



# Infomat

## A Weekly Review

Friday, January 14, 2000

### OVERVIEW

◆ **Overall job growth last year was slower than in 1998**

In December, employment increased by 42,000 and the unemployment rate remained at 6.9%. In 1999, overall job growth was slower than in 1998.

◆ **GDP maintains slower pace**

In October, gross domestic product grew 0.1%, in line with the slower pace set in September. Auto-related declines cut into manufacturing and retailing.

◆ **Raw material prices up significantly**

In November, manufacturers paid significantly more for their raw materials. The increase was almost entirely a result of higher crude oil prices.

◆ **Industrial product prices continue yearly advance**

In November, prices for industrial products increased from a year earlier by 2.4%. Lower prices for motor vehicles partly offset a strong increase in petroleum prices.

◆ **Foreign demand resumes for Canadian bonds**

In October, foreign investors' demand for Canadian bonds revived. Meanwhile, Canadian investors reduced their foreign security assets for the first time in six months.

◆ **Average weekly earnings remain unchanged**

In October, average weekly earnings for all employees remained virtually unchanged from the previous month at \$613.00, which was up from October 1998 by 0.9%.

◆ **Homeowners' spending on repairs and renovations unchanged**

In 1998, homeowners spent \$12.8 billion on repairs and renovations, unchanged from 1997. Two-thirds of the nation's homeowners made repairs or renovations in 1998.

### Overall job growth last year was slower than in 1998

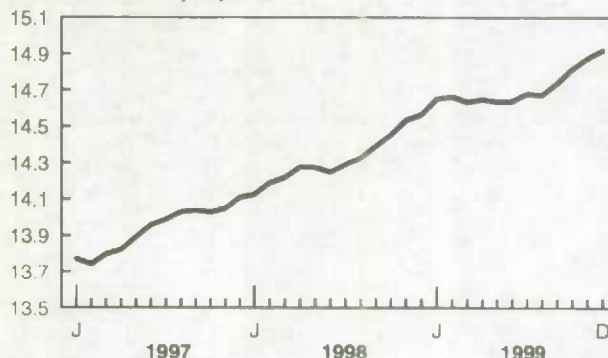
The labour market continued its positive performance in December, as employment rose by 42,000. From December 1998 to December 1999, employment grew by 355,000 (+2.4%), pushing the unemployment rate down 1.1 percentage points from 8.0% to 6.9%. However, the overall growth in employment last year was slower than in 1998 (+3.2%). Last year, the number of full-time jobs increased by 438,000 (+3.7%), whereas the number of part-timers fell by 83,000 (-3.0%).

Among youth aged 15 to 24, employment grew by 73,000 in 1999 (+3.4%), with the gains coming in the final four months of the year. Full-time employment among youth rose by 83,000 last year, an increase of 7.0%. The youth unemployment rate in December was 13.2%, 1.2 percentage points lower than a year earlier.

As for adults, employment among men rose by 21,000 in December and their unemployment rate edged down 0.1 points to 5.7%—the lowest rate since November 1981. Over the course of last year, employment among adult men increased by 158,000 (+2.3%)—the entire growth was in full-time jobs. Among women, despite a recent lack of job growth, employment increased by 124,000 in 1999 (+2.2%). The number of adult women employed

#### Employment

Millions, seasonally adjusted



(continued on page 2)

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### ... Overall job growth last year was slower than in 1998

full time grew strongly (+192,000), whereas the number employed part time declined (-68,000).

In 1999, the job growth was driven by an increase in the number of employees (+361,000 or +3.0%). Gains were made in both the private and the public sectors. As for self-employment, with a gain of 32,000 in December, the number of self-employed people remained at about the same level as in December 1998.

December's employment gain was concentrated in the services sector (+50,000). In 1999, employment in this sector was up only slightly (+1.8%). However, there were strong increases during the year in transportation and warehousing, in management, administrative and other support services and in educational services. In the goods-producing sector, meanwhile, employment was little changed from November to December. However, job growth was robust over the course of last year (+156,000 or +4.2%), due to strength in manufacturing (+183,000 or +8.5%). The largest gain was in computer and electronic products manufacturing.

Looking at the provinces, the employment growth in December was concentrated in Ontario (+35,000). Gains over the past six months accounted for most of the job growth in the province in 1999 (+162,000 or +2.8%). In Quebec, though employment was little changed in December, a decline in the number of people searching for work pushed the unemployment rate down 0.3 percentage points to 8.1%. Job gains in the province last year totalled 86,000 (+2.5%). In Prince Edward Island, employment rose by 2,000 from November to December, bringing the growth during 1999 to 5,000.

To supplement the preceding analysis of annual growth calculated from December-to-December, it is also useful to look at annual averages. Annual averages give an overall indication of changes in labour-market conditions from year to year. The annual averages are calculated by averaging the unadjusted figures for each month in the year.

Nationally, the average level of employment in 1999 was 384,000 higher than the annual average in 1998, an improvement of 2.7%. This pushed the average unemployment rate down 0.7 points to 7.6%.

