Catalogue 11-002E (Français 11-002F) ISSN 0380-0547

Infomat

A Weekly Review

Friday, April 16, 1999

OVERVIEW

◆ **First decline in employment in nine months**

Employment edged down in March, following a strong upward trend over the previous eight months. The employment losses were all part-time jobs and were concentrated among 15- to 24-year-olds.

◆ **Economy expected to remain stable in the short term**

The Short-term Expectations Survey shows that the economy is expected to remain stable through May.

◆ **National net worth expanded at a slower pace last year**

National net worth rose last year by 3.6%, reaching $90,900 per capita, the combined result of an increase in national wealth and a decline in Canada's net foreign indebtedness. This pace of growth, however was slower than in 1997.

◆ **Canada's net liability to foreigners edges down**

Canada's net liability to foreign residents edged down to $324 billion at the end of 1998. It was the third decrease in four years.

◆ **Value of building permits down for second consecutive month**

In February, the value of building permits declined for a second consecutive month. An increase in residential building intentions was too small to offset a decrease on the non-residential side.

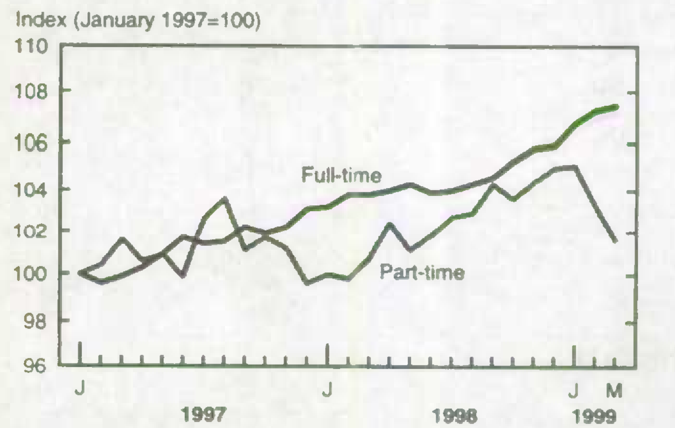
First decline in employment in nine months

Employment edged down by 29,000 in March, following a strong upward trend over the previous eight months. The employment losses were all part-time jobs and were concentrated among 15- to 24-year-olds. The employment decline was matched by a reduction in the number of people in the labour force. The unemployment rate was stable at 7.8%.

Youth employment fell by 22,000. This drop, combined with February's loss of 25,000, erased January's large increase. Since the start of the year, however, a loss of 40,000 part-time jobs has been offset by a gain of 36,000 full-time positions among youths. In March, however, the job losses among youths were accompanied by a retreat from the labour market. As a result, the youth unemployment rate edged up slightly to 14.3%.

Among adults, employment was unchanged in March. In the first quarter of 1999, employment among adult men increased by 55,000, while employment among adult women increased by 20,000. Since December 1998, the full-time employment gains among adults total 124,000. These gains have been partially offset, however, by a loss of 49,000 part-time jobs.

Full-time and part-time employment



(continued on page 2)

... First decline in employment in nine months

The latest job losses were confined to the private sector and occurred almost entirely among employees (-37,000). In the public sector, by contrast, the number of jobs edged up slightly (+16,000). Despite these changes, there were 190,000 more employees in the private sector and 70,000 more in the public sector in March than there were a year earlier. The number of self-employed was virtually unchanged in March, leaving the gains over the 12 months up to March at 157,000.

In March, small job losses in the service sector were concentrated in accommodation and food services and in information, culture and recreation. Employment in the goods-producing sector was unchanged overall, where sizeable gains in manufacturing (+35,000) were offset by declines in the resource-based industries (-20,000) and in construction (-17,000). In the service sector, employment was virtually unchanged during the first quarter of this year, whereas the goods-producing sector added 71,000 jobs. Strong growth in manufacturing (+96,000) was responsible for all those new jobs.

Employment in British Columbia, after trending upward for the last year, dipped slightly in March (-16,000). Women accounted for all the job losses. The province's unemployment rate rose 0.3 percentage points to 8.4%.

