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A Weekly Review

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OVERVIEW

◆ Industrial capacity utilization continues to climb

In the second quarter, industries raised their rate of capacity use to 83.8%—the third straight quarterly increase and the highest rate in almost two years. The rise was propelled by strong investment in machinery, equipment and housing.

◆ Little change in employment and unemployment

Employment was unchanged in August, and the unemployment rate edged up to 7.8%. Since August 1998, almost all of the job growth in manufacturing (+5.9%) has occurred in Ontario.

◆ Residential and non-residential sectors boost building permits

In July, for a third straight month, the value of building permits advanced (+4.3%). The residential sector, particularly multi-family dwellings, led the way, as did the non-residential sector.

◆ Economy's performance expected to be much the same

According to the latest Short-term Expectations Survey, economic forecasters expect key indicators of the economy's performance to show little change through October.

◆ Admissions hit a 36-year high at movie theatres

In 1997/98, attendance at movie theatres climbed for a sixth consecutive year, reaching a 36-year high. Profits were also up, owing to the recent opening of new, very large, multi-screen theatre complexes.

◆ Small proportion of 1995 graduates moved south

A small proportion (1.5%) of the men and women who graduated from Canadian post-secondary schools in 1995 moved to the United States after graduation. Those who moved south tended to be high-quality graduates in certain key fields, particularly the healthcare occupations.

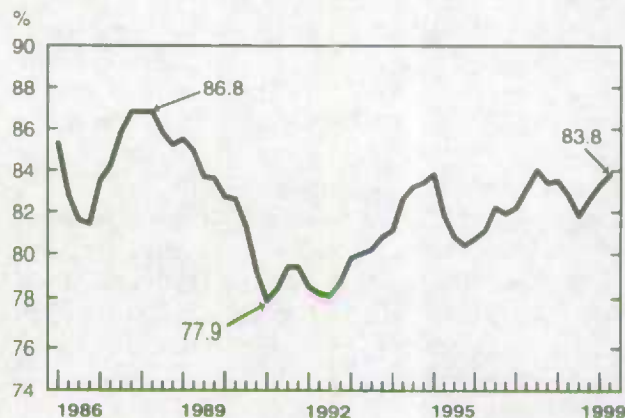
Industrial capacity utilization continues to climb

In the second quarter, industries raised their rate of capacity use to 83.8%—the third straight quarterly increase and the highest rate in almost two years. Propelled by strong investment in machinery, equipment and housing, industries nearly matched their most recent operating peak (third quarter 1997) of 84.0%.

Manufacturers were the main contributors to the quarterly growth in capacity use. In particular, producers of machinery and equipment benefited from increased spending on their products. Manufacturers raised their rate of capacity use in the second quarter by 0.7 percentage points to 86.2%. This marked the third consecutive increase and it brought the rate to just above the most recent peak (first quarter 1995) of 86.1%. Apart from a drop in the primary metals industries, lower rates of capacity use were recorded by manufacturers of non-durable goods.

The manufacturers were cranked up by the machinery and equipment industries. In electrical and electronic products, producers pushed their rate of capacity use up 5.9 percentage points to a record 94.6%. Business and government spending in preparation for Y2K compliance spurred computer production. Producers of these products also benefited from strong U.S. export demand.

Industrial capacity utilization rates



(continued on page 2)



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Canada

... Industrial capacity utilization continues to climb

Telecommunications equipment manufacturers stepped up output significantly, as well. In the machinery industries, manufacturers of compressors and pumps were largely responsible for a 0.1 percentage-point rise in the rate of capacity use. And in the transportation equipment industries, higher output of parts and accessories more than offset a slight downturn in vehicle production. The resulting rise in the rate of capacity use was a slight 0.2 percentage points.

Two groups operated just shy of full capacity in the second quarter. Rubber products industries reached a record high capacity

Industrial capacity utilization rates, second quarter 1999

	%	% point change, previous quarter	% point change, previous year
Total, non-farm goods-producing industries	83.8	0.5	1.0
Logging and forestry	82.3	-2.0	3.9
Mining (including milling) and quarrying	70.9	-6.5	-10.9
Crude oil and natural gas	72.6	2.0	-4.6
Manufacturing	86.2	0.7	2.4
Wood	88.3	1.7	5.8
Furniture and fixtures	82.4	0.6	-5.0
Primary metals	89.7	-0.7	-0.2
Machinery	73.5	1.0	-10.5
Transportation equipment	90.8	0.2	9.8
Electrical and electronic products	94.6	5.9	9.9
Non-metallic mineral products	93.7	0.3	8.9
Beverages	89.1	-0.6	0.5
Textile products	79.1	-0.1	4.6
Paper and allied products	89.3	-1.0	1.4
Refined petroleum and coal products	98.3	0.2	6.5
Chemical and chemical products	80.1	-0.2	-4.9
Construction	85.8	1.2	2.4
Electric power	85.2	1.5	0.5
Gas distribution	70.3	-3.7	2.3