### Related information: Employment insurance

In October, the latest month of available data, 515,410 Canadians received the regular type of employment insurance (EI) benefit. That was down from September by 1.7%. For the past several months, the number of EI beneficiaries has been relatively stable. Compared with October 1998, the number of beneficiaries receiving the regular benefit was 7.5% lower. The amount paid out as regular benefits increased 10.2% in October to \$666.6 million. The number of claims for EI made by the jobless climbed 5.7% in October to 220,580 claims. (The data are seasonally adjusted.) For further information on employment insurance, contact Robert Keay (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

In Newfoundland, the average level of employment was up 5.3%—the largest increase of any province. As a result, the average unemployment rate there fell 1.2 percentage points to 16.7%. In New Brunswick, even though employment showed little change between December 1998 and December 1999, the average level of employment in 1999 was 3.7% higher than the year before. In Ontario, average employment in 1999 was higher by 173,000 (+3.1%) than in 1998. This caused the average unemployment rate there to fall from 7.2% in 1998 to 6.4% in 1999. In 1999, despite Alberta's average employment growth of 2.8%, an increase in labour-market activity caused the average unemployment rate to inch up 0.1 points to 5.8%. For Prince Edward Island, there was a sharp contrast in the annual average change in employment (+1.6%) and the December-to-December change (+8.0%). This difference can be ascribed to a very strong increase in the last quarter of 1999 that was dampened by slow growth during the year's previous quarters.

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

The full report, *Labour force information, for the week ending December 11, 1999* (71-001-PPB, \$11/\$103), is now available. For further information, contact Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325) or Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750), Labour Statistics Division. See also "Current trends" on page 10.

### Employment level and unemployment rate, annual averages

	Employment ('000)		Change in employment (1998 to 1999)		Unemployment rate (%)	
	1998	1999	'000	%	1998	1999
<b>Canada</b>	<b>14,326.4</b>	<b>14,710.8</b>	<b>384.4</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>7.6</b>
Newfoundland	197.9	208.3	10.4	5.3	17.9	16.7
Prince Edward Island	60.9	61.9	1.0	1.6	13.9	14.1
Nova Scotia	403.7	414.2	10.5	2.6	10.7	9.7
New Brunswick	324.2	336.1	11.9	3.7	12.1	10.1
Quebec	3,327.5	3,407.4	79.9	2.4	10.4	9.4
Ontario	5,612.9	5,786.2	173.3	3.1	7.2	6.4
Manitoba	546.1	556.8	10.7	2.0	5.7	5.5
Saskatchewan	478.6	480.8	2.2	0.5	5.9	6.1
Alberta	1,514.0	1,556.8	42.8	2.8	5.7	5.8
British Columbia	1,860.4	1,902.2	41.8	2.2	8.9	8.3



## GDP maintains slower pace

In October, gross domestic product grew 0.1%, in line with the slower pace set in September. A significant 2.4% rebound in wholesaling (mostly computer and software dealers), coupled with increased activity in business services and in federal and provincial government services, more than offset auto-related declines in manufacturing and retailing. October marked the 15th consecutive increase in the longest string of gains in over a decade, mirroring the strong growth in full-time employment.

Manufacturing output receded for a second consecutive month (-0.4%), as 13 of 22 major industry groups (almost two-thirds of manufacturing output) curtailed production. The auto industry downshifted for a second consecutive month, as output of cars and trucks fell 1.8%. The decline was partly attributed to production-line difficulties. Despite the recent downshifting, production was still a significant 10% higher than in October 1998.

Lower production of inorganic chemicals pushed chemical

### Manufacturing output



products output down 1.1%. Output would have fallen further had it not been for the ongoing growth in pharmaceutical production. Production of most wood products receded, paralleling a cooler U.S. housing market. Manufacturing of clothing fell for a fourth consecutive month in October. In the food industry, production was down 1.4%.

Production of rubber products jumped 4.6%, as new capacity in the tire and tube industry led to a significant gain in output. Fabricated metal product output rose on higher production of

### Note to readers

Monthly gross domestic product (GDP) by industry is valued at 1992 prices. The data are seasonally adjusted at annual rates.

hardware and tools. Output of electrical and electronic products was up 0.5%, the smallest of eight consecutive monthly advances. Production of telecommunications equipment turned negative in October for only the second time in over a year. Despite the modest October gain, production of electrical and electronic equipment was way ahead of October 1998 (+24.6%).

Business services continued to expand (+0.8%), spurred by continued growth in computer and consulting services and by demand for temporary help and other miscellaneous business services. Activity at computer service firms also picked up. Business was slower for real estate agents for a fourth consecutive month in October. Home sales were down but still relatively strong compared with a year earlier.

In the mining sector, some resilience was evident as output edged up 0.2%. Rising oil and gas prices continued to spur exploration, leading drilling and rigging companies to increase output for a fifth straight month. However, output of crude oil and natural gas fell for a third consecutive month, as production problems continued to plague the industry. At metal mines, output remained flat amid gold mine closures. Copper output increased substantially as a large mine reopened, while nickel output was hampered by labour strife. As for non-metal mines, output surged 10.2%, solely because of higher diamond production.

