 1995/96.)

Magazines that survived the early 1990s have seen revenues and profits improve. The disappearance of unprofitable magazines has accounted for some of that. Business and trade magazines have been particularly successful. They reported modest 3.8% growth in revenues from 1991/92 to 1996/97, but have shown steady profit gains — from 2.1% of revenues in 1991/92 to 14.6% in 1996/97 — as they kept a lid on expenses.

### Note to readers

The Periodical Publishing Survey is a census of all periodicals published in Canada. It does not collect information on periodicals published outside of Canada, specifically, periodicals imported into Canada and foreign "split-run" magazines, which have Canadian editions containing advertising aimed at the Canadian market. A periodical is published more than once a year, but not more than once a week, does not have more than 70% advertising content, and it is available to the general public. The survey covers consumer magazines (general and special interest), business and trade, farm, religious and scholarly periodicals.

The annual data for 1991/92 through 1994/95 have been significantly revised. So readers are cautioned not to compare the data in this article with previously released data. There was no survey for 1995/96. For reasons of confidentiality, the data do not include information on periodicals published in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon.

Periodicals aimed at the consumer market have not fared so well. General consumer magazines saw profits fall from a high of 5.9% of revenues in 1992/93 to only 4.3% in 1996/97. Special interest consumer magazines, which were successful in the early 1990s, lost ground by 1996/97. Their average profit margin,

(continued on page 6)

**... Fewer magazines reporting higher revenues and profits**

which climbed from a 0.4% loss in 1991/92 to a high of 5.2% in 1994/95, fell back to 3.2% in 1996/97. In both cases, profits eroded as revenues failed to keep pace with rising expenses.

Advertising has always been the primary source of revenue for most Canadian magazines, but the competition for that advertising dollar is fierce. Business and trade magazines rely most heavily on advertising: ads accounted for 86.2% of revenues in 1996/97. Almost two-thirds of the total circulation of these periodicals is free of charge, with costs covered primarily by advertising. In contrast, less than half of general consumer magazine revenues arose from advertising that year, and only one in four copies was freely distributed. Farm periodicals follow a different pattern. Although they depend on advertising for revenues, paid subscriptions comprise most of their distribution. Religious magazines and scholarly periodicals rely more on subscriptions and other revenues such as grants, memberships and donations.

French-language magazines are less dependent on advertisers and are more profitable. In 1996/97, the operating profits of French magazines stood at 10.0% of revenues, compared with 6.7% for English magazines. Sales of advertising space represented two-thirds of revenues for English-language magazines that year, whereas ads never averaged more than half of revenues for French titles. English titles, which face greater competition at the newsstand from imported magazines, reported that only 3.6% of revenues came from single-copy sales, down from 4.4% in 1991/92. For French titles, however, 25% of revenues came from sales at newsstands. Almost 25% of revenues for both came from subscriptions.

*For further information, contact Mary K. Allen (613-951-0475; fax: 613-951-9040; [allemar@statcan.ca](mailto:allemar@statcan.ca)), Culture Statistics Program.*



## New from Statistics Canada



### Canadian social trends Autumn 1998

The Autumn 1998 issue of *Canadian social trends* features five articles: "Religious observance, marriage and family", "When parents replace teachers: The home schooling option", "Who needs short-term help?", "Trends in contraceptive sterilization", and "In and out of low income".

Each quarter, *Canadian social trends* integrates data from many sources to examine emerging social trends and issues. It also features the latest social indicators, as well as information about Statistics Canada's products and services.

*The Autumn 1998 issue of Canadian social trends (11-008-XPE, \$11/\$36) is now available. For further information, contact Warren Clark (613-951-2560), Housing, Family and Social Statistics*

### Industrial monitor on CD-ROM September 1998

The *Industrial monitor on CD-ROM* offers up-to-date data on more than 150 manufacturing industries and 33 other industries covering construction, wholesale trade and retail trade. This information is offered for 24 sectors and can be purchased by individual sector or as a complete package.

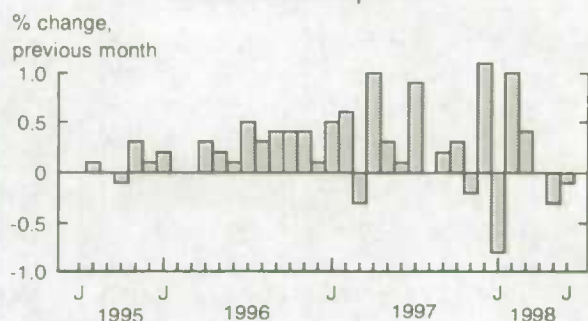
For each industry, up to 50 variables are organized in the "Table viewer" according to five table types: supply, demand, price, labour/employment, and investment/capital stock. The underlying database is also available via the "Series browser" for more extensive time series analysis and inter-industry comparisons.

