



# Infommat

## A Weekly Review

NOV 20 1998

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Friday, November 20, 1998

### OVERVIEW

#### ◆ Best month this year for new truck sales

In September, dealers experienced the best new truck sales so far this year, as total sales of new vehicles rebounded.

#### ◆ Department store sales increase

Department store sales increased 2.3% in September from August, and were 4.7% higher than a year earlier.

#### ◆ New housing prices rise in Ontario and the Prairies

In September, the New Housing Price Index was higher than a year earlier. It was the 19th consecutive month to show an annual increase in the index.

#### ◆ Foreign control levelled off in 1996

In 1996, the revenue of foreign-controlled corporations was 31% of the revenue generated by the business sector in Canada in 1996, virtually unchanged from 1995.

#### ◆ Dual-earner families doing better than other families

In 1996, the average income of two-partner families in which both had earnings returned to the record levels of 1989, whereas families with only one earning partner had an average income about 7% lower than in 1989.

#### ◆ How children get ahead in life

Much more than money matters in determining how children get ahead in the labour market when they become young adults. Even so, the composition of a father's income has a major influence on the income his children will earn as young adults.

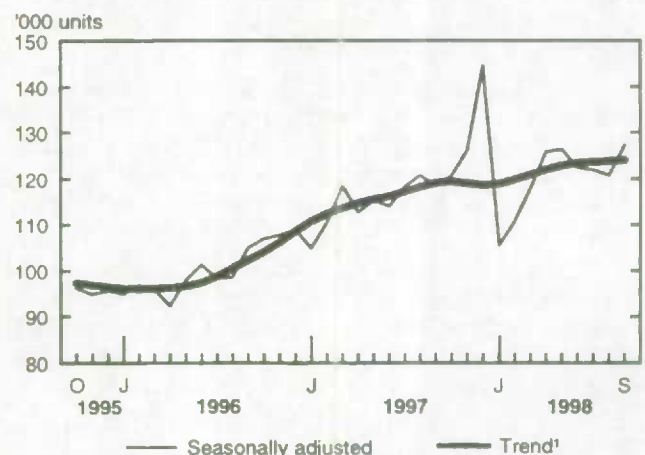
### Best month this year for new truck sales

After three months in decline, sales of new motor vehicles rebounded in September, increasing 5.3% to 127,223 units, as dealers experienced the best new truck sales this year. Some of the increase in sales may be due to strong dealer incentives in September, as well as to the availability of more new cars at General Motors dealerships in the wake of depleted inventories in August due to the strike in June and July. New vehicle sales were 7.5% higher this September than last September.

Truck sales surpassed new car sales for the first time since January 1998. Sales of new trucks increased 9.7% to 64,013 units, following a decline of 3.0% in August. Car sales advanced 1.3% to 63,210 units, the second monthly advance after four months of declines. Since the spring of 1998, the sales figures for new cars and new trucks have been converging.

Despite September's advances, new vehicle sales fell 1.1% from the second to the third quarter of 1998. This retreat followed an 11.9% advance from the first to the second quarter. Sales in the

Sales of new motor vehicles



\* The short-term trend represents a moving average of the data.

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and the INTRANET mirror site /  
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l'INTRANET (réplique) de StatCan

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### ... Best month this year for new truck sales

third quarter of 1998 were 3.5% higher than in the same period in 1997.

Despite recent mixed economic signals that may have dampened consumer confidence, demand for new vehicles has essentially remained unchanged since the fall of 1997. Several automakers have kept price increases to a minimum or have lowered prices on new models. They have also offered financial incentives such as low-interest financing and cash-back to maintain demand for their products.

The Big Three's stronger sales of new cars in September raised their market share from 50.4% in August 1998 to 55.4% in September—essentially back to the same level as before the General Motors strike. The Big Three's new car sales advanced 11.2% in September—their biggest advance since March 1997. Although the Big Three sold more cars in September than in any other month of 1998, sales were still 4.5% below the September 1997 figure. The number of new cars sold by automakers other than the Big Three declined 8.9% in September, but remained 16.8% higher than in September 1997.

