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A Weekly Review

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OVERVIEW

- **Economic output edges down again**

  Economic activity edged down for a fourth consecutive month in July, leaving gross domestic product below its March 1998 peak.

- **Industrial prices rising as the dollar declines**

  In August, industrial product prices rose compared with July as the value of the Canadian dollar continued to decline.

- **Crude oil and grain push raw material prices lower**

  Manufacturers paid slightly less for raw materials in August than they did in July. Lower prices for crude oil and grains were partly offset by higher wood prices.

- **Weekly earnings and paid employment rose in July**

  Average weekly earnings increased 0.5% in July and, after five months of little change, paid employment rose sharply.

- **Public spending on culture has declined**

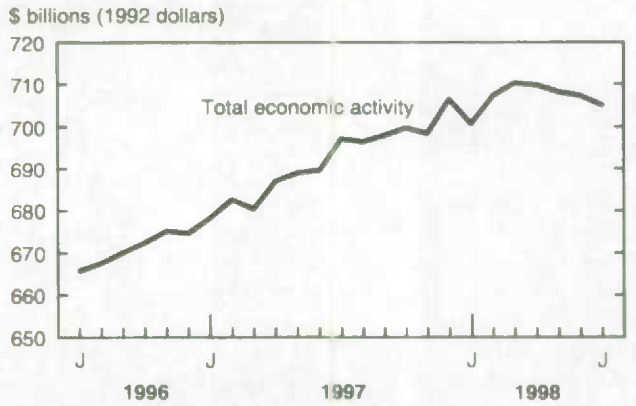
  Governments spent $5.7 billion on culture in the fiscal year 1996/97, down 2.8% from the previous year.

Economic output edges down again

Economic activity edged down for a fourth consecutive month in July, falling by 0.3%. The latest decline left economic output 0.7% below its March 1998 peak. Weakness was widespread in many goods-producing industries in July. Like in June, several strikes played a key role. Ripple effects from the GM strike in the United States continued to be significant in Canada's auto industry in July. Meanwhile, the rest of the economy declined 0.1%. Ongoing weakness in the oil and gas sector was the major cause behind a drop in mining activity. On a positive note, retail trade rebounded from a steep decline in June, while the communications, utilities and business services industries advanced at a healthy pace.

Manufacturing production fell 1.7% in July as strikes by autoworkers in the United States and by pulp and paper workers in Canada intensified. The output of chemicals, fabricated metal products and machinery was also lower. These decreases were partly offset by a surge in the production of electronic equipment, as well as by increased output of food and beverages. The ripple effects of the GM strike led to lower production in July of motor vehicles (-10.6%) and parts (-15.3%). The strike forced most of the company's plants to shut down in the latter half of June and for most of July, and it triggered parallel layoffs among suppliers. The strike was resolved at the end of July.

Gross domestic product at factor cost



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... Economic output edges down again

A new labour dispute in the pulp and paper industry reduced that industry's output in July. Pulp and newsprint makers posted the largest declines, while producers of paper boxes and other converted paper also curtailed supply. As a whole, the industry has shown little upward momentum during the last two years, so that output is currently 6.1% below year-earlier levels. Logging suffered another decline, the ninth in as many months. Logging and forestry as a whole is down 16.8% compared with July 1997.

Output of chemical products fell for a fourth consecutive month in July. The latest decline was widespread and was pronounced among makers of pharmaceutical products, plastics and resins. Producers of machinery also reduced output in July, the fourth decline in five months. July's declines in manufacturing were sharpest in the construction and other machinery industries. These were partly offset by higher production of farm machinery.

Production of electrical and electronic products surged in July, led upward by a spike in the telecommunications equipment industry. Output of computers, office machines, electronic components and electrical equipment were all up. Overall, the industry has shown remarkable growth in the last two years. June's decline in beverage output proved to be only a pause in this year's strong growth. In July, as in previous months, breweries and distilleries were chiefly responsible the surging production.