In Newfoundland, employment edged down (-4,000), partly erasing February's gain. Still, employment in Newfoundland has increased by 10,000 (+5.1%) since March 1998, with the addition of 5,000 jobs in the past three months alone. In New Brunswick, a decrease in the labour force (-4,000) and little change in employment lowered the March unemployment rate by 0.8 percentage points to 10.5%.

Note to readers

Three important changes have been made to the Labour Force Survey. First, the industry data are no longer based on the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification, instead the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is being used. Second, occupation data is now based on the 1991 Standard Occupational Classification, not that of 1980. Third, the definition of public sector has been modified. The data resulting from these and other changes are not comparable to previously published data. However, revised historical data are available on CANSIM. For more information on the changes to the survey, consult the Statistics Canada web site (www.statcan.ca), or contact Marc Lévesque (613-951-2793), Households Surveys Division.

Employment in Ontario was unchanged. The number of people looking for work slipped, however, causing the unemployment rate to fall from 6.6% to 6.4%—its lowest point since July 1990. In Quebec, employment was also virtually unchanged. The size of the labour force in the province declined slightly, lowering the unemployment rate to 9.9% (-0.1 percentage points). Since the start of the year, Quebec has lost 38,000 jobs, mainly among women (-29,000). In the other provinces, the employment picture changed little from February to March.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3450-3471, 3483-3502 and table 00799999.

Labour force information, for the week ending March 20, 1999 *(71-001-PPB, $11/$103) is now available. For further information, contact Deborah Sunter (613-951-4740) or Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750), Household Surveys Division.* *See also "Current trends" on page 8.*

Labour Force Survey, March 1999[1]
Seasonally adjusted

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	rate (%)
Canada	**15,877.1**	**-0.2**	**14,634.8**	**-0.2**	**1,242.3**	**7.8**
Newfoundland	248.9	0.6	204.9	-2.0	43.9	17.6
Prince Edward Island	73.1	0.1	62.2	0.2	10.9	14.9
Nova Scotia	455.4	-0.4	408.5	-0.1	46.9	10.3
New Brunswick	375.0	-1.0	335.8	-0.1	39.2	10.5
Quebec	3,729.2	-0.3	3,359.7	-0.2	369.5	9.9
Ontario	6,160.0	-0.2	5,766.0	0.0	394.1	6.4
Manitoba	584.5	0.0	552.9	0.2	31.6	5.4
Saskatchewan	510.0	-0.3	477.8	0.0	32.2	6.3
Alberta	1,646.7	0.1	1,549.1	-0.1	97.7	5.9
British Columbia	2,094.1	-0.5	1,917.9	-0.8	176.2	8.4

[1] *Data are for both sexes aged 15 and over.*

Economy expected to remain stable in the short term

The Short-term Expectations Survey shows that the economy is expected to remain stable. The mean of the surveyed analysts' forecasts of month-to-month growth in gross domestic product (GDP) is 0.3% for both February and March. For January, it was too optimistic at 0.4%; actual GDP growth came in at 0.2%.

As for international trade, the group's mean forecast is for a monthly trade surplus for February through April of $2.5 billion. That is slightly below January's actual figure of $2.7 billion. Their forecasts for both exports and imports were approximately the same as the actual figures for January.

In the Consumer Price Index, the surveyed forecasters are expecting an increase between March and May. Actual consumer price inflation has been slightly higher than expected: The forecasted average for February was 0.7%, compared with the actual rate of 0.8%.

Stability was seen in February in both the unemployment rate (7.8%) and the participation rate (65.8%). The surveyed analysts are anticipating a steady unemployment rate between March and May. For the three months, their mean forecast is for unemployment of 7.8%. As the first article in this issue of *Infomat* reported, the rate for March was indeed 7.8%. Slight increases are expected in the participation rate in March (65.8%), April (65.9%) and May (65.9%). For March, they were overly optimistic, since the participation rate fell 0.2 percentage points to 65.6%.

Note to readers

The Short-term Expectations Survey is faxed each month to a group of economic analysts from Canadian businesses across the country to obtain a representative view of the performance of the economy for the upcoming three months. The analysts are asked to forecast the year-over-year changes in the consumer price index (CPI), the unemployment and participation rates of the labour force, the level of merchandise exports and imports, and the monthly change in gross domestic product (GDP).