Elsewhere, construction activity maintained its upward trend in October (+0.2%), buttressed by increased work on non-residential projects. Weakness in the finance industries was due to lower stock market activity. Government services rose 0.4%, led by the strong upward trend in federal government services. Communications services saw little change, as telephone carriers reported flat activity. Increased dining out buoyed the food and accommodations industry.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 4677-4681.**

The October 1999 issue of *Gross domestic product by industry* (15-001-XPB, \$15/\$145) presents the full report. To purchase data, contact Yolande Chantigny (1 800 877-4623; imad@statcan.ca). For further analytical information, contact Richard Evans (613-951-9145; evanric@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division. See also "Current trends" on page 10.

## Raw material prices up significantly

In November, raw material prices jumped from October by 3.4%, almost entirely because of higher crude oil prices. Compared with 12 months earlier, raw material prices in November were up 23.2%. Higher prices for crude oil, nickel, aluminum materials, copper, hogs, cattle and calves were partly offset by lower prices for oilseeds, grains, lead concentrates, gold and iron ore concentrates.

The mineral fuels category (95% of which is crude oil) exerts considerable influence over the Raw Materials Price Index. Excluding mineral fuels, the monthly rise in raw material prices was just 0.2%, while the yearly increase was 3.0%. In November, crude oil prices rebounded from October's decline by climbing 9.9%, so that they were up from a year earlier by 93.0%. Demand for oil increased with the approach of winter. As well, stockpiling of crude against any problems that might arise from the Y2K bug added to demand.

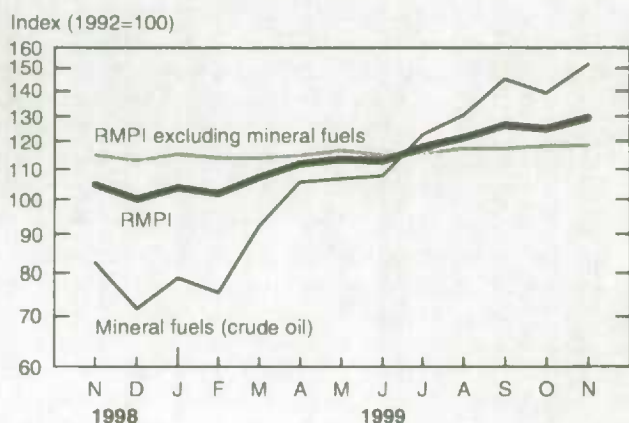
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### ... Raw material prices up significantly

From October to November, vegetable product prices rose 2.4%. Prices for green coffee jumped 19.5%. Increases for corn, oilseeds, raw tobacco and rubber were somewhat offset by lower prices for barley and wheat. Coffee prices were up again as growing conditions in Brazil were deemed much less than ideal. Brazil's dry weather has led to forecasts of a lower soybean harvest there. In the United States, the winter wheat crop is also threatened by insufficient moisture. However, the overall situation for grains and soybeans is generally very healthy. For example, the recent soybean harvest in the United States, the world's largest producer, was the second largest ever, while unsold wheat in the United States is at its highest level since 1987.

Compared with 12 months earlier, sugar prices dropped 19.0% amid expectations that production will exceed demand for a fifth consecutive year, swelling inventories further. As well, cocoa bean prices have tumbled (-37.5% from November 1998), a result of oversupply from the Ivory Coast, the world's top producer.

#### Raw materials price index



Animal and animal product prices increased marginally from October to November. Higher prices for cattle and calves (+5.4%) and fresh fish were almost offset by lower prices for hogs (-5.4%) and chickens. Compared with November 1998, animal and animal product prices ran up 7.4%. Higher prices for hogs (+66.1%) and cattle and calves (+8.3%) were offset somewhat by lower prices for chickens (-4.1%) and sheep and lambs (-11.5%). Hog prices have rebounded somewhat from the Depression-era prices seen a year earlier, while the supply of hogs remains plentiful but not excessive.

In November, non-ferrous metal prices fell 1.3%. The nickel market tightened due to labour problems in Thompson, Manitoba, where almost 5% of the global supply originates. This disrupted supplies during a time of rising demand from makers of stainless steel. Nickel prices vaulted on a yearly basis by 79.9%. Copper concentrate prices were up 5.0%. Demand for copper appears to be quite strong, but so is the supply. World production of copper is expected to surpass demand for a fifth consecutive year in 2000.

Wood prices edged up in November, as slightly higher log prices (+0.6%) were almost offset by lower pulpwood prices (-1.0%). Compared with 12 months earlier, wood prices were up 5.2%. This was reflected in higher prices for logs (+7.2%), which were partly offset by lower prices for pulpwood (-1.6%). Pulp prices compared with November 1998 were up 18.5%; however, pulp prices were almost the same as in 1988 and were 30% lower than the record high seen in 1995.