Activity in transportation services fell 1.6% in July, due to the ongoing weakness in manufacturing and to depressed market conditions for primary commodities, notably coal and grain. The decline in traffic hit rail carriers the hardest, but trucking companies were also affected. The rail carriers found some relief as the railcar shortage ended, leading to higher exports of the new trucks that had been accumulating.

The mining sector fell 1.7% in July, as weakness in the oil patch more than offset a moderate rise in metal mining. July's drop in drilling and rigging was the largest in almost two years. It extended a string of declines that began near the end of 1997, when the price of oil started to collapse and oil companies began to pare back on exploration. Oil and gas extraction, which also receded in July, has flattened in recent months after maintaining an upward trajectory for the last year. The output of metals such as copper, nickel and zinc increased to roughly even with last year's levels. Output of gold was also up slightly, after a string of declines during the preceding eight months. Falling metal prices have forced some high-cost mines to close. However, the effect of falling commodity prices on domestic producers has been moderated by the erosion of the Canadian dollar vis-à-vis its U.S. counterpart.

> ***Note to readers***
>
> *The gross domestic product (GDP) of an industry is the value added when labour and capital transform inputs purchased from other producers into outputs. Monthly GDP by industry is valued at 1992 prices. The estimates presented here are seasonally adjusted at annual rates.*

Over all, construction activity was little changed in July. Strikes hit various residential and non-residential building trades in Southern Ontario. Although a two-month strike by drywallers was resolved in June, the strife spread to other residential building trades (including carpenters, trim fitters, concrete pourers and sheet metal workers). This cut into housing starts and further delayed the completion of thousands of homes. Looking ahead, starts partially recovered in August (+11.7%), but fell short of pre-strike levels. In Ontario, crane and heavy equipment operators went on a province-wide strike in July, partly offsetting the growth in non-residential and engineering construction elsewhere in the country.

Activity in the communications and utilities industries rose 0.5% in July. Gas distributors advanced the most, after a period of weakness in the April-to-June period brought on by unseasonably warm weather. A fall in the volume of stock market activity led to a 0.7% decline in the finance industries. The battered Canadian dollar boosted the tourist trade, lifting the accommodation and food service industries moderately. Activity also increased among computer and other business services firms in July.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4677-4681.

The July 1998 issue of ***Gross domestic product by industry*** *(15-001-XPB, \$15/\$145) will be released shortly. For analytical information, contact Richard Evans (613-951-9145; evanric@statcan.ca). For information about purchasing data, contact Kim Lauzon (613-951-9417; lauzonk@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division.* *See also "Current Trends" on page 7.*

Industrial prices rising as the dollar declines

In August, industrial product prices rose 0.5% compared with July as the value of the Canadian dollar continued to decline. However, the 12-month change in prices dropped slightly to 0.1%, down from 0.3% in July. The Industrial Product Price Index was 120.1 in August (1992=100), up from 119.5 in July. The most significant price increases were for exported automobiles and trucks and for softwood lumber. Prices declined for petroleum products and primary products of the major non-ferrous metals.

> ***Note to readers***
>
> *The Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) reflects the prices that producers in Canada receive as goods leave their plants. It does not reflect what consumers pay. Unlike the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the IPPI excludes indirect taxes and all costs (including transportation, wholesale and retail costs) occurring between the time when a good leaves a plant and when a final user takes possession.*

Exchange rates had a significant effect in August, as the value of the U.S. dollar rose to CDN\$1.52 by mid-month. A year earlier, it had been about CDN\$1.39. Excluding the effect of the Canada-U.S. exchange rate on export prices quoted in U.S. dollars, manufacturers' prices would have edged down 0.1% from July, and the 12-month change would have been -2.4%, compared with -1.9% in July. For manufacturers, the 12-month change in prices for finished goods (other than capital goods or foods and feeds) was 3.2%. However, this increase was basically due to the effect of the exchange rate on the prices of exported goods quoted in U.S. dollars. If this effect were removed, the change would have been -0.7%.