For further information about the results of the Short-term Expectations Survey, or for a set of tables, contact Jenny Grenier (613-951-1020; fax: 613-951-1572; grenjen@statcan.ca), Small Business and Special Surveys Division.

National net worth expanded at a slower pace last year

National net worth rose last year by 3.6% to $2.8 trillion, reaching $90,900 per capita. This was the combined result of an increase in national wealth and a decline in Canada's net foreign indebtedness (what we owe to non-residents less what they owe to us). Despite the 3.6% rise, net worth grew at a slower pace than in 1997. Chiefly, this was a reflection of the slower growth in economic activity in 1998.

National wealth also expanded last year to a record $3.1 trillion. This gain consisted of both acquisitions and revaluations of tangible assets (such as residential real estate, business capital stocks and inventories and consumer durable goods). Nevertheless, the growth of national wealth (+3.1%) was slower than in 1997 (+4.0%). This was in line with the slower growth in capital spending in 1998 and its changing composition.

On the financial side of the ledger, total credit-market debt (short-term paper, loans, mortgages and bonds) continued to accumulate at a slightly faster pace in 1998. This was due in part to the upward revaluation of long-term debt denominated in foreign currencies, which was driven by the sharp reduction in the Canadian dollar last year.

Government finances continued to improve, as overall government debt continued to grow at a notably slower pace than gross domestic product (GDP) for a second year in a row. This is a sharp reversal of the trend over the preceding 20 years. The federal government's credit-market debt declined again in 1998, as maturing short-term paper issues exceeded net new issues of bonds. As a result, a further $9 billion was repaid on the debt, as the federal surplus expanded again in the year. Credit-market debt of the other levels of government grew a very modest 1.5%, continuing a five-year downward trend. This was in line with a return to a small deficit year at the provincial level, and a continued widening of the surplus at the local government level.

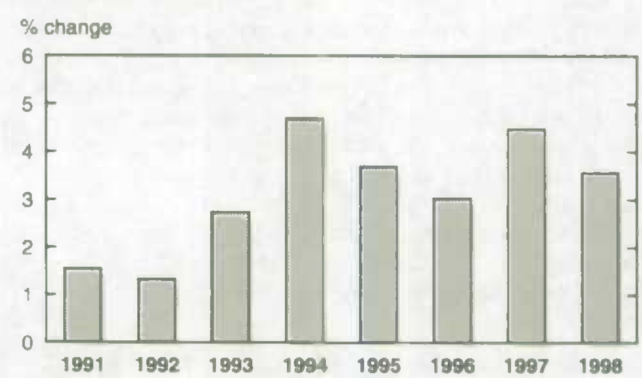
Note to readers

*The **national balance sheet accounts** are statements of 1) the non-financial assets owned in the sectors of the economy and 2) of the financial claims outstanding among transactors in the economy. They consist of the balance sheets of all the various sectors in the economy.*

***National wealth** is the sum of non-financial (or tangible) assets—produced assets, land surrounding structures and agricultural land—in all sectors of the economy.*

***National net worth** is national wealth less that which is owed to non-residents (in other words, Canada's net international investment position, or net foreign debt); alternatively, it is the sum of the net worth of persons, corporations and governments.*

National net worth



(continued on page 4)

... National net worth expanded at a slower pace last year

In the corporate sector, balance sheets remained healthy last year. The credit-market debt of non-financial private corporations expanded, reflecting both a slight pickup in the demand for funds and the effect of the depreciated Canadian dollar on foreign currency-denominated debt. Despite this, strong share issues in the year, combined with profits, kept the corporate debt-to-equity ratio unchanged.

Meanwhile, household net worth continued to advance despite a higher debt load. The increase in household debt in 1998 pushed the ratio of consumer debt and mortgages to after-tax income to a new high (101%). This development was in line with a further decline in the saving rate, as consumers extended their reliance on borrowed funds. Nevertheless, the net worth of individuals continued to advance in 1998, albeit at a slower pace.