Note to readers

An industry's capacity use is the ratio of its actual output to its estimated potential output. Statistics Canada derives estimates of an industry's potential output from measures of its capital stock. A company's measure of its level of operation, as a percentage of potential, takes into account changes in the obsolescence of facilities, capital-to-labour ratios and other characteristics of production techniques. The rates of capacity use have been revised back to the first quarter of 1997.

of 97.5%, while refined petroleum and coal producers hit a peak of 98.3%.

The wood industries raised their rate of capacity use by 1.7 percentage points. The start of a new quota year in the Canada-U.S. Softwood Lumber Agreement in April translated into strong exports of sawn lumber to the United States in the second quarter, as that country's home-building boom continued. In Canada, meanwhile, home-building remained strong, as did renovations activity, helping to push the construction industry's capacity use rate up 1.2 percentage points.

The construction industry and electric power lifted the capacity use rate of the non-manufacturing industries in the second quarter. In electric power systems, the rate of capacity use rose 1.5 percentage points, largely due to the unusually warm spring weather in both Eastern Canada and the United States. Wider use of air conditioning in both countries meant higher demand for electricity. A steep drop in mining services led to a 6.5 percentage-point decline in the capacity use rate for the mining and quarrying industry in the second quarter.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 3140.

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

Little change in employment and unemployment

Employment was unchanged in August. This followed an increase in July of 40,000 jobs. Employment has risen since August 1998 by 2.4%. But that reflects strong job growth in the latter half of 1998. The growth so far in 1999 has been slower (+0.8%). In August, the unemployment rate notched up 0.1 percentage points to 7.8%.

After three consecutive monthly increases, employment in manufacturing fell by 19,000. In the year to August, manufacturing employment grew at a rate of 5.9%, with almost all of that growth occurring in Ontario. Employment rose by 37,000 in educational services in August, likely reflecting an earlier start to the school year in some parts of the country. Public administration shed 20,000 jobs, leaving employment in the industry down on the year by 7%.

Full-time employment in August fell by 35,000, whereas part-time rose by 29,000. Compared with August 1998, however, the gain in full-time employment (+2.9%) has outpaced that in part-time (+0.6%). In August, most of the shift between full- and part-time work occurred among adult women (-24,000 full-time jobs, +36,000 part-time jobs). Over the year to August, employment among adult women has climbed 3.1% (full-time +3.4%, part-time

Employment

Millions, seasonally adjusted



+2.0%), and so their unemployment rate has fallen 0.7 percentage points to 6.5%. Over the same year, employment among adult men has climbed slower (+1.7%). In August, their employment level did not change and more were looking for work, pushing their unemployment rate up 0.3 percentage points to 6.7%.

(continued on page 3)

... Little change in employment and unemployment

Among youths, employment edged down in August by 16,000. Despite those job losses, the youth unemployment rate actually fell 0.4 percentage points to 13.7%. This was due to a drop in labour force participation, likely reflecting an earlier-than-usual start to the secondary school year in some parts of the country. So far in 1999, there has been virtually no employment growth for youths.

More students held jobs in the summer of 1999 than last summer. From June to August, their average employment rate was 51.3%, up 1.3 percentage points from last summer, and their unemployment rate averaged 15.0%, down a full percentage point. However, the likelihood of working part time increased. The 17 to 19 year-olds saw the greatest improvement: their employment rate rose from 55.0% in 1998 to 58.6% in 1999 and their unemployment rate fell sharply from 17.4% to 14.8%. Among older students aged 20 to 24, employment edged up only slightly this summer and unemployment declined 0.7 percentage points to 8.9%. Meanwhile, the labour market situation of students aged 15 and 16 did not improve this summer. Their employment rate

was unchanged at 30.7% and their unemployment rate rose to 23.8% (+1.1 percentage points), a result of higher labour force participation.

In British Columbia, on the heels of job losses in recent months, employment increased slightly (+12,000), leaving employment little changed so far this year. In Alberta, employment fell by 11,000, leaving the job growth there so far this year at 1.5% (+23,000). The province's unemployment rate rose 0.4 percentage points. In Newfoundland, meanwhile, employment declined by 7,000. Employment in the province has fluctuated widely since August 1998, but the underlying trend has been positive. A drop in labour force participation there in August caused the unemployment rate to edge down. In the other provinces, the employment picture was little changed in August.