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... Industrial prices rising as the dollar declines

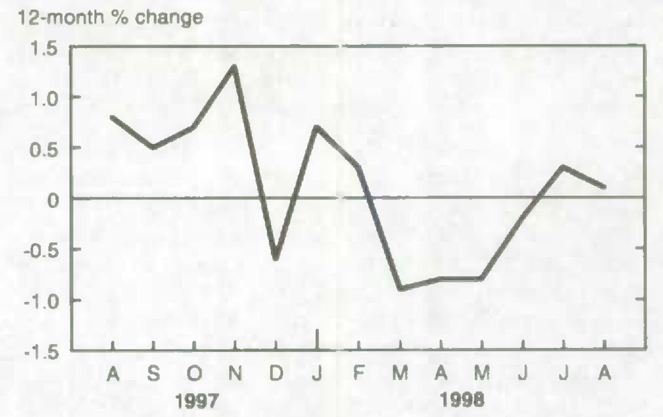
The higher motor vehicle prices in August were mainly due to the lower value of the Canadian dollar in U.S. dollar terms. Export prices for autos and trucks were both up 2.3%. However, domestic prices for automobiles edged down 0.2%, whereas those for trucks edged up 0.2%. The decline in domestic auto prices reflected minor changes in manufacturers' incentive programs to encourage vehicle sales.

Softwood lumber prices rose (+5.3%) for a second consecutive month in August, but remained 10.0% lower than a year earlier. Prices were up across the country, with domestic prices advancing 3.3% and export prices gaining 6.1%. In August, Canadian housing starts jumped 11.7% with the end of the construction strike in Ontario. Housing starts in the United States have also been strong, reaching an 11-year high in July. Several factors in British Columbia also contributed to the higher lumber prices in August, including the threat of a rail strike, forest fires, and the extended summer shutdowns of some coast mills.

Prices for refined petroleum products continued to decline in August (-1.6%). Since January 1997, prices in this industry have dropped 27.7%. Crude oil prices, which continued to decline in August, have tumbled 41.5% since the peak in December 1996.

Prices for primary products of the major non-ferrous metals moved slightly lower in August, a reflection of the ongoing market weakness for these products. Manufacturers of the goods used as inputs (intermediate goods) in the production of finished goods saw prices move appreciably lower than a year earlier (-2.0%). This was particularly so for goods used as inputs into

Industrial Product Price Index



basic industries (first-stage intermediate goods), which were down 7.4% in price. (Basic industries are defined here as the primary metal, wood, pulp and some chemical industries.) This notable price drop also reflected the much lower prices for raw materials than a year earlier (-15.8%).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1870-1878.

The August 1998 issue of ***Industry price indexes*** *(62-011-XPB, $22/$217) will be available shortly. For further information, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-2848; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division.*

Crude oil and grain push raw material prices lower

Manufacturers paid 0.7% less for their raw materials in August than they did in July, as lower prices for crude oil and grains were partly offset by higher wood prices. Raw material prices have fallen to levels last seen during the first quarter of 1994. The Raw Materials Price Index stood at 106.6 in August (1992=100), down from 107.4 in July (revised). Compared with 12 months earlier, raw material prices in August were down 15.8%. Excluding the volatile prices of the mineral fuels category, 90% of which is crude oil, raw material prices were down 0.3% from July and down 11.7% from August 1997.

Crude oil prices fell 1.9% in August, the sixth monthly decline since the beginning of the year. The price of crude has fallen 16.8% since the start of the year and is down 28.2% compared with August 1997. At least for the near future, the world seems awash with oil. Producers are currently pumping almost 4% more oil than the world requires. And now the recent devaluation of the rouble has increased expectations that Russia will boost oil exports and add to the glut. Russia is the world's third-largest producer of crude, so a significant increase in its exports could seriously offset OPEC's planned decrease in output. Also in the mineral fuels group, natural gas prices were up 16.0% compared with August 1997, whereas coal prices were down 3.8%.