The country's net foreign debt declined last year, as Canadian investment abroad grew at record pace. Canadian firms substantially increased their direct investment abroad, largely through direct investment acquisitions. Canadian investment and pension funds were also very active in foreign markets. More than half the increase in assets abroad was accounted for by additional investment, while a significant portion resulted from valuation gains on assets due to the appreciation of foreign currencies in terms of the Canadian dollar. In 1998, Canada's external assets increased more than its liabilities to non-residents, so net foreign debt edged down to $324 billion. Net foreign debt has declined for a number of years relative to both national wealth and GDP.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 700, 727, 745-747, 751, 753-777, 779-785, 787-790, and 792-795.

*An **analytical document** (13-214-PPB, $50) that includes tables from 1995 to 1998 and numerous charts is now available, as is a **microcomputer diskette** (13-214-XDB, $60) of balance sheet data. To order, or to obtain more information about them, contact Client Services (613-951-3640), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division. For further analytical information, contact Patrick O'Hagan (613-951-1798) or Ferhana Ansari (613-951-3815), Balance of Payments and Financial Flows Division.*

Canada's net liability to foreigners edges down

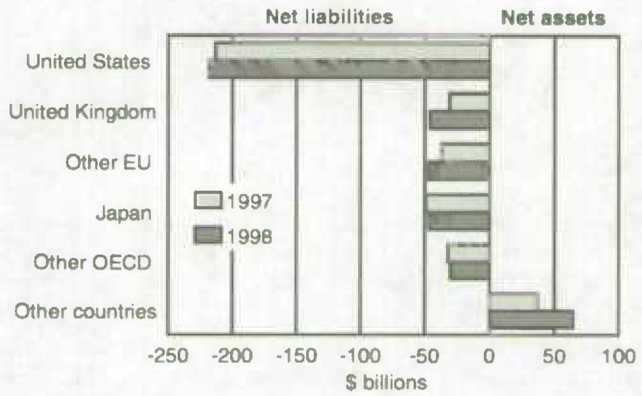
Canada's net liability to foreign residents edged down to $324 billion at the end of 1998. It was the third decrease in four years. The net foreign liability was made up of external assets of $647 billion and external liabilities of $971 billion. Canada's net foreign liability declined to 36% of gross domestic product (GDP), down from 44% in 1994. Canada's external assets increased faster than its liabilities for a sixth consecutive year. So, for each dollar of external assets, Canada now has $1.50 of external liabilities, down from $2 in 1992.

Direct investment abroad still accounts for the largest share of external assets (37%), with portfolio investment in foreign securities accounting for 22% of the total. In 1998, Canadian direct investors and portfolio investors were both very active in foreign markets, accounting for the bulk of the $78 billion increase in external assets. More than half of the increase was financed from additional Canadian capital, while part of the balance came from valuation gains due to the appreciation of foreign currencies in terms of the Canadian dollar.

Canadian direct investment abroad has surpassed foreign direct investment in Canada for the last three years and was 10% higher at the end of 1998. Canadian firms increased their direct investment abroad last year by 17% to $240 billion. This rate of increase—the largest since 1994—resulted mainly from major acquisitions. Slightly more than half of Canadian direct investment abroad is in the United States. The remainder is well diversified geographically. For foreign firms investing in Canada, a 10% increase brought foreign direct investment in Canada to $217 billion. More than two-thirds of direct investment in Canada originates from the United States, while one-fifth comes from countries in the European Union (EU).

By the end of 1998, the value of Canadian residents' portfolio investment abroad (largely through pension and mutual funds) had climbed 27% to $144 billion. This growth—the largest since

International investment position



1979—was due to large capital flows combined with the depreciation of the Canadian dollar. These portfolio investments now represent 22% of Canada's external assets, compared with 15% a decade earlier.

Investors resident in the United States continued to be Canada's largest net creditors. At the end of 1998, they were owed $218 billion, or just more than two-thirds of Canada's net debt to non-residents. The U.S. share has steadily increased from a record low of 34% at the end of 1991. Although Japan remains Canada's second largest net creditor, it is now followed very closely by the United Kingdom. Other EU countries also claim a larger part of Canada's net debt to non-residents, at 15%. Canada's net asset position with non-OECD countries rose substantially in 1998, led by gains in deposits and direct investment assets.