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

*The complete report appears in **Labour force information, for the week ending August 21, 1999** (71-001-PPB, \$11/\$103), now available. For further information, contact Deborah Sunter (613-951-4740) or Jean-Marc Lévesque (613-951-4168), Labour Statistics Division.*

Labour Force Survey, August 1999 Seasonally adjusted¹

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	rate (%)
Canada	15,906.0	0.0	14,672.8	0.0	1,233.1	7.8
Newfoundland	245.6	-3.1	205.0	-3.1	40.6	16.5
Prince Edward Island	70.4	-1.0	60.7	-0.8	9.6	13.6
Nova Scotia	455.6	-0.3	416.2	-0.1	39.4	8.6
New Brunswick	373.2	0.6	336.8	0.6	36.4	9.8
Quebec	3,765.9	0.4	3,397.3	-0.1	368.6	9.8
Ontario	6,161.1	-0.2	5,769.3	0.0	391.8	6.4
Manitoba	593.2	0.5	557.7	0.1	35.6	6.0
Saskatchewan	511.1	-0.3	480.8	-0.4	30.4	5.9
Alberta	1,659.2	-0.3	1,556.4	-0.7	102.8	6.2
British Columbia	2,070.7	0.6	1,892.7	0.6	177.9	8.6

¹ Data are for both sexes aged 15 and over.

Residential and non-residential sectors boost building permits

Municipalities issued \$3.2 billion in building permits in July, up 4.3% from June. Gains in both the residential and the non-residential sectors pushed construction intentions up for a third straight month. In the first seven months of 1999, municipalities issued \$20.4 billion in residential and non-residential building permits, a gain over the same period in 1998 of 4.9%.

The value of building permits in the residential sector edged up 0.6% to \$1.7 billion. It was the sector's third straight monthly advance. In July, the value of permits to build multi-family dwellings increased 11.8% to \$514 million, whereas the value of permits for single-family dwellings decreased after three straight monthly increases, down 3.6% to \$1.2 billion.

In July, the resale of homes fell for the first time since January. Some mortgage rates have increased recently, but consumer confidence is still strong and prices for new houses remain attractive. These factors, together with 11 months of uninterrupted economic growth and gains in full-time employment, point to sustained activity in the housing market in the coming months. In the first seven months of this year, residential building permits reached \$11.2 billion—the highest level recorded for the first seven months of any year since 1990. This gain was due to the strength in both single- and multiple-family dwellings.

The gains (in terms of dollars) came mostly from Ontario, followed by Quebec and Manitoba. Except for Manitoba, where both single- and multi-family dwellings showed improvement, the gains were solely based on plans to build multi-family dwellings. The largest decreases were recorded in British Columbia and

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... Residential and non-residential sectors boost building permits

Nova Scotia, reflecting losses in both single- and multi-family dwellings.

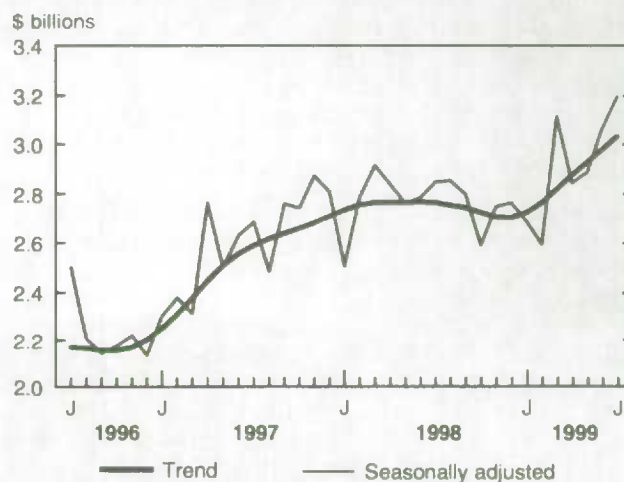
The non-residential sector was lifted in July by a surge in permits for industrial construction. The value of non-residential permits rose 9.1% to \$1.5 billion—the highest monthly figure since September 1989. In the first seven months of this year, permits for non-residential construction totalled \$9.2 billion, up from the year-earlier period by 1.5%. It was also the best performance for the first seven months of a year since 1990.

Industrial construction intentions surged 43.7% (to \$413 million) from June to July on the strength of projects for utilities and transportation. It was the industrial component's best showing since November 1997. Commercial construction permits, after two straight monthly decreases, increased 9.2% (to \$724 million). The largest contribution came from office, trade and services building permits. In the institutional component, intentions were down 16.1% (to \$331 million). This sector suffered from fewer projects in the government administration and medical fields, where activity was high in June.