Log prices in August were subject to an element of under-supply, as wood prices overall edged up 1.3% due to higher prices for logs (+1.0%) and pulpwood (+2.3%). Compared with 12 months earlier, however, wood prices were down 14.5% (logs, -18.6%; pulpwood +2.0%). Forest fire dangers in British Columbia made it difficult for mills to replenish their log supplies in August. Also, the relatively strong U.S. lumber market helped to push log prices up in the month.

Note to readers

The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) reflects prices that manufacturers paid for key raw materials, including some that were not produced in Canada. Prices for many of these commodities are set in world markets.

Vegetable product prices fell 2.8% in August. Lower prices for grains (-7.3%) and oilseeds (-5.1%) were the major contributors, as the Canadian Wheat Board dropped the asking export price of wheat to its lowest level since August 1992. Canada, France and Argentina are all expecting bumper wheat crops. As well, soybean prices were down 8.7% on the news that U.S. farmers will harvest a record crop this year. Canola prices fared much better and were down only 2.7% from August 1997, compared with a 20.3% decline for soybeans. In the first half of 1998, canola was virtually the only major crop in Canada to bring producers more revenue. Compared with 12 months earlier, vegetable product prices were down 12.8%, as lower prices for coffee (-43.4%), grains (-12.8%) and oilseeds (-8.8%) were somewhat offset by higher potato (+39.2%) prices.

Animal and animal product prices edged down 0.3% from July, as lower hog prices (-1.0%) were almost offset by higher prices for cattle and calves for slaughter (+0.6%). Hog prices continue to decline due to excess supply and weak Asian demand.

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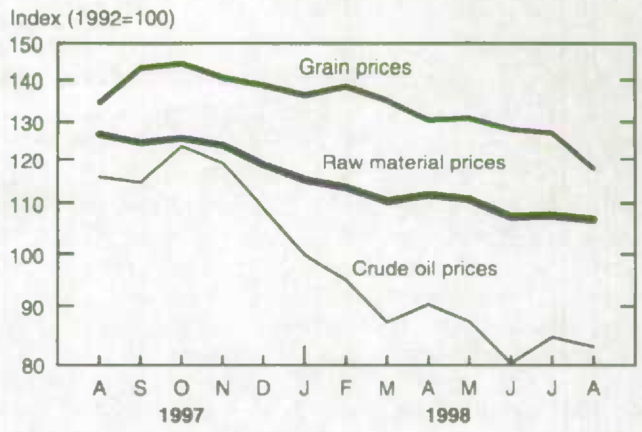
... Crude oil and grain push raw material prices lower

Domestic demand has not taken up the excess supply partly because retail prices have not kept pace with the decline in live hog prices. For example, fresh and frozen pork prices (as noted in the Consumer Price Index) have declined only 8.3% since August 1997, whereas hog prices have tumbled 32.6%.

Non-ferrous metal prices dipped only slightly in August (-0.3%). But compared with August 1997, non-ferrous metal prices were down 17.0%, as lower prices for copper concentrates (-19.6%), nickel concentrates (-34.2%) and aluminum materials (-19.4%) were somewhat offset by higher prices for silver, platinum and lead. The continued weak demand for metals from Asia and the moderating growth in the United States have dampened price increases for non-ferrous metals. Nickel prices have also been subject to increased exports from Russia, partly due to the rouble's devaluation. Also, a new low-cost process using leach technology, applicable to almost two-thirds of the world's known nickel ore reserves, may potentially lower nickel prices.

Ferrous material prices were down 1.2% in the month. Lower prices for iron and steel scrap (-3.5%) were partly offset by higher prices for iron ore (+2.3%). Compared with 12 months earlier, ferrous material prices remained almost unchanged this August. Higher iron ore prices (+9.3) were almost offset by lower prices for iron and steel scrap (-5.1%). The abundant supply of iron and steel scrap in the marketplace has kept prices from rising.