Total sales of new vehicles grew in all provinces in September compared with September 1997 (unadjusted for seasonality). Leading the way with double-digit advances were dealers in Newfoundland, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Manitoba. Similarly, sales of new trucks increased by double-digits compared with September 1997 in all provinces except New Brunswick (+9.5%) and British Columbia (+4.5%). Sales of new cars made

#### 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).*

*For reasons of confidentiality, data for the Yukon and the Northwest Territories are included with the British Columbia data. All numbers are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise specified.*

double-digit advances in only Newfoundland (+10.2%) and Quebec (+10.2%). The only provinces where dealers posted year-over-year declines in new car sales were British Columbia (-1.6%) and Saskatchewan (-1.5%).

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 64.**

*The September 1998 issue of New motor vehicle sales (63-007-X1B, \$13/\$124) will be available shortly. To order data or for general information, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-3549). For analytical information, contact Jeff Fritzsche (613-951-2812; fritjef@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.*

## Department store sales increase

**D**epartment store sales increased 2.3% to \$1,428.9 million (seasonally adjusted) in September. This followed a 1.6% decline in August (\$1,396.1 million). The stronger September sales figures and the lower August sales may be partly due to Labour Day falling later in September this year. This may have pushed some sales from August into September as consumers waited to make their back-to-school purchases.

Department store sales were 4.7% higher this September than they were in September 1997. Since the spring of 1998, monthly department store sales have been volatile, but overall sales have generally been flat. Department stores had experienced a period of strong sales advances from the summer of 1996 to the spring of 1998.

The closure or conversion of a number of department stores over the last several months may have contributed to the month-to-month volatility in sales during the spring and summer of 1998. This is well illustrated by the quarterly results, which are similar to the pattern observed in 1994, when major restructuring in the

industry occurred. More specifically, department store sales advanced 4.0% in the first quarter of 1998, the best quarterly advance since the first quarter of 1994 (+4.5%). Department stores experienced sales declines in the second quarter of both 1998 and 1994 (-1.4% and -2.3% respectively). As well, the third quarters of both years showed similar sales growth, a modest 0.9% in 1998 and 0.8% in 1994.

Unadjusted for seasonality, department store sales were 5.7% higher in September 1998 than in September 1997. Department stores in all the provinces and territories posted year-over-year sales increases, led by Saskatchewan (+8.2%), Ontario (+8.1%) and Alberta (+7.9%).

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 111-113.**

*To order data or for general enquiries, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-3549; logener@statcan.ca). For further analytical information, contact Jeff Fritzsche (613-951-2812; fritjef@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.*

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### ... Department store sales increase

#### Department store sales including concessions

Not seasonally adjusted

	September 1998	September 1997 to September 1998	January-September 1998	January-September 1997 to January-September 1998
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>1,340.2</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>10,930.5</b>	<b>7.3</b>
Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island <sup>1</sup>	24.7	5.4	197.1	7.3
Nova Scotia	40.2	0.4	328.6	6.4
New Brunswick	31.2	4.0	245.5	6.2
Quebec	241.8	3.6	2,033.9	7.0
Ontario	574.6	8.1	4,602.7	8.4
Manitoba	52.9	6.2	456.8	8.0
Saskatchewan	42.8	8.2	364.0	9.5
Alberta	156.3	7.9	1,285.0	11.7
British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories <sup>1</sup>	175.6	0.3	1,417.0	0.8

<sup>1</sup> For reasons of confidentiality, the data for Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island are combined, as are the data for British Columbia, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

## New housing prices rise in Ontario and the Prairies

The annual price changes seen in the new housing market this September varied considerably among the cities surveyed. In fact, the annual price changes were much the same as in August. Once again, the largest annual increase was in the strong Calgary market (+8.2%) and the largest annual decreases were in Victoria (-6.8%) and Vancouver (-5.5%), where market conditions continued to be very competitive. Toronto's active housing market has a significant impact on the total index (about 30% of the weight). Accordingly, the 3.2% annual price rise in the Toronto sub-index was a major factor behind the increase in the overall New Housing Price Index, which rose 0.9% compared with September 1997 to 100.1 (1992=100). This was the 19th consecutive month to show an annual increase in the index.