The most significant increases (in terms of dollars) were in Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan. In all cases, the industrial component led the way. The most important decrease occurred in British Columbia, where a drop of 28.0% reflected a sharp 52.2% drop in plans to build institutional projects.

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

Total value of building permits



The July 1999 issue of *Building permits* (64-001-XIB, \$19/\$186) can be downloaded at www.statcan.ca. For general information, contact Joanne Bureau (613-951-9689; burejoa@statcan.ca). For further analytical information, contact Pierre Després (613-951-9691; desppie@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

Building permits, July 1999 Seasonally adjusted

	Total		Residential		Non-residential	
	\$ millions	% change, previous quarter	\$ millions	% change, previous quarter	\$ millions	% change, previous quarter
Canada	3,198.6	4.3	1,729.7	0.6	1,468.8	9.1
Newfoundland	40.7	63.3	10.3	-26.3	30.4	177.7
Prince Edward Island	8.4	-39.9	4.6	-15.8	3.8	-55.3
Nova Scotia	83.4	-12.2	34.8	-25.0	48.6	0.0
New Brunswick	44.4	-12.2	20.4	-18.1	24.0	-6.4
Quebec	484.7	8.4	251.8	2.4	233.0	15.7
Ontario	1,454.8	10.7	880.1	7.2	574.7	16.5
Manitoba	74.6	14.8	33.8	21.4	40.9	9.9
Saskatchewan	97.6	70.6	25.2	-1.0	72.4	128.0
Alberta	460.9	12.8	240.5	0.2	220.4	30.8
British Columbia	436.1	-22.4	219.3	-15.8	216.9	-28.0
Yukon	2.8	-60.0	1.4	6.7	1.4	-75.6
Northwest Territories	3.4	-40.1	2.0	63.4	1.4	-68.9
Nunavut	6.7	-55.5	5.6	-13.5	1.1	-87.3

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

Economy's performance expected to be much the same

According to the latest Short-term Expectations Survey (July to October), economic forecasters expect key indicators of the economy's performance to show little change through October.

Starting with consumer price inflation, their average forecast is for an annual inflation rate in the consumer price index of 1.8% for August, 1.9% for September and 1.9% for October. Lately, the actual inflation rate has been slightly higher than expected: the average forecast for July was 1.7%, whereas the actual rate was 1.8%.

Monthly growth of gross domestic product, meanwhile, garnered an average forecast for June of 0.3%—right on the actual growth reported. Analysts expect about the same monthly growth in July (+0.3%) and August (+0.2%).

Turning to the forecasts for international trade, the surveyed economists expect to see a small change in the merchandise trade surplus for the months from July to September. Averaging their responses, they expect the date to show a surplus of \$2.6 billion for July, with it rising to \$2.7 billion in the August report and then declining to \$2.5 billion when the September numbers come in. They forecast a slight increase in both exports and imports to be recorded for those months.

Finally, in the labour market, these analysts anticipate the unemployment rate will remain stable at July's rate (7.7%) from August through October. The August figure came in at 7.8%. At the same time, they expect the participation rate to increase slightly from July's rate of 65.4% to 65.5% in August, 65.6% in September and 65.7% in October. In August, the actual the participation rate was 65.4%.

For further information, or to order a set of tables, contact Jenny Grenier (613-951-1020, fax: 613-951-1572, grenjen@statcan.ca), Small Business and Special Surveys Division.

Admissions hit a 36-year high at movie theatres

In 1997/98, attendance at movie theatres and drive-ins (taken together) climbed for a sixth consecutive year, reaching a 17-year high of almost 100 million admissions. After having grown at an annual average rate of about 4% in the previous five years, attendance by moviegoers grew 8% in 1997/98. Attendance at recently opened large and very large theatres contributed significantly to this overall increase. The attraction to larger theatres can also be seen in the already existing establishments. Alberta residents were Canada's most avid moviegoers. On average, they went to the movies 4.6 times in 1997/98, up from the previous year by 13%.

The recent resurgence in the popularity of movie theatres (excluding drive-ins, where attendance is still down) resulted in a 36-year high of 97.7 million admissions in 1997/98, up 8% from the previous year and the sixth consecutive annual increase. Gains in attendance were accompanied by rationalising and restructuring within the industry. Larger multi-screen houses have replaced many small- and medium-sized cinemas. Although much of the attendance growth coincided with the recently opened large and very large multi-screen houses, the draw of these new theatres also created hardships for the already existing small- and medium-sized cinemas: attendance at these theatres was down 11% and 24%, respectively.