The *Industrial monitor on CD-ROM* is linked to the Standard Industrial Classification Manual, provides pop-up textual descriptions for every series and embodies consistent data conventions — all features designed to make analysis easy and accurate. State-of-the-art functions offer searching, graphing, viewing, exporting and transforming capabilities — providing you the information quickly and easily.

*The September 1998 issue of the Industrial monitor on CD-ROM is now available. An annual subscription (one CD-ROM per month) to the full package (15F0015XCB) costs \$995, a savings of more than 80% off the annual subscription price of \$258 per individual sector. For further information, or to request a free demo disc, contact Kim Lauzon (613-951-9417; fax: 613-951-3688; lauzonk@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division, or contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.*

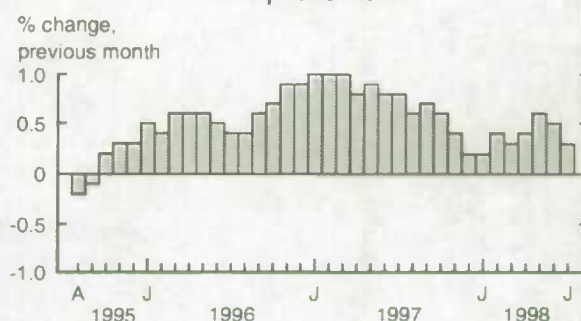
## Current trends

### Gross domestic product



Real gross domestic product at factor cost edged down 0.1% in June — the first time since the beginning of 1991 the economy has not grown for three consecutive months.

### Composite Index



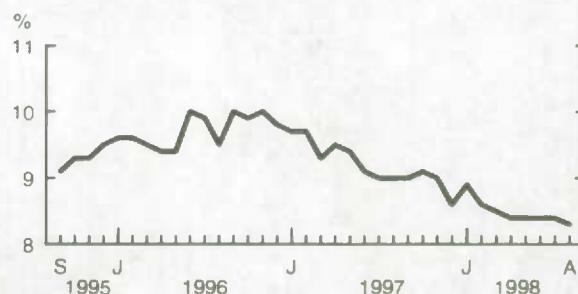
The Composite Index eased from 0.5% in June to 0.3% in July.

### Consumer Price Index



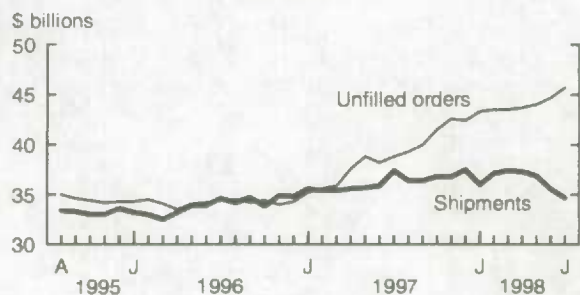
Consumers paid 1.0% more for goods and services in July 1998 than they did a year earlier. Food prices rose 1.4%.

### Unemployment rate



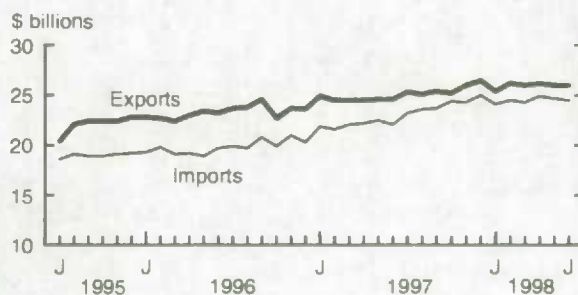
In August, the unemployment rate notched down 0.1 percentage points to 8.3%, the lowest rate since August 1990.

### Manufacturing



Manufacturers' shipments fell 2.4% in July to \$34.7 billion. The level of unfilled orders increased 2.3% to \$45.7 billion.

### Merchandise trade



In June, the value of merchandise exports inched up 0.1% from May at \$26.0 billion. Imports slipped 0.8% to \$24.5 billion.