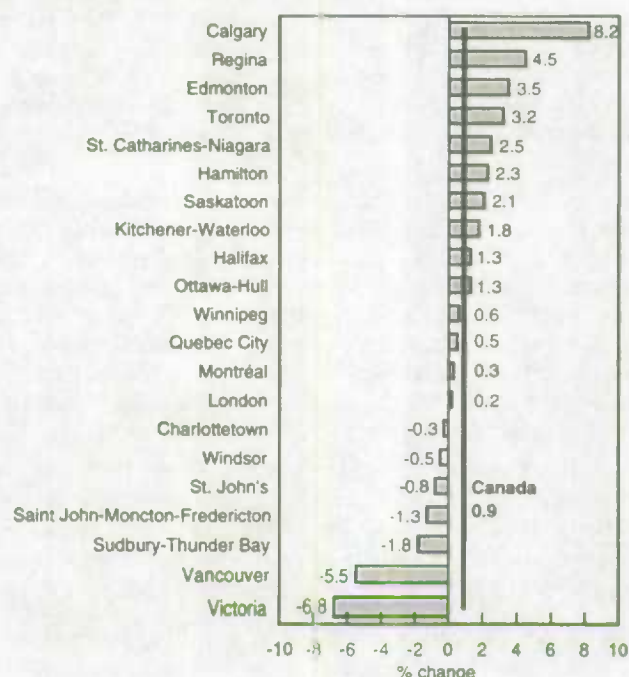
Between August and September 1998, the index decreased 0.1%. This signals a break from the generally upward trend seen in prices since November 1996, and it was only the second decrease in 23 months. The index declined despite monthly increases in Ontario (Hamilton, +0.5%; Toronto, +0.3%, Ottawa-Hull, +0.1%) and the Prairie provinces (Regina, +0.6; Saskatoon, +0.2). The decrease in the total index was due mainly to declines in British Columbia (Vancouver, -0.9%; Victoria, -0.6%). Although there are areas of activity in the B.C. market, conditions remain very competitive and some builders are offering incentives to move inventory. It seems that the general economic slowdown and concerns regarding current economic conditions in Asia have combined to lower consumer confidence in British Columbia. So, despite favourable interest rates and competitive pricing, consumers in the province are reluctant to make major purchases, such as new houses. Vancouver's housing market accounts for about 24% of the weight in the New Housing Price Index.

Despite September's monthly decline, the general improvement in new housing markets in recent months is attributable to higher consumer confidence in Ontario and the Prairie provinces, as well as to favourable mortgage rates and strong resale activity. However, despite the optimism in some regions, the competitive

#### Note to readers

The New Housing Price Index measures changes over time in contractors' selling prices of new residential houses with the same specification details. Housing contractors in 21 metropolitan areas are surveyed each month.

#### New Housing Price Indexes, September 1997 to September 1998



(continued on page 4)

### ... New housing prices rise in Ontario and the Prairies

nature of housing markets has moderated price increases or has helped to lower house prices in some markets.

The outlook for new housing still appears positive even if expectations have been lowered since the beginning of this year. According to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, housing starts are forecast to remain virtually unchanged from 1997. (In May, a 6.3% increase was forecast for 1998.) Moreover, annual housing construction intentions (as measured by the value of

residential building permits) were down 3.3% for the first nine months of 1998 compared with the same period last year.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9921.

The third quarter 1998 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in December. For further information, contact Robert Gamson (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Client Services Unit, Prices Division.

## Foreign control levelled off in 1996

The revenue of foreign-controlled corporations was 31% of the revenue generated by the business sector in Canada in 1996, virtually unchanged from 1995. This levelling off in foreign control occurred as the revenue growth of Canadian corporations caught up to, and in some cases, surpassed that of foreign-controlled corporations.

In 1996, the revenue of Canadian-controlled firms grew 9.8%, compared with slightly slower growth of 9.3% for the foreign-controlled corporations. This reversed the pattern seen in the first half of the decade, when foreign-controlled firms had an average annual growth rate of 7.1%, compared with 3.0% for Canadian firms.

For the first time in the decade, small Canadian firms experienced stronger growth (+10.3%) than medium and large firms (+9.2%) did, whether Canadian or foreign. The stronger growth in revenue of small Canadian firms marked a huge turnaround from their 1.4% average annual growth between 1990 and 1995. Small Canadian-owned firms were hit especially hard by the recession of 1990-92 and recovered more slowly than larger firms because they were more dependent on the domestic Canadian market and because the post-recession growth was led by exports. These small firms benefited from increased revenues as the domestic markets began to grow more rapidly in 1995 and 1996.