Ferrous material prices showed almost no monthly change in November. However, prices rose on a yearly basis by 2.0%. Prices for iron and steel scrap were up 17.9%, whereas iron ore prices declined 13.5%.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 1879.**

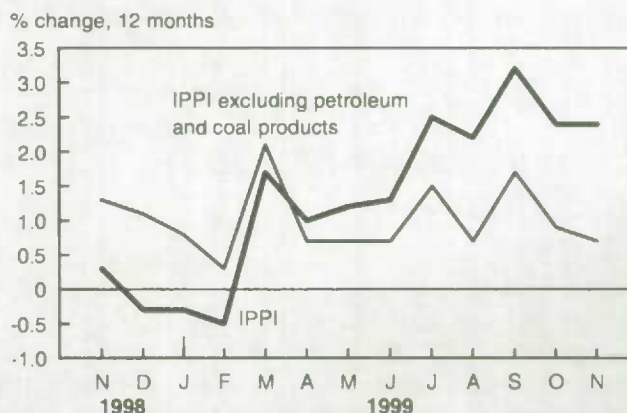
The November 1999 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011-XPB, \$22/\$217) will be available at the end of this month. For further information, contact Client Services (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539; [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)), Prices Division.

## Industrial product prices continue yearly advance

In November, prices for industrial products increased from a year earlier by 2.4%, the same yearly increase seen in October. Lower prices for motor vehicles partly offset a strong increase in petroleum prices.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has so far been largely successful at maintaining supply cuts and sustaining prices. Consequently, prices for the refined petroleum products industry in November had jumped 37.4% since November 1998, reflecting a 93.0% increase in crude oil prices. This price rally has left petroleum and coal product prices at their highest level in nearly nine years. If petroleum and coal products had been excluded in November, the year-over-year increase in industrial product prices would have been 0.7%, not the actual 2.4% increase. From October to November, prices for the refined petroleum products industry held strong, gaining 3.0% amid

#### Industrial product price index



(continued on page 5)



### ... Industrial product prices continue yearly advance

indications that inventories of gasoline and heating oil were being depleted in the United States.

On a monthly basis, industrial prices were unchanged from October. Motor vehicle prices eased back 1.1%, weakened by a stronger Canadian dollar. Since about 90% of the vehicles made in Canada are exported, mostly to the United States, most prices are quoted in U.S. dollars and are susceptible to exchange-rate fluctuations. The increase in the Canadian dollar in November also accounted for most of a 5.2% decline in vehicle prices on a yearly basis.

Primary metal prices continued their upward trend in November (+0.8%), spurred by higher prices for aluminum (+2.8%) and nickel products (+7.5%). After hitting a five-year low in 1998, nickel product prices rebounded during most of 1999 and, in November, stood 81.7% above their November 1998 level. Partly offsetting these advances were lower prices for gold (-8.9%) and silver. After hitting their most recent peak in August 1997, primary metal prices followed a downward trend until March 1999. Since then, prices have climbed to within 2.4% of the high reached in 1997.

After three months of steady declines, lumber prices regained some strength in November (+1.5%). Buyers appeared to be stocking up before the Christmas slowdown. Hardwood and softwood prices were both up 1.5%. The gain for softwood partly reflected higher domestic housing starts, whereas the increase for

hardwood was primarily export driven. Lumber prices were up from November 1998 by 9.5%, reflecting a strong North American housing market.

Pulp and paper product prices advanced 0.8% from October to November on the strength of pulp prices (+3.3%), which were somewhat tempered by a drop in prices for paper products. Since February 1999, pulp prices have been improving steadily, reflecting a drop in pulp inventories worldwide over the same period. Recent gains left pulp prices in November above year-earlier levels by 18.5%. Combined with higher paper product prices, these gains overshadowed lower prices for newsprint.

Weaker pork prices in November (-8.9%) caused primary meat product prices to drop 2.1%. The contraction was concentrated in the domestic market, where pork prices slid 14.2%. In contrast, the export market was firm, climbing 11.0%. Strong demand for pork bellies, resulting from the popularity of bacon in fast-food restaurants, was in part responsible for the strength in the U.S. market. On a yearly basis, primary meat product prices were more robust, climbing 5.4%. This gain was fuelled by a 25.1% climb in pork prices.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 1870-1878.**

*The November 1999 issue of Industry price indexes (62-011-XPB, \$22/\$217) will be available at the end of the month. For further information, contact Client Services (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division.*

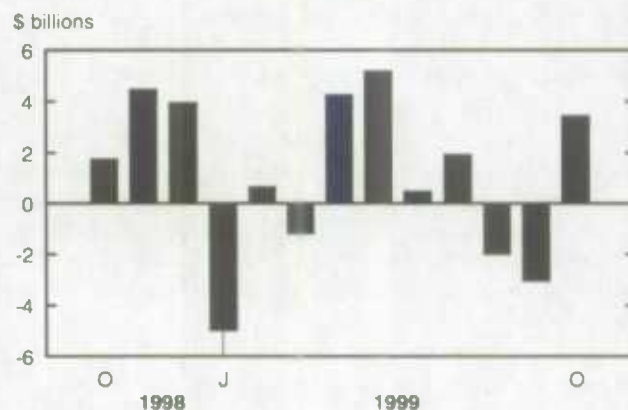
## Foreign demand resumes for Canadian bonds

In October, foreign investors increased their holdings of Canadian securities with purchases of \$3.4 billion. That investment followed two months of divestments totalling \$5 billion, and it extended 1999's pattern of erratic foreign investment. Canadians, meanwhile, reduced their foreign security assets for the first time in six months.