Movie theatres and drive-ins, 1997/98 fiscal year

	Movie theatres	Drive-ins	Total
Number of theatres	617	71	688
Number of screens	2,186	115	2,301
Full-time employees	1,274	102	1,376
Part-time employees	9,168	727	9,895
Attendance ('000)	97,686	2,209	99,895
Box office receipts (\$ '000)	490,123	12,535	502,658
Total revenues (\$ '000)	699,879	20,875	720,754
Profit (\$ '000)	82,984	2,840	85,824

Note to readers

Movie theatres and drive-ins have two principal sources of revenues—the box office and the snack bar. Small theatres are those that reported total operating revenues of less than \$500,000. Medium-sized theatres had revenues from \$500,000 to \$999,999, while large theatres had revenues from \$1 million to \$5 million, and very large theatres reported revenues greater than \$5 million.

The very large theatres have also increased their market share. Over the last three years, while the number of very large movie theatres doubled from 5 to 10, their share of attendance also doubled from 4% to 8%. Large theatres also grew their share of attendance (from 69% to 75%), whereas the shares of small- (from 12% to 8%) and medium-sized movie theatres declined (from 15% to 9%).

Movie theatres overall had a profitable year in 1997/98. Profits were up 32% to \$83.0 million. Nearly two-fifths of that increase was attributable to the new larger theatres. Larger theatres accounted for 94% (\$77.9 million) of all profits. By contrast, small theatres reported a loss of nearly \$1 million and medium-sized theatres had profits of \$6 million.

Very large theatres not only retained more of each ticket sold, but they also made considerably more profit on each patron in the snack bar and via auxiliary services. The recent trend of party rooms for kids, coffee bars, cocktail lounges, high-tech video arcades and a slew of concession stands with products ranging from pizza to gourmet cookies also contributed significantly to the bottom line. Moreover, the larger theatres are more cost efficient. They reduced their per-admission costs in the area of staffing and by using their theatres more intensively than the smaller operators.

As for drive-in theatres, there are now more of them, but attendance is still down. The trend of disappearing drive-in theatres ended in 1997/98, when the number of drive-ins increased 3% to 71. However, even with that increase, admissions continued

(continued on page 6)

... Admissions hit a 36-year high at movie theatres

to drop, falling 5% to 2.2 million—the third consecutive decline. Despite that drop in attendance, profits at drive-in theatres grew 13% to \$2.8 million. As with the regular movie theatres, the larger drive-ins performed better than the smaller ones in the areas of attendance, revenues, cost cutting and profits.

Small proportion of 1995 graduates moved south

A small proportion (1.5%) of the 300,000 men and women who graduated from Canadian post-secondary schools in 1995 moved to the United States after graduation. Most (80%) entered the United States as temporary residents, largely by obtaining a TN visa under provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

More than half who relocated (57%) did so for work-related reasons, while 23% did so for education, and 17% relocated for marriage or relationships (by far, most of these were women). The other major draw concerned pay. Nearly 4 in 10 graduates who relocated mainly for work cited higher salaries as a factor that drew them south. Notably, few graduates explicitly mentioned lower taxes.

As of the summer of 1997, just over 4,600 post-secondary graduates from the class of 1995 were living in the United States. By the time of the survey in March 1999, about 830 (18%) had moved back to Canada. Those who moved south tended to be high-quality graduates in certain key fields: of the graduates who were working upon arrival, 36% were in healthcare occupations and 26% worked in engineering and applied sciences.

Of the graduates who moved south, 51% had a university bachelor's degree, whereas 25% were college graduates. Another 15% had a master's degree and 8% held a doctorate. In contrast, among graduates who stayed in Canada, 7% had a master's degree and only 1% had a doctorate. Except among Ph.D. graduates, the proportion of graduates who moved was relatively small at every level of study. Nearly half those who relocated south ranked themselves near the top of their class in their field of study. They were also more likely to have received scholarships or other academic awards than their counterparts who stayed.

The graduates who moved were highly successful—able to find work in high-skill occupations that pay well—in the U.S. labour market. In March 1999, about 4 in 10 of the 1995 graduates living down south planned to return to Canada, 3 in 10 did not, and 3 in 10 were uncertain. Among those still in the United States as temporary residents, 44% planned to obtain permanent resident status within two years.

Among the 2,600 or so graduates who moved primarily for work, the factors that drew them most often involved opportunity. Many were lured by a greater availability of jobs, either in a particular field or in general. College and university graduates in health-related fields were most likely to have left for work-related reasons, as limited job opportunities in Canada made looking south for careers much more attractive.