The manufacturing sector is where foreign-controlled firms chiefly operate. In 1996, foreign control reached 64.4% in the chemicals, chemical products and textiles industry; 57.8% in the transportation equipment industry; and 56.4% in the electrical and electronic products industry. Between 1995 and 1996, 7 of the 16 industries that make up the business sector in Canada saw a decline in the share of foreign control. During this period, the major decline occurred in the machinery and equipment industry, where foreign control fell from 39.8% to 37.0%.

By contrast, earlier this decade between 1990 and 1995, foreign-control increased in 12 of the 16 industries in the Canadian economy. The most significant increases took place in transportation equipment (from 48.7% to 58.3%), wood and paper (from 23.7% to 29.7%) and communications (11.8% to 17.2%).

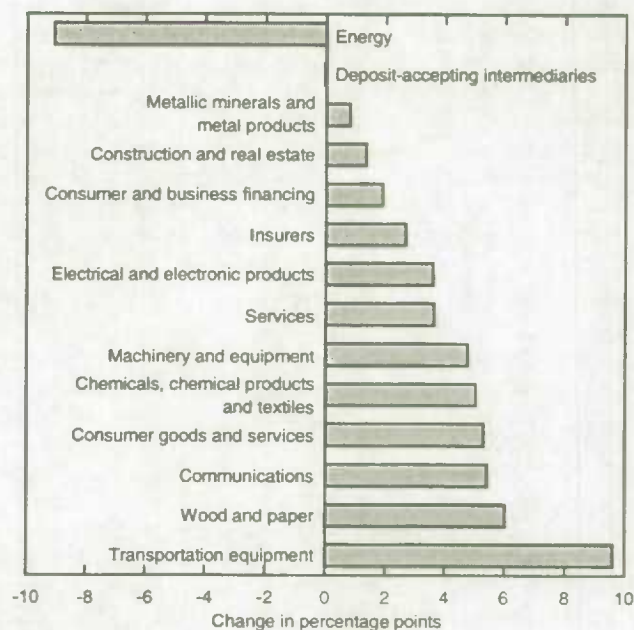
The business sector in Canada posted a profit-to-revenue ratio of 6.5% in 1996, slightly higher than the average performance in the first half of the decade. Overall, the profit per dollar of revenue shows that Canadian-controlled firms were not significantly outperformed by their foreign counterparts in 1996, the difference was only half a percentage point.

### Note to readers

This article assesses the extent of foreign control in Canada's business sector, excluding Crown corporations. It is based on data contained in the publication CALURA 1996—Part I: Corporations. CALURA is the acronym for Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act.

Small firms refer to those with annual operating revenue of less than \$25 million. On average, they account for about 40% of the revenue generated by private businesses operating in Canada. Medium- and larger-sized corporations refer to those with revenue of \$25 million and over.

### Foreign control of industries in Canada, 1990 to 1995



In 1996, with a profit-per-dollar-of-revenue ratio of 9.3%, compared with 7.1% during the 1990-to-1995 period, medium and large Canadian firms experienced the strongest financial performance of the business sector. Industries with notable

(continued on page 5)



### ... Foreign control levelled off in 1996

performances were wood and paper, energy, transportation equipment, construction and real estate, deposit-accepting intermediaries, and services. Their foreign counterparts of the same size posted a ratio of 7.0% in 1996.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3275-3296.

The publication **CALURA 1996—Part I: Corporations** (61-220-XPB, \$40) is now available. For further information, contact Tarek M. Harchaoui (613-951-9856; harctar@statcan.ca), Industrial Organization and Finance Division.

## Dual-earner families doing better than other families

In 1996, the average income of two-partner families in which both had earnings returned to the record levels of 1989, whereas families with only one earning partner had an average income about 7% lower than in 1989. Overall, the average income of all two-partner families was \$60,600 in 1996, up marginally from 1995 but still 3% lower than in 1989, the peak year for income (after adjusting for inflation).

The recession of the early 1990s had only a temporary effect on the income of two-partner families where both partners had earnings. On average, the income of two-partner families where both partners had earnings slipped by 2% after 1989 and rose to a new high of \$71,100 in 1996. Single-earner families, on the other hand, saw real declines of more than 11% after 1989. The average income of a single-earner family was \$52,500 in 1996, 7% lower than in 1989. As a result, the income gap between dual-earner and single-earner families increased between 1989 and 1996. For families where neither partner worked, the 1996 average was \$34,700, down 2% from 1989.