After trimming \$6.3 billion from their holdings of Canadian bonds in August and September, foreign demand for Canadian bonds resumed in October with purchases of \$2.5 billion. Most of this activity was directed to outstanding federal government bonds, and it came solely from American investors. Foreign demand for Canadian stocks continued in October, as non-residents added a further \$1.9 billion to their holdings. This investment went into new issues, both floated in foreign markets and exchanged as part of a Canadian company's acquisition of an American firm. From January to October 1999, foreign investment in Canadian shares totalled \$13 billion—near the record set for all of 1998 (\$13.5 billion).

In October, foreign investors continued the trend observed during much of 1999 and cut their holdings of Canadian money market instruments by another \$1 billion. In the first 10 months of 1999, foreigners shed \$12.6 billion from their holdings of

Foreign investment in Canadian securities<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Includes bonds, stocks and money market paper.

short-term paper, roughly split between federal Treasury bills (\$6.7 billion) and the paper of other governments and corporations (\$6.0 billion). American investors accounted for half the divestment from January to October, while the balance was sold off by European and Asian investors.

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### ... Foreign demand resumes for Canadian bonds

For their part, Canadian investors sold some of their bond holdings in October (\$1.5 billion), mainly U.S. Treasuries. This followed two months of buying, when they acquired \$3.2 billion of foreign bonds. A similarly uneven monthly investment pattern in 1999 meant that Canadian investors had divested a relatively small amount of foreign bonds in the 10 months ended October (\$0.9 billion). As for foreign stocks, Canadians bought only a small amount in October; however, they bought \$12.5 billion worth during the first 10 months of 1999. More than 60% of it was U.S. shares, while the remainder was invested in markets overseas.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 2328-2330, 2378-2380 and 4195.**

The October 1999 issue of *Canada's international transactions in securities* (paper: 67-002-XPB, \$18/\$176; Internet at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca): 67-002-XIB, 14/132) presents the full report. For further information, contact Don Granger (613-951-1864), Balance of Payments and Financial Flows Division.

### Related market information

In October, the interest-rate differential on short-term government instruments continued to favour investment in the United States by widening to 20-25 basis points. On long-term government instruments, which had favoured investment in the United States since February, the differential turned in favour of Canada by a small margin.

Although the TSE 300 composite index recorded a strong gain in October (+4.3%), it was outperformed by the Standard and Poor's 500 index (+6.3%). The stronger U.S. stock prices in October narrowed the gap in their relative performance year-to-date: Canadian stock prices were up 11.9% versus a 10.9% rise in U.S. prices.

As for the loonie, after climbing nearly two full cents in August and September, it closed October virtually unchanged at 68 U.S. cents

## Average weekly earnings remain unchanged

In October, average weekly earnings for all employees remained virtually unchanged from the previous month at \$613.00, which was up from October 1998 by 0.9%. The annual change ranged from a 0.6% decline for employees in Quebec to a 2.1% increase for employees in New Brunswick. In Quebec, the weakness in earnings was mostly due to a decline in average paid hours for employees in manufacturing.

The earnings of hourly-rated employees in all industries averaged \$15.43 per hour in October, an annual increase of 2.3%. Their average overtime hours per week remained unchanged over the same 12-month period.

Payroll employment increased substantially in October (+46,000 employees). Strong gains occurred in manufacturing, business services and in accommodation and food services. Retail trade employment was somewhat weak in October due to a decline in employment at department stores. Employment levels increased in all provinces, with the strongest growth taking place in Ontario and Alberta.

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

The October 1999 issue of *Employment, earnings and hours* (72-002-XPB, \$32/\$320) presents the month's industry data and

**Average weekly earnings by industry, October 1999**  
Seasonally adjusted

	\$	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
<b>All industries</b>	<b>613.00</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Logging and forestry	783.53	0.7	3.7
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	1,099.36	-2.3	-1.1
Manufacturing	745.49	-2.1	-1.7
Construction	704.54	0.8	2.1
Transportation and storage	740.33	0.1	0.7
Communications and other utilities	813.71	-0.6	2.2
Wholesale trade	662.30	0.0	-0.6
Retail trade	372.63	-0.2	0.5
Finance and insurance	799.08	-1.0	-1.2
Real estate and insurance agencies	645.96	0.5	1.2
Business services	705.23	0.9	1.7
Education-related services	673.88	2.1	1.9
Health and social services	531.58	0.6	1.6
Accommodation, food and beverage	238.82	1.3	2.7
Public administration	745.59	-0.1	2.0
Miscellaneous services	412.20	0.0	1.7

other labour market indicators in detail. Custom tabulations of the data are available on demand. Annual averages for 1998 are also available in a variety of formats. For further information, contact Jean Leduc (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; [labour@statcan.ca](mailto:labour@statcan.ca)), Labour Division.



## Homeowners' spending on repairs and renovations unchanged

In 1998, homeowners spent an average of \$1,670 repairing or renovating their homes: \$1,070 on work contracted out and \$600 for materials. That average total was basically unchanged from 1997 and still well below the 1989 peak. In total, homeowners spent \$12.8 billion on repairs and renovations in 1998, virtually the same as in 1997. About 67% of the nation's 7.6 million homeowners actually repaired or renovated their buildings in 1998, and 9% spent \$5,000 or more. For many homeowners, expenditures were modest: 24% spent under \$500.