Half of the $76 billion increase in Canada's foreign liabilities was due to Canadian bonds, which represent 42% of the foreign investment in Canada. The value of foreigners' holdings of Canadian bonds ($410 billion at the end of 1998) rose more than 10% (+38 billion)—twice the growth rate of the previous two

(continued on page 5)

... Canada's net liability to foreigners edges down

years. The increase in 1998 came predominantly from the depreciation of the Canadian dollar, since more than two-thirds of the Canadian bonds held abroad are denominated in foreign currencies.

In 1998, non-residents again added to their holdings of Canadian corporate bonds, so that those holdings now account for 34% of the total. The share of foreign-held bonds that were issued by Canadian governments and their enterprises shrank for a fourth consecutive year. However, at $269 billion, public sector bonds still accounted for two-thirds of all foreign-held Canadian bonds.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 4180-4190, 4194 and 4195.

Canada's international investment position, 1998 *(67-202-XPB, $52) is now available. For further information, contact Christian Lajule (613-951-2062), Balance of Payments and Financial Flows Division.*

Value of building permits down for second consecutive month

The value of building permits issued by municipalities declined in February for a second consecutive month, falling 3.4% to $2.6 billion. An increase in residential building intentions after two months of decline (+2.4% to $1.5 billion) was too small to offset a decrease on the non-residential side (-10.2% to $1.1 billion), the first decrease in three months.

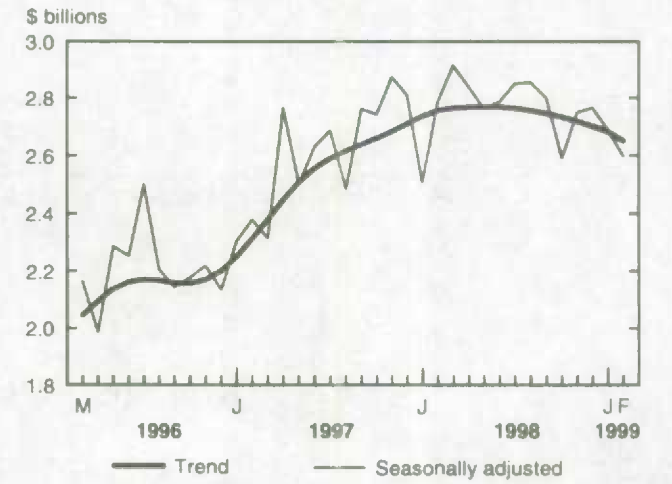
In the residential sector, permits to build single-family dwellings led the way, jumping 6.0% to $1.1 billion—its highest level since December 1997. This jump more than offset a decline in intentions to build multi-family dwellings, which fell 7.4% to $359 million. That was the third consecutive monthly decline.

The trend for residential building permits has lately shown some signs of slowing. However, the trend for single-family dwellings seems to be maintaining its positive direction. Since the beginning of 1999, housing intentions are 3.5% higher than they were in the same period last year. As well, long-term mortgage rates remained favourable in February, housing prices were stable and employment was up for an eighth consecutive month. Moreover, the number of full-time positions continued to grow, particularly in industries that pay well on average. Housing starts in February increased by 1.5%, while sales of existing homes rose on the largest monthly gain in over two years (+12.3%). All these factors point to a positive outlook, especially for single-family dwellings, in the coming months.

In Prince Edward Island, the Northwest Territories and Alberta, permits for multi-family dwellings led the growth. Single-family dwellings were the main factor behind an increase in Ontario. In Quebec and Manitoba, decreases resulted mainly from lower intentions to build multi-family dwellings. In Quebec, the value of permits for single-family dwellings still hit a high not seen since mid-1994.

February's decline in the non-residential sector was widespread, as all three components (industrial, commercial and institutional) were factors in the 10.2% decline. Industrial intentions (the hardest hit component) tumbled 24.8% to $287 million—their lowest level since January 1998. Manufacturing, plants and utilities showed the most significant losses. Following an 11.2% decline in January, the commercial component fell 4.7%. Lower

Value of building permits



intentions to construct warehouses and laboratories more than offset moderate gains in office buildings, hotels and restaurants. A large decline in permits for welfare and nursing homes pushed the institutional component down 0.9%. Significant gains in the education and medical components moderated the overall decline.