For dual-earner families, the income gap widened between those with both partners working full time all year and those with only one partner so employed in 1996. Where both partners worked full time all year, the 1996 average of \$81,500 was 2% higher than in 1989. By contrast, where only one was so employed, the 1996 average of \$66,000 was unchanged from 1989 levels.

In the early 1990s, a weak labour market reduced employment among men and helped to push up male retirement rates. For an increasing number of families, the female partner became the sole earner. Historically, women have tended to earn less than men (65 cents for each dollar in 1996, on average), contributing to the increasing income gap between dual-earner and single-earner families.

The likelihood that families will find themselves in a low-income situation decreases significantly when both partners work. For example, without the earnings of the female partner, the 1996 low-income rate among dual-earner families would have been more than triple (738,000 low-income families instead of 193,000). The increased power of female partners' incomes in 1996 reflects the contrasting experiences of male and female earners during the recession and recovery of the 1990s. The average earnings of women increased by 7% between 1989 and 1996, whereas those of male earners declined 2%.

### Note to readers

For the purpose of this article, the term two-partner family means husband-wife families and common-law relationships. Two-partner families represent 83% of all families of two or more persons. The classification of two-partner families as "dual-earner," "single-earner" and "no-earner" is based strictly on the earning status of the partners. An earner is a person who received wages or a salary and/or net income from self-employment during 1996. All historical earnings and income comparisons are adjusted for inflation and are based on constant (1996) dollars. The survey sample of approximately 35,000 households excluded the institutional population and households in the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, and on Indian reserves.

The percentage of two-partner families with both partners working has been relatively stable during the 1990s. This follows more than two decades of growth in the labour force participation rates of women. However, the proportion of families where neither partner had earnings has shown a gradual and sustained increase since at least the late 1960s. This reflects the demographic trends of the ageing population, especially the recent trend toward earlier retirement.

In almost half of dual-earner families (48%), both partners worked full time all year in 1996. Although this proportion has followed an upward trend, it has generally tracked the ebb and flow of the labour market, with decreases and increases reflecting labour market conditions during recessions and expansions.

In 1996, four out of five children lived in two-partner families and, for 71% of them, both parents had earnings. Only 3% of them had mothers who were sole earners, while 22% were in families where the male partner was the sole earner and 4% were in families where neither parent had earnings.

The 1996 issue of **Characteristics of dual-earner families** (13-215-XIB, \$21) is now available. Microdata files containing data on the 1996 incomes and earnings of economic families and individuals aged 15 and over, along with socio-demographic characteristics, are also available (13M0001XDB, 13M0002XDB, 13M0003XDB, 13M0004XDB, 13M0005XDB, \$2,000/each). For further information, or to order custom tabulations of the data, contact the Client Services Unit (1 888 297-7355 or 613-951-7355; income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division.

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## ... Dual-earner families doing better than other families

### Average incomes of two-partner families

	1989	1995	1996	1989 to 1996	1995 to 1996
	1996 constant dollars			% change	
<b>All two-partner families</b>	<b>62,300</b>	<b>59,800</b>	<b>60,600</b>	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Dual-earner families <sup>1</sup>	70,600	70,000	71,100	1.0	1.5
Both partners work full time all year	79,600	81,500	81,500	2.3	-0.1
One partner works full time all year	65,800	63,800	66,000	0.3	3.4
Neither partner works full time all year	47,000	42,700	44,000	-6.6	2.9
Single-earner families	56,700	50,700	52,500	-7.5	3.5
Neither partner had earnings	35,300	35,200	34,700	-1.6	-1.5

<sup>1</sup> An earner is a person who received wages or a salary and/or net income from self-employment during 1996.

## How children get ahead in life

How much income that children end up making as adults is only loosely tied to the incomes of the families they were raised in. In other words, much more than money matters in determining how children get ahead in the labour market when they become young adults. The composition of a father's income—particularly income from assets—has a major influence on the income his children will earn as young adults. Never mind the amount, just the existence of income from assets—such as interest from a savings account, investment income and dividends—is strongly correlated with a child's eventual income. A child's future labour-market prospects are also influenced by family structure and by the nature of the neighbourhood where the child lives.