Not surprisingly, the older the dwelling, the greater the amount spent. For example, owners occupying houses built before 1946 spent an average \$710 for repairs and maintenance, compared with only \$260 spent by owners of houses built after 1990. Spending on renovations followed a similar pattern (\$730 versus only \$180).

Household income also plays a major role in home repair and renovation. Homeowners whose household income was less than \$20,000 in 1998 spent an average of \$830 on repairs and renovations. In contrast, households with income of \$80,000 or more spent on average \$3,060. Similarly, only 54% of households with income under \$20,000 did some repairs or renovations, compared with 77% of households in the highest income group (\$80,000 and over).

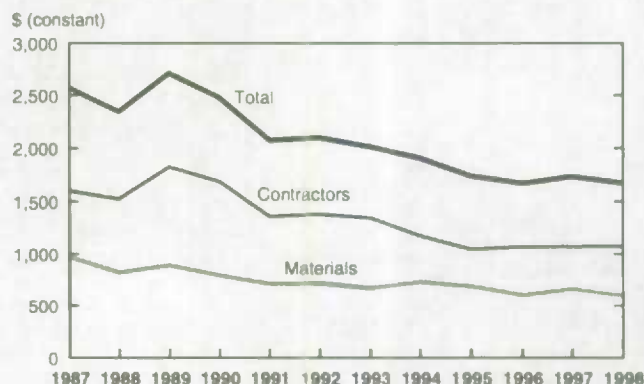
Homeowners in Ontario and British Columbia spent the most on repairs and renovations. Those in Ontario averaged \$1,810, while average spending in British Columbia reached \$1,760. For a fourth consecutive year, homeowners in New Brunswick spent the least on average (\$1,240). Owners in Ontario and British Columbia also spent the most on contracting out. Of every dollar they spent on repairs and renovations, about 70 cents went to contractors. These two provinces represented just over half of total homeowner households in 1998, but 59% of the \$8.2 billion spent nationally on contractors.

Newfoundlanders continued to show the largest proportion of do-it-yourself activity. Overall, 66% of their repair and renovation budget went to purchase building materials. Nova Scotians were a distant second (46%). Rural homeowners are more likely than urban ones to be do-it-yourselfers. Of all rural homeowners, 59% purchased materials separately, compared with 53% for urban

### Note to readers

Data from the 1998 Homeowner Repair and Renovation Survey were collected in March 1999 from a sample of about 20,000 homeowners. To ease historical comparisons, summary level data from previous years have been adjusted to reflect price changes in the construction field. This article's comparisons with previous years refer only to total spending on repairs and renovations.

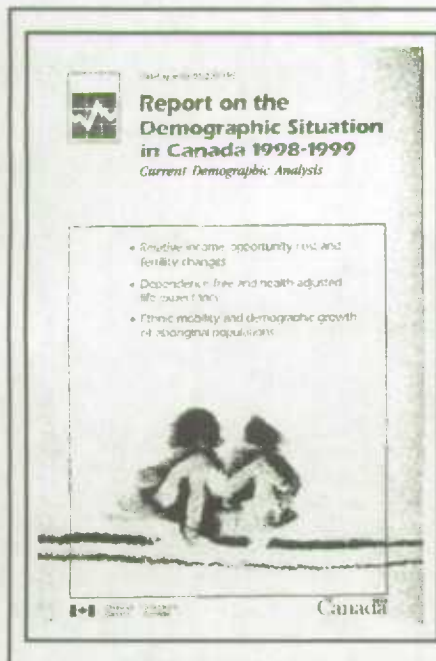
Average spending on home repairs and renovations



homeowners. The opposite was true for spending on contract work. Only 31% of rural homeowners relied on contractors, compared with 38% of urban homeowners. Overall, rural homeowners spent an average \$1,720 on repairs and renovations, compared with \$1,660 for their urban counterparts. They spent considerably more on materials than urban owners (\$800 versus \$540).

Summary data from the 1998 Homeowner Repair and Renovation Survey are available free of charge on Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). The menu path is "Canadian statistics", "The people", "Families, households and housing", and then "Expenditures". Tables presenting detailed data for Canada and the provinces are available for purchase, as are custom tabulations. **Homeowner repair and renovation expenditure in Canada, 1998** (62-201-X1B, 62-201-XPB) will be released shortly. To order, or for further information, contact Client Services (1-888-297-7355 or 613-951-7355; [income@statcan.ca](mailto:income@statcan.ca)), Income Statistics Division.

## New from Statistics Canada



### Report on the demographic situation in Canada 1998-99

The 1998-99 *Report on the demographic situation in Canada* is divided into two parts. The first provides a complete picture of the Canadian population at the end of the twentieth century. It also describes and analyzes the most recent demographic trends (population growth, fertility, deaths, marriages, divorces, international migration and inter-provincial migration), placing them in an international context.

The report's second part contains three separate studies on current Canadian topics. The first deals with the relationship between fertility and income among the young. The second is a review of changes in life expectancy without dependency between 1986 and 1996. The third study takes a new look at the growth components among the aboriginal population since 1986.