Prices of raw materials, crude oil and grain



Available on CANSIM: matrices 1879.

*The August 1998 issue of **Industry price indexes** (62-011-XPB, $22/$217) will be available at the end of this month. For further information, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-3350; fax (613-951-2848; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division.*

Weekly earnings and paid employment rose in July

Average weekly earnings increased by $3.25 in July to $609.14, with monthly gains appearing in most industries. Compared with July 1997, average weekly earnings increased 1.6%. Each month since mid-1997, the range for year-over-year growth in average weekly earnings has been between 1.0 and 2.0%.

In July, average weekly earnings advanced for both hourly paid workers (+1.5) and salaried employees (+2.4%) on a year-over-year basis. However, for hourly paid employees, the growth in weekly earnings has been on a downward trend since mid-1997 due to declines in average hours; for salaried employees, that trend has been steady. Employees paid commissions saw their average weekly earnings fall 1.1% compared with July 1997. Commissions and bonuses in retail and finance, insurance and real estate declined.

Paid employment (as measured by the Survey of Employment, Earnings and Hours or SEPH) rose sharply in July (+47,000) following five months of little change. Employment increased in most industries. Employers in Quebec added 37,000 employees to their payrolls. In Ontario, paid employment was flat, as layoffs in the auto industry offset gains in other industries.

These estimates of employment, earnings and hours are now derived from administrative records; in addition, a new sample was drawn for the Business Payrolls Survey to produce estimates of paid hours, average weekly earnings and average hourly earnings. Estimates derived from administrative records may show a different seasonal pattern than the previous data, which were derived from survey questionnaires. This can only be assessed within the context of a longer time period. Statistics Canada will continue to monitor these impacts and will help users interpret its data. It is recommended that SEPH data, particularly employment data, be used in the context of longer time periods for detailed industry distributions. A description of the methodological changes and their impacts on the data was published in the May 1998 issue of *Employment, earnings and hours* (72-002-XPB).

Average weekly earnings, all industries, July 1998
Seasonally adjusted

	$	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	**609.14**	**0.5**	**1.6**
Newfoundland	528.94	0.0	-1.7
Prince Edward Island	478.52	1.8	1.4
Nova Scotia	522.96	1.6	2.7
New Brunswick	536.90	2.0	0.2
Quebec	574.00	0.6	1.5
Ontario	547.26	0.2	1.4
Manitoba	543.09	1.0	2.8
Saskatchewan	538.88	0.1	2.1
Alberta	619.12	0.7	3.0
British Columbia	618.53	0.1	0.7
Yukon	684.43	2.5	-0.4
Northwest Territories	730.65	0.1	0.6

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4285-4466, 9438-9452, 9639-9664 and 9899-9911.

*The July 1998 issue of **Employment, earnings and hours** (72-002-XPB, $32/$320) will be available shortly. The historical publication **Annual estimates of employment, earnings and hours 1984-1996** (diskette: 72F0002XDB, $120) is on sale now. Custom tabulations of the data are available on demand. For further information, contact Jean Leduc (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Division.*

Public spending on culture has declined

In 1996/97, the federal government cut its spending on culture by 5.0% from the previous year to $2.8 billion. Meanwhile, the provinces and territories reduced their spending on culture by 3.4% to $1.7 billion. Municipalities, the only level of government that raised spending on culture that year, allocated just over $1.4 billion (+1.6%).

The lower federal spending on culture — the first decline in three years — was attributable to a 7.9% decrease from 1995/96 for departmental operations and capital budgets (85% of federal cultural outlays). In turn, this decline was largely a result of reduced spending on broadcasting. By contrast, grants, contributions and other transfers to cultural organizations, institutions and artists (15% of the federal cultural budget) climbed 14.6% to $427.9 million — the first increase after three straight annual declines. It was largely due to greater financial assistance being extended to the film and video sector.