If money were the only issue, a dollar from earnings, a dollar from self-employment, a dollar from assets, or a dollar from government transfers or other sources should all have the same impact on a child's ultimate success as a young adult in the labour market. But this is not the case. In fact, the young adults whose fathers reported receiving some income from assets in 1982 ended up earning \$3,000 more in 1994 than the children of fathers who did not report any asset income in 1982 but who had the same overall level of income. On the other hand, income from certain government transfers had a negative, or neutral, correlation with the adult earnings of children. The children with fathers who received income from Unemployment Insurance (UI) in 1982, regardless of the amount, ended up making less as young adults in 1994.

One explanation is that parents' income sources may be important signals of other factors that influence children. For example, by keeping certain assets such as savings accounts, parents might be acting as role models for developing favourable attitudes toward saving or planning for the future. The negative association of UI benefits may reflect the fact that parents are likely to influence a child's occupational choices. For example, some jobs are more precarious and probably pay less. Children taking up such jobs will also likely need to rely on UI.

### Note to readers

This article is based on a study published in a new book, *Labour markets, social institutions, and the future of Canada's children*. The information is adapted from the chapter titled "How to get ahead in life: Some correlates of intergenerational income mobility in Canada". The analysis is based upon income tax information reported by 285,000 men and women aged 28 to 31 in 1994. It excludes families headed by single mothers and those not residing in an urban community in 1982. All monetary values are in 1986 dollars.

The incomes of these young adults were related to the 1982 incomes of their fathers and mothers, the year when the children were aged 16 to 19. The estimates of association between the incomes of parent and child took account of neighbourhood median income, province of residence, and a number of individual and family characteristics, including number of siblings. However, some socio-demographic factors also known to influence labour market experiences—such as parental education, immigrant status and occupation—were not controlled for.

The incomes that children eventually earned as adults were measured as total market income, defined as all income from market sources: wages and salaries, self-employment income and asset income. Asset income is defined as net income from interest and investments, net income from real estate, dividends from Canadian corporations, and taxable capital gains and losses. Unemployment Insurance income refers to benefits obtained by parents in 1982; therefore, the new name for this program, *Employment Insurance*, is not used.

Family structure has a strong impact on the income that a child will eventually earn as an adult. The individual who earns the family income is important in a child's development.

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### ... How children get ahead in life

The study showed that, on average, increases in the father's income benefited sons twice as much as daughters. However, increases in the mother's income were of equal benefit to both sons and daughters.

Intangible resources in the child's community—such as positive peer groups, greater possibilities for supportive relationships with adults outside the home, a richer set of job contacts and role models—are also factors associated with higher adult incomes. Teenagers who move from one neighbourhood to another are apparently less able to tap into a community's resources. In the study, those young adults who experienced a move as a teenager ended up earning anywhere from \$500 to \$2,000 per year less than their counterparts who did not experience a move as a teenager.

Related studies in the same book report that the labour market has become much more turbulent to the point that young people starting their careers in the 1980s and 1990s are earning about 20% less than their counterparts in the 1970s did. These changes have hit young men particularly hard. In response, those individuals with strong family supports are able to live longer at home and increase their educational credentials. This goes hand in hand with delays in forming unions and with declines in fertility. Putting off marriage and childbirth until a young person obtains

qualifications for better jobs reduces the chances that his or her children will be raised in a state of low income.

And that represents a best-case scenario—young people who follow that path tend to come from intact families and families with highly educated parents. By contrast, young adults whose parents separated or divorced are more prone to cohabit, have children out of wedlock or, if they do marry, to face a greater risk of a break-up. The probability of cohabitation before the age of 25 is more than 70% higher among those whose parents were separated or divorced. A young woman who experienced the separation or divorce of her parents is almost twice as likely to give birth to a child before her 20th birthday than a woman from an intact family.

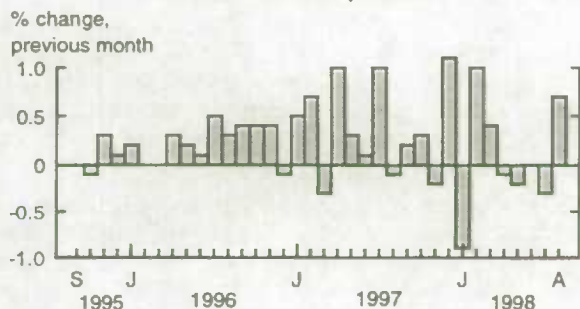
Finally, young adults are more likely to earn a lower income if they experienced frequent residential moves as children, their parents had either lower levels of education or had less time to spend with them, and if their parents relied on non-market sources of income. Obviously, all of these risk factors are higher for those from families with divorced or separated parents.