**Note:** All series are seasonally adjusted except the Consumer Price Index.



## Latest monthly statistics

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
<b>GENERAL</b>				
Gross domestic product (\$ billion, 1992)	June	707.5	- 0.1%	2.5%
Composite Index (1981=100)	July	207.7	0.3%	5.4%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billion)	Q2 1998	25.7	- 4.6%	- 4.3%
Capacity utilization (%)	Q2 1998	85.6	- 0.1†	1.3†
<b>DOMESTIC DEMAND</b>				
Retail trade (\$ billion)	June	20.4	- 1.7%	4.0%
New motor vehicle sales (thousand of units)	July*	122.2	- 0.5%	3.4%
<b>LABOUR</b>				
Employment (millions)	August	14.31	0.3%	2.0%
Unemployment rate (%)	August	8.3	- 0.1†	- 0.7†
Participation rate (%)	August	64.9	0.0†	- 0.1†
Labour income (\$ billion)	June	38.2	- 0.2%	3.1%
Average weekly earnings (\$)	June	603.18	- 0.2%	0.8%
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>				
Merchandise exports (\$ billion)	June	26.0	0.1%	5.7%
Merchandise imports (\$ billion)	June	24.5	- 0.8%	10.6%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billion)	June	1.5	0.2	- 0.9
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>				
Shipments (\$ billion)	July*	34.7	- 2.4%	- 7.0%
New orders (\$ billion)	July*	35.8	- 1.4%	- 5.9%
Unfilled orders (\$ billion)	July*	45.7	2.3%	17.7%
Inventory/shipments ratio	July*	1.42	0.04	0.18
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	July	108.8	0.0%	1.0%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	July	119.5	0.3%	0.3%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	July	107.3	0.3%	- 15.4%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	July	100.2	0.1%	1.0%

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

\* new this week

† percentage point

## Infomat

### A weekly review

Published by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10th floor, R.H. Coats Bldg., Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6.

Editor: Tim Prichard (613) 951-1197; prictim@statcan.ca  
Head of Official Release: Chantal Prévost (613) 951-1088; prevcha@statcan.ca

Price per issue: paper version, \$4; Internet version, \$3. Annual subscription: paper version, \$145; Internet version, \$109. Prices outside Canada are the same, but are in U.S. dollars. All prices exclude sales tax.

To subscribe: Send a money order or cheque payable to the Receiver General of Canada/Statistics Canada, Operations and Integration Division, Circulation Management, 120 Parkdale Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6. To order by telephone call (613) 951-7277, or 1 800 700-1033 both in Canada and outside of Canada.

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 1998. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without prior written permission from Licence Services, Marketing Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6, Canada.

The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences – Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48 – 1984.



## Publications released from September 10 to 16, 1998

Division/Title of publication	Period	Catalogue number	Price: Issue/Subscription	
			Canada (CS)	Outside Canada (US\$)
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>				
Field crop reporting series no. 6: Stocks of grain	July 31, 1998	22-002-XPB	15/88	15/88
<b>HOUSING, FAMILY AND SOCIAL STATISTICS</b>				
Canadian social trends	Autumn 1998	11-008-XPE	11/36	11/36
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>				
Exports by country	January-June 1998			
Microfiche		65-003-XMB	62/206	62/206
Paper		65-003-XPB	124/412	124/412
<b>LABOUR AND HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS ANALYSIS</b>				
Perspective on labour and income	Autumn 1998	75-001-XPE	18/58	18/58
<b>MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY</b>				
Cement	July 1998	44-001-XPB	7/62	7/62
Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins	July 1998	46-002-XPB	7/62	7/62
Oil pipeline transport	June 1998	55-001-XPB	12/114	12/114
Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing	July 1998	41-011-XPB	7/62	7/62
Sawmills and planing mills	June 1998	35-003-XPB	12/114	12/114
Shipments of office furniture products	Second half 1998	35-006SXPB	14/28	14/28
Steel wire and specified wire products	July 1998	41-006-XPB	7/62	7/62
Wood industries	1995	35-250-XPB	55	55
<b>PRICES</b>				
Industry price indexes	July 1998	62-011-XPB	22/217	22/217
<b>SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY REDESIGN PROJECT</b>				
Science statistics service bulletin: biotechnology — scientific activities in selected federal government departments and agencies	1997/98	88-001-X1B	6/59	6/59
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Railway carloadings	July 1998	52-001-XPB	11/103	11/103
Surface and marine transport service bulletin	Vol. 14, no. 3	50-002-X1B	10/62	10/62

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions (B signifies bilingual, E signifies English); those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; and -XPB or -XPE denote the paper version. XDB means the electronic version on diskette or compact disc.