Alberta recorded a significant decrease in the value of non-residential building permits, down to its lowest level since July 1997. This reflected a 75% drop in the institutional component. In Quebec, non-residential building intentions fell mostly in the industrial component. In Newfoundland, the commercial and the institutional components both contributed to a decline. Ontario reported the most significant increase, as the institutional component there soared 122.6%. In British Columbia, an increase in the commercial component was the main factor behind a gain in non-residential permits.

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

*The February 1999 issue of **Building permits** (64-001-XIB, $19/$186) can be viewed and downloaded at www.statcan.ca. For further information, contact Joanne Bureau (613-951-9689; burejoa@statcan.ca) or Ginette Gervais (613-951-2025; gervgin@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division.*

(continued on page 6)

... Value of building permits down for second consecutive month

Building permits, February 1999
Seasonally adjusted

	Total		Residential		Non-residential	
	$ millions	% change, previous month	$ millions	% change, previous month	$ millions	% change, previous month
Canada	**2,597.6**	**-3.4**	**1,481.7**	**2.4**	**1,115.9**	**-10.2**
Newfoundland	28.4	-46.2	17.1	40.7	11.3	-72.2
Prince Edward Island	10.6	129.3	8.1	296.3	2.4	-4.6
Nova Scotia	72.5	-2.8	41.0	12.2	31.5	-17.1
New Brunswick	29.7	-2.3	22.1	3.3	7.6	-15.5
Quebec	526.6	-9.8	273.4	-4.2	253.3	-15.2
Ontario	1,201.0	6.9	658.1	5.4	542.9	8.8
Manitoba	53.1	-39.5	28.7	-20.9	24.4	-52.7
Saskatchewan	34.4	-2.7	12.4	-9.8	22.1	1.8
Alberta	358.4	-16.8	238.0	2.2	120.4	-39.2
British Columbia	274.0	7.4	175.4	-1.6	98.6	28.2
Yukon	1.4	-46.3	1.2	-53.5	0.2	592.9
Northwest Territories	7.5	-5.3	6.3	464.9	1.2	-82.0

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

New from Statistics Canada

Travel-log
Spring 1999

The Spring 1999 issue of *Travel-log* features an article titled "An analysis of developments in tourism markets in Latin America and the Caribbean region". The article examines the extent and economic importance of inbound and outbound tourism in those regions. The analysis considers the prospects of the region becoming a major tourist-generating area. It identifies and explores some of the pressure points that will constrain the region's tourism growth over the next decade. As well, it assesses Canada's ability to capture the anticipated growth in outbound tourism from those areas.

Each quarter, *Travel-log* also examines the trends in the Travel Price Index, profiles the latest travel indicators, and looks at the characteristics of international travellers.

*The Spring 1999 (Vol. 18, no. 2) issue of **Travel-log** (paper: 87-003-XPB, $13/$42; Internet: 87-003-XIB, $10/$32) is now available. For further information, contact Monique Beyrouti (613-951-1673, fax: 613-951-2909, beyrmon@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.*

New from Statistics Canada

Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics: Encountering low income 1993 to 1996

Statistics Canada has released the fourth wave of data from the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID). Among other topics, the fourth wave of the survey's data sheds new light on the exposure of Canadians to low income. These findings are presented in a new report titled *To what extent are Canadians exposed to low income: 1993 to 1996.*

SLID is a longitudinal survey that is building a picture of Canadians' jobs, income changes and family events over time. The same people are interviewed from one year to the next to capture transitions in the nation's labour market and other changes experienced by individuals and families. The target population for the survey consisted of about 35,000 individuals of all ages who were selected in 1993 and interviewed in 1994, 1995 and 1996 to gather information on their demographic characteristics, family income and labour market activities.