*Labour markets, social institutions, and the future of Canada's children* (89-553-XPB, \$35) is now available. For further information, contact Miles Corak (613-951-9047; coramil@statcan.ca), Analytical Studies Branch.



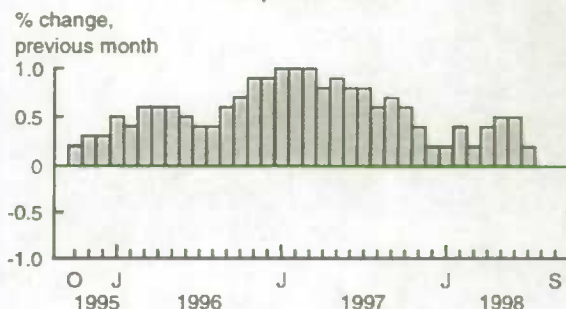
## Current trends

### Gross domestic product



Economic activity increased 0.7% in August, recovering lost ground after four months of decline.

### Composite Index



In September, the leading indicator continued to show no growth for a second straight month.

### Consumer Price Index



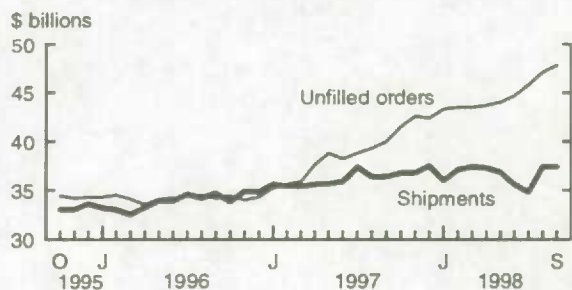
Consumers paid 0.7% more for goods and services in September 1998 than they did a year earlier. Food prices rose 1.3%.

### Unemployment rate



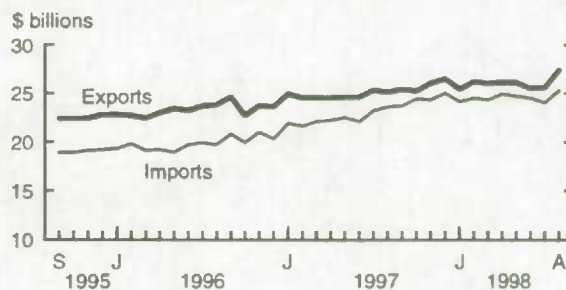
In October, the unemployment rate fell to 8.1%, its lowest level since July 1990.

### Manufacturing



Manufacturers' shipments edged up 0.1% in September to \$37.4 billion. The level of unfilled orders increased 1.1% to \$47.8 billion.

### Merchandise trade



In August, the value of merchandise exports climbed 7.1% from July to \$27.4 billion. Imports surged 5.3% to \$25.3 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)	August	710.2	0.7%	2.0%
Composite Index (1981=100)	September	207.2	0.0%	3.8%
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)	August	20.7	- 0.2%	4.0%
New motor vehicle sales (thousand of units)	September*	127.2	5.3%	7.5%
<b>LABOUR</b>				
Employment (millions)	October	14.44	0.4%	2.9%
Unemployment rate (%)	October	8.1	- 0.2†	- 1.0†
Participation rate (%)	October	65.2	0.0†	0.3†
Labour income (\$ billion)	June	38.2	- 0.2%	3.1%
Average weekly earnings (\$)	August	607.18	0.2%	1.5%
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>				
Merchandise exports (\$ billion)	September*	27.2	- 0.6%	7.2%
Merchandise imports (\$ billion)	September*	25.6	0.5%	7.9%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billion)	September*	1.6	- 0.3	- 0.1
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>				
Shipments (\$ billion)	September*	37.4	0.1%	2.9%
New orders (\$ billion)	September*	37.9	- 2.4%	2.4%
Unfilled orders (\$ billion)	September*	47.8	1.1%	19.7%
Inventory/shipments ratio	September*	1.34	0.01	0.04
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	September	108.6	- 0.2%	0.7%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	September	119.4	- 0.6%	- 0.3%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	September	108.1	1.6%	- 13.0%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	September*	100.1	- 0.1%	0.9%

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

\* new this week

† percentage point

## Infomat

### A weekly review

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