The 1998-99 edition of *Report on the demographic situation in Canada* (91-209-XPE, \$31) is now available. For further information, contact Alain Bélanger (613-951-2326), Demography Division.

### Industrial monitor on CD-ROM December 1999

*Industrial monitor on CD-ROM* offers up-to-date data on more than 150 manufacturing industries and 33 other industries covering construction, wholesale trade and retail trade. This information is offered for 25 sectors and can be purchased by individual sector or as a complete package. For each industry, up to 50 variables are organized in the table viewer according to five table types: supply, demand, price, labour/employment, and investment/capital stock. The underlying database is also available via the series browser for more extensive time-series analysis and inter-industry comparisons.

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

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## New from Statistics Canada

### Youth violent crime 1998

Statistics Canada has released a new report that presents a detailed analysis of youth (aged 12 to 17) violent crime. It is based on data reported by Canadian police forces. The report addresses a number of additional questions relating to youth violence and the differences between crimes committed by male and female youths and between youth and adult offenders. Baseline data on this subject were first released last July as part of the publication entitled *Juristat: Crime statistics in Canada, 1998*.

The vol. 19, no. 13 issue of *Juristat: Youth violent crime* (paper: 85-002-XPE, \$10/\$93; online at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca): 85-002-XIE, \$8/\$70) is now available. For further information, contact Information and Client Services (613-951-9023 or 1 800 387-2231), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

### Labour force update: Youths and the labour market Autumn 1999

This issue updates information on the youth labour market that was first published in the Spring 1997 edition of *Labour force update*. At that time, young people were still suffering the effects of the recession and had yet to see any major improvements in their chances of finding work. However, that situation has changed and the labour market for youths has dramatically improved during the last two years.

Each quarter, *Labour force update* analyzes the latest information and trends relating to a particular labour-market issue. Its informative commentary, charts and tables provide concise and up-to-date information—a useful starting point for further research.

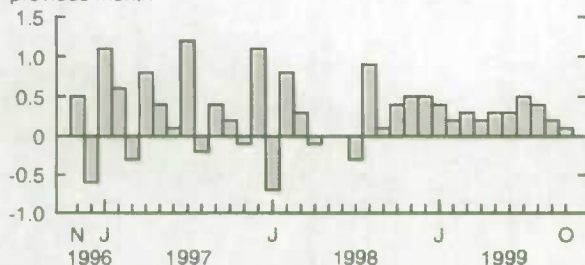
The Autumn 1999 issue of *Labour force update* (71-005-XPB, \$29/\$96) is now available. Information on this subject is also available on Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). Look under "In depth". For further information, contact Jeannine Usalcas (613-951-4720; fax: 613-951-2869; [usaljea@statcan.ca](mailto:usaljea@statcan.ca)), Labour Statistics Division.



## Current trends

### Gross domestic product

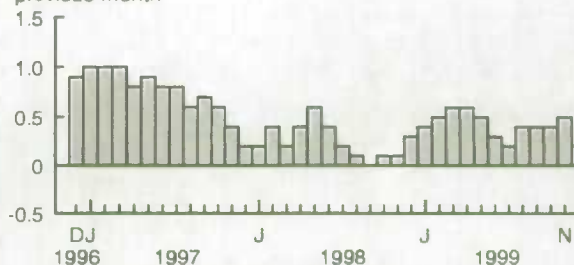
% change,  
previous month



Economic activity continued to advance in October (+0.1%). This was in line with the slower pace set in September, and it extended the expansion to 15 months.

### Composite Index

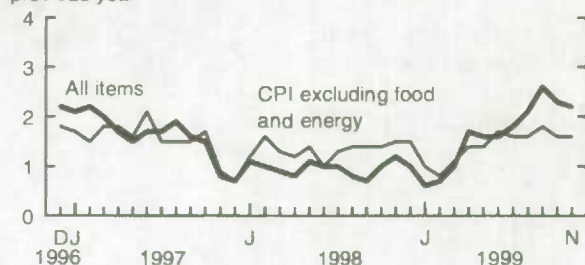
% change,  
previous month



In November, the leading indicator grew by 0.5%, led by financial markets.

### Consumer Price Index

% change,  
previous year



Consumer prices for goods and services were 2.2% higher in November 1999 than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 1.6%.

### Unemployment rate

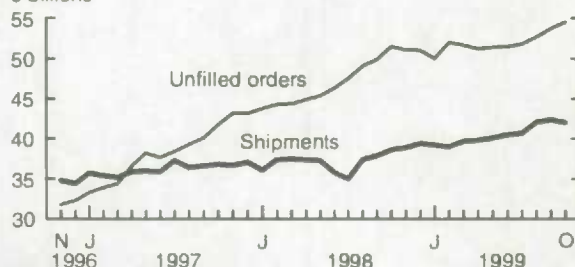
%



In December, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 6.9%.

### Manufacturing

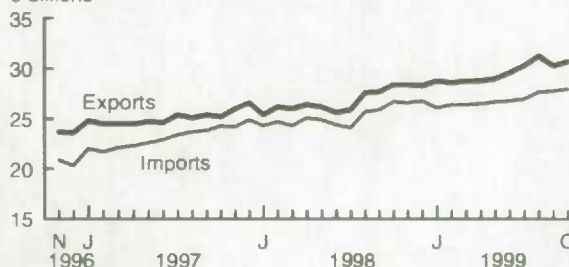
\$ billions



Manufacturers' shipments decreased 0.7% in October to \$42.0 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders grew for a sixth consecutive month, rising 1.8% to \$54.5 billion.