Overall, federal spending remained concentrated on the cultural industries, which include broadcasting, film and video production, book and periodical publishing, and sound recording. In 1996/97, these industries consumed $1.9 billion or 70% of the federal budget for culture. Broadcasting — the largest cultural industry — accounted for 77% of the total spending on cultural industries and accounted for a considerable part of the cultural budget spent in each province–territory. Ontario and Quebec, where the broadcasting industry is predominantly located, obtained the largest shares of the federal spending allocated to the cultural industries. The biggest percentage increases in federal spending occurred in the Northwest Territories (+13.3%) and in the Yukon (+11.9%), largely because of the broadcasting industry. The largest declines in federal spending on culture occurred in Alberta (-8.0%) and Newfoundland (-7.1%), due largely to cuts to broadcasting.

Government expenditures on culture

	1995/96	1996/97	1995/96 to 1996/97
	$ millions		% change
All levels of government[1] (current dollars)	**5,825**	**5,660**	**-2.8**
Federal	2,923	2,776	-5.0
Provincial–territorial	1,790	1,730	-3.4
Municipal[2]	1,420	1,443	1.6
All levels of government[1] (1986 constant dollars)	4,470	4,330	-3.1

[1] These totals exclude inter-governmental transfers and thus cannot be derived by adding the three figures above.
[2] Municipal spending is on a calendar year basis.

Per capita government spending on culture, 1996/97

	Federal[1]	Provincial–territorial	Municipal[2]
Canada	**93**	**58**	**48**
Newfoundland	79	71	22
Prince Edward Island	99	89	9
Nova Scotia	91	58	34
New Brunswick	62	46	25
Quebec	114	79	33
Ontario	102	39	54
Manitoba	57	73	43
Saskatchewan	40	63	51
Alberta	52	47	48
British Columbia	38	68	77
Yukon	416	583	74
Northwest Territories	571	129	38

[1] The federal expenditures at the Canada level only also include unallocated expenditures.
[2] Municipal spending is on a calendar year basis.

Note to readers

The Survey of Federal and Provincial-Territorial Government Expenditures on Culture is a census of all federal, provincial–territorial cultural departments and agencies. An annual survey of 29 federal and 180 provincial-territorial cultural departments and agencies yielded data based on a fiscal year April 1, 1996 to March 31, 1997. A sample of municipalities was used to estimate the spending of all municipalities. Financial data for the municipalities are on a calendar year basis, so that 1996/97 and 1996 both represent the period from January 1 to December 31, 1996 for the municipalities.

All dollars are expressed in current dollars with no adjustment for inflation. When adjusted for inflation (in 1986 constant dollars), total spending on culture by all levels of government was down for a seventh consecutive year in 1996/97.

In 1996/97, the second largest share of the federal cultural budget (22% or $621.7 million) went to the heritage sector — includes museums, archives, historical sites and nature parks. The arts sector — includes performing arts, visual arts and crafts, and arts education — received $114.3 million or 4% of the federal cultural budget. Quebec and Alberta were hit hardest by the federal cuts to this spending area, primarily in the performing arts.

Spending by provincial–territorial governments on culture has declined for four consecutive years after eight annual increases. In 1996/97, the provinces–territories reduced their expenditures on operations and capital projects by 2.6% to $706.2 million. In contrast to the increased federal spending in this regard in 1996/97, provincial–territorial grants, contributions and other transfers to cultural organizations, institutions and artists declined 3.9% to $1.0 billion.

The largest cultural allocation by provincial–territorial governments in 1996/97 went to libraries, which received $665.6 million (-4.6% from 1995/96). Expenditures on libraries accounted for 38% of provincial–territorial cultural budgets in 1996/97. Outlays on the heritage sector amounted to $448.3 million (26% of their cultural budgets), up 2.0%. For cultural industries, provincial–territorial government spending reached $250 million (14% of their cultural budgets) — a 14.3% drop. Both Quebec and Ontario allocated about one-fifth of their cultural budget to cultural industries, the highest proportion of any province–territory. This reflected the concentration of broadcasting production facilities in both provinces. Provincial–territorial spending on the arts totalled $230.7 million (13% of their cultural budgets), down 6.2%. Alberta devoted 26% of its budget to this activity, the highest proportion.