*The study titled **To what extent are Canadians exposed to low income: 1993 to 1996** (75F0002MIE) is available free on Statistics Canada's web site (www.statcan.ca). The menu path is Products and services, then Research papers followed by Index. For further information, contact Client Services (1-888-297-7355 or 613-951-7355; income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division.*

Science-based industries: the defining characteristics of new firms

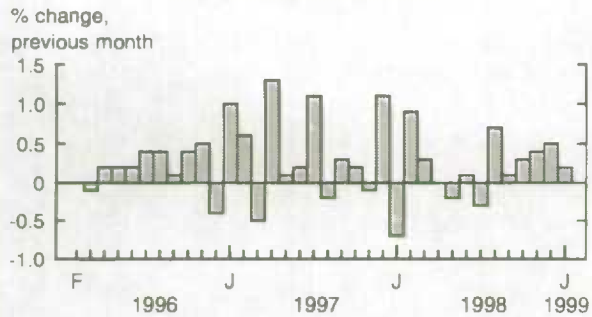
Successful new firms in Canada's science-based industries operate in substantially different ways than new emerging companies in other sectors of the economy, according to a new report titled *The defining characteristics of entrants in science-based industries.* This study investigates whether new companies in science-based industries (sometimes referred to as knowledge-based industries) operate differently from new firms in other industries. The data are from the Survey of Operating and Financial Practices of New Firms, which was conducted in 1996.

For this study, science-based industries are defined as those driven by research and development and those in which professionals such as scientists and engineers make up a substantial proportion of the workforce. The firms examined were those that entered the market between 1983 and 1986 and survived to 1996. These firms are considered relatively successful, since less than one in five of all new firms lasts beyond its 10th birthday. This report is the fourth in a series of studies investigating the profiles of small and medium-sized firms.

*The report titled **The defining characteristics of entrants in science-based industries** (88-517-XPB, $25) is now available. For further information, contact John Baldwin (613-951-8588; baldjoh@statcan.ca), Micro-economic Studies and Analysis Division.*

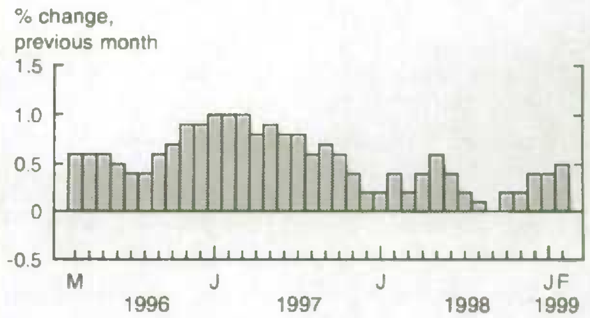
Current trends

Gross domestic product



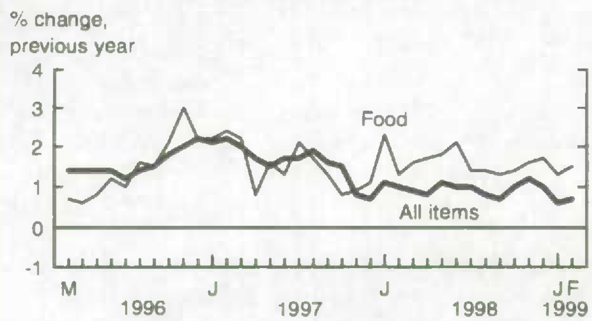
Economic activity advanced 0.2% in January, the sixth consecutive month of growth.

Composite Index



The leading indicator continued its steady advance in February, rising 0.5%.

Consumer Price Index

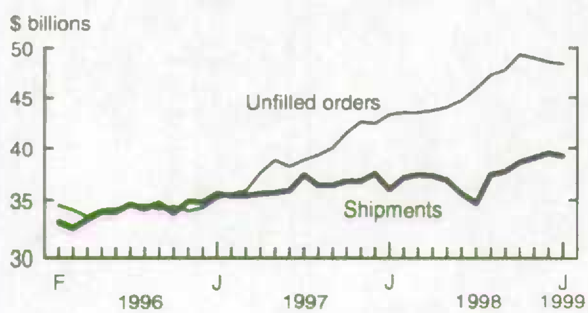


Consumers paid 0.7% more for goods and services in February 1999 than they did a year earlier. Food prices rose 1.5%.