## How to order publications

### To order Infomat or other publications:

Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.

In Canada and outside Canada call: **(613) 951-7277 or 1 800 700-1033**

Fax your order to us: **(613) 951-1584 or 1 800 889-9734**

Or e-mail your order: **order@statcan.ca**

**To order on the Internet:** Visit the Statistics Canada web site at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca) and click on "Products and services".

**To order by mail, write to:** Statistics Canada, Operations and Integration Division, Circulation Management, 120 Parkdale Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6. Include a cheque or money order payable to Receiver General of Canada/Publications.

**Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centres provide a full range of the Agency's products and services.**

For the reference centre nearest you, check the blue pages of your telephone directory under Statistics Canada.

**Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.**

**For address changes:** Please refer to your customer account number.

**Visit Statistics Canada anytime on the Internet:** [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)



## Regional Reference Centres

Statistics Canada's Regional Reference Centres offer a full range of the Agency's products and services. Each reference centre is equipped with a library and a sales counter where users can consult or purchase publications, diskettes, CD-ROM discs, microfiche, maps and more.

Each centre has facilities to retrieve information from CANSIM and E-STAT, Statistics Canada's data retrieval systems. A telephone inquiry service is available with toll-free access for those who are located outside local calling areas. Many other valuable services — from seminars to consultations — are also offered. For information, contact your nearest Regional Reference Centre.

### **Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick**

Advisory Services  
Statistics Canada  
1741 Brunswick Street  
2nd Floor, Box 11  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3X8

Local calls: (902) 426-5331  
Toll free: 1 800 263-1136  
Fax: (902) 426-9538  
E-mail: atlantic.info@statcan.ca

### **Quebec**

Advisory Services  
Statistics Canada  
Suite 412, East Tower  
Guy Favreau Complex  
200 René Lévesque Blvd. W.  
Montréal, Québec  
H2Z 1X4

Local calls: (514) 283-5725  
Toll free: 1 800 263-1136  
Fax: (514) 283-9350

### **National Capital Region**

Statistical Reference Centre (NCR)  
Statistics Canada  
Lobby, R.H. Coats Building  
Holland Avenue  
Tunney's Pasture  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0T6

Local calls: (613) 951-8116  
Toll free: 1 800 263-1136  
Fax: (613) 951-0581  
E-mail: infostats@statcan.ca

### **Ontario**

Advisory Services  
Statistics Canada  
10th Floor  
Arthur Meighen Building  
25 St. Clair Avenue East  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4T 1M4

Local calls: (416) 973-6586  
Toll free: 1 800 263-1136  
Fax: (416) 973-7475

### **Manitoba**

Advisory Services  
Statistics Canada  
Via Rail Building, Suite 200  
123 Main Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 4V9

Local calls: (204) 983-4020  
Toll free: 1 800 263-1136  
Fax: (204) 983-7543  
E-mail: statswpg@solutions.net

### **Saskatchewan**

Advisory Services  
Statistics Canada  
Park Plaza, Suite 440  
2365 Albert Street  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
S4P 4K1

Local calls: (306) 780-5405  
Toll free: 1 800 263-1136  
Fax: (306) 780-5403  
E-mail: statcan@sk.sympatico.ca

### **Southern Alberta**

Advisory Services  
Statistics Canada  
Discovery Place, Room 201  
3553-31 Street N.W.  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2L 2K7

Local calls: (403) 292-6717  
Toll free: 1 800 263-1136  
Fax: (403) 292-4958  
E-mail: degagnej@cadvision.com

### **Northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories**

Advisory Services  
Statistics Canada  
8th Floor, Park Square  
10001 Bellamy Hill  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5J 3B6

Local calls: (403) 495-3027  
Toll free: 1 800 263-1136  
Fax: (403) 495-5318  
E-mail: ewicall@statcan.ca

### **British Columbia and the Yukon**

Advisory Services  
Statistics Canada  
Library Square Tower, Suite 600  
300 West Georgia Street  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V6B 6C7

Local calls: (604) 666-3691  
Toll free: 1 800 263-1136  
Fax: (604) 666-4863  
E-mail: stevan@statcan.ca

### **Telecommunications Device for the Hearing Impaired**

Toll free: 1 800 363-7629

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY  
BIBLIOTHEQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010269320