(continued on page 6)

... Public spending on culture has declined

Municipalities have raised their cultural expenditures in each of the last 12 years except 1995, when spending declined slightly. Libraries consumed about 80% of the municipal cultural budget in 1996.

Federal spending accounted for 47% of total public spending on culture in 1996/97, compared with 29% for the provinces–territories and 24% for municipalities. A decade earlier, federal spending represented 52%, provincial–territorial 30% and municipal 18%.

Selected details from the Government Expenditures on Culture Survey are available in table format (87F0001XPB, $50). Data from the survey are also available by province and territory. Researchers may request special tabulations on a cost-recovery basis. For further information, contact Norman Verma (613-951-6863; fax: 613-951-9040; vermnor@statcan.ca), Culture Statistics Program.

New from Statistics Canada

Manufacturing industries of Canada: National and provincial areas
1996

The publication *Manufacturing industries of Canada: National and provincial areas* is based on the Annual Survey of Manufactures, which collects information from more than 36,000 manufacturing firms grouped into 230 different industries. The data measure production and provide an indication of the well-being of each industry and its contribution to the economy.

The publication carries an analysis of the manufacturing sector and a feature article that compares the groups of firms in the sector. It also includes tables of principal statistics (notably shipments, materials used and labour data) by group and by industry. There are also tables of historical data (1970-1996), size rankings, and firm counts by employment size, production data and tables showing statistics by quartile.

***Manufacturing industries of Canada: National and provincial areas** (31-203-XPB, $68) is now available. The data are also available electronically on demand. For further information, contact Bruno Pépin (613-951-3529; fax: 613-951-3522; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction, and Energy Division.*

Dimensions series
1996 Census

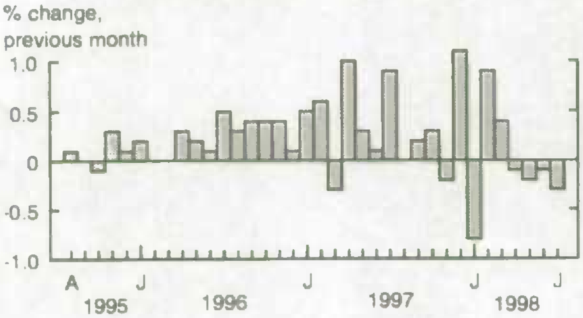
The *Dimensions series* from the 1996 Census demonstrates the analytical potential of census information. The tables in the series are organized into 26 themes, each dealing with a specific topic or population group. Three themes are included in this release: *Pofiles of official language communities* (94F0035XDB, $60), *Labour characteristics of the Canadian population* (94F0024XDB, $60), and *Occupation by industry with employment income* (94F0028XDB, $60). Seven CD-ROMs containing themes grouped under broader subject areas will be available in the future at a cost of $60 per CD-ROM.

The series is packaged with the browser Beyond 20/20. Its many powerful features allow you to quickly and easily search and sort data, and to copy tables and charts to other Windows applications.

For further information, or to order, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.