Not surprisingly, the graduates who moved earned higher pay than those who stayed in Canada did. Taking inflation and purchasing power parity into account, the median annual earnings

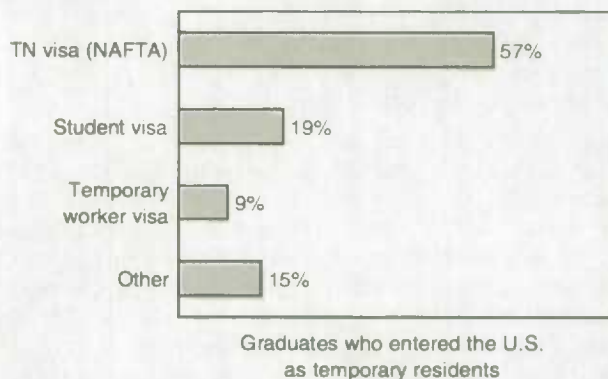
Selected data from the Motion Picture Theatres Survey are available in table format (87F0009XPE, \$50). Data from this survey are also available tabulated by province/territory. Custom tabulations are available on a cost-recovery basis. For further information, contact Norman Verma (613-951-6863, fax: 613-951-9040, vermnor@statcan.ca), Culture Statistics Program.

Note to readers

This article analyzes results from the Survey of 1995 Graduates Who Moved to the United States. The survey was conducted in March 1999 and covered post-secondary graduates from the class of 1995 who moved to the United States between graduation and the summer of 1997. Those who were exclusively American citizens who returned to the United States after studying in Canada were not included.

Interviews were conducted with 531 graduates who moved to the United States to obtain information on their characteristics, reasons for relocating, education and work experiences, and plans for the future. These people were representative of the just over 4,600 graduates from the class of 1995 who moved to the United States. The movement of graduates to other countries, or of foreign students and graduates who came to Canada, was beyond the scope of the survey.

Basis of admission to the United States



Note: Admission to the United States covers the period between graduation in 1995 and the summer of 1997.

of the Canadian graduates with a bachelor's degree working in applied and natural science jobs in the United States was C\$47,400—considerably higher than the C\$38,400 paid to their counterparts in Canada. The salary gap for bachelor's graduates in health occupations was similar. Graduates whose work in the United States was related to the natural and applied sciences—largely scientists, engineers, systems analysts and programmers—earned the highest salaries. In March 1999, this group's median annual salary was C\$76,300.

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... Small proportion of 1995 graduates moved south

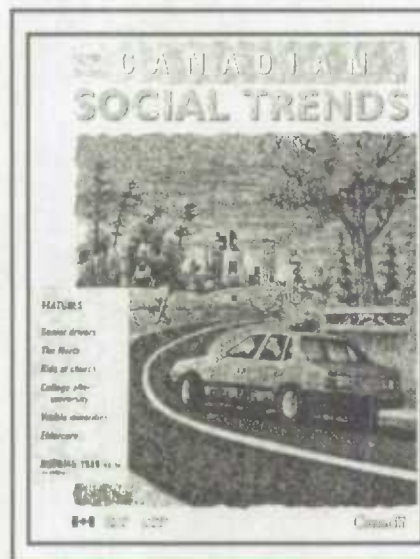
Most of the graduates who had a prearranged job in the United States found that work via traditional job-search methods: 28% responded to advertisements, 21% used personal contacts and 20% sent out résumés or applications on their own. Finding a U.S. job through on-campus recruitment programs or job postings was less common (12%), while being contacted directly by a U.S. employer or headhunter was rare.

Nearly one-half of the graduates who moved south ended up in a handful of U.S. states. Texas was the top destination (16% of the movers), followed by California (11%), New York (10%) and Florida (8%). Among the 360 or so Ph.D. graduates who left, about 26% went to California.

Just over half (57%) of the college and university graduates who relocated to the United States left from Ontario. In contrast, Ontario accounted for 41% of 1995 college and university graduates who remained in Canada. And 11% of the graduates who left for the United States were last living in Quebec. Language factors may have accounted for this relatively small proportion.

South of the border: Graduates from the class of '95 who moved to the United States (81-587-XIE, no charge) is now available online at www.statcan.ca. A paper copy of the publication (SP-136-09-99) is also available from the Public Enquiries Centre (fax: 819-953-7260), Human Resources Development Canada. For general information, contact Scott Murray (613-951-9035). To order data, or for further analytical information, contact Jeff Frank (613-947-3905, fax: 613-995-6006, j.frank@prs-srp.gc.ca), Centre for Education Statistics.