### Merchandise trade

\$ billions



In October, the value of merchandise exports rose 1.2% from September to \$30.7 billion. Imports increased 0.7% to \$28.0 billion.

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



## Latest statistics

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
<b>GENERAL</b>				
Gross domestic product (\$ billion, 1992)	October	756.2	0.1%	4.2%
Composite Index (1981=100)	November	219.0	0.5%	5.3%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billion)	Q3 1999	39.8	7.6%	30.5%
Capacity utilization (%)	Q3 1999	86.0	1.8†	3.6†
<b>DOMESTIC DEMAND</b>				
Retail trade (\$ billion)	October	21.9	-1.4%	6.5%
Department store sales (\$ billions)	November*	1.44	-7.2%	2.6%
New motor vehicle sales (thousand of units)	October	128.3	-4.3%	12.7%
Wholesale trade (\$ billion)	October	30.9	1.8%	8.8%
<b>LABOUR</b>				
Employment (millions)	December*	14.92	0.3%	2.4%
Unemployment rate (%)	December*	6.9	0.0†	-1.1†
Participation rate (%)	December*	65.6	0.1†	0.0†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	October	613.00	0.0%	0.9%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	December*	164	1.2%	11.6%
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>				
Merchandise exports (\$ billion)	October	30.7	1.2%	7.9%
Merchandise imports (\$ billion)	October	28.0	0.7%	4.8%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billion)	October	2.7	0.2	1.0
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>				
Shipments (\$ billion)	October	42.0	0.7%	8.9%
New orders (\$ billion)	October	43.0	-0.8%	6.8%
Unfilled orders (\$ billion)	October	54.5	1.8%	5.8%
Inventory/shipments ratio	October	1.31	0.03	-0.02
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	November	109.0	-0.1%	2.2%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	November*	123.2	0.0%	2.4%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	November*	129.1	3.4%	23.2%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	November*	101.8	0.3%	1.6%

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

\* new this week

† percentage point

## Infomat

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## Publications released from December 23, 1999 to January 12, 2000

Division/Title of publication	Period	Catalogue number	Price: Issue/Subscription	
			Canada (C\$)	Outside Canada (US\$)
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>				
Cereals and oilseeds review	October 1999	22-007-XPB	15/149	15/149
<b>BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL FLOWS</b>				
Canada's balance of international payments	Q3 1999	67-001-XPB	38/124	38/124
Canada's international transactions in securities	October 1999	67-002-XIB	14/132	
<b>DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES</b>				
New motor vehicle sales	October 1999	63-007-XIB	13/124	
Wholesale trade	October 1999	63-008-XIB	14/140	
<b>INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE</b>				
Financial and taxation statistics for enterprises	1997	61-219-XPB	57	57
<b>INDUSTRY MEASURES AND ANALYSIS</b>				
Gross domestic product by industry	September 1999	15-001-XPB	15/145	15/145
Gross domestic product by industry	October 1999	15-001-XPB	15/145	15/145
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>				
Exports by commodity	October 1999	65-004-XPB	78/773	78/773
<b>LABOUR STATISTICS</b>				
Employment, earnings and hours	October 1999	72-002-XPB	32/320	32/320
Labour force information, week ending December 1, 1999	December 1999	71-001-PPB	11/103	11/103
Labour force update, Autumn 1999: Youths and the labour market	1998-99	71-005-XPB	29/96	29/96
<b>MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY</b>				
Asphalt roofing	November 1999	45-001-XIB	5/47	
Cement	November 1999	44-001-XIB	5/47	
Coal and coke statistics	October 1999	45-002-XPB	12/114	12/114
Electric power generating stations	1998	57-206-XPB	30	30
Electric power statistics	October 1999	57-001-XIB	9/85	
Energy statistics handbook	December 1999			
Diskette		57-601-XDE	284	284
Paper		57-601-UPB	387	387
Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins	November 1999	46-002-XIB	5/47	
Oil and gas extraction	1998	26-213-XPB	29	29
Natural gas transportation and distribution	1998	57-205-XPB	30	30
Natural gas transportation and distribution	September 1999	55-002-XPB	17/165	17/165
Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products	1998	55-201-XPB	25	25
Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products	October 1999	55-001-XIB	9/86	
Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing	November 1999	41-011-XIB	5/47	
Railway carloadings, vol. 76, no. 10		52-001-XIE	8/77	
Refined petroleum products	June 1999	45-004-XIB	16/155	
Steel wire and specified wire products	November 1999	41-006-XIB	5/47	
<b>SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND ELECTRONIC INFORMATION</b>				
Science statistics service bulletin, vol. 23, no. 10: Distribution of federal expenditures on science and technology, by province and territory	1997-98	88-001-XIB	6/59	
Telephone statistics, vol. 23, no. 2: Telecommunications		56-002-XIB	21/40	
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Road motor vehicles, fuel sales	1998	53-218-XIB	21	

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