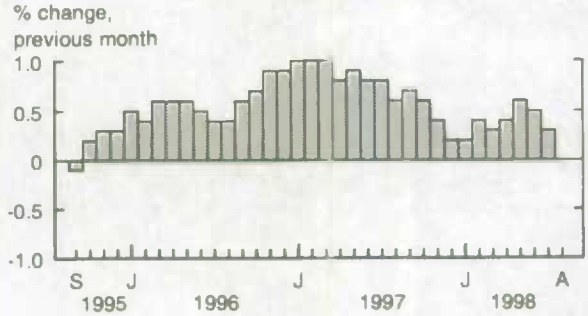
Current trends

Gross domestic product



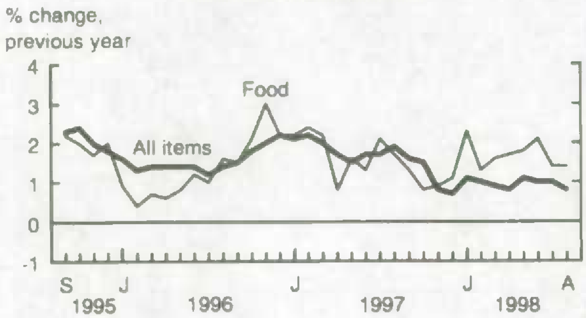
Economic activity edged down for a fourth consecutive month in July, falling by 0.3%.

Composite Index



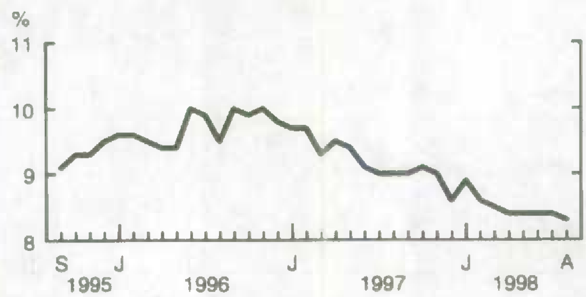
The leading indicator continued to slow gradually from its high so far this year of 0.6% in May to no growth in August.

Consumer Price Index



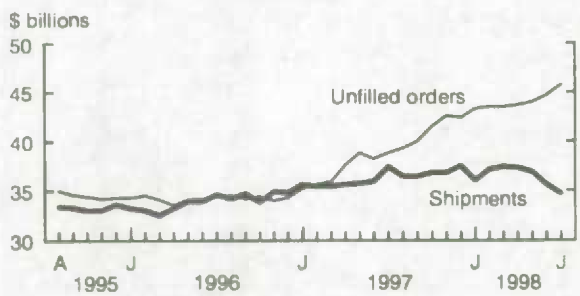
Consumers paid 0.8% more for goods and services in August 1998 than they did a year earlier. Food prices rose 1.4%.

Unemployment rate



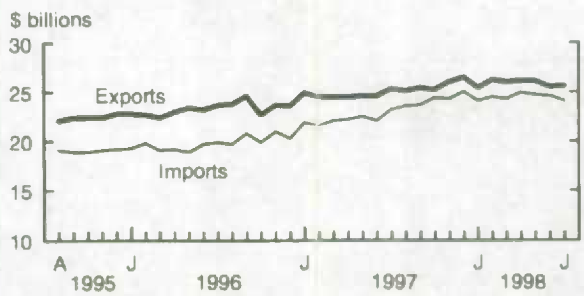
In August, the unemployment rate notched down 0.1 percentage points to 8.3%, the lowest rate since August 1990.

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 July, the value of merchandise exports inched up 0.6% from June to $25.6 billion. Imports fell 2.1% to $24.1 billion.

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, 1992)	July	705.1	– 0.3%	1.1%
Composite Index (1981=100)	August	207.3	0.0%	4.6%
Operating profits of enterprises ($ billion)	Q2 1998	25.7	– 4.6%	– 4.3%
Capacity utilization (%)	Q2 1998	85.6	– 0.1†	1.3†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade ($ billion)	July	20.7	– 1.4%	4.1%
New motor vehicle sales (thousand of units)	July	122.2	– 0.5%	3.4%
LABOUR				
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 ($)	July	609.14	– 0.5%	1.6%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports ($ billion)	July	25.6	0.6%	1.3%
Merchandise imports ($ billion)	July	24.1	– 2.0%	3.6%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in $ billion)	July	1.5	0.0	– 0.6
MANUFACTURING				
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
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	August	108.8	0.0%	0.8%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	August	120.1	0.5%	0.1%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	August	106.6	– 0.7%	– 15.8%
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*

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