Unemployment rate

In March, the unemployment rate stayed at 7.8% – its lowest point since June 1990.

Manufacturing



Manufacturers' shipments slipped 0.7% in January to $39.2 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders declined 0.3% to $48.4 billion.

Merchandise trade

In January, the value of merchandise exports increased a significant 2.1% from December to $28.9 billion. Imports declined a sharp 2.2% at $26.2 billion.

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

Latest statistics

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
GENERAL				
Gross domestic product ($ billion, 1992)	January	730.1	0.2%	3.1%
Composite Index (1981=100)	February	211.1	0.5%	3.9%
Operating profits of enterprises ($ billion)	Q4 1998	28.7	15.1%	– 1.0%
Capacity utilization (%)	Q4 1998	82.5	0.7†	– 0.9†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade ($ billion)	January	21.2	1.7%	5.1%
New motor vehicle sales (thousand of units)	January	122.5	3.6%	15.0%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	March*	14.64	– 0.2%	2.9%
Unemployment rate (%)	March*	7.8	0.0†	– 0.6†
Participation rate (%)	March*	65.6	– 0.2†	0.7†
Labour income ($ billion)	January	39.3	– 0.2%	2.6%
Average weekly earnings ($)	January	605.24	– 0.6%	– 0.2%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	March	148	0.0%	7.2%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports ($ billion)	January	28.9	2.1%	12.7%
Merchandise imports ($ billion)	January	26.2	– 2.2%	8.3%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in $ billion)	January	2.7	1.2	1.2
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments ($ billion)	January	39.2	– 0.7%	8.9%
New orders ($ billion)	January	39.1	0.8%	5.9%
Unfilled orders ($ billion)	January	48.4	– 0.3%	11.6%
Inventory/shipments ratio	January	1.26	0.00	– 0.07
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	February	109.1	0.2%	0.7%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	February	119.4	– 0.4%	– 0.5%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	February	101.5	– 1.8%	–10.3%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	February*	100.3	0.0%	0.5%

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.

The first (official) release of all statistical information produced by Statistics Canada occurs in *The Daily* (www.statcan.ca), available at 8:30 a.m. *The Daily* presents highlights from new data releases, along with sources, links and contacts for further information. It also contains schedules of upcoming major news releases and announces the Agency's new products and services.

Publications released from April 8

Division/Title of publication	Period	Catalogue number	Price: Issue/Subscription Canada (C$)	Price: Issue/Subscription Outside Canada (US$)
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL FLOWS				
Canada's international transactions in securities	January 1999	67-002-XPB	18/176	18/176
CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS				
Legal aid in Canada: Resource and caseload statistics	1997/98	85F0015XIE	20	
CULTURE, TOURISM AND THE CENTRE FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS				
Travel-log: An analysis of developments in tourism markets in Latin America and the Caribbean region	Spring 1999			
Internet		87-003-XIB	10/32	
Paper		87-003-XPB	13/42	13/42
HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS				
Income distribution by size in Canada	1997	13-207-XPB	46	46
Labour force information, week ending March 20, 1999	March 1999	71-001-PPB	11/103	11/103
INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK				
Building permits	February 1999	64-001-XIB	19/186	
MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY				
Cement	February 1999	44-001-XIB	5/47	
Crude petroleum and natural gas production	December 1998	26-006-XPB	19/186	19/186
Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins	February 1999	46-002-XIB	5/47	
Oils and fats	February 1999	32-006-XIB	5/47	
Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard	February 1999	36-003-XIB	5/47	
Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing	February 1999	41-011-XIB	5/47	
Sawmills and planing mills	January 1999	35-003-XPB	12/114	12/114
Steel wire and specified wire products	February 1999	41-006-XIB	5/47	
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY REDESIGN PROJECT				
A five-year strategic plan for the development of an information system and technology	1998	88-523-XPB	36	36
TRANSPORTATION				
Air passenger origin and destination, domestic report	1997			
Internet		51-204-XIB	32	
Paper		51-204-XPB	43	43

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. Note that all publications available via the Internet are priced only in Canadian dollars, so a U.S. dollar price is not listed for them.

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 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*