New from Statistics Canada



Canadian social trends Autumn 1999

The Autumn 1999 issue of *Canadian social trends* features articles on seniors and driving; a geographical definition of the North; children attending religious services; university graduates at college; visible minorities in Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal; and caregivers of the elderly.

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

The Autumn 1999 issue of *Canadian social trends* (paper: 11-008-XPE, \$11/\$36; online at www.statcan.ca: 11-008-XIE, \$8/\$27) is now available. For further information, contact Susan Crompton (613-951-2556, csstsc@statcan.ca), Housing, Family and Social Statistics.

New from Statistics Canada

StatCan: CANSIM directory disc

September 1999

The September 1999 edition of *StatCan: CANSIM directory disc* is a CD-ROM that contains the CANSIM time series directory—a guide to the data contained in the CANSIM time series database. It also includes the Statistical Data Documentation System (SDDS), a database of the surveys and statistical programs used at Statistics Canada, as well as the latest version of the *Statistics Canada thesaurus*.

Finding information in this Windows version of the CD-ROM is easier than ever. An entire CANSIM matrix or SDDS survey can be searched as a single entity. As well, you can now narrow a search to include only active time series or those with a specific security level. Specially designed dialogue boxes pop up to guide you through the most typical searches. Hyperlinks between the CANSIM matrices and the SDDS surveys allow quick access to more details about both.

The September 1999 edition of the StatCan: CANSIM directory disc (10F0005XCB) is now available in a Windows format on CD-ROM. An annual subscription of four quarterly issues costs \$103. For further information, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.

Earnings characteristics of two-partner families

1997

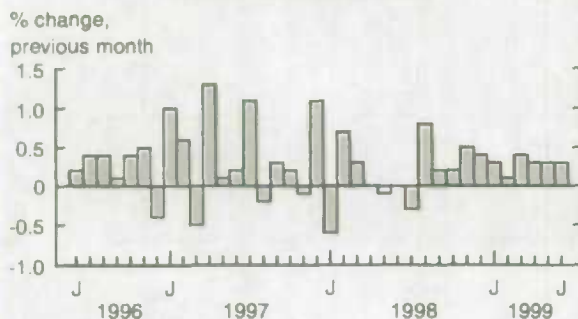
The final report from the most recent Survey of Consumer Finances is titled *Characteristics of dual-earner families in 1997*. It presents the latest profile of two-partner families, with the data broken down according to the earnings status of the male and female spouses.

Also in this report is an historical tabulation that presents distributions, estimated numbers and average incomes of two-partner families by the earnings status of the spouses. These historical data cover the period from 1967 to 1997. The tables for 1997 present data on the earnings status of spouses in much greater detail.

*On Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca), it is easy to find historical data on the average income of two-partner families broken down according to the earnings status of the spouses. These data are available at no charge. The menu path is "Canadian statistics", then "The people—Families, households and housing", followed by "Income". The publication titled **Characteristics of dual-earner families in 1997** (13-215-XIB, \$21) is now available online at www.statcan.ca. For further information, contact Client Services (613-951-7355 or 1 888 297-7355, fax: 613-951-3012, income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division.*

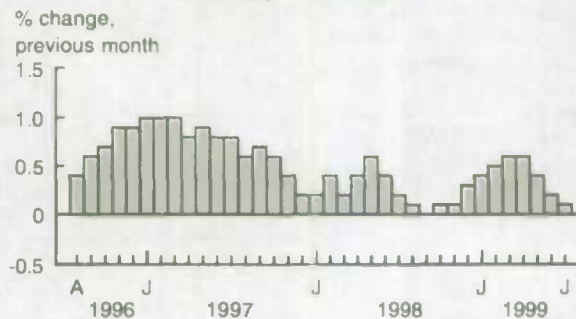
Current trends

Gross domestic product



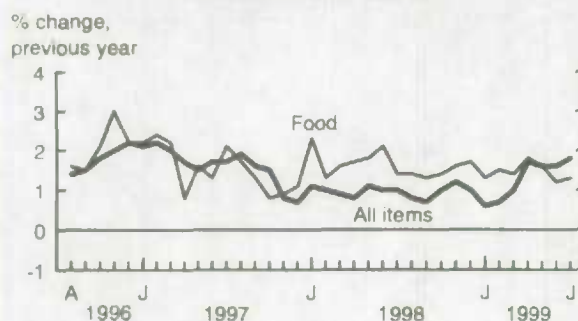
Economic activity continued to advance in June (+0.3%). This extended the expansion to 11 months – the longest uninterrupted string of advances in more than a decade.

Composite Index



The growth of the leading indicator slowed to 0.1% in July, marking its smallest gain since last November.

Consumer Price Index



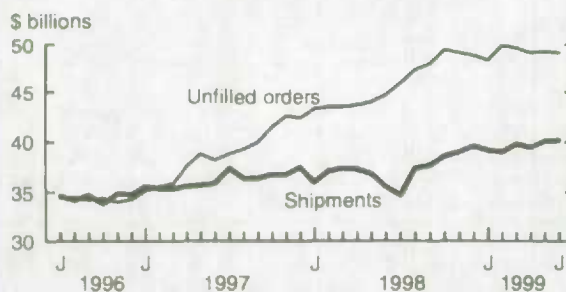
Consumers paid 1.8% more for goods and services in July 1999 than they did a year earlier. Food prices rose 1.3%.

Unemployment rate



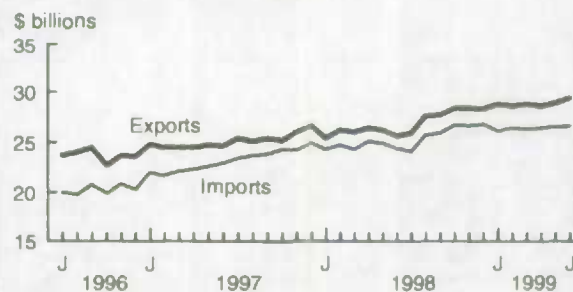
In August, the unemployment rate notched up 0.1 percentage points to 7.8%.

Manufacturing



Manufacturers' shipments grew 0.4% in June to \$40.2 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders dropped 0.2% to \$49.1 billion.

Merchandise trade



In June, the value of merchandise exports rose 1.9% from May to \$29.4 billion. Imports edged up only 0.3% to 26.6 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)	June	741.2	0.3%	3.6%
Composite Index (1981=100)	July	215.0	0.1%	3.8%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billion)	Q2 1999*	37.2	1.6%	..
Capacity utilization (%)	Q2 1999*	83.8	0.5†	1.0†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade (\$ billion)	June	21.4	0.3%	5.2%
New motor vehicle sales (thousand of units)	July*	130.5	4.0%	8.0%
Wholesale trade (\$ billion)	June	29.8	0.0%	7.7%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	August*	14.67	0.0%	2.4%
Unemployment rate (%)	August*	7.8	0.1†	-0.5†
Participation rate (%)	August*	65.4	0.0†	0.3†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	June	609.89	0.1%	0.7%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	August	158	-1.3%	9.9%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports (\$ billion)	June	29.4	1.9%	14.9%
Merchandise imports (\$ billion)	June	26.6	0.3%	9.0%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billion)	June	2.8	0.4	1.6
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	June	40.3	0.4%	13.1%
New orders (\$ billion)	June	40.1	-0.1%	10.4%
Unfilled orders (\$ billion)	June	49.1	-0.2%	9.8%
Inventory/shipments ratio	June	1.26	0.00	-0.12
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	July	110.8	0.3%	1.8%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	July	122.1	1.2%	2.2%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	July	118.1	4.6%	10.0%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	July*	100.8	0.2%	0.6%

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

* new this week

† percentage point

.. figures not available yet due to a survey redesign

Infomat

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AGRICULTURE				
Field crop reporting series, vol. 78, no. 6: Stocks of Canadian grain	At July 3, 1999	22-002-XPB	15/88	15/88
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL FLOWS				
Canada's balance of international payments	Q2 1999	67-001-XIB	29/93	
HOUSING, FAMILY AND SOCIAL STATISTICS				
Canadian social trends	Autumn 1999			
Internet		11-008-XIE	8/27	8/27
Paper		11-008-XPE	11/36	11/36
INCOME STATISTICS				
Characteristics of dual-earner families	1997	13-215-XIB	21	
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Exports by country	Jan.-June 1999			
Microfiche		65-003-XMB	62/206	62/206
Paper		65-003-XPB	124/412	124/412
INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK				
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LABOUR STATISTICS				
Employment, earnings and hours	June 1999	72-002-XPB	32/320	32/320
Labour force information, week ending August 2, 1999	August 1999	71-001-PPB	11/103	11/103
MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY				
Cement	July 1999	44-001-XIB	5/47	
Coal and coke statistics	June 1999	45-002-XPB	12/114	12/114
Electric power statistics	June 1999	57-001-XPB	12/114	12/114
Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins	July 1999	46-002-XIB	5/47	
Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard	July 1999	36-003-XIB	5/47	
Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products	June 1999	55-001-XIB	9/86	
Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing	July 1999	41-011-XIB	5/47	
Steel wire and specified wire products	July 1999	41-006-XIB	5/47	
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